

Vietnam and Back: an MSU alumni story

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Staff Writer

In 1964, Bill Strusinski was attending Minnesota State and living his life as a student on campus. The next thing he knew, he was rushing to save the lives of his fellow comrades as a combat medic during the Vietnam War. Now, he strives for both social and political change as an accomplished lobbyist and advocate.

The College for Humanities and Social Sciences hosted an interview-style discussion with Strusinski Wednesday in the Earley Center for Performing Arts. The discussion offered insight into Strusinski's life as well as the history, policies and resilience of the times.

Strusinski attended MSU in 1964 but was later drafted after the US became involved in the Vietnam War. He later came back to campus in 1969 and became president of MSU's Veterans Club. He graduated in 1972.

Strusinski expressed his gratitude in being invited back to MSU as an alumnus to tell his story and share his experiences with MSU's student body and staff.

"It feels really good. I'm pleased that there's an interest in this subject. It was a lot of turmoil as we lived through those eras, those days in the late 60s and early 70s, certainly," Strusinski said. "And I'm pleased that they care about



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences hosted an interview-style discussion Wednesday in the Earley Center for Performing Arts, the discussion offered insights on policies and resilience of the times.

the military service that some of us provided during that period of time."

In the war, Strusinski was a combat medic, tending to many wounded soldiers and forming an unbroken bond between survival and duty. Strusinski shares that his experiences on the battlefield

would later help him overcome obstacles and help him accomplish his goals.

"It taught me how to overcome and adapt. No matter what happened, you had to handle the situation. I learned in Vietnam that there's nothing you cannot do. You put your mind to it. You have no

choice and my job was to take care of wounded soldiers. It might be at night; might be on the ambush patrol for 2000 yards away from anybody. And I have a flashlight with a red filter and I'm trying to take care of casualties. That was hard to do," he said.

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Student Government fails once again to elect new VP

By TRACY SWARTZENDRUBER
Staff Writer

Student senators made a second attempt this week to elect a new vice president. The candidates for the vice presidency were Senator Emedo Godswill and Speaker Douglas Roberts from the last run for vice president, with the addition of Senator Ruth Asmamaw.

"I will be advocating for all students, be it domestic or international students," Godswill said. "In the past, I've always advocated for international students. This has risen because that is what I am."

Godswill said he will be advocating for the mental health of all college students, providing them with the resources they need.

Roberts wants to restore unity to the student senate if elected to the role of vice president.

"My biggest advocacy, if I was so selected as vice president, is dealing with any of the divisions that might exist within our own student government," Roberts said. "I know that we have gone through some challenges together and that is the first priority, solving division and making sure that we are one cohesive piece like at the very beginning of the year."

Asmamaw wishes to be available to meet the needs of all students if chosen for the vice presidency.

"I am looking forward to improving the experience for domestic and international students, which might be organizing events, addressing concerns and complaints through responsible administration," Asmamaw said.

In response to a question about how the three candidates would seek to build cohesiveness among the senators, Douglas suggested having senators who are working on similar projects work together.

"There is power in numbers," Douglas said.

Asmamaw wants to analyze the strengths of each senator and capitalize on that by having each senator focus on their strengths as she said she's learned "someone can be a

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New club advocates reproductive rights

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor In Chief

A new group on campus seeks to create community while informing others on topics ranging from sex education, abortion and healthy relationships.

Students For Reproductive Justice, run through Planned Parenthood's Generation Action program, allows activists to organize events on campus regarding reproductive rights. With over 350 campuses across the country, each chapter picks what they want to talk about and highlight.

President and junior Deyton Drost wanted to bring the group to campus to have students engage in conversation about issues that affect local and global communities.

"Our meetings consist of talking amongst each other, going over slideshow presentations and focusing on how we can reach out," Drost said.

The group's first event was sex toy bingo to break the stigma about sex toys and self-pleasure with educational questions about STIs. Drost said she didn't expect such a big turnout.

"We had to start turning peo-



Courtesy Deyton Drost

Students For Reproductive Justice hosted a sex toy bingo last month where students answered educational questions on STIs. The group aims to inform students about a wide variety of reproductive issues.

ple away because we ran out of bingo cards," Drost said. "Everyone was engaged and we got a lot of good feedback in the following days from people saying they had a good time."

Besides talking about political reproductive issues such as abortion and access to contraceptives, topics such as consent, pregnancy and sex education are also dis-

cussed.

"Our focus this semester has been on the importance of comprehensive sex education. Next semester, we're going to focus on voter outreach for the next election and showing people how to register or re-re-register," Drost said.

Junior Sadie Williams heard about the group from being roommates with Drost and having an in-

terest in taking Gender and Women's Studies classes. Her favorite part about the group is informing others and advocating for subjects important to her.

"It's easy to feel like there's nothing you can do to help. I like being able to reach out, making people aware of what's going on and being a part of a group with other people who care about reproductive justice," Williams said. "It's a health issue, social issue and a political issue. It just affects everybody and every aspect of their lives. It's so important."

Senior Kya Thompson said students should get involved as the topics discussed affect everyone and the group offers information on a wide range of topics.

"A lot of the misconceptions regarding reproductive justice and abortion in general is a lack of education," Thompson said. "If you're a person who wants to have sex or want to have your own rights, you should probably care about what's going on."

With several of the issues discussed being on the ballot for the upcoming 2024 election, Drost said the group is an opportunity for

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Librarians turn to civil rights agency to oppose book bans



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI • The Associated Press

Librarian Brooky Parks is shown outside the library on the campus of the University of Denver on Monday, Oct. 30, 2023, in Denver. Parks. She was fired for standing up for programs on anti-racism and LGBTQ+ stories organized for teens.

By MEAD GRUVER
The Associated Press

She refused to ban books, many of them about racism and the experiences of LGBTQ+ people. And for that, Suzette Baker was fired as a library director in a rural county in central Texas.

"I'm kind of persona non grata around here," said Baker, who had headed the Kingsland, Texas, library system until she refused to take down a prominent display of several books people had sought to ban over the years.

Now, Baker is fighting back. She and two other librarians who were similarly fired have filed workplace discrimination claims with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. And as culture war battles to keep certain books from children and teens put public and school libraries increasingly under pressure, their goal is redemption and, where possible, eventual reinstatement.

So far, it's a wait-and-see whether the claims will succeed — and set new precedent — in the struggle between teachers and librarians around the country who oppose book bans and conservative activists who say some books are inappropriate for young minds.

The fight has involved a record number of book-banning efforts; some libraries cutting ties with the American Library Association, which opposes book bans; and even attempts to prosecute librarians for allowing children to access books some consider too graphic.

At least one terminated librarian has gained a measure of success.

Brooky Parks, who was fired for standing up for programs on anti-racism and LGBTQ+ stories she organized for teens at the Erie Community Library north of Denver, won a \$250,000 settlement in September. Reached through the Colorado Civil Rights Division, the settlement requires her former employer to give librarians more say in decisions involving library programs.

Parks' settlement with the High Plains Library District capped a stressful eight-month period without work, when community donations helped her avoid losing her home. And it will likely resolve Parks' claim with the EEOC, said her attorney, Iris Halpern, who represents the three librarians.

"I just wasn't going to back down from it. It was just the right thing to do," said Parks, now a librarian at the University of Denver.

After her firing in 2022, Baker filed an EEOC claim against her employer, the Llano County Library System in Kingsland, Texas. And in September 2023, Terri Lesley, executive director of the Campbell County Public Library System in Gillette, Wyoming, filed a claim over her firing last summer.

Halpern, with the Denver firm Rathod Mohamedbhai, compared the wrongful termination claims to civil rights era legal battles.

"It is honestly sad that we've gotten to this point. But history is a constant struggle and we have to learn from our past," she said.

The 1964 Civil Right Act established the EEOC to enforce laws against workplace discrimination. One legal expert thinks the librarians might be able to prevail on the

grounds that, under those laws, employees may not be discriminated against for associating with certain classes of people.

"With any case, the devil can be in the details in terms of how the facts come out and what they can present. But these are definitely actionable claims," said Rutgers University law professor David Lopez, a former EEOC general counsel.

An EEOC investigation can take over a year. After that, the EEOC may attempt to reach a settlement with the employer out of court, sue on the employee's behalf or issue a letter saying the employee has grounds to sue on their own.

The librarians haven't yet received an EEOC response and none is expected before the end of next year.

"I would love to be optimistic," Baker said. "I know there are a lot of people in this community who are just absolutely behind the library being open and free and equal for all. And there's a lot of people who aren't. So it's a hard, hard situation."

EEOC spokesperson Victor Chen declined to comment on specific filings, adding "we can't even confirm or deny we have these complaints."

The county attorney offices and other representatives of the government officials who fired Parks, Baker and Lesley did not return phone and email messages seeking comment, or declined to comment.

At her Texas library, Baker displayed several books that have been targeted in recent book bans and a sign that read.

a difference. If you're just one person phone banking politicians, you're still getting information across and letting them know you want to talk about those issues," Drost said. "The small things do make a big impact."

Students For Reproductive Justice meets bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the Women's Center. Students can also follow students4reprojustice on Instagram.

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"So I think what I really learned is that there's no problem I've ever encountered in my life that I can't deal with. That was a perfect, perfect scenario, including college, a couple of years of college before I went into service. And it was complicated, but I did much better when I came back out of the service. So I've really learned how to solve problems."

Having attended MSU before and after the Vietnam War, Strusinski said his experiences in the battlefield and his re-enrollment at MSU shaped his views on the importance of supporting veterans and becoming involved in political change during the anti-war protests, and led him to pursue a career in political science.

"I think the roots of my life and the capabilities I learned came from my time in the service as a combat medic in Vietnam with the infantry, but it was supported strongly with the foundation I built at Minnesota State University or college at the time. The academic skills that I learned and the degree in political science launched me on my path to accomplish what I wanted to accomplish," he said. "And that was to get involved in good public policy and to begin to help make good decisions. And I did that by being on presidential campaigns,

being on governor staff and being appointed a commissioner of a state agency by Governor Anderson. So I accomplished all that. Came a long way from my days at Mankato."

Strusinski has now been a lobbyist for over four decades and an advocate for policy change. Strusinski has had his own book published about his experiences in the war, has served under three governors and continues to strive for positive impact. He shared his own opinion and advice to all MSU students, especially to those who wish to or are already enlisting into the military.

"It's a really good opportunity. You'll learn some skills in the military that are just foundation to your life. How to really be involved in teamwork when it really comes and how to overcome and adapt. And there's some economic benefits as well. I think there's lots of opportunities," he said. "I don't think you see much combat on the ground like we saw in Vietnam nowadays but they need skilled people. You mature a lot and you learn a lot during that sort of process that serves you well the rest of your life. So I encourage everybody to take a look at the military."

To learn more about Strusinski and his experiences, his book "Care Under Fire" is available for purchase on Amazon.

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great leader" when previous senators have taken the time to do so.

Godswill said it is best for the vice president to take the initiative to meet with senators to see how they are doing in their roles rather than vice versa.

"When I know that something needs to be done, I don't wait for it. I go for it," Godswill said.

After much time spent assessing the candidates, the senators decided to call an executive ses-

sion. An executive session means the senators are allowed a private discussion among themselves without cameras or the gallery in observation.

"The entire reason why we believe this should move into executive session is we want to discuss the candidates as senators," Senator Roshit Niraula said.

After over an hour of private discussion under executive meeting, no results were delivered, indicating that no vice president had been selected.

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◀JUSTICE from page 1

students to use their voices.

"Young people have so much more of an impact than they might actually think. You could be standing outside at a little campus rally or protest, but that still makes

Supreme Court seems likely to preserve gun laws

By MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

The Supreme Court seemed likely Tuesday to preserve a federal law that prohibits people under domestic violence restraining orders from having guns.

In their first guns case since last year's expansion of gun rights, the justices suggested that they will reverse a ruling from an appeals court in New Orleans that struck down the 1994 ban on firearms for people under court order to stay away from their spouses or partners.

The court's decision could affect other cases in which other gun laws have been called into question, including in the high-profile prosecution of Hunter Biden. President Joe Biden's son has been charged with buying a firearm while he was addicted to drugs, but his lawyers have indicated they will challenge the indictment.

Liberal and conservative justices sounded persuaded by arguments from the Biden administration's top Supreme Court lawyer that the prohibition is in line with the longstanding practice of disarming dangerous people.

The case before the court involves a Texas man, Zackey Rahimi, who was accused of hitting his girlfriend during an argument in a parking lot and later threatening to shoot her.

The justices peppered Rahimi's



STEPHANIE SCARBROUGH • The Associated Press

Gun safety and domestic violence prevention organizations gather outside of the Supreme Court before oral arguments are heard in *United States v. Rahimi*, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, in Washington.

lawyer, J. Matthew Wright, with skeptical questions that seemed to foretell the outcome.

"You don't have any doubt that your client is a dangerous person, do you?" Chief Justice John Roberts asked Wright. When Wright said it depends on what Roberts meant by dangerous, the chief justice shot

back, "Well, it means someone who's shooting, you know, at people. That's a good start."

Justice Brett Kavanaugh voiced concern that a ruling for Rahimi could also jeopardize the background check system that the Democratic administration said has stopped more than 75,000 gun

sales in the past 25 years based on domestic violence protective orders.

The federal appeals court in New Orleans struck down the domestic violence law, following the Supreme Court's *Bruen* decision in June 2022. That high court ruling not only expanded Americans'

gun rights under the Constitution but also changed the way courts are supposed to evaluate restrictions on firearms.

Justice Clarence Thomas' opinion for the court tossed out the balancing test judges had long used to decide whether gun laws were constitutional. Rather than consider whether a law enhances public safety, judges should only weigh whether it fits into the nation's history of gun regulation, Thomas wrote for the six conservative justices on the nine-member court.

The *Bruen* decision has resulted in lower court rulings striking down more than a dozen laws. Those include age restrictions; bans on homemade ghost guns, which don't have serial numbers; and prohibitions on gun ownership for people convicted of nonviolent felonies or using illegal drugs.

Justice Elena Kagan noted that "there seems to be a fair bit of division and a fair bit of confusion about what *Bruen* means and what *Bruen* requires in the lower courts."

Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, defending the domestic violence law, urged the justices to use this case to correct lower courts' "profound misreading" of the decision.

It was unclear how far the high court would go in this case, and some of the justices sounded interested in a limited ruling that might leave open other challenges to the same law.

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Air Force asks Congress to protect nuclear launch sites

By TARA COPP
The Associated Press

The Air Force's vast fields of underground nuclear missile silos are rarely disturbed by more than the occasional wandering cow or floating spy balloon. But the service is now asking Congress to help with another unexpected danger: towering wind turbines, which are growing in number and size and are edging closer to the sites each year.

The silos share space on vast private farmlands with the turbines.

Whereas the nuclear launch sites are almost undetectable — just small, rectangular plots of land marked only by antennae, a chain-link fence and a flat 110,000-ton (100,000-metric tonne) concrete silo blast door — the turbines are hundreds of feet high, with long, sweeping blades that have parts so large and long they dwarf the 18-wheeler flatbed trucks that transport them to new sites.

As nearby populations have grown, so have energy needs, and so have the number and size of the turbines. It's a boon for farmers and landowners, who can lease space on their lands to support both the military needs and wind power companies.

But the growth is making it dangerous for military helicopter crews. When an alarm triggers at a site, the UH-1 Huey crews fly in low and fast, often with security teams on board.

"When you think about a wind turbine, and even fields of wind turbines, they'll stretch for miles," said Staff Sgt. Chase Rose, a UH-1 Huey flight engineer at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. "They're monstrous, and then you have gigantic blades spinning on them as well. Not only is that a physical obstacle, but those turbines, they create the hazards like turbulence as well. That can be really dangerous for us to fly into. So it's a very complex situation, when you have to deal with those."

So the Air Force is asking Congress to pass legislation to create a 2-nautical-mile buffer zone around each site. The legislation has the support of wind energy advocates, but they caution against a one-size-fits-all approach.

What you need to know about election day

The Associated Press

Democratic Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear and Republican Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves won reelection on Tuesday, while Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment guaranteeing the right to an abortion and other forms of reproductive health care. In Virginia, Democrats swept legislative elections in a blow to GOP Gov. Glenn Youngkin.

What to know

Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear elected to second term in Kentucky

Ohio voters enshrine abortion rights in their state's constitution

Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves wins reelection, defeating Elvis' cousin

Virginia Democrats sweep legislative elections after campaigning on abortion rights

Gov. Reeves wins second term in Mississippi

Mississippi Republican Gov. Tate Reeves has won a second term, defeating his Democratic challenger Brandon Presley.

"Mississippi has momentum, and this is Mississippi's time," Reeves told cheering supporters at a party in the Jackson suburb of Flowood, reflecting the main theme of his campaign.

The mood at Presley's party in Jackson was somber as he said hours after the polls closed: "Tonight's a setback, but we're not going to lose hope ... This campaign elevated issues that had to be elevated in Mississippi."

Presley raised more money and made an aggressive push to give Democrats a rare statewide victory in the Deep South.

Reeves managed to avoid a runoff by winning over 50% of the vote in Tuesday's race.

Presley concedes Mississippi governor's race

Democrat Brandon Presley has conceded his race for Mississippi governor.

Presley, a state utility regulator and cousin of rock 'n' roll legend



MATT ROURKE • The Associated Press

Voters step from booths after casting their ballots on election day in Philadelphia, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

Elvis Presley, said Tuesday night, "I respect the decision of the voters of Mississippi."

The Associated Press has not yet called the race because it's unclear whether Republican Gov. Tate Reeves would remain above the threshold for a runoff.

Mississippi requires that contests where no candidate receives a majority of the vote must advance to a runoff.

Reeves, meanwhile, claimed victory, saying his win "sure is sweet" and congratulating Presley for "running hard all the way through."

The hard-fought contest was disrupted by a voting mess when polling places in the state's largest county ran out of ballots and voters endured long lines in a key Democratic stronghold.

Hinds County election commissioners — all Democrats — were said to have underestimated the turnout and failed to have enough ballots on hand.

Voters reelect DA who lost Democratic primary and ran as Republican

Voters in Pennsylvania's second-largest county have reelected

their longtime district attorney who lost his Democratic primary and ran in the general election as a Republican.

Steve Zappala bested progressive Democrat Matt Dugan in a rematch for district attorney of Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh.

"In terms of my politics, I'm not a politician," Zappala said during a debate in October. "I don't care about the GOP. I don't care about the Democrats."

Zappala defended his record as DA and said his support came from the county. He also dismissed his opponent as having out-of-state financial support.

Women will lead Philadelphia and county that includes Pittsburgh

Voters have elected women for the first time to lead Philadelphia and Pennsylvania's second-largest county, installing Cherelle Parker as the 100th mayor of the state's largest city and Sara Innamorato as executive of the county that includes Pittsburgh.

Parker, 51, who has held office at the state and local level after first becoming involved in politics as a teenager, emerged from a crowded

field of Democrats in the May primary as the only leading Black candidate. She will replace term-limited Democratic Mayor Jim Kenney.

Across the state in Allegheny County, Innamorato, 37, defeated Republican Joe Rockey, a political newcomer.

The former state legislator who campaigned on progressive models to modernize county government will replace Democrat Rich Fitzgerald, who was term-limited.

To the tune of "Ladies First," an emotional Parker addressed supporters at her election night watch party.

"Who is Cherelle Parker going to be? A get-it-done Philadelphian. A get-it-done mayor who won't ever forget her deep roots," she said. "I'm Philly-born, I'm Philly-bred and I'll be Philadelphian 'til I'm dead."

'Absurd' to claim Kentucky gas leak was election rigging, officials say

Officials are refuting online claims that a gas leak at one polling place in Kentucky's largest county was election rigging that helped Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear win reelection.


The claims amassed thousands of shares on social media Tuesday after reports of a gas leak at Highland Baptist Church in Louisville caused polls there to close for about 30 minutes while Louisville Gas & Electric investigated the issue.

The delay prompted a judge to extend voting at the church until 6:30 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. EST.

Social media users questioned whether the gas leak was real and insinuated that extended voting hours in a Democratic county gave Beshear the votes he needed to win.


The delay was prompted by a legitimate report of gas emitting from a stove in the church, said Chris Whelan, a spokesperson for Louisville Gas & Electric.

Gas was detected, but not at hazardous levels, she said. The stove was turned off and it dissipated.




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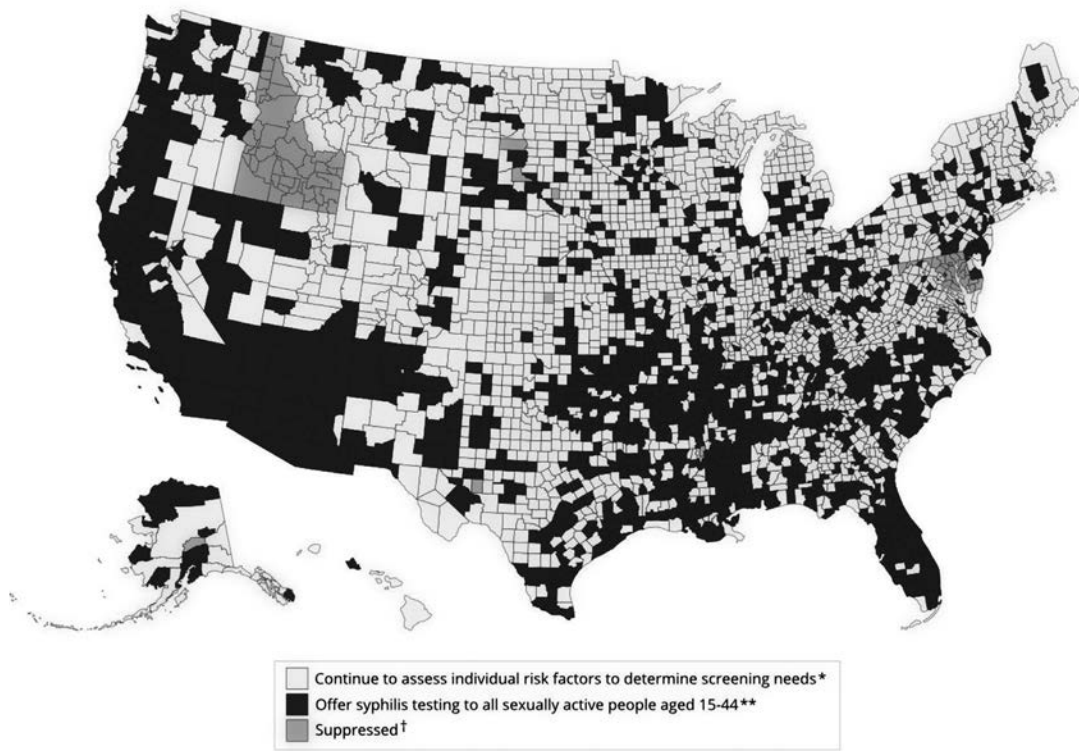


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Studies show syphilis cases in US newborns are skyrocketing since 2022



CDC via AP

This image provided by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

By MIKE STOBBE and KENYA HUNTER
The Associated Press

Alarmed by yet another jump in syphilis cases in newborns, U.S. health officials are calling for stepped-up prevention measures, including encouraging millions of women of childbearing age and their partners to get tested for the sexually transmitted disease.

More than 3,700 babies were born with congenital syphilis in 2022 — 10 times more than a decade ago and a 32% increase from 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday. Syphilis caused 282 stillbirth and infant deaths, nearly 16 times more than the 2012 deaths.

The 2022 count was the most in more than 30 years, CDC officials said, and in more than half of the congenital syphilis cases, the mothers tested positive during pregnancy but did not get properly treated.

The rise in congenital syphilis comes despite repeated warnings by public health agencies and it's tied to the surge in primary and secondary cases of syphilis in adults, CDC officials said.

It's also been increasingly difficult for medical providers to get benzathine penicillin injections — the main medical weapon against congenital syphilis — because of supply shortages.

"It is clear that something is not working here, that something has to change," the CDC's Dr. Laura Bachmann said. "That's why we're calling for exceptional measures to address this heartbreaking epidemic." The federal agency wants medical providers to start syphilis treatment when a pregnant woman first tests positive, rather than waiting for confirmatory testing, and to expand access to transportation so the women can get treatment. The CDC also called for rapid tests to be made available beyond doctors' offices and STD clinics to places like emergency

rooms, needle-exchange programs and prisons and jails.

Federal officials again advised sexually active women of childbearing age and their partners to get tested for syphilis test at least once if they live in a county with high rates.

According to a new CDC map and definition, 70% of U.S. adults live in a county with high rates. That's likely tens of millions of people, according to an Associated Press estimate based on federal data.

The CDC's recommendations are just that; there is no new federal money going out to state and local health departments to bolster testing or access. Some state health departments have already said they're stretched thin when it comes to treatment and prevention, though Illinois announced last week it was starting a phone line for health care providers to help with record searching, consultation and assistance with mandatory reporting.

Syphilis is a bacterial infection that for centuries was a common but feared sexually transmitted disease.

New infections plummeted in the U.S. starting in the 1940s when antibiotics became widely available and fell to their lowest mark in the late 1990s.

By 2002, cases began rising again, with men who have sex with other men being disproportionately affected, though the STD is spreading among several demographics.

In congenital syphilis, moms pass the disease on to their babies, potentially leading to death of the child or health problems for the child like deafness, blindness, and malformed bones. Case rates have been rising across racial and ethnic groups.

Dr. Mike Saag, an infectious diseases expert at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, said syphilis can be "a silent infection"

in women because it's tricky to diagnose without a blood test — not everyone gets painless sores, wart-like lesions or other visible symptoms.

The CDC has long recommended that all pregnant women should be tested for syphilis at their first prenatal visit, but poor access to prenatal care — largely in rural areas of the U.S. — can make that difficult. Nearly 40% of last year's congenital syphilis cases involved mothers who didn't have prenatal care, the CDC said.

If syphilis is diagnosed early in a pregnancy, the threat of passing it to the baby can be removed by a single penicillin shot.

But experts say the later you get into pregnancy, the more likely you'll need multiple shots, and they have to be completed at least 30 days before delivery.

"I have had patients who have been on (a three-shot) regimen who then miss a shot," said Dr. Nina Raganathan, an OB/GYN at the Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi.

"So they are trying to get their shots, but if they don't get the three in a row, because of transportation issues, because of job issues, child care issues, any number of reasons that prevent them from coming back, they don't complete their treatment."

Plus, the shortage of shots makes the task of getting syphilis numbers down difficult, health officials across the U.S. told the AP. Patients who are not pregnant can use the antibiotic doxycycline to treat syphilis, but health officials are concerned that the 14- to 28-day timeline of treatment is difficult to complete, leaving infected people uncured.

Pfizer is the nation's sole supplier of the penicillin shot.

Earlier this year, company officials said it was in short supply because of increased demand. Pfizer also said the shortage may not be resolved until next year.

Hollywood actors strike is over as union reaches tentative deal

By ANDREW DAULTON
The Associated Press

this work."

At nearly four months, it was by far the longest strike ever for film and television actors.

Hollywood's actors union reached a tentative deal with studios Wednesday to end its strike and months of labor strife that ground the film and television industries to a historic halt.

The three-year contract must be approved by votes from the board of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and its members in the coming days, but the leadership declared that the strike will end at 12:01 a.m. on Thursday.

"We have arrived at a contract that will enable SAG-AFTRA members from every category to build sustainable careers," the union said in a statement. "Many thousands of performers now and into the future will benefit from

More than 60,000 SAG-AFTRA members went on strike July 14, joining screenwriters who had walked off the job more than two months earlier. It was the first time the two unions had been on strike together since 1960. The studios and writers reached a deal that brought their strike to an end on Sept. 26.

The terms of the agreement were not immediately released. The union called it a billion-dollar deal and said details would be made public after a meeting on Friday where board members review the contract. Issues on the table included both short-term compensation and future royalty payments for film and TV performances.

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Finding a good study spot for you

Finals are approaching, and the key to quality studying is a good place to pair it with. Procrastination strikes once our study place is interrupted, so finding an area with no distractions is vital to student success.

On Minnesota State's campus, there are plenty of options for students to occupy. The Memorial Library houses different floors, and the higher up we go, the quieter they are.

The library also offers computers to use freely, books, printers, collaboration rooms, and MAVPods. Collaboration rooms are great for studying with a partner, as they are completely soundproof.

MAVPods are not only located in the library, but are also present in most other buildings on campus.

MAVPods are a small, soundproof pod with lighting to provide an excellent study space. They light green when available, and red when occupied.

The Centennial Student Union is another great study location for those of us who work better surrounded by organized commotion. The bonus part of studying in this area is that it is right next to all of MSU's best foods, including Starbucks, Chick-Fil-A, Taco Bell, etc. to satisfy our study break cravings.

In the Clinical Science building on the second floor, there is a giant lounge couch perfect for a comfortable study space away from home.

It is also a great location to study with a group.

Outside of campus, a coffee shop is another great place to get work done. Coffee shops typically have plenty of seating, as well as free Wi-Fi and outlets.

To name a few in Mankato, there is Starbucks, Coffee Hag, Caribou, and River Rock. As a bonus, caffeine is the perfect drink to pair with study-related exhaustion.

For days with better weather, studying outside is another option. There is outdoor seating on campus, local parks in the area and even our own backyards could work. Being outside in nature is good background noise for focusing on schoolwork.

If we are feeling like not leaving our houses, finding a good study spot in our own homes can be just as suitable. Whether that may be a desk, the living room, or kitchen, finding an open table with little clutter creates a great study spot. As long as distractions are at bay, studying at home can be just as effective as any other location.

Every person's studying needs vary, and it is important to find what location works best for us. As long as the environment is not distracting, the seating is comfortable, and we have a motivated mindset, the rest of the work is up to us.

Perspectives

It is time to decriminalize sex work



Flickr photo

I once had a class with a professor who was a former law enforcement officer, who told us about several incidents he had been involved in where individuals who had claimed to be raped instead turned out to be sex workers who had not been paid by their clients. A sex worker not getting paid was not sexual assault in the eyes of the law was the idea. However, such incidents felt to me to be as clear cut case of rape by deceit as one could get.



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

Historically speaking, arguments against sex work would paint sex workers as sinful devils, leading godly family men astray. More modern narratives posit instead that sex workers are the ones being exploited by pimps and human traffickers.

Yet the problems with the modern narrative ignore how criminalizing sex work makes sex workers more vulnerable to being exploited

and harmed. For example, if a sex worker is caught and prosecuted, it could harm their ability to find work in other professions. The law is, in fact, making it more difficult for sex workers to change careers, if they so wanted to.

Furthermore, criminalizing sex work often winds up harming the LGBTQ community, especially LGBTQ people of color, transgender and non-binary individuals, as well as LGBTQ homeless youth. Anti-sex work laws harm the LGBTQ community by forcing increased police

surveillance on us.

The problem is that survival sex work is something that many in the LGBTQ community have engaged in. Many homeless LGBTQ individuals engage in survival sex work just to survive. Transgender and non-binary people often wind up engaging in sex work due to being discriminated against in more traditional professional careers.

This means that many in the LGBTQ community can wind up being surveilled and stereotyped by law enforcement, even those of us who are not engaged in sex work. This increased surveillance can be a particular problem for LGBTQ people of color.

There is little real evidence that criminalizing sex work actually leads to anything worthwhile. Criminalization does not protect sex workers from violence from clients nor does it protect them from

COLUMN on page 7

Pulse

“What are your hidden talents?”

Compiled by Grace Anderson



ANNIKA WICK,
ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION

“I can meow exactly like a cat.”



CHEYENNE BAHRENDS,
ELEMENTARY
EDUCATION

“I can burp on command.”



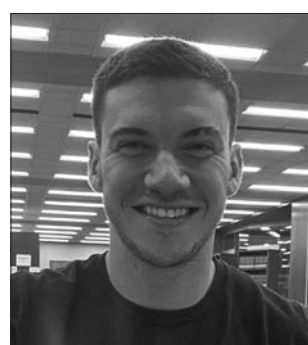
JONATHAN O'NEAL,
NURSING MAJOR

“I have a knack for test taking.”



MACY MCGUIRE,
NURSING MAJOR

“I can throw food and catch it in my mouth very well.”



MATHEW JAEGER,
EXERCISE SCIENCE
MAJOR

“I can pick up my pencil with the tips of my three fingers.”



REBECCA RICE,
CREATIVE WRITING
GRAD STUDENT

“I know how to sail. I can be a skipper on any sailboat.”

Ohio voters enshrine abortion access in latest statewide win



SUE OGROCKI • The Associated Press

Supporters of Issue 1 cheer at a watch party for the new abortion laws, Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, in Columbus Ohio.

By JULIE CARR SMYTH
The Associated Press

Ohio voters approved a constitutional amendment on Tuesday that ensures access to abortion and other forms of reproductive health care, the latest victory for abortion rights supporters since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade last year.

Ohio became the seventh state where voters decided to protect abortion access after the landmark ruling and was the only state to consider a statewide abortion rights question this year.

“The future is bright, and tonight we can celebrate this win for bodily autonomy and reproductive rights,” Lauren Blauvelt, co-chair of Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights, which led support for the amendment, told a jubilant crowd of supporters.

The outcome of the intense, off-year election could be a bellwether for 2024, when Democrats hope the issue will energize their voters and help President Joe Biden keep the White House.

Voters in Arizona, Missouri and elsewhere are expected to vote on similar protections next year.

Heather Williams, interim president of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee, which works to elect Democrats to state legislatures, said the vote in favor of abortion rights was a “huge victory.”

“Ohio’s resounding support for this constitutional amendment reaffirms Democratic priorities and sends a strong message to the state GOP that reproductive rights are non-negotiable,” she said in a statement.

Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris issued statements celebrating the amendment’s win, saying efforts to ban or severely restrict abortion represent a minority view across the country.

Harris, who rallied Issue 1 supporters during a virtual gathering this past weekend, hinted at how the issue would likely be central to Democrats’ campaigning next year for Congress and the presidency, saying “extremists are pushing for a national abortion ban that would criminalize reproductive health care in every single state in our nation.”

Ohio’s constitutional amendment, on the ballot as Issue 1, included some of the most protective language for abortion access of any statewide ballot initiative since the Supreme Court’s ruling. Opponents had argued that the amendment would threaten parental rights, allow unrestricted gender surgeries for minors and revive “partial birth” abortions, which are federally banned.

Public polling shows about two-thirds of Americans say abortion should generally be legal in the earliest stages of pregnancy, a sentiment that has been under-

scored in both Democratic and deeply Republican states since the justices overturned Roe in June 2022.

Before the Ohio vote, statewide initiatives in California, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana and Vermont had either affirmed abortion access or turned back attempts to undermine the right.

Two leading national anti-abortion groups said they would learn from Ohio results but would be undeterred in trying to defeat abortion-rights measures planned for next year’s ballots.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, said her group would focus on promoting “compassionate pro-life messages for women and their children” to counter what she labeled a “campaign of fear” from abortion-rights supporters.

“For us, it’s very clear that post-Roe America, our movement is very much a marathon, not a sprint,” Kristan Hawkins, president of Students for Life of America said.

Voter turnout for Ohio’s amendment, including early voting, was robust for an off-year election.

Issue 1’s approval will all but certainly undo a 2019 state law passed by Republicans that bans most abortions after fetal cardiac activity is detected, with no exceptions for rape and incest.

◀COLUMN from page 6
being exploited. Instead, it can make them more vulnerable to both violence and exploitation due to the fact that the many sex workers are reluctant to go to the police out of fear of being arrested and charged with engaging in sex work.

Nor does criminalization of sex work do anything to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections. Criminalization can make this

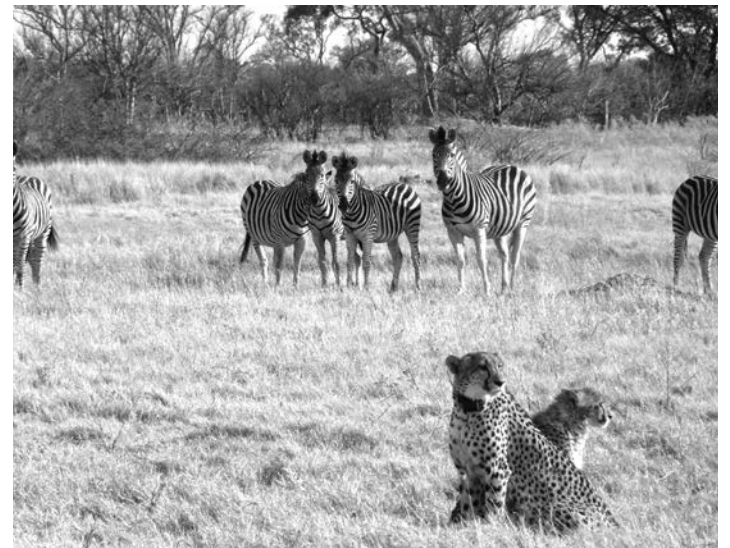
problem worse due to the fact that carrying a condom can be used as evidence of intent to engage in sex work. Thus, individuals who are likely to be targeted or profiled as sex workers will often choose not to carry condoms to avoid potential prosecution.

Ultimately, sexual activity is a normal part of the human experience and there is little reason to restrict sexual activi-

ties between consensual adults, even if there is money being exchanged. I have seen no real compelling reason that the criminalization of sex work is based on anything other than outdated ideas around sexual immorality.

It is time that we recognize sex work as work and focus instead on ensuring that sex workers are able to be safe in their chosen career.

Climate change causes cheetahs to become more nocturnal



BRIANA ABRAHMS • The Associated Press

A female cheetah and her cub sit watchfully in front of a herd of zebra in northern Botswana on Aug. 23, 2011. The female wears a GPS collar as part of a study

By CHRISTINA LARSON
The Associated Press

Cheetahs are usually daytime hunters, but the speedy big cats will shift their activity toward dawn and dusk hours during warmer weather, a new study finds.

Unfortunately for endangered cheetahs, that sets them up for more potential conflicts with mostly nocturnal competing predators such as lions and leopards, say the authors of research published Wednesday in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B.

“Changing temperatures can impact the behavior patterns of large carnivore species and also the dynamics among species,” said University of Washington biologist Briana Abrahms, a study

co-author.

While cheetahs only eat fresh meat, lions and leopards will sometimes opportunistically scavenge from smaller predators.

“Lions and leopards normally kill prey themselves, but if they come across a cheetah’s kill, they will try to take it,” said Bettina Wachter, a behavioral biologist who leads the Cheetah Research Project at the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research.

“The cheetahs will not fight the larger cats, they will just leave,” said Wachter, who is based in Namibia and was not involved in the study.

Hunting at different times of the day is one long-evolved strategy to reduce encounters between the multiple predator species that share northern Botswana’s mixed savannah and forest landscape.



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SPORTS

Ekern earns NSIC Player of the Week

By LUKE JACKSON
News Editor

Minnesota State quarterback Hayden Ekern's four touchdowns Saturday earned him the title of Northern Sun Intercollegiate Offensive Player of the Week as he helped the Mavericks defeat Winona State in a 49-42 shootout.

"He had an exceptional game," said head coach Todd Hoffner. "Boy, he was throwing some bull's eye on the dartboard. I thought he had a really good feel for what they were doing and he was out there executing play after play."

In the game, Ekern completed 21-of-33 passes for 328 yards.

This was the second time in his career passing for over 300 yards.

He had two touchdowns through the air while also running in two more.

"Everyone was out there helping me out," Ekern said. "It feels good to get the award but it isn't an individual award. The receivers and offensive line were out there making great plays and Shen (Butler-Lawson) was running the ball well. They opened things up for me."

"It is always fun to get to run it into the endzone for once too."

In the first half, Ekern started



Courtesy Maverick Athletics • Jackson Forderer/SPX

The Minnesota State football team has been ranked seventh in the most recent edition of the NCAA Super Region 4 rankings. They dropped one spot from last weekend, despite beating Winona State 49-42.

his scoring with a three-yard rushing touchdown and then connected with Grant Guyett for a 20-yard touchdown pass.

To end the half, he finished a 71-yard drive with another rushing touchdown; this time from the one-yard line.

In the second half, his lone touchdown was to Tony Anger with a pass on the goal line.

The game brings Ekern's season

efforts to 2,161 yards and 20 touchdowns.

"Hayden is the field general out there," Hoffner said. "He has gained respect and provides leadership while being asked to make big plays for us to be successful every week. But he wasn't alone and they all kept fighting and battling for the win."

The Mavericks now face the University of Minnesota Duluth at home in their final regular-season game Saturday. The 8-2 Bulldogs statistically hold the best offense and defense in the NSIC and are ranked 24th in the nation.

Their offense tallies 38 points while their defense holds teams to 18 points per game.

Bulldog quarterback Kyle Walljasper leads the team on the ground with 999 yards and 15 touchdowns. He's also thrown for 1,368 and 20 touchdowns.

"They are not getting the respect they deserve," Hoffner said. "They should be in the top-ten regional rankings. They are the number one offense and defense and their special teams are highly ranked. They are a great football team and it is going to be a tough outing."

"We are going to need to play exceptionally well to win this football game."

Page 12: MSU takes on St. Thomas in Hall of Fame Game

CCHA Conference Calendar Commencing...

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

The Minnesota State men's hockey team enjoyed a bye week but now are back in action to begin their Central Collegiate Hockey Association conference schedule.

Their opponent this weekend will be Ferris State.

The Bulldogs split a home series against St. Lawrence last weekend with a 2-1 overtime win Saturday.

Antonio Venuto scored the game-winning goal to cap off a three-point weekend, while Stepan Pokorny also posted a three-point series.

Those two players now have points in four consecutive games and seem to have taken the reins of the Bulldog scoring attack.

Pokorny has six goals on the year, including two power play goals and a game winner. Venuto has seven points this season, including six assists.

Including their victory over St. Lawrence, the Bulldogs are 3-0 in overtime games this season.

Logan Stein is their goalie, and he earned his first win Saturday after stopping 22 of 23 shots.

The Bulldogs are 3-4-1 this season with wins over Northern Michigan and Miami of Ohio in addition to St. Lawrence.



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Minnesota State leads the all-time series against the Bulldogs 35-11-2 in games dating back to 1992-93. The Mavericks have won seven of the previous ten matchups, scoring at least five goals on six occasions.

MSU and FSU met a total of five times last year, including a CCHA semifinal matchup on September 11.

The two teams split the regular

season series 2-2, but the Mavs got the last laugh when they defeated the Bulldogs 7-2 in the CCHA tournament to advance to the championship round.

Historically, the Mavs hold a 35-11-2 advantage over the Bulldogs, dating back to 1992.

The Mavericks have won seven of the previous 10 matchups, scor-

ing at least five goals on six occasions.

Minnesota State has been nationally ranked as high as No. 20 in the USCHO Division I Ice Hockey Poll and No. 19 in the USA Hockey/The Rink Live Rankings Poll.

Sam Morton continues to hold the team lead in goals scored, with four.

Luc Wilson, Adam Eisele and Brendan Olson are in a three-way tie for second with two.

Evan Murr leads the team in assists with three, followed by five different Mavericks having two.

Alex Tracy has been the main goalkeeper for the Mavs through seven games.

Tracy has started six games, stopped 131 shots with a .897 save percentage, but Keenan Rancier seems to be healing more and more each week.

After the bye, Rancier will have had another week to clean up any lingering injuries and he should be back on the ice more soon.

In Rancier's one game played this season, he stopped 21 shots, but did not finish the game.

The Mavs will travel to Michigan for their inaugural conference games, with both Friday and Saturday's games starting at 7:07 p.m. in Ewigleben Ice Arena in Big Rapids, Mich.

BASKETBALL BEGINS...

Many familiar faces return for 2023-24 Mavs men's basketball



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

The Mavs begin their season this weekend at the Central Region Challenge in Kansas City, Mo. where they will take on Southern Arkansas and Arkansas-Monticello.

By AHMED HASSAN
Staff Writer

Mavericks got off to a great start to begin their season with an 83-54 win against Gustavus Adolphus in an exhibition match.

The Mavericks started hot and took a commanding lead and didn't look back. They dominated from the get-go and never relented.

In this exhibition game, all 15 players were able to see the court and make the most of their minutes. One of the biggest highlights was seeing the connection between senior and junior guard duo Malik Willingham and Harrison Braudis, with Willingham finding Braudis on many occasions to connect for some points on the board.

The game served as a welcome to the other four new recruits, freshman guards Jalen Cain and Will Opsahl, junior guard Justin Eagins, and senior forward Dylan Peeters.

The exhibition marked the debut of senior Guard Elijah Hazekamp who did not disappoint.

Hazekamp had played his last three years at Truman State transferring to MSU for the 2023-24 season. His experience and presence showed with his command on the floor and were strengthened by his and-ones which showed his dominance and a sign of a big season to come from the guard.

The all-time winningest Coach Matthew Margenthaler was able to kick off his 23rd as head coach. Margenthaler has put together 20 winning seasons.

"It was nice to get this exhibition game under our belt tonight. We know exactly what we need to work on with game week coming up."

With a demanding win and action-packed night, it's safe to say Maverick Basketball is officially back!!

The Mavs will play 14 of their 28 regular season games at home in the Taylor Center for the upcoming season, including their final two games of the season.

Last season, the Minnesota State men's basketball team's sea-

son was ended by the Minnesota-Duluth Bulldogs. Heading into this season, they are ranked directly behind them in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Preseason Coaches Poll.

The Mavs come in at no. 2 in the annual NSIC predictions poll. Many of the same faces that led them to their 17-12 record from a season ago will be back for the 2023-24 season. Malik and Kyrese Willingham, Harrison Braudis and Brady Williams all started a significant chunk of games for the Mavs in the 2022-23 season.

But it is Malik that was named MSU's Player to Watch for the upcoming season. Last season, he was named to the NSIC All-First Team as he led the Mavs in points and assists with 485 and 104, respectively. His 41 point game against Concordia St. Paul was a career-high for him and made him the first Maverick to score 40+ points since 2019.

Head coach Matt Margenthaler also returns to the team for his 23rd season. He has over 400 wins and six Coach of the Year awards, three as NCC Coach of the Year and three as NSIC Coach of the Year.

Margenthaler also announced back in April that the team would be adding five student-athletes to their program. Jalen Cain, Justin Eagins, Elijah Hazekamp, Will Opsahl and Dylan Peeters make up the 2023-24 men's basketball recruiting class.

"These five student-athletes will be a great addition to our program next season," Margenthaler said in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "With the two freshmen and three transfers I believe we filled every spot needed for our roster."



DYLAN LONG • The Reporter

FACES on page 12▶

Womens basketball is back and better than ever



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

After going 2-1 in the Montana State Billings Tournament, the Mavs will now travel to Missouri for the Regional Crossover Challenge.

By MOHAMED WARSAME
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State women's basketball got their season started in winning fashion after beating Florida Tech 83-44 in the Montana State Billings Tournament Friday.

The Mavs started the game off with a 12-0 run, and never looked back. After having a 23-17 lead in the second quarter, the Mavs ended the half with another run, and went into halftime up 38-17.

The fourth quarter saw the Mavs have their highest scoring quarter of the game, with 26 points. They shot 73% from the field, and 50% from three-point range. Natalie Bremer led the way in scoring for the Mavs as she had 15 points on 7-11 shooting from the field. She also had two assists, three rebounds and three steals.

"We were very pleased with the team's energy and in-game adjustments. We were able to switch things up throughout the game and lean on our depth and balanced scoring attack to pull away," said head coach Emilee Thiesse in a press release posted on the Maverick Athletics website.

The Mavericks went into the season as the team that was picked to finish first in the NSIC Preseason Coaches' Poll. They made it to the second round of the NCAA Division II Tourna-

ment and were eliminated by the University of Minnesota, Duluth. The team was the highest scoring offense in the NSIC last season, and is bringing back 13 players for this season, including all five players in the starting lineup.

The team is welcoming three new faces to the locker room. One of them is freshman Jasmine Barney from North Liberty, Iowa. Barney was a three-year letterwinner at Iowa City Liberty High School. Another one of the new players is freshman Shantell Harden. Harden was a team captain in her senior year at St. Louis Park High School and holds the school's single-season scoring record.

On the sidelines, Mavs' head coach Emilee Thiesse begins her 12th season as the leader of MSU's women's basketball program. Through 11 seasons, Thiesse has a 196-111 record. She led the Mavs to their second best record in the school's history last season when they went 26-5.

The Mavs then suffered a 76-71 defeat in their second game of the season to Texas Woman's University Saturday. The Mavs went into the fourth quarter with a 56-54 lead, but were outscored 22-15 by the Pioneers.

"We're proud of our team's fight today. This tournament provides a great opportunity to

BETTER on page 12▶



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

Hall of Fame Game features Mavs and Tommies



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavericks will play host to the Tommies at Maple Grove Ice Arena as both teams are looking for their first WCHA win.

By HAYDEN LEE
Sports Editor

Instead of their normal home or away series, the Minnesota State women's hockey team will be playing the University of St. Thomas in the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Women's Face-Off Classic.

The annual game raises awareness for the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum in Eveleth, Minn. This game is also aimed at showcasing women's college hockey at the highest level to fans and aspiring young women who idolize their favorite players.

"The WCHA is excited to have league members Minnesota State and St. Thomas play in the 2023 U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum Women's Face-Off Classic," said Tracy Dill, interim commissioner of the Western Collegiate Hockey Association in a press release posted to the Maverick Athletics website. "The game will provide the Maple Grove community and surrounding metro area exposure to NCAA Division I women's ice hockey and an op-

portunity to watch the great sport of women's ice hockey."

The U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame Museum opened in 1973 with the goal of preserving the history of ice hockey in the United States while recognizing the contributions of players, coaches, administrators, officials and teams.

As for the actual game that will be played, the Mavs and Tommies are both in somewhat of the same situation, looking for their first WCHA win.

The Tommies began the season 4-0, but have dropped eight straight games against some of the WCHA's best. Ella Boerger and Rylee Bartz have combined for 20 points on the year, with 10 apiece.

Three different goalies have played in five or more games for the Tommies.

Olivia King has played the most minutes and started in five of her eight games played. She has stopped 116 shots with a .859 save percentage on her way to a 2-3 record.

Calla Frank also has 116 saves and a 2-3 record, but has allowed one more goal than King with a

.853 save percentage.

However, it is Maggie Malecha who has the highest save percentage on the team with a .905.

Malecha has only started in two games, playing five, and has an 0-2 record in games she has finished.

The two Minnesota teams have only played each other nine times so far, and the Mavs have a perfect 9-0 record in those games.

For the Mavs, Jamie Nelson leads in goals scored with five, while Taylor Otremba and Whitney Tuttle trail behind her with three each.

Suzette Faucher and Lauren Barbro have held down the goalie position, with Hailey Hanson being mixed in sparingly.

Faucher has played a majority of the minutes defending the net, and she owns .889 save percentage.

After the 7 p.m. puck drop Thursday night, the teams will battle for the Hall of Fame Trophy which will be presented to the winning team by Buzz Schneider, 1980 Olympic Hockey Gold Medalist.

◀ FACES from page 11

The Mavs spent a significant amount of time in the NSIC top-25 early in the year last season before they were ravaged by injuries and were unable to pick the pieces

back up in time to make a playoff run. With their new recruits and returning talent, the sky's the limit for a very talented Mavericks team.

The Mavericks will kick off

their first games of the season on the road in Kansas City, Missouri, where they will be facing Southern Arkansas on Friday, November 10th at 5 p.m., and Arkansas-Monticello on Saturday, November 11th at 5 pm.

◀ BETTER from page 11

grow as a team and we are doing that right now. We know we've got some areas that need to improve to reach our fullest potential, but the effort and energy continue to remain at the highest level. I love this team and am excited about the direction we're going," Thiesse said.

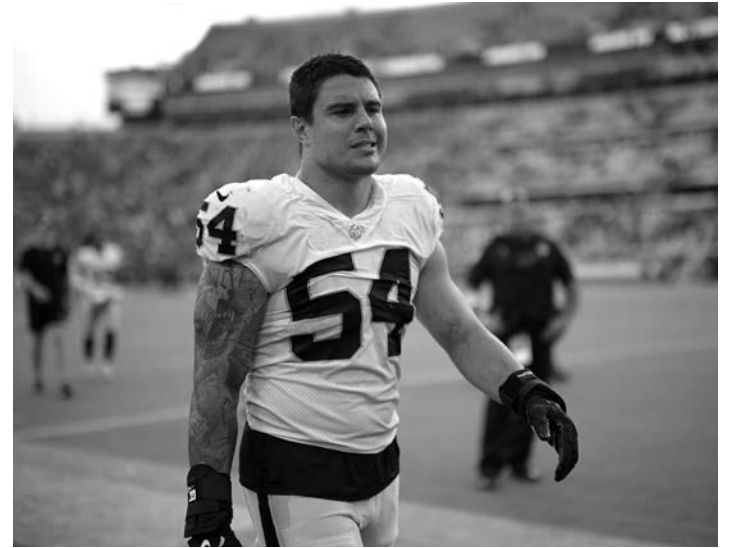
MSU concluded their tour-

nement in Billings, Montana with a 76-65 win against Texas A&M-Kingsville Sunday. The Mavs went into halftime with a 46-32 lead over the Javelinas. Destinee Bursch and Emily Herzberg were the leading scorers for the Mavs at the break, with 13 points each. Bursch finished the game with 21 points on 10-15 shooting. "We're excited to be leaving

Montana with two great wins. We were able to learn and grow a lot this weekend and are eager to get back to work this week as we prepare for two challenging regional games ahead," Thiesse said.

The Mavs will be back on the road for the Regional Crossover Challenge and are going to take on Southern Nazarene University Friday.

Blake Martinez puts Pokemon trading card business on hold to play for Panthers



PHELAN M. EBENHACK • The Associated Press

Martinez has joined the Carolina Panthers practice squad and the team is hoping he can offer some stability to a position that has been ravaged by injuries.

By STEVE REED
The Associated Press

Blake Martinez has put his embattled Pokemon trading card business on hold and is returning to the NFL.

The 29-year-old linebacker has joined the Carolina Panthers practice squad and the team is hoping he can help offer some stability to a position that has been ravaged by injuries.

The Panthers (1-7) play the Chicago Bears on Thursday night, although coach Frank Reich said he's unsure if that will be enough time for Martinez to get up to speed given that he's only participated in one practice.

Martinez has been out of football since last November when he abruptly announced his retirement from the Las Vegas Raiders to focus on "family and future passions."

One of those passions included Pokemon cards.

In 2022 he started "Blake's Breaks," a company which buys and sells Pokemon cards and reportedly did \$8.3 million in revenue in just nine months, according to a CNBC report. One of his rare Pokemon cards was sold for \$672,000.

But his company's reputation took a major hit in August when it was permanently removed from Whatnot — an online social marketplace that allows users to sell products to each other — after being accused of scamming buyers.

"We really appreciate the community's commitment to reporting trust & safety issues," Whatnot posted on Twitter. "Our priority is ensuring a fair and honest experience for customers and upholding our community guidelines. After a comprehensive investiga-

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NFL's QB youth movement at reaches new level

By JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

The generational shift at quarterback in the NFL reached a new milestone last week.

For the first time ever, every player who threw a pass in the NFL in Week 9 was born in 1990 or later, with 15 of the 28 starting quarterbacks last week age 25 or younger.

The run of quarterbacks born in the 1970s ended with Tom Brady's retirement after last season. Injuries to Aaron Rodgers, Matthew Stafford, Kirk Cousins and Ryan Tannehill, and a bye week for Russell Wilson, kept the QBs born in the 1980s off the field last week. This was the first time since Week 6 of the 2002 season that no quarterback born in the 1980s took the field.

There were seven rookie starters last week — one shy of the non-replacement player record set in Week 16 of the 2019 season — with Arizona's Clayton Tune and Minnesota's Jaren Hall getting their first career starts. That raised the total

of rookie starting QBs this season to nine, tying the non-replacement record set in 2019.

The record for most starting rookie QBs since starts began being tracked in 1950 is expected to be set this week after Giants coach Brian Daboll said Tommy DeVito will get the start Sunday against Dallas following Daniel Jones' season-ending injury.

The youth movement at quarterback has played a role in the struggles on offense across the league in the first half of the season, with scoring at its lowest mark through nine weeks since 2007.

More than 70% of games so far this season have featured at least one quarterback age 25 or younger, with the 126 total starts by quarterbacks that young the most ever through nine weeks.

While many of the young QBs have struggled, Houston rookie C.J. Stroud has looked like a polished veteran. He threw for a rookie-record 470 yards in a comeback win over Tampa Bay last week with five TDs and no interceptions.



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH • The Associated Press

Houston Texans quarterback C.J. Stroud looks to pass against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the first half of an NFL football game, Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023, in Houston.



JOHN BAZEMORE • The Associated Press

His 147.8 rating was the highest ever for a rookie with at least 30 attempts, and Stroud became the sixth player ever to throw for at least 450 yards with five TDs and no interceptions, joining Jared Goff, Peyton Manning, Donovan McNabb, Ben Roethlisberger and Y.A. Tittle.

HISTORIC PERFORMANCES

There were a few other notable performances from Week 9, including one that put New Orleans' do-everything tight end Taysom Hill in Hall of Fame company.

Hill caught his 10th career TD pass and threw his 12th in a win over Chicago to go along with the

26 he has on the ground. He became the first player since Hall of Famer Frank Gifford to record at least 10 touchdowns passing, rushing and receiving.

Gifford reached that milestone in 1957, while the only other players to do it reached those marks in the earlier days of the NFL, with Hall of Famers Charley Trippi, Red Grange and Jimmy Conzelman already in the club.

Minnesota's Joshua Dobbs did something that hadn't been accomplished since 1947 when he threw TD passes in his debut for the Vikings a week after doing the same for the Cardinals.

Dobbs was the fifth player since 1947 to throw a pass for two teams in two weeks, according to Sportradar, and he joined Paul Governali as the only ones to throw at least two TD passes in both games. Governali did it for the Boston Yanks and the New York Giants.

Stroud's Texans teammate, Dare Ogunbowale, had another noteworthy performance. With Ka'imi Fairbairn injured, Ogunbowale came on in emergency duty and kicked a 29-yard field goal in the fourth quarter.

He became the first nonkicker or punter to make a field goal in a game since Wes Welker did it on

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VARIETY

Housing fair sparks conversations

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

Living off campus is a great way for students to be more independent and start learning to be adults. With there being so many choices in Mankato, that can be overwhelming. Luckily for them, a housing fair happens three times each academic year, with the first taking place Tuesday in Centennial Student Union.

Assistant Director of Student Activities, Fraternity & Sorority Life and Off-Campus Housing John Bulcock said there's a reason this event is done three times in an academic year: It gives students a chance to learn about housing so when they go home and visit their family, they can have answers.

"We have one in November because it's when the housing search process typically starts. Property managers are going to their tenants saying, 'Are you going to renew?'" said Bulcock. "January, it's after the holiday break. Typically, they've had some conversations, and then we do one in March, the week after spring break, because typically around that time is when most students have made their decision about where they're gonna live next year."

One off-campus housing company in attendance was The Summit & Jacob Heights, about



DOMINIC BOTHE • The Reporter

The Housing Fair, which occurs three times a year, allows students to get an idea of multiple apartment complexes in Mankato to see what fits their price, what amenities they offer and location relative to campus.

half a mile from campus and on the bus route. They offer two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments with many amenities students will demand, such as hot tubs, 24-hour fitness centers and much more. Community Assistant Kameron Cook was there to answer questions future resi-

dents might have.

"We offer an easy way to have them submerge essentially into first-time renting. What we offer is individual leasing, roommate matching, furnished apartments and townhouses, which essentially makes it easier for students to merge into that

lifestyle," said Cook.

Cook said that the community within the complex makes The Summit & Jacob Heights different from the other housing companies.

"They allow you to create your own responsibility and have your own independence, **HOUSE on page 15**

United Nations Club promotes awareness

By GRACE ANDERSON
Staff Writer

Minnesota State University's Model United Nations/International Relations Club focuses on global events and issues as well as international policy.

Faculty advisor Abdalla Battah said he created the club during the 1993-94 academic year to broaden Mankato's perception of worldwide circumstances.

"It reflected my interest and enthusiasm to promote global awareness on campus and in the larger community," Battah said.

He also said the club is for the students to develop and expand their awareness of events that occur outside of Mankato and the United States.

"The purpose is to get students proactively engaged in activities on and off campus in the realm of global awareness," he said. "Another goal of the club is to promote internationalization of the curriculum."

Battah said the organization has hosted prestigious activities in past years.

"We have hosted panels, lectures, video showing and discussion, educational trips, panels of study abroad and experiential learning, workshops on the Middle East and workshops on preparing for the Foreign Service Exam," Battah said. "We have also co-sponsored relevant events with the Kessel Institute and other campus organizations and all of our events were open to the public."

He also said historical crises have hindered the organization's ability to host such events and function as efficiently as it once did.

"The Club assisted me in hosting three major Arrowhead Model United Nations Conferences that brought students from over a dozen Midwest colleges/universities prior to 9/11," said Battah. "AMUNC was run by the Arrowhead Model United Nations Association, or AMUNA, and I happened to be the organization's president since its inception till last year. Covid-19 killed in-person attendance at the last conferences and I resigned as president of the **CLUB on page 16**

A week without color: the phone display challenge

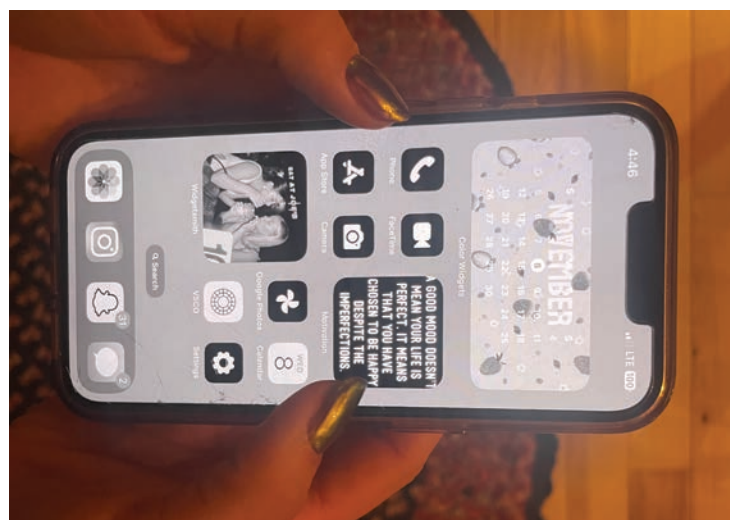
By MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN
Variety Editor

The mobile device is one of the most addicting substances on the planet. Walking around a busy street without seeing a phone in someone's hand is like trying to find a needle in a haystack; even though we have control over our devices, our devices are starting to have control over us.

A study completed by Reviews.org found that nearly 57% of people admit to being addicted to their phones, and these numbers are climbing as technology advances. I admit to being part of this percentage, and as a college student, I don't feel alone.

The more I was consumed by my phone, the less I was completing on a daily basis. I felt the need to take action against my device, but first I had to question: what makes phones so addicting?

According to former Design Ethicist at Google Tristan Harris, technology is engineered to be addicting and hijack our attention, and a phone is comparable to a slot machine. To com-



MERCEDES KAUPHUSMAN • The Reporter

The new social experiment going around on TikTok is changing your phone screen to black and white to reduce screen time, but does it work?

but this problem of a stimulating screen, I thought that taking away what makes it appealing — the color — would result in less screen time.

For the past week, my phone has been switched to grayscale. It has not been easy, as I have been accustomed to a colored screen since I purchased a device more than a decade ago, but it works. For iPhones, this can be completed by going into Settings

> Accessibility > Display & Text Size > Color Filters, and switching it from off to on.

My screen time's biggest enemy is the app TikTok, as the app is designed to scratch the itch of short attention spans. I found myself constantly scrolling on Tiktok, watching as many videos as I could in between tasks, and while I had important work to complete. Since switching to grayscale, I have spent signifi-

cantly less time on the app. Videos are less interesting to watch without color; it seems to be a no-brainer, yet this easy fix isn't known to a lot of people.

Another part of my phone that is not only damaging to my screen-time, but also to my bank account is the endless access to online shopping. I have every one of my favorite stores as apps, and I started to find more and more Amazon packages outside my front door the more that I used my phone. Since I made the switch, I haven't purchased a single item this week. Without seeing the item for its real color, I simply did not want it, and my credit card has thanked me.

A valid reason why phone displays are colored in the first place is for the purpose of photographs. I take a lot of pictures, and it's evident in my camera roll with over 8,000 pictures. With my phone in grayscale, I did not like to see myself, or the world through the camera, thus resulting in fewer photos. Great for my phone storage, but not so great for the memories to look back on. Although, if pictures are taken with grayscale, they **PHONE on page 14**

Remember the name, The Struts



Courtesy thestruts.lnk.to

The Struts released their fourth album Friday called “Pretty Vicious.” The album contains the band’s arena-sized energy while conveying feelings of loneliness, self-expression and wanting to make a difference.

By LAUREN VISKA
Staff Writer

The fourth album by The Struts, “Pretty Vicious,” released Friday, captures their live performance’s raw, boisterous vibe by combining their arena-sized energy with some of their most sincere and thrilling songs.

“Too Good At Raising Hell” is the album’s leading track, and for good reason. The song captures the essence of living an extravagant life and all of the glorious moments that come with it. It’s the perfect song to start the party and a great preview of what’s to come. The track retains much of what The Struts are known for, but also introduces a new sound fans have been waiting to hear.

The album’s title track seems to pay homage to a person with seductive and possibly dangerous allure. The song’s lyrics imply that this person commands attention from those around them by acting and speak-

ing with a certain power. The chorus reiterates, “You can be pretty vicious,” suggesting a cruel side underneath all of this person’s charm and good looks.

“I Won’t Run” is an anthem about overcoming adversity with resilience and determination. The lyrics express a refusal to back down or give up.

“Hands On Me” is about a desire for a close relationship with someone who has left the protagonist’s life. The refrain “hands on me” throughout the song symbolizes the deep sense of loneliness and longing for physical touch.

“Do What You Want” celebrates individuality, self-assurance and the ability to express oneself freely. “Everybody here looks like someone I know; you were doing it better, baby, three years ago.” This suggests that the individual has managed to stay unique in changing times and be ahead of trends.

“Rockstar” celebrates and idolizes a self-assured, bold woman who embraces her

uniqueness and goes about her life according to her own terms. The lines “Just another sucker with a hole in his head” and “If I can’t deliver, I’d be better off dead” imply that the protagonist is aware of this woman’s power and attraction but is also intimidated by her and unsure of his ability to live up to her expectations. He considers himself no more than a mere bystander to her seductions.

“Remember The Name” is about living life to the fullest, being genuine and determined to make a difference. It encourages listeners to value their uniqueness and take advantage of every chance.

“Bad Decisions” explores the inner conflict and fallout from making careless decisions of one’s own. The narrator seems barely clinging to sanity as they describe a helpless feeling. Their actions have prevented them from getting enough sleep, and the hotel bathrooms are replete with smoke...

full story on our website

PHONE from page 14

still switch to color once the display settings are changed back.

Social media in general, including Instagram and Snapchat are platforms I consume every day. After the switch, I barely spent any time on them. I didn’t post a picture, I rarely

sent snapchats of my own, and I only scrolled through Instagram to catch-up on everyone’s lives.

Last week, my weekly average screen time was six hours and 19 minutes. As of today, my weekly average is three hours and 1 minute. Since switching my phone to grayscale,

my screen time has dropped more than 50%, which goes to show the effectiveness of this experiment. Since going gray, the world around me has been more stimulating than my phone, and I will continue to utilize this easy change to enjoy what is real over what is artificial.

HOUSE from page 14

but also we have on-site staff. So in that case, when you have questions, you’re able to talk to an actual person and from there, we’re accessible 24 hours a day as well,” said Cook.

Students can call The Summit & Jacob Heights at 507-388-2543 to set up a tour, ask questions or learn about up-

coming specials and deals.

Student Keagan Ihle said he was looking for a new place to live with his girlfriend. They are not re-signing from their current lease as they had some issues with their lease. He said this fair was helpful to learn about other apartment complexes in Mankato.

“In a one-week period, they

(the landlord) told us we were losing our study lounge. They are raising our rent by \$80 a person and told us, ‘Hey, resign your lease or sign someone else on your apartment next year,’” said Ihle.

For more information on off-campus housing, students can head to <https://offcampushousing.mnsu.edu/>.

‘The Legend of Zelda’ will be made into a live-action film



NAM Y. HUH • The Associated Press

Nintendo is developing a live-action film based on its hit video game “The Legend of Zelda,” which Nintendo announced on Wednesday.

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

Nintendo is developing a live-action film based on its hit video game “The Legend of Zelda,” the Japanese company behind the Super Mario franchise said Wednesday.

The film, with financing from Sony Pictures Entertainment as well as its own investment, will be directed by Wes Ball, the American director of the upcoming “Planet of the Apes” film. It’s being co-produced by Nintendo and Arad Productions Inc., which is behind the live-action Spider-Man films and headed by Avi Arad.

That strategy has met success. Its animated film “The Super Mario Bros. Movie,” released earlier this year, has

raked in more than \$1.3 billion and drew nearly 170 million people worldwide.

President Shuntaro Furukawa, briefing reporters online, said the company was pleased with the success of the Super Mario animation film, the first movie of which Nintendo was a direct producer.

The planned release date of the Zelda movie was not announced. Shigeru Miyamoto, the Nintendo executive who has spearheaded the creative innovations at the company for decades, said it will be released only when it’s ready, while stressing that work on the project has been going on for a decade.

“I realize there are so many Zelda fans, and we cannot betray their expectations. That’s a big hurdle. But we are ready.”

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◀**CLUB** from page 16 organization.”

Battah said the events served as a way to promote students’ skills.

“At this conference, students learned valuable information and skills such as organizing, negotiation, key global issues, debate strategies, parliamentary procedures, how the UN works and in-depth information about a country they represented as Ambassadors,” he said. “Conference participants particularly enjoyed opportunities for dialogue with dignitaries who were invited to keynote speakers.”

He also said the organization has had various speakers over the years who have held high-ranking positions of office inside and outside of the United States.

“Some of the speakers that we have had included Lech Walesa, the former President of Poland, Senator and Presidential Nominee George McGovern, Ambassador Robert Fowler, H.E. Ambassador Datuk Hamidon Ali, the UN Permanent Representative of Malaysia, Mary Robinson, the former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights and the former MN Secretary of State and President of Global Minnesota, Mark Ritchie.

For more information about the UNIR, contact Dr. Abdalla Battah or contact the club’s president, Abhishu Karki.

2024 Met Gala theme announced

By **JOCELYN NOVECK**
The Associated Press

It may be time to get out those fairytale ballgowns. The theme of the next Met Gala has been unveiled: “Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion.”

In this case, though, the title refers not to a princess with a pricked finger, but to the fabulous gown she might be wearing.

The stars of the Met’s spring exhibit, to be launched by the celebrity-studded Met Gala on May 6, will be treasured garments from the vast collection at the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art — some too fragile to hang upright, lest they disintegrate. They will lie in glass cases, like Sleeping Beauty herself.

Curator Andrew Bolton, who masterminds all of the Met’s blockbuster fashion exhibits, says he was looking for a way to literally breathe life into a collection of 33,000 pieces, many of which are never seen. He’s chosen about 250 of them, spanning four centuries.

“Fashion is such a living art form,” Bolton said on Wednesday as he led a group of journalists into the bowels of the museum where the conservation lab lies and where the garments currently “slumber,” in his words. His aim, he says, was to bring



JOCELYN NOVECK • The Associated Press

Curator Andrew Bolton displays garments in the conservation space of the Costume Institute of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan, Nov. 8, 2023

garments to museum-goers via the various senses — not just sight but smell, and sound, too.

“When a costume comes into the Met collection it changes irrevocably,” Bolton explained. “It can’t be worn, obviously,

you don’t see it in movement, you can’t smell it, can’t hear it, can’t touch it.” The idea was to “reawaken the sensorial aspect” of the clothing.

This could mean scents will be wafting through a gallery,

connected perhaps to the perfume used by the wearer.

It also means that the rattling sound of razor clams will accompany a dress by Alexander McQueen covered with stripped and varnished razor clam shells.

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