

Nursing Simulation Center is accredited

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

Over the summer, the Maverick Family Nursing Simulation Program received full accreditation with specialization in teaching and education from the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH).

According to the SSH website, the accreditation shows “the gold standard in healthcare simulation.” While the simulation has been around for years, Workforce Simulation Director Kate Glogowski said receiving the recognition means staff and faculty hold themselves to high standards.

“Our students benefit because they’re practicing in one of the best simulation centers in this area. Also, when our workforce partners come into the center, they are aware that we are meeting best practices, not only for our students, but also for anybody that comes here for training,” Glogowski said.

A standard simulation day starts with students researching the topic followed by a pre-briefing where they get an overview of the day’s events, a tour of the room they’ll be in and who will be doing what roles in the simulation. Some students participate, others observe and take notes in the observation room. Afterward, there’s a debrief session where students discuss what went well and what could be improved.

One of the ways MSU stands out from other universities is the



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

From left, Operations Coordinator Erica Mathis, Workforce Director Kate Glogowski and Academic Director of the Maverick Family Nursing Simulation Center Megan Dohm want students to feel comfortable learning in the center.

use of evidence-based practice simulation. This includes providing a safe learning environment by informing students or workforce partners what will occur during the simulation and providing a framework for students to ask questions.

“We want our students and partners to understand this is where we make mistakes and are

free to ask questions and not feel like they’re being judged or criticized in the space. We’re not picking apart what you’re doing. We’re providing feedback such as ‘How are we going to not only just treat the patient and follow all the best standards and procedures, but how are we going to educate the patient and their family along the way as

well?’” Glogowski said.

The simulations change constantly as the center looks at the learning objectives students want to practice on and the budget for training and supplies. One of the grants the center is currently using is a job skills partnership focusing on surgical simulation and trauma

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New dean of Global Education

By JEREMY REDLIEN
Staff Writer

Over the summer Minnesota State appointed William Coghill-Behrends to the position of Dean of Global Education.

“My job is to really support, encourage, and nudge in some ways internationalization efforts on this campus. Most college campuses accomplish that through a variety of means, including students we recruit to come here to be in our programs, either as fully fledged degree seeking students at the undergraduate or graduate level or exchange students who are coming from one of our partner universities,” said Coghill-Behrends.

The center for global education oversees a variety of programs on campus, including the Center for Global Engagement, the Center for English language Programs, and the Kearney International Center.

According to Coghill-Behrends, his new position is keeping him busy as he tries to learn more about Minnesota State’s specific needs.

“I’m spending a lot of my days in meetings, meeting new people, talking about what excites them and what aspirations they have for global education in their curriculum or in their course work, or in their colleges if I’m meeting with academic leadership,” said Coghill-Behrends.

Coghill-Behrends identified study abroad programs as one area that he wanted to encourage more students at MSU to participate in.

“I think when it comes to study abroad there are a lot of perceived barriers. One of them obviously is cost, sometimes it’s access. If you’re somebody who hasn’t traveled abroad or isn’t somebody who’s had family who’s traveled abroad, maybe that world just feels like, no pun intended, so foreign to you. And we want to work really hard this year to help everybody understand that there is probably a program for everybody here on campus.”

Previously, Coghill-Behrends had served as the director of global education initiatives at the Linda R. Baker

GLOBAL on page 2▶

Fraternity & Sorority Life changing college experience

By AMALIA SHARAF
News Editor

Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) is an important part of the college experience for over 400 Mavericks at Minnesota State. The chapters create a community of leaders focused on academic excellence, volunteering for the community and personal growth.

Being a member of FSL on campus makes students feel welcomed and understood, as vice president of PR and marketing on Panhellenic Council Maryn Somerville stated. However, Somerville knows, freshmen may have different perceptions of the FSL based on the image presented via different media sources.

“I got a direct message from my sorority, and I really was not interested in Greek life at all. I’ve seen stuff on social media about this, and that is not how I vibe,” said Somerville. “And then I showed up and I talked with one of the girls, and I had a very heartfelt conversation. It really made me feel like I



Courtesy Maryn Somerville

Fraternity and Sorority Life on campus during one of the recruitment events. Here they have revealed their house to the rest of the group.

was understood.”

Somerville said one of the reasons she joined a sorority was philanthropy, which is the chapter’s chosen charity. Each fraternity and sorority chapter at MSU has philanthropy they work with and specific requirements for commu-

nity service hours.

Sigma Sigma Sigma President Sofia Melendez has joined the chapter informally. She said the chapter was a great opportunity for her to feel the belonging on campus and meet people who they are now close friends with.

“I wanted to make a bigger impact, and I wanted to be a part of something that was bigger,” said Melendez. “I’m one of five kids. I have four brothers, and I’ve never had any sisters in my life, so I’d always been wanting that or looking for that. So to be able to join that group of girls and have my own group of sisters feels a lot like home for me when I’m living so far away from mine.”

Joshbir Bedi was invited to a recruitment event for the fraternity chapter Sigma Nu. He expected it to be a big party, as it is usually shown in the media. Nevertheless, when he arrived at the fraternity house, he found people he could have interesting conversations with.

“I’m a bit of a history geek. So, when I got there, I was talking to people and overheard one alumnus speaking to someone about Indian history and European history for an hour straight,” said Bedi. “I thought that this was awesome. It’s

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Maverick Textbook Reserve contributes to affordable education



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Students are visiting the 'Maverick Shop' to find required textbooks and buy other essentials. Textbooks can be bought at the shop and borrowed from the Memorial Library.

By AMALIA SHARAF
News Editor

Started in 2008, Maverick Textbook Reserve initiative is aimed at helping reduce the out-of-pocket costs that students pay for their education. Maverick Textbook Reserve allows students to borrow textbooks for free, allowing them to study the assigned material.

"It was originally framed as another way to reduce the textbook cost burden for students by providing them a checkout option at the Memorial Library of

the more expensive, heavily used textbooks," said Director of Facility Services David Cowan. "It was unique in that the University Bookstore (a.k.a. "Maverick Shop") actually provided funds to support a 'free' checkout option administered by Library Services."

"Students, essentially, are able to go to the library and borrow textbooks for a limited amount of time," said student body president Roshit Niraula. "Also, students are able to go online to take a look at which textbooks are available at the library, and they can go in and

check those textbooks out for a limited amount of time, completely free of charge."

The textbook reserve is offering books for over 30 departments at Minnesota State. The list of classes for which the textbooks are available to check out can be found on the university website. According to digital initiatives librarian Heidi Southworth, textbooks are selected for the high enrollment, high cost and general education courses.

"Kris Brockman is the book-
TEXTBOOKS on page 4▶



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

William Coghill-Behrends is a new Dean of Global Education. He said he came to MSU from University of Iowa.

◀**GLOBAL from page 1**
Teacher Leader Center at the University of Iowa.

According to Coghill-Behrends there were multiple reasons that he accepted the position. These reasons included the way he had been treated during the interview process and the high quality of global programming at MSU.

"I will tell you what brought me here is that every step along the way during the application and interview process, I just felt so cared for and I felt people appreciated my thoughts and valued what I had to say. When I got here for my on campus interview especially, I was super impressed with the quality of programming we have, the depth of programming

that we have," said Coghill-Behrends.

Coghill-Behrends succeeds Ann Dahlman, who had served as interim dean. Dahlman had accepted the post of provost and vice president of academic affairs at Northern Michigan University in April.

Coghill-Behrends said that he is looking forward to his work here at MSU Mankato and claimed that just coming here had made him feel young again.

"I love this place. In fact my husband and I were laying on the couch last night and I was just like, I really love this house. It's super exciting to be here. It's just, it's fun. I feel young again," Coghill-Behrends said.

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Stonehenge's 'altar stone' originally came from Scotland and not Wales, new research shows



CHRISTINA LARSON • The Associated Press

The mysterious Altar Stone at Stonehenge might have been transported more than 700km from north east Scotland. Scientists have revealed the fascinating study about the stone circle but the revelation brings as many questions as it does answers

By CHRISTINA LARSON
The Associated Press

The ancient ritual meaning of Stonehenge is still a mystery, but researchers are one step closer to understanding how the famous stone circle was created. The unique stone lying flat at the center of the monument was brought to the site in southern England from near the tip of northeast Scotland,

researchers reported Wednesday in the journal *Nature*. It's not clear whether the 16-foot (5-meter) stone was carried by boat or across land — a journey of more than 460 miles (740 kilometers).

"It's a surprise that it's come from so far away," said University of Exeter archaeologist Susan Greaney, who was not involved in the study.

For more than a hundred years, scientists believed that Stonehenge's central sandstone slab — long called the "altar stone" — came from much closer Wales. But a study last year by some of the same researchers showed that the stone didn't match the geology of Wales' sandstone formations. The actual source of the stone remained unknown until now.

◀TEXTBOOKS from page 2

store manager, and so what happens is textbooks are selected and then sent to the library, to Steve Johnson. And Steve Johnson is the person who makes all the magic happen. He's the one that actually processes the books and makes them available in the library for anyone that comes in there," Southworth said.

Maverick Textbook Reserve emerged as a collaborative effort of Student Government, the library and the bookstore. Originally the reserve had only 16 titles available for students. Over the years, more books were added to the list and the use of the resource has increased among students.

"Last year, because of the effective partnerships with student government, the library, and the bookstore, we saw a 24% increase in use of the textbook reserve. We had nearly a 40% increase in web page views from people looking for course reserves," said the Dean of Library and Learning, Christopher Corley. "My colleague Steve Johnson, one of our library public access technicians, maintains the data for the textbook reserves and oversees the program. Last year, he recorded 2,407 loans overall."

"We started off the semester by going through the library's collections, pulling books that we found were on the bookstore list, and making those available on reserve," said Southworth. "So we've

expanded our courses beyond the maverick textbook reserve to other classes as well."

According to Corley, the biggest numbers of users last year were from Health 210 (Emergency Medical Responder First Aid and CPR) and Ethnic Studies 101 (Introduction to Multicultural and Ethnic Studies). Faculty members can help increase the use of the reserve by promoting and explicitly explaining the program and the options students have in their textbook choices. The data shows that the highest use comes from the classes where the reserve was promoted by faculty members. All faculty who have textbooks on reserve receive notifications from the library that their books are available.

In the past, for classes with high demand on books, Maverick Textbook Reserve had a limit on how long the students could use the books. Library Technician Steven Johnson said they try to make the services more convenient for students.

"We are actually experimenting with a seven day loan period for the Maverick Textbook Program, all copies are able to be checked out for seven days except for the last copy of any textbook title, which can be loaned for 4 hours at a time," said Johnson.

Southworth said the Maverick Textbook Reserve also provides ebooks, which students can access at any time.

"We try to purchase what's called unlimited ebooks as much as possible. An unlimited ebook is basically an unlimited license so that anyone who's affiliated with the university can come and read that ebook online," Southworth said. "However, we do have some limitations. Some classes may only have one or three users. So if somebody goes in and finds the electronic book and checks it out, then you know, others can't get it. So, we try to buy as many unlimited licenses as possible. But we are restricted in a number of ways."

The reserve is also limited in the funds they receive. According to Cowan, during the first year of the program, the reserve accepted a \$2,000 bookstore donation and a \$4,600 Student Government allocation. In the second year, the reserve got \$15,000 from a bookstore contract earmark and \$5,000 from a MinnState one-time grant. Last year, \$22,200 was spent on inventory located on the first floor of the library. Bookstore contract earmark with Maverick Shop (Follett's) now at \$26,500 annually.

"It takes a team of people to make something like the Maverick Textbook Reserve happen," Corley said. "While Steve Johnson in the library and Kris Brockman from Follett's are the key collaborators of the program, we now also have a half dozen professionals who at one time or another contribute to this and our other affordability projects."

A cave on the moon is confirmed, and they can house explorers



The Associated Press

A plane passes in front of the moon, Aug. 30, 2023, in Chicago. Scientists have confirmed a cave, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed.

By MARCIA DUNN
The Associated Press

Scientists have confirmed a cave on the moon, not far from where Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed 55 years ago, and suspect there are hundreds more that could house future astronauts.

An Italian-led team reported Monday that there's evidence for a sizable cave accessible from the deepest known pit on the moon. It's located at the Sea of Tranquility, just 250 miles (400 kilometers) from Apollo 11's landing site.

The pit, like the more than 200 others discovered up there, was created by the collapse of a lava tube. Researchers analyzed radar measurements by NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, and compared the results with lava tubes on Earth. Their findings

appeared in the journal *Nature Astronomy*.

The radar data reveals only the initial part of the underground cavity, according to the scientists. They estimate it's at least 130 feet (40 meters) wide and tens of yards (meters) long, probably more.

"Lunar caves have remained a mystery for over 50 years. So it was exciting to be able to finally prove the existence" of one, Leonardo Carrer and Lorenzo Bruzzone of the University of Trento, wrote in an email. Most of the pits seem to be located in the moon's ancient lava plains, according to the scientists. There also could be some at the moon's south pole, the planned location of NASA's astronaut landings later this decade. Permanently shadowed craters there are believed to hold frozen water that could provide drinking water and rocket fuel.

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Lady Gaga, Joaquin Phoenix bring 'Joker: Folie à Deux'

By LINDSEY BAHR
The Associated Press

Five years after "Joker" won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival, director Todd Phillips can't help but be a little nervous about returning with its sequel.

"Joker: Folie à Deux," one of the festival's most anticipated films of the 81st edition of the festival, premiered Wednesday and theatergoers at the Sala Grande theater gave the movie and stars Joaquin Phoenix and Lady Gaga an 11-minute standing ovation.

"It feels right, it feels correct to be back in Venice. It felt like the logical launching off point for us," Phillips said ahead of the premiere. "On this one I'm a little more nervous. It's a lot easier to come into something as the insurgent rather than the incumbent."

A sequel was more a joke than an inevitability to Phillips and Phoenix while making the first movie. For one, Phoenix is not the kind of actor to jump at a "franchise." But then an idea emerged to explore the music that Phoenix's character, Arthur Fleck, is hearing in his head. It would have to be as bold, unexpected and audacious as the first, they thought.

That first film had resonated in a way that no one quite expected: It made over \$1 billion at the box office and won Phoenix the best actor Oscar. One of its fans was Gaga, who said that it "really deeply



JOEL CRYAN • The Associated Press

Lady Gaga poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Joker: Folie A Deux' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.

moved me" and showed her something she had never seen before.

The streets outside the Sala Grande theater were packed with Gaga fans hoping to catch a glimpse of her on the red carpet. Gaga arrived wearing a Christian Dior Haute Couture gown and an

elaborate Philip Treacy headpiece that was evocative of a funeral veil.

"Joker: Folie à Deux" finds Phoenix's Arthur Fleck institutionalized and awaiting trial for his crimes. The last film ended after he shoots late night host Murray Franklin (Robert De Niro) on live

television, which has made him a God to a certain set, including Gaga's Harley Quinn who he meets in a different ward.

The two fall immediately in love and take to song to express themselves.

Both Phoenix and Gaga sang

live for the film, with a pianist just off camera who, she said, felt like another actor in the scene in a way.

"For me it was kind of about unlearning technique and forgetting how to breathe and allowing the song to come completely out of the character," Gaga said. "It gives the characters a way to express what they need to say."

Phoenix, who initially balked at the idea of singing live, added: "Part of the joy at least for me was taking these songs that were standards and trying to find a way that they were specific to the characters."

They also learned various choreography over the course of months for several different numbers, including a waltz in the rain. But even with the training and practice, they said, things had a tendency to change in the moment.

"We all really thrived in the moment and in the chaos of it all," Gaga said. "We had to find it every day. What was the truth of the scene, what was the honest moment?"

She added: "You can learn a song, learn a routine for a dance ... but that's not always the most honest thing to do on camera."

Phoenix recently made headlines for leaving a Todd Haynes film several days before it was to start shooting. He declined to elaborate on the situation, saying it wouldn't be fair to the other creatives involved who were not available to comment.



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Why prepping at the beginning of the school year is crucial?

The fall semester of the new academic year has begun and sometimes students, both incoming and returning, struggle adjusting to a new and unfamiliar environment after a long summer break.

It can be dreadful just to even think about the first day. The first week. So on and so forth as we think we might have to go in blind. But that's not the case.

As unpleasant as it sounds, students need to prepare for the new school year as soon as they receive fall semester schedules and emails of necessary textbooks for classes.

It's not as scary as it sounds. There are many ways to prepare for the upcoming months of the academic year and ways to balance and keep track of tasks.

Plan weeks ahead. Students tend to explore new things upon their return to campus, whether that be jobs, clubs or sports. When joining a sports team or organization, expect practices and meetings in the first few weeks. Write down meeting or practice dates down on a calendar or planner to make sure it won't clash with a class or job schedule.

Find out where classes are and potential study spots. MSU's campus is filled with hidden gems of study spots that can be next to a class. Find out where a class will be and search for a study spot nearby. We as students can have a bit of time between classes so spend it studying or taking a break.

If in need of help, ask. The first few weeks can be stressful, scary and busy. Students second guess themselves and wonder if they chose the right classes. Here's a survival tip: Never be afraid to go to an advisor. Their task is to help students find a schedule that works for both their academic and personal lives. They will provide suggestions and, if students wish to prepare themselves for the next semester as well, they shouldn't be afraid to talk about a future spring schedule.

Read through the class syllabus. Find what material will be discussed throughout the next few weeks so that there's no surprise projects, presentations or essays. Add the assignment due dates to a planner in order to plan and work accordingly. Determine the professor's expectations and keep their contact in mind in case of questions about assignments or class material. Remember, never be afraid to ask for help.

It is crucial to be prepared. If you want to be successful, going in blind isn't an option. Plan ahead, set a routine, turn in your assignments on time and remember to take breaks; looking after our mental health is the first step into being prepared for everything.

Perspectives

Why Not Today? Meet the professional lesbian who waught Walz the joy of politics



Photo on left, Reporter Archives. Photo on right, The Associated Press

In 1977, what is now referred to as the Jim Chalgren LGBT Center was founded at Minnesota State University, Mankato.

At the time it was the only the second center of its kind, and was initially known as the Gay Advisors Office.

It was later renamed the Alternative Lifestyles Center before going through several more name changes.

Chalgren headed the center before he left Mankato in 1987 for the Twin Cities following a heated but failed fight to pass a non-discrimination ordinance in Mankato.

After that the center was run by a rotating array of graduate assistants until 2003, when students led by Jess Crary, held a sit-in to advocate for MSU to hire a full-time director.

In 2004 Jessica Flatequal was hired to serve as the LGBTQ center's first full-



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

time director, a position she held until her death in 2019.

Thanks to her fierce advocacy for the LGBTQ community and other marginalized groups, her legacy lives on.

On Sept. 7, the Mankato Pride Jessica Flatequal Parade will be held in Mankato.

Flatequal also worked closely with Tim Walz — Minnesota's governor and current democratic nominee for vice president — during his early political days running for U.S. Congress.

Walz himself has admitted that Flatequal had a huge

impact on him both personally and politically. Flatequal, who was also involved with organizing Mankato's Pridefest, invited Walz to one of Mankato's early official Pridefests, an act Walz remembered as being critical to the development of his political career.

"To everyone who would walk by, Jessica would say 'Come here, come here, come here — meet our next congressman, he's for a lot of good things, and marriage equality... meet our next congressman, he's for a lot of good things and marriage equality.'"

And I remember thinking: She believes in us more than we do right now. I said, 'We better work a little harder here, we better do a little more.'

Because the expectation — and you could always get it out of Jessica — was if it's the

COLUMN on page 7

Pulse

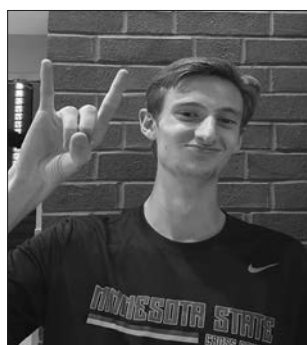
"What are you most looking forward to this year?"

Compiled by Nathanael Tilahun



MACKENZIE HADLEY,
FRESHMAN

"Passing my classes."



REILLY KOPP,
FRESHMAN

"New opportunities."



LANA ODUWAIYE,
SOPHOMORE

"Attending the football games."



CHARLIE HIBBS,
FRESHMAN

"Chipotle."



ABLANAWIT KASSA,
SENIOR

"To graduate."



OLIVIA EDGE,
SOPHOMORE

"I'm most excited for Alpha Chi Omega recruitment."

◀NURSING: “The Center is amazing in terms of equipment, space and the staff”



EMMA JOHNSON • The Reporter

care. “This fall, we’ll be doing emergency C-sections when the patient will start in the OB suite and require an emergency C-section and end up in the surgical suite,” Glogowski said.

Academic Director of the Maverick Family Nursing Simulation Center Megan Dohm said simulations change due to holes in the curriculum and addressing problems related to different areas of the medical field.

“Last year, we added a school nurse scenario for nursing students where a student comes in with questions about sexual identity and transgender care and so the students have to have that kind of difficult conversation and provide the education to that individual,” Dohm said. “We developed four new simulations over the last year for SLP graduate students, one with a cognitive issue related to a fall, a brain injury, and they had to do an assessment with a not very compliant person.”

Glogowski said the center collaborates with partners on and off campus to help with their operations and bring new ideas. Recently, the center reached out to the engineering department for help with 3D printing materials.

“We ran an IUD insertion course with a physician here in town, and we needed to adapt one of our task trainers, so they were able to print and pour a mold to adapt that task trainer. They poured bleeding IV arms for Megan on the academic side, so that students in nursing can work on wound care too,” Glogowski said.

The center worked with a theater student to film videos for an asynchronous course over the summer. Glogowski said having humans involved with the center helps create realistic scenarios.

“To have the unique abilities of a theater student to make the nursing students feel they are working with a real-life patient is invaluable. Students like it better because they get nonverbal re-

sponses where mannequins don’t do that,” Glogowski said.

Feedback about the center doesn’t just come from students. Local doctors and nurses use the center for team-based communication and timing training.

Jason DeWitt is an OB/GYN at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato. His team has been using the simulation center for training for around five years. He said he was “very impressed” upon seeing the center for the first time.

“Having our staff be able to go to a place like the MSU simulation center lets them not focus on anything other than the education,” DeWitt said. “The center is so amazing in terms of equipment, space and the staff.”

DeWitt said the trainings they have done in the simulation center have been for postpartum hemorrhaging and shoulder dystocia. His team plans on doing an emergency C-section simulation later this fall. He said the trainings have been “essential” as OB/GYN’s revolve around a team of people.

“You have to have a well-functioning team of people who understand what’s going on with any particular patient, how the situation might change and what should you be doing in order to maximally take care of each patient,” DeWitt said. “I can be the most educated person ever, but if I don’t have a team of people around me who also know what to do, it’s still going to be bad care for that patient.”

Senior Elena Drake said she was “intimidated” seeing the simulation center for the first time.

“Even though it’s a safe space, your fellow classmates and teachers are still watching you,” Drake said. “I also thought it was a very unique aspect we get to experience here at MSU.”

Drake said one of the most beneficial simulations she’s participated in was in the obstetrics suite. Even though the simulation lasted several hours, it helped her get out of her comfort zone.

“This is an area where you don’t have real patients so when you go to clinicals, you can go ‘Oh, I can pull what I remember learning in that situation,’” Drake said.

Dohm said while the process is rigorous, gaining full accreditation meant they were “doing the right things” in the simulation world.

Since the simulation center opened, it has undergone changes. The number of students involved declined during the COVID pandemic, but during the fall of 2021, the growth of nursing students in the center rose 150%. Glogowski said she expects the center to admit more students in not just nursing, but also dietetics, athletic training and speech-language pathology.

Dohm said the center wants to expand its standardized patient program where live actors pretend to be the patient.

“Our simulations are expensive, so the more we can limit wear-and-tear on our mannequins, the longer we can make our resources go,” Dohm said.

Drake said when it comes to her education, the simulation center has been helpful with applying what she’s learned.

“It really gives you the skills you need as a nurse such as critical thinking and time management and working in a very fast-moving environment,” Drake said. “It’s good to put all those things together.”

The accreditation lasts through Dec. 31, 2029. Until then, the center is working on a strategic plan to improve simulation science and grow through forthcoming healthcare standards.

If you’re interested in keeping up with the simulation center, you can follow them @mavfamsim on Instagram and Maverick Family Nursing Simulation Center on Facebook. For those looking to get involved with the Standardized Patient Program, head to ahm.mnsu.edu for forms.

◀COLUMN from page 6

right thing to do, why would you not do it? And if it’s the right thing to do, why would you not put your whole soul into doing it? And if it’s the right thing to do, why would you not do it with joy? That impacted me,” Walz told Today Magazine.

Just about everybody who knew Flatequal would describe her as a fierce and passionate advocate for social justice.

While she obviously cared deeply about and advocated tirelessly for LGBTQ equality, she also advocated for a variety of social justice causes. For example, woe to anyone who parked in a disabled spot without a proper placard outside the LGBT center while she served as director.

My own memories of Jessica Flatequal are of someone who was more than just an advocate.

She was also a nerd who kept a row of pop culture bobbleheads that included characters from “The Walking Dead” and “Star Wars” in her office in the LGBT center.

She was also a painter whose works could reliably be found in LGBTQ related art showings in Mankato.

But I also remember a person for whom promoting joy was also important.

Anyone who knew her will remember her bright, colorful bow ties and infectious grin.

In Today Magazine, Gregory Todd Wilkins shares a story about seeing an American Flag flying in Riverfront Park at the

beginning of the first pridefest to be held in Riverfront park and asking Flatequal if they should ask permission to fly the Pride Flag underneath.

“Jessica didn’t skip a beat and explained, ‘Do it and ask for forgiveness later.’

We climbed through the bushes, unwrapped the cord from the pole, and hoisted up the pride flag.

Every year since, the pride and American flag have waved in glory celebrating everyone to Mankato.

It is a reminder that no one is free until all are free,” Wilkins told Today Magazine.

A long time ago, gay used to be synonymous with joy or happiness.

It makes sense, then, that Flatequal would understand the importance of having joy when working for social justice.

Walz and Kamala Harris have made the idea of joy a key theme of their campaign, so much so that they were criticized in a New York Times article headlined “Joy is not a strategy.”

Pride is a deadly sin (according to Dante) and joy is not a strategy (or so the New York Times has argued) but pride and joy are most definitely important tools in the march toward a just world.

Let us not then forget that Jessica Flatequal — professional lesbian extraordinaire — was the one who helped Walz see the importance of joy as a political strategy.

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Venezuelan security forces kills post-election

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
The Associated Press

A global human rights watchdog on Wednesday implicated Venezuelan security forces and pro-government armed groups in killings that occurred during the protests that followed the country's disputed July presidential election.

Human Rights Watch, in a report detailing repressive measures the government unleashed after the vote, asserted that credible evidence gathered and analyzed by researchers, forensic pathologists and arms experts ties Venezuela's national guard and national police to some of the 24 killings that took place as people protested the outcome of the election.

The organization also concluded that violent gangs aligned with the ruling party also "appear to be responsible" in some of the deaths.

Twenty-three of those killed were protesters or bystanders and one was a member of the Bolivarian National Guard.

"The repression we are seeing in Venezuela is shockingly brutal," Juanita Goebertus, the organization's director for the Americas, said in a statement. "Concerned governments need to take urgent steps to ensure that people are able to peacefully protest and that their vote is respected."

The organization said it reached its conclusions regarding the killings based on interviews with witnesses, journalists and other sources; reviews of death certificates, videos, photographs; and analyses by forensic pathologists and arms experts.

Thousands of people, including minors, took to the streets across Venezuela hours after ruling party-loyal electoral authorities declared President Nicolás Maduro the winner of the election.

The protests were largely peaceful, but demonstrators also toppled statues of Maduro's predecessor, the late fiery leader Hugo Chávez, threw rocks at law enforcement officers and buildings, and burned police motorcycles and government propaganda.

Catholic Paraguay's first sex ed program

By ISABEL DEBRE
The Associated Press

Ahead of her 15th birthday, Diana Zalazar's body had gotten so big she could no longer squeeze into the dress she bought for her quinceañera to celebrate her passage into womanhood in Paraguay.

Her mother sought help from a doctor, who suspected that growing inside of the 14-year-old Catholic choir girl could be a giant tumor. Next thing Zalazar knew, a gynecologist was wiping down the probe she'd applied to her belly and informing her that she was in her sixth month of pregnancy.

It made no sense to Zalazar, who had recently had sex for the first time without realizing it could make her pregnant.

In Catholic Paraguay, which has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in South America, many young mothers explained their teen pregnancies to The Associated Press as the result of growing up in a country where parents avoid the birds and the bees talk at all costs and national sex education is indistinguishable from a hygiene lesson.

"I didn't decide to become a mother," Zalazar said. "I didn't have a chance to choose because I didn't have the knowledge."

Over the years that Zalazar, now 39, has gone from sexual ignorance and shame to raising her 23-year-old son and advocating for children's rights, Paraguay's lack of sex education has remained unchanged — until now. For the first time, the Ministry of Education has endorsed a national sex ed curriculum. But in a surprising twist, it's the sexual health educators and feminists who are panicked. Conservative lobbyists are thrilled.

The curriculum, a copy of which was obtained by the AP, promotes abstinence, explains sex as "God's invention for married people," warns about the inefficacy

of condoms and says nothing of sexual orientation or identity.

"We have a very strong Judeo-Christian culture that still prevails, and there's fierce resistance to anything that goes against our principles," said Miguel Ortigoza, a key proponent of the curriculum and evangelical pastor from Capitol Ministries, a Washington-based nonprofit that ran Bible study for former President Donald Trump's Cabinet.

As a new generation of activists campaigning for legal abortion and gay rights scores victories across Latin America, a conservative backlash has gathered in Paraguay. The country already has among the world's strictest abortion laws — punishable by prison time even in cases of incest or rape, though not when the mother's life is in danger.

"Laws everywhere now allow girls to kill their babies, but Paraguay is among the remaining few saying no for Jesus' sake," said Oscar Avila, manager of an anti-abortion shelter for young mothers in Paraguay's capital. At a recent morning Mass, girls no older than 15 filled the pews, some heavily pregnant, others with infants on their hips.

Critics explain the outsized power of Paraguay's right-wing pressure groups as the consequence of a peculiar history. The conservative Colorado party has ruled the country for 76 of the past 80 years — including during a dictatorship openly sympathetic to Adolf Hitler.

"Growing up under the dictatorship, I was told homosexuality is a deviation," said Simón Casal, founder of Paraguayan LGBTQ+ rights group SomosGay. "The dictatorship legally ended, but the same political clans kept running the show."

More recently, the rise of the far right in Latin America has given the governing party's platform



JORGE SAENZ • The Associated Press

Diana Zalazar and her son Ato Martino pose for a portrait at their home in Asuncion, Paraguay, Friday, Aug. 23, 2024.

of religion, family and "patria," or fatherland, newer resonance — emboldening conservative culture warriors with evangelical ties to take their battles to classrooms.

In 2017, Paraguay became the first country to ban school discussions about gender identity, an unwitting trailblazer for European populists and Republican governors. Now its sex ed curriculum has become a national flashpoint.

"The text is very dangerous, it's an affront to science," leftist Sen. Esperanza Martínez told a government committee recently convened to debate the curriculum.

Education Minister Luis Fernando Ramirez downplayed the controversy, stressing there was still time to improve the curriculum before enforcing it. "There's no expenditure of state funds," he told lawmakers. "Let's not pass judgment until we do deeper work."

Authorities assembled teams to revise the curriculum, called "12 Sciences of Sexuality and Affectivity Education," which it plans to pilot in September across five eastern regions before taking it nationwide. Parents' rights groups praise

the 12 books, one for each grade, as a way of teaching morals and protecting young people.

"It's a real battle for life, family, the true rights of children and the freedom of parents," said curriculum author Maria Judith Turriaga. "It's the reason parents fought for it to be included in public schools."

The curriculum instructs children to treat others with respect and cultivate healthy relationships.

But in discouraging contraception and enforcing traditional gender norms, it has become a lightning rod for social tensions. Critics say it perpetuates sexist stereotypes: "Men conquer, not seduce," "girls have smaller and lighter brains," "boys don't cry easily," "girls don't like taking risks."

Masturbation, it says, causes "frustration and isolation." Marital love lasts forever. Girls should beware of "how their way of dressing makes men behave." Female puberty is "the body preparing to become a wife and mother."

The books are filled with unexpected claims, too — "Boys do not clearly perceive high-pitched voices," it says.

◀MAVFSL from page 1

people talking; it's people making a connection. It's not just people showing up, having fun, leaving and not doing anything, right?"

FSL works on many projects and events. The chapters organize educational events, casino nights,

work with charities and much more. One of the events organized by FSL members is the annual dancing event, Mavathon, where donations are collected to help sick children.

Somerville said MSU's greek life pays close attention to its members.

The mid-sized campus allows FSL members to build stronger connections and achieve personal growth. Chapters meet with members at least once a week to discuss upcoming events, campus activities and organize educational sessions to aid members in their academic, career and personal goals.

Students can join a chapter they like anytime during the academic year. While the structured recruitment is to be over in the middle of September, students are welcome to review the chapters, meet people and join through informal recruitment.

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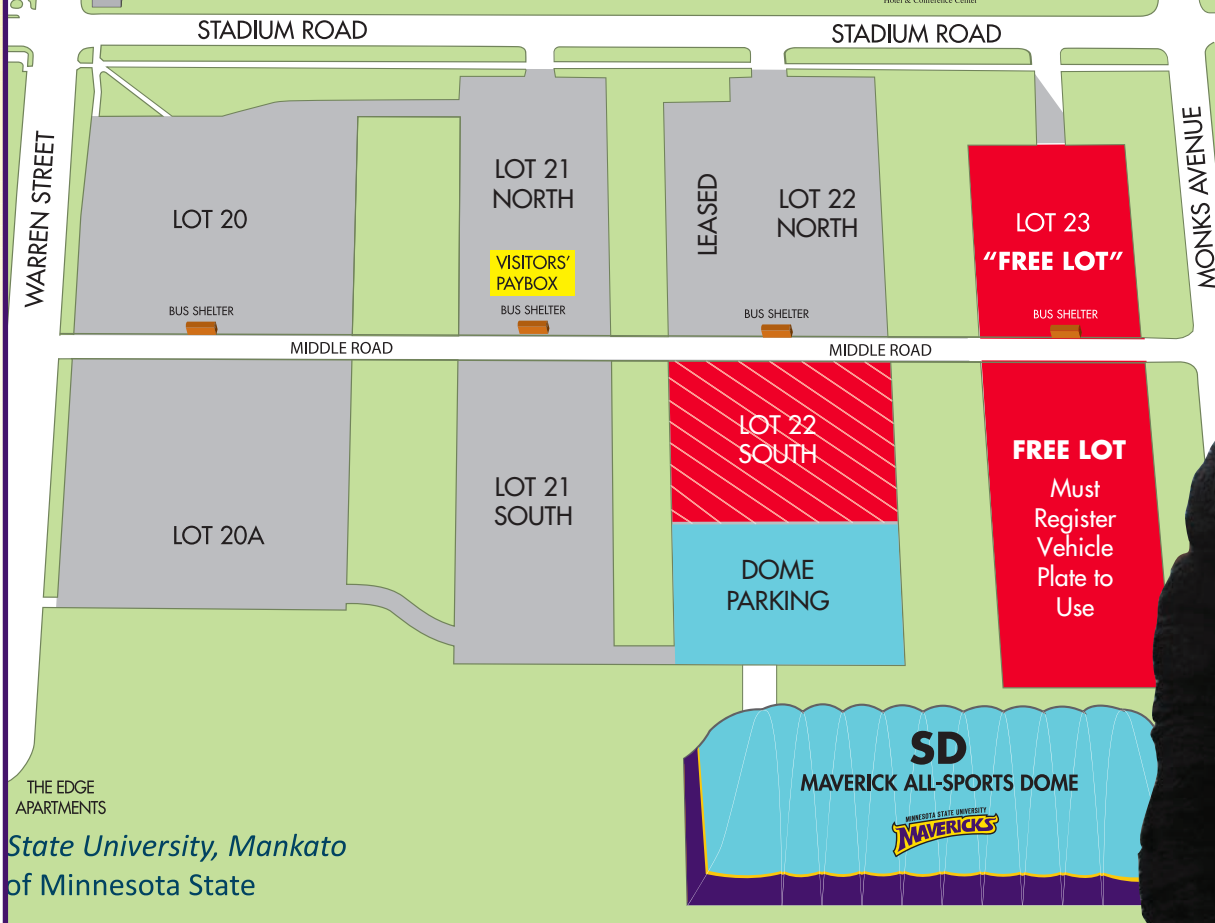
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America trying to fix its maternal mortality crisis with programs



MARY CONLON • The Associated Press

Areana Coles receives an ultrasound during a prenatal visit at the Oklahoma State University obstetrics and gynecology clinic in Tulsa, Okla., on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

By LAURA UNGAR
The Associated Press

At the site of a race massacre that reduced neighborhoods to ashes a century ago, where murals memorialize a once-thriving “Black Wall Street,” one African American mother strives to keep others from dying as they try to bring new life into the world.

Black women are more than three times as likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth as white women in Oklahoma, which consistently ranks among the worst states in the nation for maternal mortality.

“Tulsa is suffering,” said Corrina Jackson, who heads up a local version of the federal Healthy Start program, coordinating needed care and helping women through their pregnancies. “We’re talking about lives here.”

Across the nation, programs at all levels of government — federal, state and local — have the same goals to reduce maternal mortality and erase the race gap. None has all the answers, but many are making headway in their communities and paving the way for other places.

Jackson’s project is one of more than 100 funded through Healthy Start, which gave out \$105 million nationally in grants this year. Officials call Healthy Start an essential part of the Biden administration’s plan for addressing maternal health.

Other approaches to the crisis include California halving its maternal mortality rate through an organization that shares the best ways to treat common causes of maternal death and New York City expanding access to midwives and doulas two years ago.

Several states passed laws this

year aiming to improve maternal health, including a sweeping measure in Massachusetts. And last week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced more than \$568 million in funding to improve maternal health through efforts such as home visiting services and better identifying and preventing pregnancy-related deaths.

Locally and nationally, “we need to really identify the birthing people who are at potentially the greatest risk,” New York City health commissioner Dr. Ashwin Vasani said, “and then wrap our arms around them throughout their pregnancies.”

A Healthy Start in Tulsa Besides coordinating prenatal and postpartum care — which experts say is crucial for keeping moms alive — local Healthy Start projects provide pregnancy and parenting education and referrals to services for things like depression or domestic violence.

The local efforts also involve women’s partners and kids up to 18 months. And they focus on issues that influence health, such as getting transportation to appointments.

“You try to get them in their first trimester and then work with them to delivery day, and then we also work with the babies to make sure that they reach their milestones,” Jackson said.

Jackson got help from the local Urban League as a single mom, and felt called to give back to her community. She’s been with Healthy Start for more than 25 years, first through Tulsa’s health department and recently through a nonprofit she started that received about \$1 million in federal funds this fiscal year.

“I’m just like a mom to this

program,” Jackson said.

Oklahoma overall has a maternal mortality rate of about 30 per 100,000 live births, significantly higher than the national average of about 23. But in Jackson’s quarter-century tenure, she said, there have been no maternal deaths among clients.

Pivotal to Healthy Start’s success are care coordinators like Krystal Keener, a social worker based at Oklahoma State University’s obstetrics and gynecology clinic, where clients get prenatal care.

One of her responsibilities is to educate clients about health issues, like how to spot the signs of preeclampsia or how much bleeding is too much after delivery.

She also helps with practical matters: Many clients don’t have cars, so they call Keener when they need a ride to a prenatal visit, and she assists in scheduling one.

With doctors, Keener serves as a patient advocate. On a recent afternoon, Keener sat in on a prenatal appointment for Areana Coles. A single mom, Coles was joined by her 5-year-old daughter, who was born prematurely and spent time in intensive care.

Coles, 25, said Healthy Start is “probably the best thing that’s happened in this pregnancy.” She called Keener “an angel.”

Together they navigated several recent medical concerns, including dehydration and low potassium levels that put Coles in the hospital.

With Coles’ due date approaching, Keener talked about what to watch for around delivery and shortly after, like blood clots and postpartum depression.

She advised Coles to take care of herself and “give yourself credit for small things you do.”

Earth is pumping out 57 million tons of plastic pollution

By SETH BORENSTEIN
The Associated Press

The world creates 57 million tons of plastic pollution every year and spreads it from the deepest oceans to the highest mountain-top to the inside of people’s bodies, according to a new study that also said more than two-thirds of it comes from the Global South.

It’s enough pollution each year — about 52 million metric tons — to fill New York City’s Central Park with plastic waste as high as the Empire State Building, according to researchers at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom.

They examined waste produced on the local level at more than 50,000 cities and towns across the world for a study in Wednesday’s journal *Nature*.

The study examined plastic that goes into the open environment, not plastic that goes into landfills or is properly burned. For 15% of the world’s population, government fails to collect and dispose of waste, the study’s authors said — a big reason Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa produce the most plastic

waste. That includes 255 million people in India, the study said.

Lagos, Nigeria, emitted the most plastic pollution of any city, according to study author Costas Velis, a Leeds environmental engineering professor.

The other biggest plastic polluting cities are New Delhi; Luanda, Angola; Karachi, Pakistan and Al Qahirah, Egypt.

India leads the world in generating plastic pollution, producing 10.2 million tons a year (9.3 million metric tons), far more than double the next big-polluting nations, Nigeria and Indonesia.

China, often villainized for pollution, ranks fourth but is making tremendous strides in reducing waste, Velis said.

Other top plastic polluters are Pakistan, Bangladesh, Russia and Brazil.

Those eight nations are responsible for more than half of the globe’s plastic pollution, according to the study’s data.

The United States ranks 90th in plastic pollution with more than 52,500 tons (47,600 metric tons) and the United Kingdom ranks 135th with nearly 5,100 tons (4,600 metric tons), according to the study.

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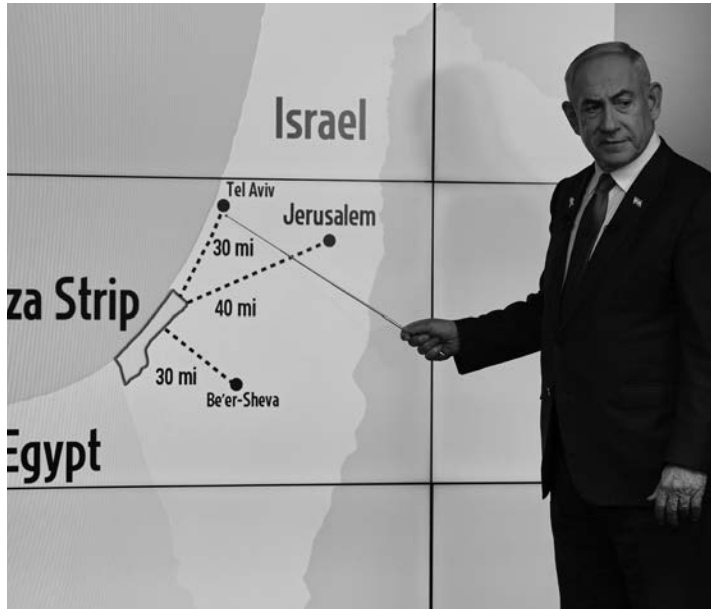
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Israel's Netanyahu demands open-ended control of Gaza



ABIR SULTAN • The Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gestures in front of a map during a press conference at the Government Press office in Jerusalem.

By JOSEF FEDERMAN
The Associated Press

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday that Israel must keep open-ended control of Gaza's border with Egypt, digging in on his stance on an issue that has threatened to derail cease-fire efforts.

Netanyahu's comments came as the United States is developing a new proposal for a cease-fire and hostage release, hoping to break a long deadlock and bring an end to the nearly 11-month-old war.

The question of Israeli control of the Philadelphi corridor -- a narrow strip of land along Gaza's border with Egypt, seized by troops in May -- has become

a central obstacle in the talks. Hamas has demanded an eventual full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in the multi-phase truce deal.

Egypt, a mediator in the talks along with the U.S. and Qatar, has also demanded a concrete timeline for Israeli troops to leave the Philadelphi corridor. And on Wednesday, the United Arab Emirates, which established formal ties with Israel in the 2020 Abraham Accords, also criticized the Israeli stance.

Speaking to foreign journalists, Netanyahu repeated his stance that Israel must maintain its hold on the border to prevent Hamas from rearming by smuggling weapons into Gaza. He said it was a vital part of the war goal of ensuring Hamas cannot repeat.

US charges Hamas leader

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

The Justice Department announced criminal charges Tuesday against Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and other senior militants in connection with the Oct. 7, 2023, rampage in Israel, marking the first effort by American law enforcement to formally call out the masterminds of the attack.

The seven-count criminal complaint filed in federal court in New York City includes charges such as conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization resulting in death, conspiracy to murder U.S. nationals and conspiracy to finance terrorism. It also accuses Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah of providing financial support, weapons, including rockets, and military supplies to Hamas for use in attacks.

The impact of the case may be mostly symbolic given that Sinwar is believed to be hiding in tunnels in Gaza and the Justice Department says three of the six defendants are believed now to be dead. But officials say additional actions are expected as part of a broader effort to target a militant group that the U.S. designated as a foreign terrorist organization in 1997 and that over the decades has



ADEL HANA • The Associated Press

Yahya Sinwar, head of Hamas in Gaza, greets his supporters during a meeting with leaders of Palestinian factions at his office in Gaza City.

been linked to a series of deadly attacks on Israel, including suicide bombings.

The complaint was originally filed under seal in February to give the U.S. time to try to take into custody then-Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and other defendants, but it was unsealed Tuesday after Haniyeh's death in July and other developments in the region lessened the need for secrecy, the Justice Department said.

"The charges unsealed today

are just one part of our effort to target every aspect of Hamas' operations," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a video statement. "These actions will not be our last."

The charges come as the White House says it is developing a new cease-fire and hostage deal proposal with its Egyptian and Qatari counterparts to try to bring about an agreement between Israel and Hamas to end the nearly 11-month war.

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SPORTS

Mavericks return to Blakeslee

By LUKE JACKSON
Staff Writer

After a victorious 36-22 season opener victory against No. 22 Northwest Missouri State, Hayden Ekern and the No. 8 Maverick football team have another “Battle of the Ranked” game to test them in the early stages of the season.

Ekern put it all on the field for MSU in the home opener last Thursday letting the nation know that he is already in mid-season form. While on the road, he went 18 of 25 in the air for 209 yards and a touchdown. He also capped off his day with not one, two or three rushing touchdowns. He left the field with 59 yards on the ground and four rushing touchdowns giving him the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Offensive Player of the Week title.

Along with putting points on the board, he played his role as quarterback to a tee and led the team when it mattered.

“I’m proud of the way Hayden played,” Head Coach Todd Hoffner said in a press conference. “I’m also proud of his leadership and his perfor-

mance during big plays down the stretch.”

Now coming to take him on is a familiar rival, the No. 20 Bemidji State Beavers who are also coming off a season opener thriller. The Beavers bested Michigan Tech in overtime 19-13. The duo of quarterback Sam McGath and wide receiver Brice Peters combined for 12 of the Beavers’ 19 points.

The other seven points came from kicker Joey Prondzinski who took home NSIC Special Teams player of the Week.

If the Mavericks use their powerhouse defense against the Beavers, the odds may be in their favor. The Mavericks were a brick wall against the Bearcats as they didn’t let up a single rushing yard. In fact, the Bearcats left the game with -17 yards on the ground.

Bemidji gained 173 rushing yards in their opener but if the Mavs are able to dwindle that number down, it may tire out their backfield leaving more room for error for McGath in the air.

Last season, the Mavs beat the Beavers in a 27-24 victory on the road. Ekern threw for 198 yards and defensive back



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Minnesota State Mavericks are set for their home opener against the Bemidji State Beavers. Last season, the Mavericks beat the Beavers in a 27-24 victory on the road.

Khai West tallied five tackles and an interception. If MSU wins on Saturday it will extend

their winning streak to five games against BSU.

The return to Blakeslee Stadi-

um is scheduled for 6 p.m. under the lights with a movie after the game.

Paralympians face nuanced nutrition challenges

By JULIANNA RUSS
The Associated Press

Like many other athletes, Justin Phongsavanh has a take on the chocolate muffins at the Paralympic Village.

“It doesn’t get much better than that,” said Phongsavanh, a U.S. Paralympian and bronze medalist in the seated javelin throw.

However, Phongsavanh and other Paralympians can’t live on muffins alone. They and their dietary teams face complex challenges, but scientists and athletic personnel are workshopping their own solutions even as research lags behind.

The biggest challenge of para nutrition strategy is that athletes’ needs vary tremendously based not only on their sport, but on their disabilities and other underlying conditions, said applied sports nutrition scientist Joëlle Leonie Flück.

“Disability types are so different in terms of needs and requirements from a nutritional perspective, but also from a medical perspective,” said Flück, who also serves as president of the Swiss Sports Nutrition Society. “There are a lot of things to consider, like energy expenditure, which can be totally different from individual to individual, or from disability to disability.”



NATHALEE SIMONEAU • The Associated Press

Pierre Bigot, a local sous chef, dries spinach in the kitchen of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee’s High Performance Center’s kitchen on Saturday, Aug. 31, 2024.

For example, a wheelchair basketball player with full mobility of the arms, Flück said, might require vastly different fueling strategies than a quadriplegic wheelchair rugby player.

All athletes have specific nutritional needs, but para athletes’ disabilities and underlying

conditions complicate strategy. Gastrointestinal issues are particularly common among para athletes because of fiber deficiencies, high sodium levels and even sensitivity to spices.

At the Team USA High Performance Center, in Eaubonne, just north of Paris, nutrition

director Brian Knutson and dietitian Hilary Kave said many meals are taken “straight from Colorado Springs,” the location of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee’s training center and home to many Paralympic athletes. Supplements and American snacks are shipped,

while fresh ingredients are bought in-country.

“We know that there are certain athletes that like things done a certain way,” said Knutson. “For us, that gives us just a small edge. That piece of familiarity, home and comfort, it just makes their life easier.”

Para triathlete Allysa Seely said she and her teammates eat most of their meals at the HPC in Eaubonne, exactly for that reason.

“We know the chefs, we know the food, the recipes, the menu, we know all of that,” said Seely, who earned a bronze medal in the women’s PTS2 classification, which is for athletes with coordination challenges. “It’s something we’re comfortable and confident in.”

But gastrointestinal problems are only one dimension of para athletic nutrition strategy. Andrew Shepherd provides workshops, consultations and other services to athletes and para athletes at Loughborough University in the United Kingdom.

Shepherd said para athletes sometimes face particular problems staying hydrated.

For example, those with spinal cord injuries may struggle to regulate body temperature. Shepherd said nutrition staff implement more cooling strategies for Paralympians than they do for Olympians.

Caitlin Clark and the Fever are a playoff team; hungry for more



TONY GUTIERREZ • The Associated Press

Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark makes a long pass upcourt in the first half of a WNBA basketball game against the Dallas Wings, Sunday, Sept. 1, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

Indiana Fever coach Christie Sides slept through her team's historic playoff-clinching moment Tuesday night. Rookie guard Caitlin Clark watched the decisive game, then went to bed.

For the WNBA's top-drawing team, the end to a seven-year playoff drought on a night it didn't play seemed a little, well, unceremonious.

On Wednesday morning, the Fever's world changed. The team that endured seven straight losing seasons, had won only 30 games over the previous four years and started this season 1-8 was the toast of Indianapolis.

"I usually go to bed by 9:30, 10 o'clock every night, but I did set my alarm for midnight to wake up and I actually just turned it off. Didn't even look," Sides said. "So this morning, I woke up to some really awesome text messages."

Losses by Chicago and Atlanta gave the Fever their first postseason berth since Tamika Catchings retired in 2016, even if Sides wanted just one of those teams to win so the Fever could clinch it on their home court in front of another near-capacity crowd.

Still, nobody was all that upset.

During Wednesday's pregame warmups, beaming smiles could be found on faces all around — Clark, the former Iowa star who has taken women's basketball to unprecedented heights; Kelsey Mitchell, the seven-year veteran who will finally get her first taste of playoff basketball; and especially Sides, who on Wednesday was named WNBA coach of the month, a first for the Fever.

While this was the goal from

the moment Indiana drafted Clark with the No. 1 overall in pick, it was never a gimme.

"Definitely, cool," said Clark, who swept the league's monthly honors for player and rookie of the month. "It doesn't even have to come down to the wire for us, and I think that's special. Like you can just relax and play basketball and have a lot of fun. Yeah, we accomplished that, but there's still so much more left on the table."

It's not just Clark who realizes what's possible.

Guard Erica Wheeler appeared in four playoff games during her first two WNBA seasons and it took her eight more to make it back. It's been so long, the playoff format has changed, as has her role — playing behind Clark.

But as one of four Fever players with postseason experience, she can bring some important perspective.

"The job is not done," Wheeler said. "We still have six, seven more games and we can't think ahead like that. Me being a vet, I know that for a fact. So for me, it's not time to think about the playoffs. You've got seven games left."

Just three months ago, the postseason appeared unlikely.

A brutal early schedule coupled with Clark starting her pro career just five weeks after completing a 39-game college schedule contributed to Indiana's early woes. The Olympic break gave Clark a much-needed breather and a young team time to figure out how to jell.

Since June 1, Indiana is 16-8 and has victories over each of the league's top three teams — New York, Minnesota and Connecticut — along with a three-game season sweep of Phoenix, all while stopping the league's longest streak of consecutive games played with a

losing record at 189.

"We were able to keep it together and they focused on the things we kept talking about — creating good habits, relentless effort, togetherness and toughness," Sides said. "We focused on those things and that's what mattered."

Having Clark didn't hurt, either.

Clark continues to be the league's feature attraction, routinely drawing sellout crowds and large national television audiences. Business Insider recently reported that this year's secondary-market ticket prices had nearly doubled year over year — before the Olympic break.

Indiana also leads the league in home, road and overall attendance, and the Fever have appeared on each of the 13 highest-rated telecasts this year. It's easy to imagine big audiences should Clark face record-setting rookie Angel Reese of Chicago, established stars Diana Taurasi and Brittney Griner of Phoenix or Sabrina Ionescu and Breanna Stewart of New York in a playoff series.

Indiana entered Wednesday having gone a league-best 8-2 in its last 10 games. And with five more home games and a regular-season finale at Washington, the Fever could cause the WNBA's top teams some restless nights.

"It's definitely a big moment for this place, but at the same time, I came in with the expectation this was going to happen," Clark said. "For me, this isn't a party. It's great, I feel like it's a great accomplishment, but there's much more left to be done. Yeah, we made the playoffs, but I'm not just happy to be in the playoffs. I think we have the kind of team that can and advance going one game at a time."

Panic on streets of Paris for Australian Olympic breaker



FRANK FRANKLIN • The Associated Press

Australia's Rachael Gunn, known as B-Girl Raygun, competes during the Round Robin Battle at the breaking competition in Aug.

By DENNIS PASSA
The Associated Press

For Australian breaker Rachael Gunn, first came her polarizing performance at the Olympics, followed by her panic when she was chased through the streets of Paris.

The 37-year-old university lecturer from Sydney — her birthday was on Monday — bewildered expert and casual viewers alike in the sport of breaking with an unconventional routine that included mimicking a kangaroo.

Breaking was being contested at an Olympics for the first time. And it might be a one-and-done, not scheduled on the program for the Los Angeles in 2028 or for Brisbane, Australia in 2032.

"Raygun" as she was known, was later ridiculed on social media, with some posts also questioning the Olympic qualifying process.

In a television interview for The Project on Australia's Channel 10, she told of being chased by cameras through Paris streets and how she dealt with the very public reaction to her performance.

"That was really wild," she said in rare public comments since the event. "If people are chasing me, what do I do? That really did put me in a state of panic. I was nervous to be out in public. It was pretty nerve-wracking for a while."

She apologized for the commotion, but again defended her performance and said she was thankful for support from others in the sport.

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NFL teams don't look to former players for clubs

By MARK ANDERSON
The Associated Press

Antonio Pierce was nearing the end of his NFL playing career 16 years ago when he had the chance to intern for Howard Stern's wildly popular and often irreverent radio show.

Pierce enjoyed his time there so much, he initially pursued a post-football career in media.

"Putting on makeup and looking at a camera for eight years is pretty cool," he said. "But I missed being in that locker room. I missed competing. I missed that fire burning in my stomach."

So he returned to his first love, getting back into football through coaching.

Pierce began at the high school level and then worked his way up to this week, when he gets his first game as the Raiders' full-time head coach. Las Vegas opens its season Sunday at the Los Angeles Chargers.

His decision to enter coaching isn't all that common for former NFL players. He is one of eight former players — not counting Denver's Sean Payton, who suited up for three games as a replacement player during the 1987 strike — who are current head coaches, a fairly high number by historical standards.

"Coaching is very, very



Courtesy The Associated Press

Las Vegas Raiders head coach Antonio Pierce talks to his players before an NFL preseason football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, in Minneapolis.

tough," said Joe Horrigan, former executive director of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "You have to be totally dedicated. Your time is living in the coaches' rooms. When you're wealthy, you might find being in a broadcast booth a lot eas-

ier than trying to spend your waking hours in a profession (in which) that's what's demanded of you."

That's especially true for elite players. Of the current head coaches, only four made the Pro Bowl, including Pierce. Among

those four, only the Patriots' Jerod Mayo and the Texans' DeMeco Ryans received Associated Press All-Pro honors. Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh was fourth in the AP MVP voting in 1995.

Most coaches historically

don't have such a robust athletic resume.

Of the 20 coaches with the most wins in the Super Bowl era, only Tom Landry and Dan Reeves were All-Pro. Among the 14 coaches who have won multiple Super Bowls, only Landry with two was chosen All-Pro — in 1954.

Excepting Payton, the top seven coaches in wins since 2010 did not play in the league, instead working their way up to the pros.

"There's only so many slots open every year in the NFL and there's a lot of qualified coaches," Horrigan said. "So the NFL can be picky in who they hire, but also the candidates have to be able to demonstrate that they can coach. It's kind of a shared route of going through the collegiate ranks.

"It's kind of like a minor league system for coaches. The transition from player to coach is a tough one and it's not for everyone."

Whether going directly into an NFL coaching staff or starting in college (or lower), former players had notable success last season.

Ryans took over a Texans team that went 3-13-1 the year before and led Houston to the playoffs.

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Damar Hamlin will start season opener against Cardinals

By JOHN WAWROW
The Associated Press

Difficult as it was for Damar Hamlin to deal with his many trepidations in last year's successful bid to resume playing football following a near-death experience, the Buffalo Bills safety wouldn't change a thing in retrospect.

Each step of the process — his first practice, first tackle, first game — is what Hamlin believes led to him achieving a new plateau in his comeback in being selected a season-opening starter on Wednesday.

Coach Sean McDermott made it official by announcing Hamlin will be paired with Taylor Rapp when the Bills take the field in hosting the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday.

"Truly a blessing," Hamlin said.

"I reflect back on the whole process and me not knowing if I would even be able to play again," he added. "Last season was primarily just about healing and making myself do the hard stuff, thrusting myself into things that were uncomfortable, that made me fearful or gave me anxiety. But I was doing the hard stuff last year to make it easier this year."

Whether by design or chance, Hamlin sat at the interview table



Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin (3) reacts after an NFL wild-card playoff football game, Jan. 15, 2024, in Orchard Park, NY. Hamlin is set to play after he collapsed on the field in 2022.

MATT DURISKO • The Associated Press

wearing a green pullover with the words "Don't Quit" printed on the front.

"It aligns with who I am," he said.

In a mere 20 months, Hamlin has gone from going into cardiac arrest and needing to be re-

suscitated on the field during a prime-time game at Cincinnati, to the fourth-year player earning a starting spot in a completely retooled secondary.

Both spots were open following the offseason breakup of Buffalo's seven-year starting tan-

dem, with Jordan Poyer released and Micah Hyde still unsigned and contemplating retirement.

Hamlin, however, was hardly assured being a starter after Buffalo signed fifth-year player Mike Edwards in free agency and then used a second-round

pick to draft Cole Bishop. Edwards and Bishop, however, have missed significant time because of injuries, and McDermott credited Hamlin for showing consistency and building an on-field rapport with Rapp.

"What else can't this young man do?" McDermott said, proudly, referring to Hamlin, a sixth-round pick out of Pittsburgh.

"It's one thing to come back off of an ACL or a broken bone. It's another thing to come back off of what he came back off of, right, let alone just decide to play contact football. ... I mean, it's incredible," he added. "We're just extremely proud and full of gratitude to watch him go through what he's went through and where he is now."

It wasn't easy, Hamlin said, but worth it in acknowledging he often reflects back on what happened.

"I think about it all the time. As much as the world experienced it, it happened to me," Hamlin said. "I enjoy that part of it because it allows me to stay connected with the reason why I'm here ... and I have a second chance at doing things the right way in all areas of my life."

Hamlin spent two days in a medically induced coma before finally being awakened while surrounded by his family.

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Italian fencing star Bebe Vio settles for bronze at Paralympic Games



THOMAS PADILLA • The Associated Press

Italy's Beatrice Maria Vio Grandis reacts after winning the women's foil wheelchair fencing bronze medal match at the 2024 Paralympics, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024, in Paris, France.

By CIARAN FAHEY
The Associated Press

Italian fencing star Bebe Vio had to be content with the bronze medal at the Paralympic Games on Wednesday after China's Xiao Rong ended her dream of a third consecutive gold in wheelchair fencing.

Vio cried after losing 15-9 to Xiao in the semifinals, then again after beating another Chinese fencer, Su Kang, 15-7 in their repechage round 4 bout to reach the bronze medal decider in women's foil category B.

But Vio screamed with delight after beating Cho Eun Hye of South Korea 15-2 in the bout for bronze. She stood on chairs using her prosthetic legs to celebrate with Italian flag-waving supporters in the stands. Her fans had sung "We love you Bebe" at the Grand Palais as she surged into a comfortable lead.

"Of course, you can not be happy with the bronze," the 27-year-old Vio said of her defeat to Xiao. "But she was better than me mentally, physically. She deserved the win. Still, I'm so proud about my result today. I still have to compete in the team's event tomorrow. Losing a medal doesn't mean that you lose all of them."

Category B is for fencers who have a disability that prevents voluntary movement of their trunk. Vio contracted meningitis when she was 11 years old. Doctors were able to save her life but had to amputate all four of her limbs to do so.

Xiao, who won the bronze at the last Games in Tokyo, went on to lose the gold medal bout 15-11 to Saysunee Jana of Thailand.

Masters wins another gold
Oksana Masters claimed an-

other gold medal at a Paralympics earlier by defending her title in para cycling's H4-5 individual time trial.

The American multi-sport specialist clocked 23 minutes, 45.20 seconds to finish 6.24 seconds ahead of Chantal Haenen of the Netherlands and a whopping 1 minute, 27.87 seconds ahead of China's Sun Bianbian.

It takes Masters' career total to eight golds — and 18 medals overall — from both summer and winter Games.

"This is definitely one of my favorites. I mean, defending time trial Paralympic champion in cycling. I never saw this coming at all. In Paris, too," she said. "This is just the home of cycling, the most picturesque place to do this."

Masters will also compete in a H5 road race as defending champion on Thursday, before she wraps up her Paris Games in the mixed H1-5 team relay on Saturday.

Masters was born in 1989 near Chernobyl in Ukraine, the site of the world's worst nuclear accident, and has birth defects believed to be from the aftermath of the disaster.

She was adopted by an American mother when she was a child. She had her left leg amputated near the knee at 9 and the right one at the same spot five years later.

Britain's Sarah Storey extended her own record to 18 Paralympic gold medals in the C5 individual time trial.

Silver for McFadden
Tatyana McFadden, one of the most decorated U.S. Paralympians, settled for silver in the T54 100 final after finishing behind Belgium's Lea Bayekula, who set a Paralympic record by winning in 15.5 seconds.

It's McFadden's third silver

in the event and her 21st medal overall. She still holds the world record of 15.35 set in Indianapolis in 2016.

The T54 category is for competitors with spinal cord injuries who use wheelchairs to race and have no leg function along with normal hand and arm function.

Gold for Long, medal No. 30

Jessica Long, the second most decorated Paralympian in U.S. history, clinched gold in the women's 400 freestyle in the S8 classification for athletes with physical impairments.

It took her career tally to a whopping 30 Paralympic medals, now including nine gold, in swimming since she was the youngest athlete at 12 years of age on the 2004 U.S. team in Athens.

Long also has the 100 butterfly to come on Saturday.

'Blade Jumper' does it again
Six-time world champion Markus Rehm, known the "Blade Jumper," won his fourth consecutive gold medal in men's long jump, though he didn't jump as far as he wanted to.

The 36-year-old German was targeting his own world record of 8.72 meters from last year but had to settle for a jump of 8.13 at Stade de France. It was still enough for gold — ahead of Americans Derek Loddent and Jarryd Wallace, who claimed silver and bronze, respectively.

World records in shot put and javelin

Noelle Malkamaki of the U.S. broke her own world record in women's shot put F46 by throwing a distance of 14.06 meters, and Iran's Saeid Afrooz beat his world-best mark by throwing a distance of 41.16 meters to take gold in the men's javelin F43.

Ultra swimmer abandons attempt to cross Lake Michigan again

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An ultra swimmer nicknamed The Shark was back on shore Wednesday, having given up on yet another quest to cross Lake Michigan after 40 hours in the water.

An online tracker showed Jim Dreyer returned to Grand Haven, Michigan, where he started his planned 82-mile (130-kilometer) swim to Wisconsin on Monday night.

He posted on Facebook that he was safe.

"There were only two good hours in this 40-hour swim. If you were watching the tracker, I promise I wasn't drunk," Dreyer wrote.

"We will talk after a sleep Marathon. Thank you all for your support, Your Love, and

prayers."

Dreyer, 61, has tried four times since 2023 to swim across Lake Michigan, including an effort just a few weeks ago, but has been unsuccessful due to lake conditions or other factors.

He was not only swimming one of the Great Lakes this week but also towing a small inflatable boat with supplies.

Dreyer first made a splash when he crossed Lake Michigan in 1998, starting in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and finishing in Ludington, Michigan.

In August, lake conditions and hallucinations forced him to give up on the third day.

Dreyer lost the batteries for his GPS device and ended up swimming far off course.

"What a blow!" he said.

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VARIETY

Mavs cool off last days of summer

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Variety Editor

It may be the start of fall semester but summer isn't going away anytime soon.

Minnesota State's first day of classes was met with a great heatwave last Monday, making students try their best to stay cool while also navigating their way through MSU's large campus.

In an effort to help students drown out the summer heat, the Student Events Team held its annual Maverick Pool Party at Spring Lake Park last Tuesday, filled with swimming, music, games and prizes. There was no cost for MSU students and transportation was provided every 30 minutes from the university and back.

Special Events Chair Meron Fre said the event has been a tradition for years.

"They have a big pool and all the fun games they have, like the climbing wall and the slides. That's the reason why we chose Spring Lake Park," Fre said. "It took basically a month to plan the whole thing. I think this is one of the bigger events, like Welcome Week basically. It's hot and it's about to be fall, so we're just trying to have students come here."

Besides the climbing wall and 30-foot-tall water slides, Spring Lake's swim facility features volleyball, lily pads, floating islands and a zipline. A foam machine was



Courtesy Student Events Team
In an effort to help students drown out the summer heat, the Student Events Team held its annual Maverick Pool Party at Spring Lake last Tuesday, filled with swimming, music, games and prizes.

also featured thanks to the Student Events Team where students had fun with foam within the water, giving out a fun bubble bath vibe.

Fre notes that with the party's main attraction being the pool, the team took advantage to organize fun water-filled competitions.

"We have wall climbing and we're doing basketball and a water gun competition of whoever knocks down a bunch of cups the fastest," Fre said.

And if students wanted to take

a break from the pool, they had the chance to participate in bean bag toss, grab a snack at the open concession stand, or just lounge around the pool as Fre mentions the event overall serves as a great opportunity to meet friends and wash off first-day jitters.

"I think it's a really good way to meet new people and just get out of your comfort zone. It's hot and everyone's swimming. It's nice to get to know people outside of the school environment. It's nice to just

wash the nerves off," Fre said.

Freshman Taylor Schmidt attended the party and agreed that, besides the fun, everyone can either relax or meet new peers.

"It was fun. It allows you to meet other classmates and it was kind of nice to get a break from school," Schmidt said.

For more information on more upcoming events, visit the Student Events Team at mnsu.edu/StudentEventsTeam

Album Review: BREAD by Sofi Tukker

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

While the summer club anthems are starting to wind down, people are looking for one last boost of energy before the slower ballads and gentler tunes of fall start to invade the radio. Dance duo Sofi Tukker, who released their third studio album "BREAD" on Aug. 23, is showing just how that transition can be achieved.

Sofi Tukker (whose name is a combination of Sophie Hawley-Weld and Tucker Halpern) is known for their ability to cross musical genres and cultures. From Portuguese vocals to tropical house music to Bolivian folk, the duo finds ways to get people moving. The album, which the band said is an acronym for Be Really Energetic And Dance, focuses more on beats from Brazil while tying in Miami club elements. Additionally, there's a hint of VIP elegance, not just woven throughout the rhythms, but from the cover with Sofi's long dress train of various types of bread surrounded by dancers on the steps of a mansion.

The self-titled track kicks off the album with enough energy to promise what's coming later on in the album before the following track "Throw Some Ass" encourages people to "throw it down and hit the ground." However, the Brazilian-like beat doesn't have as big a beat drop as a listener would expect to shake their hips to. The fun lyrics make up for it as Sofi lists off all the remedies she's tried but finds the only cure is to "free her mind and throw it back."

"BREAD" takes a softer turn instead of amplifying the tunes to keep people on the floor. "Guardian Angel (Stand by You)" and "Hey Homie" focus on soft-pop with encouraging lyrics of supportive friendship. The former addresses how the listener "needn't cry/needn't even hide" as someone is there to stand by them and protect them. The latter combines piano and drums as the lyrics talk about "somebody getting hurt if we took it further" and just having a "lowkey" love for their friends.

From there, the party takes off with "Woof," a bass and synth-heavy song about heading out to a party and feeling one's self. Nigerian singer-songwriter Kah-Lo even mentions how she "spent the summer locked down" and how she's "glowing head to toe," making the song the perfect getting-ready jam. "Spiral" sounds reminiscent of early 2000s instrumental synth beats as Sofi Tukker puts lyrics about how everything is going down in a spiral before a bossa-nova-style beat drop takes over.

"Cafune" keeps the party going with its Samba-inspired rhythm as horns blare in the background.

ALBUM on page 20 ▶

MSU theater welcomes MAVS to 'A Lovely Night'

By TINA DOLAN
Staff Writer

Fall is upon us, and when the weather gets crisp enough to stay indoors, Minnesota State's Theater Department warmly welcomes you to attend one of its many productions this semester.

The Theater Department recently announced the theme of its 2024-2025 season: A Lovely Night.

"Our theme is A Lovely Night, a line from Rogers and Hammerstein's 'Cinderella,' a show we are producing in April. We're still growing our numbers back from the age of COVID. So, we are getting folks excited for a lovely night at the theater," Performing Arts chairperson Corrie Eggimann said.

This fall, you can see "Cabret" and "Lend Me A Soprano" on the main stage. In the studio, productions of "Constellations" and "Escaped Alone" will be performed. These shows give the audience a variation of seduction, quirkiness, and connectedness to their experience at the theater.

Every year, the Department chooses a variety of shows that are entirely different from one another but still fit well with the selected theme.

"We always try to do a bit of



Courtesy Corrie Eggimann
Every year, the Theater Department chooses a variety of shows that are entirely different from one another but still fit well with the selected theme.

variety, so if you compare 'Cabaret' and 'Cinderella,' those can't be any more different," said Eggimann. "Lend Me A Soprano" is going to be a fun and light show in the fall, but 'A Streetcar Named Desire' will be a bit heavier show in the spring." Planning the theme and shows

for each upcoming season typically begins at the first of the year in January. It involves many factors, including the interests of the students, faculty and patrons.

"There is a balance: what faculty are interested in working on, what students will find value and interest

in, and then also what patrons will be excited to see," said Eggimann.

The department is ecstatic about the shows that will be produced this season, as new talented faces will join the MSU theater family.

THEATRE on page 20 ▶

Luca Guadagnino and Daniel Craig present 'Queer' to Venice Film Festival



JOEL C. RYAN • The Associated Press

Daniel Craig poses for photographers upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Queer' during the 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024.

By LINDSEY BHAR and CRISTINA JALERU
The Associated Press

Venice Film Festival regular Luca Guadagnino was back on the Lido to debut his new Daniel Craig film "Queer" on Tuesday night.

A festival favorite, Guadagnino had to forgo a splashy red carpet premiere for the sexy tennis drama "Challengers" last year, when the studio delayed its release amid the actors strike. But the filmmaker is returning with another highly anticipated project, adapting a William S. Burroughs novel about an American expat in Mexico City in 1950 who develops an obsession with a young, male student.

Guadagnino, 53, first read the book when he was 17 and it made a profound impact on him. He didn't know who Burroughs was, or his significance in his time, but he fell into its world at the same time he was dreaming of building worlds of his own in movies.

"It really transformed me and changed me forever," Guadagnino said. "Because I want to be loyal to that young boy, I want to bring this to the screen."

A longtime fan of Craig, an actor who he said is unafraid to be fragile on screen, Guadagnino also said he never thought he'd be able to get him in a movie. But Craig's "yes" came immediately.

"If I wasn't in this movie, I would want to be in it," Craig said. "These are the kinds of film I want to see, I want to make, I want to be out there...they're challenging but they're incredibly accessible."

A few hours before the premiere, Craig spoke to The Associated Press about the role, which included nudity and sex scenes. His character, William Lee, spends his days drinking tequila in sweaty bars and his nights pursuing men, or doing heroin alone. It's a raw and exposing performance, but Craig trusted his director's vision.

"I think if it was wrong, (Luca would) say something, but if it was right, he'd just say, you know, move on. Let's do it. Let's go. We have it," Craig said. "Which can be a little disconcerting, but I think after a while you just go, 'I'm in his hands.'"

"Challengers" screenwriter Justin Kuritzkes wrote the script for "Queer," adapting a novel that was written in the 1950s but not published until 1985. It's a story that others have tried to adapt over the years, including Steve Buscemi and Oren Moverman. Kuritzkes also went beyond the slim text, adding a third act that isn't there, and weaving in some of Burroughs' own biography into the main character.

This gave Craig opportunities to study Burroughs himself for inspiration.

"I always felt that Burroughs had a very public face, and I wanted to know what the private part of him was like," said Craig, who spoke to a few people who knew him. "I think in 'Queer' you sort of see more of that than you do in his other books."

To play the young object of his affection, Eugene Allerton, Guadagnino cast rising actor Drew Starkey, who said he devoured the novel in a day. Starkey said he was intimidated to work alongside Guadagnino and Craig.

"I was familiar with both their work. I was fans of both their work," he said. "I think coming into any situation is nerve-wracking. And there was an extra layer on top of that."

Starkey and Craig did dance classes together to get comfortable with one another and the choreography of the intimate scenes.

"There's nothing intimate about filming a sex scene... we just wanted to make it as touching and as real and as natural as we possibly could," Craig said. "Drew is a wonderful, beautiful, fantastic actor to work with. We kind of had a laugh. We tried to make it fun."

Craig and Starkey star alongside Lesley Manville and Jason Schwartzman in the film, which is playing in the main competition and will be released in theaters by A24. Guadagnino also reunited with composers Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross for the score, as well as designer Jonathan Anderson for the costumes.

"Luca is the only person I could work with in this medium because he's the only person who gives trust to everyone and lets them paint their part of the picture," said Anderson, who ensured that every item they used was from the period.

Instead of filming on location in Mexico City, Guadagnino chose to create the world of Burroughs' mind inside Cinecittà Studios. He wanted to evoke the spirit of Powell and Pressburger in doing it.

Reviews for "Queer" praised Craig in particular for his vulnerable performance.

"Queer" is this emotional thump. It's this tiny book. And it is about love but it's about loss, it's about loneliness, it's about yearning," Craig said. "If I was writing myself a part with all of the things I want to do this would fulfill all of them."

The 81st edition of the Venice Film Festival has entered its final week, with the premiere of "Joker: Folie à Deux" to come on Wednesday. There have been many movie star moments, with the likes of Brad Pitt, George Clooney, Angelina Jolie, Nicole Kidman, Cate Blanchett, Julianne Moore, Tilda Swinton and Michael Keaton having graced the red carpet outside the Sala Grande theater.

Though no clear favorite has emerged, the films have inspired debate and discussions: "Babygirl's" depiction of sexuality and desire; the authenticity of "Maria" and Jolie's performance; the merits of Almodóvar working in the English language.



BUSINESS WIRE • The Associated Press
Sofi Tukker (whose name is a combination of Sophie Hawley-Weld and Tucker Halpern) is known for their ability to cross musical genres and cultures.

◀ALBUM from page 19

The title refers to the Portuguese word for running one's hand gently through someone else's hair. The intimate lyrics perfectly contrast the dance house music, even as American Rapper Channel Tres takes a verse to spit bars. However, the party must come to an end as "Perfect Someone" closes the album out with its snappy two-step rhythm about finding the right per-

son for someone.

As musicians, Sofi Tukker knows what will bring people to their feet, but as artists, they know how to effortlessly blend exotic clubs and fun lyrics to bring people together. "BREAD" is much like the carbohydrate it's named after; the album has a slow start but eventually releases the infectious energy needed to spend the night on the dancefloor.

◀THEATER from page 19

"The most exciting thing about our program is that we constantly have new students, new talent. We have a really big incoming class, both theater and dance majors, so we're excited to have the participation of brand new faces," said Eggimann. "One fun thing about 'Cabret' is that it is a pretty dance-heavy show, and with so many incoming dance students, I'm hopeful we get lots of engagement from those students."

Starting Sept. 3, tickets for the fall semester performances will be available at the box office from 4-6

p.m. Monday through Friday. Beginning Sept. 5, tickets will be available anytime at mnsueventtickets.universitytickets.com. Students can purchase a ticket for any performance with a valid student ID for \$5.

Auditions for the fall theater seasons were completed Aug. 26. But it's never too late to audition for the spring shows, which will start later in the fall semester and early in the spring semester.

For more information regarding the 2024-2025 theater season, visit hss.mnsu.edu.

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'Fake heiress' Anna Sorokin to compete on 'Dancing With the Stars'

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
The Associated Press

Anna Sorokin, the con artist who was convicted of swindling banks, hotels and friends in 2019 after falsely building a reputation as a wealthy German heiress named Anna Delvey, has found her newest venture: "Dancing With the Stars."

Described as the "notorious ankle bracelet fashionista" in a press release, Sorokin was announced Wednesday on "Good Morning America" along with the likes of former NBA star Dwight Howard, actor Tori Spelling and Jenn Tran, "The Bachelorette" lead whose season ended in heartbreak just Tuesday night. Tran, the first Asian American "Bachelorette," was a contestant on Joey Graziadei's season of "The Bachelor" — and he, too, will be vying for the trophy.

Complicating Sorokin's latest starring role is the ankle bracelet she's worn since October 2022, when she started her house arrest — though the show appears to be leaning into it with a promo image of Sorokin in a glittering dress and an ankle monitor on her leg. While she was released from prison in February 2021, immigration authorities picked her up shortly after she got out, claiming she overstayed her visa and must be returned to her native Germany. The "Inventing Anna" inspiration was in ICE custody for over a year before a judge cleared the way for her



JOHN CARUCCI • The Associated Press

Anna Delvey, also known as Anna Sorokin, poses at her apartment in New York, May 26, 2023, to promote her podcast, "The Anna Delvey Show."

to switch to home confinement in October 2022 while she fights the deportation case.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has not returned requests for comment regarding changes to Sorokin's house arrest conditions to accommodate filming in the Los Angeles area.

Sorokin's spokesperson, Juda Engelmayer, confirmed Tuesday that she could travel within 70 miles (112 kilometers) of her home base and anywhere in the five boroughs of New York City under previous house arrest conditions, but could not comment on any changes to those rules.

While under house arrest, she had to abide by the immigration judge's condition that she does not use social media, but Sorokin kept busy. She started a podcast — "The Anna Delvey Show" — that featured guests like comedian Whitney Cummings and technology journalist Taylor Lorenz who

traveled to her apartment in New York's East Village to record.

"So many people became famous for bad things and were able to kind of segue it into something different," she said in a June 2023 interview with The Associated Press.

"Dancing With the Stars" is the first mainstream way Sorokin is attempting to accomplish that goal. She'll be competing in the upcoming 33rd season, which premieres Sept. 17 on ABC and Disney+.

Sorokin will be joining Team USA's breakout star from the Olympics: Stephen Nedoroscik — better known to the internet as "Pommel Horse Guy." The 25-year-old who won two bronze medals in Paris was the first contestant announced, in August fresh off his Olympics' high. He became an internet sensation thanks to memes of his preparation before competing and of his Superman-like transformation before hitting the floor.

Another U.S. Olympian will be competing: Ilona Maher, the rugby player and bronze medalist who became a social media darling for her funny TikToks and body positivity content.

The series hosted by Alfonso Riberio and Julianne Hough also announced that Ezra Sosa, a previous member of the show's troupe of dancers, will be among those promoted to a "pro" this season; he is partnered with Sorokin.

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Prosecutor asks for charge to be reinstated against Alec Baldwin

By MORGAN LEE
The Associated Press

A prosecutor asked a New Mexico judge to reconsider the decision to dismiss an involuntary manslaughter charge against Alec Baldwin in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on the set of a Western movie, according to a court filing made public Wednesday.

Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey said there were insufficient facts to support the July ruling and that Baldwin's due process rights had not been violated.

State District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer dismissed the case halfway through a trial based on the withholding of evidence by police and prosecutors from the defense in the 2021 shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins on the set of the film "Rust."

The charge against Baldwin was dismissed with prejudice, meaning it can't be revived once any appeals of the decision are exhausted.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer on "Rust," was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza. Baldwin has said he pulled back the hammer — but not the trigger — and the revolver fired.

The case-ending evidence was ammunition that was brought into the sheriff's office in March by a man who said it could be related to Hutchins' killing. Prosecutors said they deemed the ammunition unrelated and unimportant, while Baldwin's lawyers alleged that they "buried" it and filed a successful motion to dismiss the case.

In her decision to dismiss the Baldwin case, Marlowe Sommer



Actor Alec Baldwin hugs his defense attorney Alex Spiro after District Court Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer threw out the involuntary manslaughter case, July 12, 2024, for the 2021 fatal shooting of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins. **LUIS SANCHEZ SATURNO • The Associated Press**

described "egregious discovery violations constituting misconduct" by law enforcement and prosecutors, as well as false testimony about physical evidence by a witness during the trial.

In the request to reconsider, Morrissey argued again that the undisclosed ammunition was not relevant to the case against Baldwin, which hinged on his responsibility to handle a gun safely under familiar industry guidelines.

"No one on the prosecution team ... ever intentionally kept evidence from the defendant, it simply didn't occur to the prosecution that the rounds were relevant to the case even if they were the same or similar to the live rounds found on the set of 'Rust,'" Morrissey wrote.

She asserted that defense attorneys knew about the rounds but canceled an opportunity to view them prior to trial.

"This is a smoke screen created by the defense and was intended to sway and confuse the court ... and it was successful," Morrissey wrote.

Baldwin attorney Luke Nikas said a response will be filed with the court, without further comment.

Movie armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed is serving an 18-month sentence on a conviction for involuntary manslaughter. She was accused of flouting standard safety protocols and missing multiple opportunities to detect forbidden live ammunition on set. Assistant director and safety coordinator Da-

vid Halls pleaded no contest to the negligent use of a deadly weapon and was sentenced to six months of unsupervised probation. A no-contest plea isn't an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing purposes.

It hasn't been officially determined who brought the live rounds that killed Hutchins to the set, though prosecutors allege that Gutierrez-Reed was responsible.

The ammunition that skuttled the case was handed over to a Santa Fe County Sheriff's Office crime scene technician who filed the evidence under an unrelated case number. Three of those rounds resembled live rounds that were collected from the "Rust" set after the fatal shooting.

The mysterious ammunition was dropped off at the sheriff's office by Troy Teske, of Bullhead City, Arizona, who routinely stored weapons and ammunition for his friend and longtime movie-gun coach Thell Reed — Gutierrez-Reed's stepfather and mentor as a film-set armorer.

Morrissey asked the judge to order defense attorneys to show when and how they learned of the ammunition provided by Teske, calling the defense motion to dismiss the case "all a ruse."

Attorneys for Baldwin have said he was unaware that live ammunition had been brought to the film set and that prosecutors hid evidence while trying to establish a link between the live ammo on set and Gutierrez-Reed. They said prosecutors wanted to drive home the argument that Baldwin should have recognized the armorer's blundering youth and inexperience.

Gutierrez-Reed is seeking the dismissal of her involuntary manslaughter conviction based on the allegations of suppressed evidence that emerged at Baldwin's trial.

Separately, Gutierrez-Reed has requested a hearing on a proposal to change her plea to guilty in exchange for a deferred sentence on a felony firearms charge pertaining to accusations that she took a gun into a Santa Fe bar weeks before "Rust" began filming.

Under the agreement with prosecutors, Gutierrez-Reed would serve 18 months under supervised probation with the potential for incarceration for probation violations. Terms of probation agreement, if approved, would forbid possession of firearms and the consumption of drugs or alcohol and would require registration in a criminal justice DNA database.

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No X in Brazil: Celebrity fandom worldwide in disarray



SILVIA IZQUIERDO • The Associated Press

University students show their phone screens after social media platform X was blocked nationwide, in Rio de Janeiro, Monday, Sept. 2, 2024.

By MALLIKA SEN
The Associated Press

It was a rapture and a revelation all at the same time.

En masse, celebrity stan accounts posted tearful farewells over the weekend as X was suspended in Brazil amid a showdown between Elon Musk and a Supreme Court justice. Many of their hundreds of thousands of followers learned only then that their favorite celebrity's most dedicated English-language fan accounts had actually been run by Brazilians.

It shouldn't have necessarily been a surprise — "Come to Brazil" is a stalwart meme. Brazil's CCXP bills itself as the Americas' largest comic-con, drawing A-list Hollywood talent. The stars of the long-ended show "Everybody Hates Chris" are beloved. Brazil does fandom like no other, the avalanche of goodbyes unearthing a wide array of accounts for Taylor Swift, C-list celebrities and the long-dead alike.

"I came to realize how strong our digital power is in this last minute, because we tweet in English so people don't know that we are Brazilians. But we are a lot, we are everywhere," said Aianne Amado, a University of Sao Paulo doctoral candidate who studies Brazilian fandoms. "I think that we will be missed and it's not going to be the same network."

Meet the fans

Paola Strabelli didn't care much for reading. A few years ago, though, she saw "Vita and Virginia" and became entranced — not with its lead actors, but with Virginia Woolf herself.

She started to read Woolf voraciously, and created @botvirginia to share Woolf's quotes, amassing 115,000 followers.

Strabelli, 26, told The Associated Press that, growing up, she didn't have many friends. In some ways, she said, her life began with online fandom — first, through Katy Perry and the show "Once Upon A Time," and then Woolf. Online friendships translated into real life, and, for a year, she dated a girl she met through their shared passion.

The law student behind @ agron_updates, dedicated to "Glee" actor Dianna Agron, never reckoned on disclosing her nationality. The 32-year-old from Brazil's center-west region requested anonymity for privacy, as she pursues government jobs. She was drawn to Agron because she thought the actor seemed "so kind." By 2016, annoyed with how Agron's fan accounts operated — cropping out boyfriends, for example — she co-founded an X account that grew to more than 7,600 followers.

All along, she's been careful to maintain a separation between her own feelings and the account's.

"Sometimes I will watch a movie and I think it's terrible, but I'll go on the account and say, 'Guys, it's amazing,'" she said. "I wasn't hoping to have to come out as a Brazilian."

Then there's @21metgala, run by two 18-year-old college students, Maria and Tamara. In three years, it's gained more than 175,000 followers and, unlike many stan accounts, covers general celebrity news (though they have a soft spot for Rihanna). Maria, who cited privacy in not wanting to publish her surname, said via WhatsApp that she was taken aback by the response to their departure.

"Most of our followers didn't know we were Brazilian, so it was a huge shock when we announced it," she wrote. Even Cardi B responded with distraught emojis.

Amado attributed Brazil's fervor for foreign entertainment to both its colonial history and the country's sheer diversity, noting its high consumption of Japanese otaku culture and its large population of Japanese descent.

Fandom is hard work

Fandom can often be derided with a condescension that belies the sheer amount of work that goes into maintaining these accounts.

"At first, I thought that fans were crazy. And, like, psychologically, I don't know, sick? ... And now, I've come to see that it's all about passion and effect and it's a very human behavior. Everybody's interested in something," be it cooking or canines, Amado said. "But for some

reason, when you're interested in something in pop culture, people tend to think that is less than."

An academic from Belo Horizonte, Samira Spolidorio has studied fansubbing — where devoted viewers come together to subtitle. She has a simple theory for why Brazilians are such engines of fandom, using a word that came up in interview after interview: Brazilians are just "passionate." They're also looking for a sense of belonging, she said.

Despite being grassroots efforts that drew no profit, fansubbing groups had "very strict rules" requiring volunteers to work overnight, Spolidorio said. A 40-minute episode required at least four people to subtitle and two to review — there were style guides, too.

That commitment can exact a price. Before X's suspension, @ agron_updates had an expiration date of Dec. 31. Running it was affecting its administrator's entire life, even leading to a breakup.

"One of the reasons was I was always on the phone, always checking for content," she told the AP. "It's kind of like a drug, it seizes something in your brain. You want to be first to post it."

"I've been unemployed for the past two years, and I have to study, I have to do something with my life," she added. "There's no way I can keep my life revolving around keeping a Twitter account for someone who — I love Dianna, but she doesn't work."

What's next

In the past week, X alternative Bluesky has boosted its base by one-third, adding 2 million users, CEO Jay Graber told the AP. Around 90% are Brazilian and most activity is in Portuguese, she said Monday.

Brazilians using virtual private networks to bypass the suspension face steep fines, but @21metgala has been able to continue posting sporadically.

"Some Wi-Fi providers haven't fully blocked access yet, but it's very unstable," Maria wrote Monday. While they are on other platforms, @21metgala will certainly be back if X is unsuspending.

Noel Parmentel Jr., a literary gadfly, dies at 98

By HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

Noel E. Parmentel Jr., an essayist, pundit, filmmaker and man about town who satirized politicians across ideology, dated and helped promote a young Joan Didion and otherwise charmed and infuriated New York's literary elite, has died at age 98.

Parmentel's longtime partner, Vivian Sorvall, told The Associated Press that he had been in failing health in recent weeks and died Saturday at the West Haven VA Medical Center in Connecticut.

A New Orleans native and World War II Marine who moved to Manhattan in the 1950s, Parmentel was an influencer in the city's political and cultural scene without ever completing a full-length book or otherwise becoming widely known. He had the clout to advance the careers of Didion and other younger writers, and the nerve to help convince Norman Mailer to run for mayor in 1969,

a wild campaign that ended with Mailer and running mate Jimmy Breslin losing decisively. Around the same time, Parmentel appeared in two Mailer films and collaborated with director Richard Leacock on the acclaimed documentaries "Chiefs" and "Inside the KKK."

Among friends, the white-suited Parmentel was so much a character that they couldn't help writing about him. Dan Wakefield, in the acclaimed memoir "New York in the Fifties," remembered him as a "tall, shambling New Orleans freelance pundit" and "the most politically incorrect person imaginable." Author-journalist Thomas Powers thought him the kind of man who "would finish the bourbon and smoke your last cigar while your wife fumed in the kitchen, but he was quick to do anything he could for a friend." Didion's husband, author John Gregory Dunne, regarded Parmentel as a mentor who taught him "to accept nothing at face value, to question everything, above all to be wary."

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