

## A.I.'s impact on education

By BEN LIVINGSTON  
Staff Writer

The line between Artificial Intelligence (A.I.) and our everyday life is fading quickly, whether we like it or not. One of the fields seeing the most seismic shift is education. Teachers and students alike are adjusting to this new reality, having to balance convenience and efficiency with academic integrity.

Rushit Dave is a professor of Computer Science at MSU. As an educator himself, he knows firsthand the good, the bad and the ugly of A.I. Dave says that A.I. can do revolutionary things, like idealizing course content to students.

"Since A.I. tools are analyzing each one's progress, the teacher is enabled to adjust his or her lessons toward the unique needs of each student, something that has become a game-changer," Dave said.

He also says the technology eases the burden of the more mundane tasks of teaching such as grading and tracking performance.

"It shifts them into an even more vital role of engaging with learners and offering support," Dave said. "A.I. is moving teachers away from being sole dispensers of knowledge towards facilitators and guides in a more collaborative and dynamic environment. It's extending human bonding, so essential in education."

On the student side, Dave says A.I. can do equally incredible



ALEXIS DARKOW • The Reporter

Student utilizing Memorial Library resources on the first floor for studying and homework assignments. ChatGPT is open on the screen of the computer.

things.

"If a student doesn't understand any concept, the very system is designed to automatically provide extra resources or alternative explanations. A.I. analyzes the performance and preference of a student to recommend certain

readings, exercises or projects that will best suit their interests and learning objectives. This makes students more interested and motivated," Dave said.

While A.I. has its good sides, the bad and the ugly can also cause a whole host of issues when it per-

tains to education. These issues include privacy concerns, bias and fairness, accessibility and overdependence.

Dave says there are solutions and that starts with teaching A.I. literacy and broader concepts that make up the emerging technology. **AI on page 3**

## Rally to encourage women to vote

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor in Chief

As the 2024 election draws nearer, more events pop up to help young adults register to vote and encourage them to vote for the candidate that closely aligns with their beliefs.

The MSU College Dems and Students for Reproductive Justice are hosting a rally to elect women called "Put a Woman in Charge" with several candidates and elected officials encouraging women to vote.

U.S. Congressional Candidate Rachel Bohman, Minnesota House of Representatives Candidate Marisa Ulman and Minnesota Senator Tina Smith will be speaking at the event with Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar sending in a video to share her support.

Senior and President of Students for Reproductive Justice Deyton Drost said it was important to bring a mix of local and state candidates to express the importance of voting because to see change at the national level, it starts locally.

"I think in the presidential election and on the federal level, people are scared and they don't have a lot of hope because they think that they have no voice and that they have no power," Drost said. "Even though it could be considered a smaller election, it's still extremely important, and I think it will give people more hope and help them use their voice and take the power back."

One of the themes that will be discussed is reproductive health and the possibility of those rights being taken away. Drost said having Students for Reproductive Justice, a campus organization dedicated to helping students advocate for reproductive rights through education and activism, was important to let young women know they can fight for their rights.

"If we want to protect our reproductive rights, we have to stand up and fight. This isn't a time we can stand back and watch other people do it," Drost said. "Everybody has a voice. Everyone can vote."

Senior and member of Students for Reproductive Justice Avalon Luehman is one of the emcees of the rally. For her, **RALLY on page 4**

## New Student Senate Speaker elected

By AMALIA SHARAF  
News Editor

Graduate Student Kendra Draeger, a recently elected Graduate Studies Senator, ran again for the Student Senate Speaker position at the Student Government meeting Wednesday.

Draeger said she was encouraged to run for the vacant position.

"With past experience, when I was a President at the Bemidji State Senate, the President was kind of like the Speaker, so they ran the meetings. So, I do have lots of experience in running the meetings and I know Robert's Rules of Order," said Draeger. "I also gained even more experience with Robert's Rule of Order and running meetings through my three-year experience in Students United."

In addition, Draeger served as a Treasurer for Students United, where she chaired and ran the Fiscal Committee meetings, took minutes for the board meetings and led communication with board members regarding import-

ant documents, minutes and meeting agendas.

In her application, Draeger wrote, "One goal I have, if elected for Speaker, is to clarify the Speaker's role and responsibilities by writing and publishing the operating procedures for this position. Within the operating procedures, I would like to create a section like Student Government 101 that defines common terminology used, procedures to follow, and basic student government information."

Draeger is planning on putting together a document containing all available resources for student senators, which will serve as a guide for searching not only the departments aiding in senators' projects, but also connecting them to staff members.

Before being elected for a Speaker position, Draeger served in the Student Government as a Senator for Graduate Studies and Legislative Affairs Committee Coordinator. Vice President Rebekka Jay asked how Draeger plans to delegate the responsibilities. Drae-



LOGAN SCHLOSSER • The Reporter

Caption: Kendra Draeger is joining the executive team seats to continue to lead the Student Government meeting as a newly elected speaker.

ger replied she plans on continuing to help with the big projects and being the person of contact until the next Legislative Affairs Committee Coordinator is appointed.

"I will hold the committee meeting until there is a new person," Draeger said. "At our last

meeting, I did delegate each committee member to reach out to at least five candidates and they have all done so. We are just waiting for responses now."

Another election took place at the Student Government meeting, **STUDGOV on page 2**

## It's time to roll up sleeves for new COVID, flu shots



MARY CONLON • The Associated Press

Anh Nguyen prepares to administer a COVID-19 vaccine for Kelly Vazquez at a pharmacy in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
The Associated Press

Fall means it's time for just about everybody to get up to date on their flu and COVID-19 vaccines — and a lot of older adults also need protection against another risky winter virus, RSV.

Yes, you can get your flu and COVID-19 shots at the same time. Don't call them boosters — they're not just another dose of last year's protection. The coronavirus and influenza are escape artists that constantly mutate to evade your body's immune defenses, so both vaccines are reformulated annually to target newer strains.

"Right now is the best time" to get all the recommended fall vaccinations, said Dr. Mandy Cohen, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as she got her flu shot Wednesday. She has an appointment for her COVID-19 shot, too. It's "the single most effective thing you can do to protect yourself, your family, your community."

While they're not perfect, vaccinations offer strong protection against a bad case of flu or COVID-19 — or dying from it.

"It may not prevent every infection but those infections are going to be less severe," said CDC's Dr. Demetre Daskalakis. "I would rather have my grandmother or my great-grandmother have a sniffle than have to go to the emergency room on Thanksgiving."

The challenge: Getting more Americans to roll up their sleeves. Last year, just 45% of adults got a flu vaccination and even fewer,

23%, got a COVID-19 shot. A survey released Wednesday by the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases shows an equally low number intend to this fall.

And the coronavirus still killed more Americans than flu last year.

"Maybe we believe that it's not going to be me but let's not take a chance," said Dr. Michael Knight of George Washington University. "Why not get a vaccine that's going to help you reduce that risk?"

The CDC urges both an updated COVID-19 shot and yearly flu vaccine for everyone ages 6 months and older. If you recently had COVID-19, you can wait two or three months but still should get an updated vaccination because of the expected winter surge. Both viruses can be especially dangerous to certain groups including older people and those with weak immune systems and lung or heart disease. Young children also are more vulnerable. The CDC counted 199 child deaths from flu last year.

Pregnancy also increases the chances of serious COVID-19 or flu — and vaccination guards mom plus ensures the newborn has some protection, too.

Last fall's shots targeted a coronavirus strain that's no longer spreading while this year's are tailored to a new section of the coronavirus family tree. The Pfizer and Moderna shots are formulated against a virus subtype called KP.2 while the Novavax vaccine targets its parent strain, JN.1. Daskalakis said all should offer good cross protection to other subtypes now spreading.

### ◀STUDGOV from page 1

where they elected a new Senator for the College of Allied Health and Nursing, Tyler Frantzen.

"I have a very unique and special relationship with the health field," said Frantzen. "My mother has been a nurse for the past 20 years and I have seen her ups and downs in the field. That includes the effort it takes to have classes and excel in those classes. My favorite part growing up was the stories my mother told about how she would help people and that's why I feel I am here today."

Frantzen plans to talk to his constituency and identify the issues they might face with their classes.

Student Government adopted the Priority Registration Resolution.

President Roshit Niraula pointed out the resolution is very important for those senators, who plan to return for the next semester as they want to make sure to register for the class windows, which have no scheduling conflict with the Student Government weekly meetings.

## Fluoride in drinking water poses enough risk

By MIKE STOBBE  
The Associated Press

A federal judge has ordered the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to further regulate fluoride in drinking water because high levels could pose a risk to the intellectual development of children.

U.S. District Judge Edward Chen cautioned that it's not certain that the amount of fluoride typically added to water is causing lower IQ in kids, but he concluded that mounting research points to an unreasonable risk that it could be. He ordered the EPA to take steps to lower that risk, but didn't say what those measures should be.

It's the first time a federal judge has made a determination about the neurodevelopmental risks to children of the recommended U.S. water fluoride level, said Ashley Malin, a University of Florida researcher who has studied the effect of higher fluoride levels in pregnant women.

She called it "the most historic ruling in the U.S. fluoridation debate that we've ever seen."

The judge's ruling is another striking dissent to a practice that has been hailed as one of the greatest public health achievements of the last century. Fluoride strengthens teeth and reduces cavities by replacing minerals lost during normal wear and tear, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Last month, a federal agency determined "with moderate confidence" that there is a link between higher levels of fluoride exposure and lower IQ in kids.

The National Toxicology Program based its conclusion on



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ • The Associated Press

A student drinks from a water fountain at an elementary school in California on Sept. 20, 2023.

studies involving fluoride levels at about twice the recommended limit for drinking water.

The EPA — a defendant in the lawsuit — argued that it wasn't clear what impact fluoride exposure might have at lower levels. But the agency is required to make sure there is a margin between the hazard level and exposure level. And "if there is an insufficient margin, then the chemical poses a risk," Chen wrote in his 80-page ruling Tuesday.

"Simply put, the risk to health at exposure levels in United States drinking water is sufficiently high to trigger regulatory response by the EPA" under federal law, he wrote.

An EPA spokesperson, Jeff Landis, said the agency was reviewing the decision but offered no further comment.

In 1950, federal officials endorsed water fluoridation to prevent tooth decay, and they continued to promote it even after

fluoride toothpaste brands hit the market several years later.

Fluoride can come from a number of sources, but drinking water is the main source for Americans, researchers say.

Nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population currently gets fluoridated drinking water, according to CDC data.

Since 2015, federal health officials have recommended a fluoridation level of 0.7 milligrams per liter of water.

For five decades before that, the recommended upper range was 1.2. The World Health Organization has set a safe limit for fluoride in drinking water of 1.5.

Separately, the EPA has a long-standing requirement that water systems cannot have more than 4 milligrams of fluoride per liter of water. That standard is designed to prevent skeletal fluorosis, a potentially crippling disorder which causes weaker bones, stiffness and pain.

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## California Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoes bill to help Black families



JEFF CHIU • The Associated Press

Morris Griffin holds up a sign during a meeting by the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

By SOPHIE AUSTIN  
The Associated Press

California Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill Wednesday that would have helped Black families reclaim or be compensated for property that was unjustly taken by the government.

The bill would have created a process for families to file a claim with the state if they believe the government seized their property through eminent domain due to discriminatory motives and without providing fair compensation.

The proposal by itself would not have been able to take full effect because lawmakers blocked another bill to create a reparations agency that would have reviewed claims.

"I thank the author for his commitment to redressing past racial injustices," Newsom said in a statement. "However, this bill tasks a nonexistent state agency to carry out its various provisions and requirements, making it impossible to implement."

The veto dealt a blow to a key part of a package of repara-

tions bills the California Legislative Black Caucus backed this year in an effort to help the state atone for decades of policies that drove racial disparities for Black Americans. The caucus sent other proposals to Newsom's desk that would require the state to formally apologize for slavery and its lingering impacts, improve protections against hair discrimination for athletes and combat the banning of books in state prisons.

Democratic state Sen. Steven Bradford introduced the eminent domain bill after Los Angeles-area officials in 2022 returned a beachfront property to a Black couple a century after it was taken from their ancestors through eminent domain. Bradford said in a statement earlier this year that his proposal was part of a crucial "framework for reparations and correcting a historic wrong."

Bradford also introduced a bill this year to create an agency to help Black families research their family lineage and implement reparations programs that become law, and a measure to create a fund for reparations legislation.

### AI from page 1

"This will make students prepared for the professions of the future while developing critical thinking about technology," Dave said.

He says the need for education extends to teachers as well.

"The need is huge for training educators continuously. The institutions should provide workshops and resources that will help teachers understand A.I. technologies, how to integrate them into the classrooms and how to make effective use of data to enhance student learning," Dave said.

Another solution is keeping up to date with technological infrastructure, such as hardware, software and internet connectivity. Doing so, Dave says, will better serve all who interact with A.I.

"This ensures access to the needed tools that will help teachers and students integrate A.I. into their work," Dave said.

Other solutions Dave proposes include pilot programs, feedback from teachers and students and incorporating ethics, privacy

and responsible A.I. use into education and teaching data literacy.

These discussions about A.I. and possible policy remedies are happening at school boards across the country. Balancing the externalities of A.I. along with its impact on teachers and students can be a difficult task.

One educator new to A.I. is Missy Livingston. Livingston is a second-grade teacher at Fred Assam Elementary in Sioux Falls, SD. She says she does not have a lot of first-hand experience with A.I. Looking at the grand scheme of things, Livingston does have some concerns regarding originality and academic integrity. Although, she says it can "be beneficial if used as a supplementary tool."

Livingston and other educators will be on the frontlines of A.I., dealing with its ever-changing landscape and development. It will be hard to predict how A.I. will play out in the future, but stakeholders involved with A.I. and education have and can act to guide it in the right direction.

## Harris will campaign on Arizona's border

By ZEKE MILLER & COLLEEN LONG  
The Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris will visit the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona on Friday as her campaign tries to turn the larger issue of immigration from a liability into a strength and hopes to counter a line of frequent, searing political attacks from former President Donald Trump. Her campaign announced Wednesday that Harris will be in Douglas, Arizona, across the border from Agua Prieta, Mexico. A Harris aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a trip that was still being planned, said the vice president plans to speak about border security and how, as a former attorney general of California, she took on international gangs and criminal organizations who traffic drugs, guns, and human beings. She also has long believed that the country needs an immigration system that is secure, fair, orderly and humane, the aide said. Trump has built his campaign partly around calling for cracking down on immigration and the southern border, even endorsing using police and the military to carry out mass deportations should he be elected in November. Harris has increasingly tried to seize on the issue and turn it back against her opponent, though polls show voters continue to trust Trump more on it. Just how important immigration and the border are ahead of Election Day was evidenced by Trump wasting little time reacting to word of Harris' trip. He told a rally crowd in Mint Hill, North Carolina, that Harris was going to the border "for political reasons" and because "their polls are tanking."

"When Kamala speaks about



BRYNN ANDERSON • The Associated Press

Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during a campaign event on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024, in Atlanta.


the border, her credibility is less than zero," Trump said. "I hope you're going to remember that on Friday. When she tells you about the border, ask her just one simple question: 'Why didn't you do it four years ago?'"

That picks up on a theme Trump mentions at nearly all of his campaign rallies, scoffing at Harris as a former Biden administration "border czar," arguing that she oversaw softer federal policies that allowed millions of people into the country illegally. President Joe Biden tasked Harris with working to address the root causes of immigration patterns that have caused many people fleeing violence and drug gangs in Central America to head to the U.S. border and seek asylum, though she was not called border czar. Since taking over for Biden at the top of the Democratic presidential ticket, Harris has lamented the collapse of a bipartisan border security deal in Congress that most

Republican lawmakers rejected at Trump's behest. Her campaign aide said she will use Friday's border stop to push for reviving that package, which was the toughest in a generation. In an interview with MSNBC that aired Wednesday evening, Harris talked about reviving that legislative effort, but also helping some people in the country illegally get U.S. citizenship.

"We need a comprehensive plan," she said, "that includes what we need to do to fortify not only our border, but deal with the fact that we also need to create pathways for people to earn citizenship."

The stop is part of Harris' larger effort to make immigration an issue that can help her win supporters, saying that Trump would rather play politics with the issue than seek solutions, while also promising more humane treatment of immigrants should she win the White House.



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# 10 homes have collapsed into the Carolina surf



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • The Associated Press

This photo provided by Cape Hatteras National Seashore shows a house several hours before it collapsed into the ocean in Rodanthe, N.C., on Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

By BEN FINLEY  
The Associated Press

A slow-motion catastrophe has been playing out in the coastal North Carolina village of Rodanthe, where 10 houses have fallen into the Atlantic since 2020. Three have been lost since Friday.

The most recent collapse was Tuesday afternoon, when the wooden pilings of a home nicknamed “Front Row Seats” buckled in the surf. The structure bumped against another house before it bobbed in the waves, prompting now familiar warnings about splintered wood and nail-riddled debris.

The destruction was decades in the making as beach erosion and climate change slowly edged the Atlantic closer to homes in the somewhat out-of-the-way vacation spot. The threat is more insidious than a hurricane, while the possible solutions won’t be easy or cheap, either in Rodanthe or other parts of the U.S.

Rodanthe is a village of about 200 people on the Outer Banks, a strip of narrow barrier islands that protrude into the Atlantic like a flexed arm.

Barrier islands were never an

ideal place for development, according to experts. They typically form as waves deposit sediment off the mainland. And they move based on weather patterns and other ocean forces. Some even disappear.

David Hallac, superintendent of the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, along which Rodanthe is located, said it was more common in previous decades for homeowners to move their houses from the encroaching surf.

“Perhaps it was more well understood in the past that the barrier island was dynamic, that it was moving,” Hallac said. “And if you built something on the beachfront it may not be there forever or it may need to be moved.”

Rodanthe is one of many communities on Hatteras Island, which is roughly 50 miles (80 kilometers) long and has been experiencing beach erosion for decades.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was 1,500 feet (457 meters) from the ocean when it was built in 1870, Hallac said.

By 1919, the Atlantic was 300 feet away. The lighthouse was later moved to a more protected location.

The erosion has been mea-

sured to be as much as 10 to 15 feet (3 to 4.5 meters) a year or more in some places.

“And so every year, 10 to 15 feet of that white sandy beach is gone,” Hallac said. “And then the dunes and then the back-dune area. And then all of a sudden, the foreshore, that area between low water and high water, is right up next to somebody’s backyard. And then the erosion continues.”

Ocean waves eventually lap at the wooden pilings that hold up the beach houses. The supports could be 15 feet deep. But the surf slowly takes away the sand that is packed around them.

“It’s like a toothpick in wet sand or even a beach umbrella,” Hallac said. “The deeper you put it, the more likely it is to stand up straight and resist leaning over. But if you only put it down a few inches, it doesn’t take much wind for that umbrella to start leaning. And it starts to tip over.”

A single home collapse can shed debris up to fifteen miles along the coast, according to an August report from a group of federal, state and local officials who are studying threatened oceanfront structures in North Carolina.

## Trump says Ukraine is ‘dead’



NELL REDMOND • The Associated Press

Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event in Mint Hill, N.C., Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024.

By JONATHAN J. COOPER  
The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump described Ukraine in bleak and mournful terms Wednesday, referring to its people as “dead” and the country itself as “demolished,” and further raising questions about how much the former president would be willing if elected again to concede in a negotiation over the country’s future.

Trump argued Ukraine should have made concessions to Russian President Vladimir Putin in the months before Russia’s February 2022 attack, declaring that even “the worst deal would’ve been better than what we have now.”

Trump, who has long been critical of U.S. aid to Ukraine, frequently claims that Russia never would have invaded if he was president and that he would put an end to the war if he returned to the White House. But rarely has he discussed the conflict in such detail. His remarks, at a North Carolina event billed as an economic speech, come on the heels of a debate this month in which he pointedly refused to say whether he wanted Ukraine to win the war. On Tuesday, Trump touted the prowess of Russia and

its predecessor Soviet Union, saying that wars are “what they do.”

The Republican former president, notoriously attuned to slights, began his denunciation of Ukraine by alluding to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s recent criticism of Trump and running mate JD Vance. Zelenskyy, who is visiting the U.S. this week to attend the U.N. General Assembly, told *The New Yorker* that Vance was “too radical” for proposing that Ukraine surrender territories under Russian control and that Trump “doesn’t really know how to stop the war even if he might think he knows how.”

Said Trump, “It’s something we have to have a quick discussion about because the president of Ukraine is in our country and he’s making little nasty aspersions toward your favorite president, me.”

Trump painted Ukraine as a country in ruins outside its capital, Kyiv, short on soldiers and losing population to war deaths and neighboring countries. He questioned whether the country has any bargaining chips left to negotiate an end to the war.

“Any deal — the worst deal — would’ve been better than what we have now,” Trump said. “If they made a bad deal it would’ve been much better.”

### ◀RALLY from page 1

it was important to get involved because the rally aligned with her beliefs.

“I felt I needed to make my voice heard in this fight for reproductive rights,” Luehman said. “I also think college activism is one of the best forms of activism. When trying to increase female college-aged voters, who better for them to hear from than their own peers?”

Luehman said young women need to get out and vote to let their voices be heard.

“Women have been left out of politics and we have been letting

men in power make decisions about our bodies and we need to stand up,” Luehman said. “I want women to know they are valued, powerful and they matter. We have to go out there and vote like our lives depend on it because for many women their lives do. We aren’t going back anymore.”

Drost said a wide range of women’s rights are on the line in the upcoming presidential election.

“If our rights get taken away, it’s not just affecting abortion. It’s everything from birth control to contraceptives and people need those things to live. We’re all humans and women aren’t just a sta-

tistic,” Drost said.

While having political undertones, Drost said the event mainly aims to encourage college-age women to vote, no matter their political affiliation.

“In general, a lot of college-age people might not be into politics, but it’s really important to know what’s happening where you live. It’s a reason why elections, even the smaller ones, matter,” Drost said.

The event takes place Oct. 1 from 6:30-8 p.m. in the E.J. Halling Recital Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. with music provided by local Mankato musicians.

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## A Black student punished for his hairstyle



RAQUEL NATALICCHIO • The Associated Press

Darryl George stands next to his mother, Darresha George, in front of Galveston County Court House, May 23, 2024, in Galveston, Texas.

By JUAN A. LOZANO  
The Associated Press

A Black high school student in Texas who was punished for nearly all of his junior year over his hairstyle has left his school district rather than spend another year of in-school suspension, according to his attorney.

But Darryl George, 18, would like to return to his Houston-area high school in the Barbers Hill school district for his senior year and has asked a federal judge to issue a temporary restraining order that would prevent district officials from further punishing him for not cutting his hair. It would allow him to return to school while a federal lawsuit he filed proceeds.

George's request comes after U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Brown in August dismissed most of the claims the student and his mother had filed in the federal lawsuit alleging school district officials committed racial and gender discrimination when they punished him.

The judge only let the gender discrimination claim stand and questioned whether the school district's hair length rule causes more harm than good.

"Judge Brown please help us so that I can attend school like a normal teenage student during the pendency of this litigation," George said in an affidavit filed last month.

Brown has scheduled an Oct. 3 court hearing in Galveston on George's request.

In court documents filed last week, attorneys for the school district said the judge does not have jurisdiction to issue the restraining order because George is no longer a student in the district.

"And George's withdrawal from the district does not deprive him of standing to seek past damages, although the district maintains that George has not suffered a constitutional injury and is not entitled to recover damages," attorneys for the school district said.

The district defends its dress code, which says its policies for students are meant to "teach grooming and hygiene, instill discipline, prevent disruption, avoid

safety hazards and teach respect for authority."

In court documents filed last week, Allie Booker, one of George's attorneys, said the student was "forced to unenroll" from Barbers Hill High School in Mont Belvieu and transfer to another high school in a different Houston area district because Barbers Hill officials placed him on in-school suspension on the first and second day of the new school year, which began last month.

This "caused him significant emotional distress, ultimately leading to a nervous breakdown. As a result, we had no choice but to remove him from the school environment," Booker said.

George's departure "was not a matter of choice but of survival" but he wishes to return, as his mother moved to the area because of the quality of the district's schools, Booker said.

George was kept out of his regular high school classes for most of the 2023-24 school year, when he was a junior, because the school district said his hair length violated its dress code.

George was forced to either serve in-school suspension or spend time at an off-site disciplinary program.

The district has argued that George's long hair, which he wears to school in tied and twisted locs on top of his head, violates its policy because if let down, it would fall below his shirt collar, eyebrows or earlobes.

The district has said other students with locs comply with the length policy.

George's federal lawsuit also alleged that his punishment violates the CROWN Act, a recent state law prohibiting race-based discrimination of hair. The CROWN Act, which was being discussed before the dispute over George's hair and which took effect in September 2023, bars employers and schools from penalizing people because of hair texture or protective hairstyles including Afros, braids, locs, twists or Bantu knots.

In February, a state judge ruled in a lawsuit filed by the school district that its punishment does not violate the CROWN Act.

## Pope expels a bishop and 9 other people

By NICOLE WINFIELD  
The Associated Press

Pope Francis took the unusual decision Wednesday to expel 10 people — a bishop, priests and lay-people — from a troubled Catholic movement in Peru after a Vatican investigation uncovered "sadistic" abuses of power, authority and spirituality.

The move against the leadership of the Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, or Sodalitium of Christian Life, followed Francis' decision last month to expel the group's founder, Luis Figari, after he was found to have sodomized his recruits.

It was announced by the Peruvian Bishops Conference, which posted a statement from the Vatican embassy on its website that attributed the expulsions to a "special" decision taken by Francis.

The statement was astonishing because it listed abuses uncovered by the Vatican investigation that have rarely if ever been punished canonically — such as hacking someone's communications — and cited the people the pope held responsible.

According to the statement, the Vatican investigators uncovered physical abuses "including with sadism and violence," sect-like abuses of conscience, spiritual abuse, abuses of authority, economic abuses in administering church money and the "abuse in the exercise of the apostolate of journalism."

The latter was presumably aimed at a Sodalitium journalist who has attacked critics of the movement on social media. Figari founded the SCV, as it is known, in 1971 as a lay community to recruit "soldiers for God," one of several



MARTIN MEJIA • The Associated Press

Vatican investigators Monsignor Jordi Bertomeu, right, and Archbishop Charles Scicluna walk outside during a break from meeting with people.

Catholic societies born as a conservative reaction to the left-leaning liberation theology movement that swept through Latin America, starting in the 1960s. At its height, the group counted about 20,000 members across South America and the United States. It was enormously influential in Peru. Victims of Figari's abuses complained to the Lima archdiocese in 2011, though other claims against him reportedly date to 2000. But neither the local church nor the Holy See took concrete action until one of the victims, Pedro Salinas, wrote a book along with journalist Paola Ugaz detailing the twisted practices of the Sodalitium in 2015, entitled "Half Monks, Half Soldiers."

An outside investigation ordered by Sodalitium later determined that Figari was "narcissistic, paranoid, demeaning, vulgar, vindictive, manipulative, racist, sexist, elitist and obsessed with sexual issues and the sexual orientation" of Sodalitium's members.

The investigation, published in 2017, found that Figari sodomized his recruits and forced them to fondle him and one another. He liked to watch them "experience pain, discomfort and fear," and humiliated them in front of others to enhance his control over them, the report found. Still, the Holy See declined to expel Figari from the movement in 2017 and merely ordered him to live apart from the Sodalitium community in Rome and cease all contact with it. The Vatican was seemingly tied in knots by canon law that did not foresee such punishments for founders of religious communities who weren't priests. Victims were outraged. But according to the findings of the latest Vatican investigation, the abuses went beyond Figari. They included Sodalitium clergy and also involved harassing and hacking the communications of their victims, all while covering up crimes committed as part of their official duties, according to the statement.



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# Editorial

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Variety Editor

## The Importance of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 marked the first official day of Hispanic Heritage Month, a month-long celebration of Hispanic and Latino history and culture. Hispanic Heritage Month first began as a week-long celebration in 1968 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. It was then expanded to a month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988, having the 30-day period start on September 15 and end on October 15. The celebration was then enacted into law.

The month is greatly significant because many Central American countries celebrate their independence days within the time frame. Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua celebrate their independence day on September 15; Mexico celebrates its independence day on September 16 while Chile's independence day is on September 18 and Belize has its independence day on September 21.

So why is it overall important to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S.?

For decades, Hispanics and Latinos have held important roles in the nation's history, dating all the way back to the American Revolution. Hispanic Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate the Hispanic and Latino community who have greatly strengthened our country and have contributed to its growth.

Latinos and Hispanics make up an estimated 19% of the U.S. total population; that's over 60 million Latinos according to the U.S. Census Bureau, making them the largest ethnic group in the country.

Latinos and Hispanics overall shape the U.S. as business owners, artists, activists, public workers and more. Their culture is everywhere; in art, sports, science, entertainment, food and business. Latinos students even make up most of the nation's progress in college degrees, representing almost 80% of the growth.

There is no denying that their contributions have and will continue to remain significant.

However, for decades now, Latinos' achievements, hardships and history have largely been left out of high school textbooks that are used across the U.S. despite the high school completion among Latinos increasing.

Despite the lack of Hispanic and Latino history taught at schools and institutions, Hispanic Heritage Month now serves as a way to shine a spotlight on the unique voices and stories of Latinos everywhere; the stories that have never been told and have remained invisible.

And now due to recent racist anti-immigrant rhetoric, it is now more important than ever to uplift the Hispanic and Latino community. We as college students can help empower our fellow Latinos and Latinas on campus by exploring Hispanic and Latino media; to learn about the activism involved with the Hispanic and Latino communities; and to advocate for Hispanic and Latino rights.

# Perspectives

## Why Not Today? Dark story of the origin of the pink triangle



JEFF CHIU • The Associate Press

The origin of the pink triangle, one of the major symbols used by the queer community, comes from the persecution of LGBTQ people under the Nazi regime. Concentration camp prisoners who had been identified and convicted of sodomy would be forced to wear pink triangles on their prison uniforms.



Jeremy Redlien  
Staff Writer

How many queer people died at the hands of the Nazis is unknown, but the number is at least in the thousands, with an estimated 10,000 to 100,000 thousand being arrested and sent to concentration camps.

Most estimates say that 6 million Jewish people were murdered by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Estimates that include non-Jewish victims of the Nazis go up to as high as 11 million.

In any case, while Jewish people were clearly the primary targets of the Nazis,

many other groups suffered as well. Romani, political prisoners and people with disabilities (among many others) were all arrested and sent to concentration camps, where they would face forced work assignments, starvation and murder.

As an LGBTQ person, obviously I have a strong interest in the persecution of LGBTQ people under the Nazis.

Recently, I found myself looking up and reading Governor Tim Walz's master thesis on "Improving Human Rights and Genocide Studies

in the American High School Classroom" for a different Reporter assignment.

In his thesis, Walz argues there is a need to look beyond the Holocaust and to teach how, rather than being a singular event, it had its roots in centuries of antisemitism.

"Few schools focused on the social context of anti-semitism and the role it played in the Holocaust. What failed to be conveyed to the students who used this single historical perspective approach was the Holocaust was a cumulation of many factors. Students did not see the Holocaust as preventable, but rather, as inevitable," Walz states while citing the work of Henry Friedlander.

Walz also argues for teaching about Jewish resistance movements against the Nazis and that the teaching of genocide should not be limited to the Holocaust.

Walz quotes Samuel Tot-COLUMN on page 7▶

# Pulse

"One thing you want to know about your future?"

Compiled by Troy Yang



NIFT KASSA,  
JUNIOR



ASHTIN FREDRICKSON,  
FRESHMAN



BEN BONK,  
FRESHMAN



RINA GIZAW,  
FRESHMAN



AAYUSHMA BASTAKOTI,  
SOPHOMORE



JASMINA OSMICEVIC,  
STUDENT

"I don't need to know about my future."

"How much money I'm making."

"I don't want to know because I don't want to set a limit for myself."

"I'd like to know if I chose the correct major."

"I'd like to know if I'm in the same field as my major."

"If I've lived a fulfilling life and did things that I've always wanted to do."

# A huge Hurricane Helene is expected to hit Florida as a major storm and strike far inland



LUIS ALBERTO CRUZ • The Associated Press

A person walks in the rain after the passing of Hurricane John in Marquelia, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH & STEPHEN SMITH  
The Associated Press

An enormous Hurricane Helene swamped parts of Mexico on Wednesday as it churned on a path forecasters said would take it to Florida as a potentially catastrophic storm with a surge that could swallow entire homes, a chilling warning that sent residents scrambling for higher ground, closed schools, and led to states of emergency throughout the Southeast. Helene's center was about 430 miles (735 kilometers) southwest of Tampa, Florida, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said, and the hurricane was expected to intensify and accelerate as it crosses the Gulf of Mexico toward the Big Bend area of Florida's northwestern coast. Landfall was expected sometime Thursday evening, and the hurricane center said by then it could be a major Category 4 storm with winds above 129 mph (208 kph). Tropical storm conditions were expected in southern Florida Wednesday

night, spreading northward and encompassing the rest of Florida as well as Georgia and South Carolina through Thursday night. The storm was moving north at 12 mph (19 kph) with top sustained winds of 85 mph (140 kph) Wednesday evening. Helene could create a life-threatening storm surge as high as 20 feet (6.1 meters) in parts of the Big Bend region, forecasters said. Its tropical storm-force winds extended as far as 345 miles (555 kilometers) from its center. The fast-moving storm's wind and rain also could penetrate far inland: The hurricane center posted hurricane warnings well into Georgia and tropical storm warnings as far north as North Carolina, and it warned that much of the Southeast could experience prolonged power outages, toppled trees and dangerous flooding.

"Just hope and pray that everybody's safe," said Connie Dillard, of Tallahassee, as she shopped at a grocery store with thinning shelves of water and bread before hitting the highway out of town. "That's all you can do."

One insurance firm, Gallagher Re, is expecting billions of dollars in damage in the U.S. Around 18,000 linemen from out of state staged in Florida, ready to help restore power. Airports in St. Petersburg, Tallahassee and Tampa were planning to close on Thursday, and 62 hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities evacuated their residents Wednesday.

Georgia activated 250 National Guard soldiers for rapid deployment. State game wardens, foresters and Department of Correction teams will help provide swift-water rescues and other emergency responses. State meteorologist Will Lanxton said tropical storm-force winds are expected throughout Georgia. Lanxton said metro Atlanta hasn't seen sustained tropical storm winds since Hurricane Irma in 2017.

"I think we're going to see some significant power outages, probably nothing like we've seen, because it's 159 counties wide," said James Stallings, director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

◀COLUMN from page 6

ten who says, "most other genocides this century have been consigned to the black hole of forgetfulness in the schools."

The Nazi persecution of LGBTQ people is among the many that have been forgotten about. One aspect as to why that is is Paragraph 175, Germany's anti-sodomy law, remained on the books until 1994.

As such, the liberation of concentration camps by Allied powers did not see the release of those who had been prosecuted under Paragraph 175. Many were sent back to standard prisons with their time in Nazi concentration camps not even being applied to their sentence.

Even after release, many of

those who had been imprisoned in Nazi camps under Paragraph 175 did not speak openly about their experiences due to ongoing social stigma.

It is worth noting that LGBTQ people were not the only group to experience silencing in the aftermath of the Holocaust. Another example was Jewish women who faced sexual violence at the hands of the Nazis while imprisoned and who also experienced social stigma and shaming that prevented them from speaking out about their experiences.

I think when it comes to the teaching of genocide, there is value in understanding how one's community can be or has been complicit in genocide. Lo-

cally, Mankato has its own history with the execution of the Dakota 38 + 2, which is part of the larger genocide against Native Americans.

In the end, genocide is a difficult subject to discuss, but one that is ultimately very necessary if past atrocities are to be kept safely in the past and only in the past. One of the very specific things the Nazis did early on in their rise was to destroy the Institute of Sexual Research created by Magnus Hirschfeld and publicly burn 12,000 books held by the institute.

It would seem in any event that knowledge is precisely the kind of power needed to tamper the sorts of prejudices that can lead to genocides.

# Israel tells troops to prepare for a possible ground operation



MOHAMMED ZAATARI • The Associated Press

People gather at the site of an Israeli airstrike that hit a hangar in the southern town of Jiyeh, Lebanon, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024.

By MELANIE LIDMAN, TIA GOLDENBERG & KAREEM CHEHAYEB  
The Associated Press

Israel is preparing for a possible ground operation in Lebanon, its army chief said Wednesday as Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets across the border and a missile aimed at Tel Aviv that was the militant group's deepest strike yet. Addressing troops on the northern border, Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi said Israel's punishing airstrikes this week were designed to "prepare the ground for your possible entry and to continue degrading Hezbollah."

The U.S., France and other allies jointly called for an "immediate" 21-day cease-fire in the conflict that has killed more than 600 people to "provide space for diplomacy." Their joint statement,

negotiated on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, said the fighting was "intolerable and presents an unacceptable risk of a broader regional escalation." Other signatories include the European Union, Japan, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Qatar. Israel says it targeted Hezbollah weapons and rocket launchers. In an apparent reference to the missile fired at Tel Aviv, Halevi told troops: "Today, Hezbollah expanded its range of fire, and later today, they will receive a very strong response."

It was not clear whether he was referring to a ground operation, airstrikes or some other form of retaliation against Hezbollah, which is Lebanon's strongest political force and, with backing from Iran, is widely considered the top paramilitary group in the Arab world.

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# SPORTS

## College football: Georgia-Alabama showdown not consequential

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

The biggest games of the college football regular season are not quite as important as they used to be.

No. 2 Georgia visits No. 4 Alabama on Saturday in a showdown of two Southeastern Conference superpowers who have combined to win five national titles since the College Football Playoff's implementation in 2014. The Crimson Tide has won six on its own since 2009.

The winner will give its CFP credentials a huge early-season boost while the loser — will probably be OK, too. Welcome to the 12-team playoff era, where the regular season just means less.

Of course, this has been the evolution of college football for years.

Back in the days before the Bowl Championship Series and CFP, a game like Alabama-Georgia could have essentially been national title elimination game — or pretty close to it.

The BCS was the beginning of the end for those type of do-or-die regular-season matchups, and conference championship games increased the likelihood of rematches, too.

Under the four-team CFP, both the loser and winner of some huge matchups still made



DARRON CUMMINGS • The Associated Press

Georgia quarterback Carson Beck throws during the first half of an NCAA college football game against Kentucky, Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, in Lexington, Ky.

the field, including an Alabama-Georgia SEC title game rematch for the 2021 national championship that went to the Bulldogs after the Tide won the first game.

Still, those were more exceptions than the norm.

Now that the playoff in-

cludes 12 teams the consequences for losing regular-season games are not as great. That's a bummer for some fans, but it doesn't mean the games can't still be great — and that Alabama-Georgia isn't the most intriguing game of the week.

No. 2 Georgia at No. 4 Alabama (plus 1 1/2), Saturday

The Bulldogs are 45-2 since 2021 with two national championships. Both losses, including their SEC title game last year when they were trying for a historic national title three-peat, have been to Alabama.

Of course, that was Nick Saban's Alabama. This is Kalen DeBoer's. The Tide is still look-

ing pretty good without their legendary coach, we'll see if something changes when former Saban assistant Kirby Smart is not facing his old boss.

Pick: Alabama 27-23.

No. 19 Illinois (plus 18) at No. 9 Penn State, Saturday

The last time these two teams played they managed to combine for 18 points over the course of nine overtime periods as the Illini knocked off the Nittany Lions 20-18 in Happy Valley. It was not college football's finest moment — at least for offense.

The Illini try to make it two straight Big Ten road wins against ranked opponents after beating Nebraska in OT last week.

Pick: Penn State 31-17.

Washington State (plus 7 1/2) at No. 25 Boise State, Saturday

An interesting game that could have playoff ramifications, though they need to be clarified.

Boise State could make the field as one of the five highest-ranked conference champions by winning the Mountain West. The Cougars are playing six Mountain West opponents this season, but they are still in the Pac-12, which has only two members — for now — and is not eligible to have its champion be among the highest ranked champ.

## Oakland A's come to grip with departure

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE  
The Associated Press

The Athletics had long ago carved out a Jekyll-and-Hyde legacy as one of Major League Baseball's most successful — and sad-sack — franchises. Under their belts: nine World Series titles and 19 seasons of futility punctuated by 100 or more losses.

This, though, is different. Now, legions of A's fans view the team as the sport's most treacherous under the ownership of billionaire John Fisher, an heir of the family that founded The Gap in 1969 — one year after the A's moved to Oakland from Kansas City.

Just a few years after embracing "Rooted In Oakland" as their motto, the A's this week are coming to the end of their 57 see-sawing seasons in a city regularly overshadowed by the mystique of its storied neighbor, San Francisco.

"I know these times coming to the games are always going to be among the best years of my life," longtime A's fan Will MacNeil, 40, rued as he contemplated an ending that is crushing a



JEFF CHIU • The Associated Press

Oakland A's fans line up for autographs after a game. However, after 57 seasons that will be no more as they plan to move once again after the stadium has started to crumble.

community's soul. "And for a billionaire owner to rip it away from me, it's frustrating."

A baseball team that has moved twice moves again  
The A's exodus from Oak-

land will give the team the dubious distinction of being the first Major League Baseball franchise

to have moved on four different occasions. After starting in Philadelphia in 1901, the A's moved to Kansas City in 1955, then to Oakland in 1968, with California's capital city of Sacramento and Las Vegas next in the peripatetic pipeline.

No place has been the A's home for as long as Oakland, where they're the last professional sports team in a two-county region known as the East Bay — home to 2.8 million people living across the water from San Francisco.

Through the years, the baseball team became an emblem of East Bay's grit and flair. The A's glory years included the colorfully attired, mustachioed "Swingin' A's" during the first half of the 1970s, the muscular and swaggering "Bash Brothers" of the late 1980s, and the scrappy underdogs of the 2000s that yielded a real-life fairy tale in the film, "Moneyball," based on the Michael Lewis book that ushered in the era of data-driven analysis.

Through those decades, the A's stadium — the now-crumbling Oakland Coliseum — became an East Bay hub.

## Love says his knee is improving as Packers remain mum on QB's availability



GEORGE WALKER IV • The Associated Press

Green Bay Packers' Jordan Love watches before an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024, in Nashville, Tenn.

By STEVE MEGAREE  
The Associated Press

Green Bay Packers quarterback Jordan Love says he is practicing with fewer limits and moving better this week as he continues to recover from a knee injury.

Whether that means Love will be ready to play Sunday in their NFC North opener against the undefeated Minnesota Vikings remains uncertain.

Love has missed two games since injuring his left medial collateral ligament in the final series of the Packers' 34-29 season-opening loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in Brazil.

This is the second straight week he has practiced on a limited basis.

Malik Willis has thrived while filling in for Love, helping the Packers (2-1) beat the Indianapolis Colts and Tennessee Titans.

"Yeah, definitely, I feel like I'm getting better every day, moving around, getting out there practicing and feeling better," Love said.

Love said he based that assessment on having a feel for his body and assessing how he runs and handles drills in practice.

Love added that he was "pretty close" to playing in the Packers' last game, a 30-14 victory at Tennessee.

"I was pushing it all week, trying to get myself ready, but at the end of the week we just determined I wasn't where I wanted to be," Love said.

Love said he has been making progress since then, but wouldn't make any definitive

predictions about whether he'd play Sunday.

He did acknowledge the importance of Sunday's game as the Packers host a division opponent.

"I'm trying to push it and I've been trying to get back as fast as I can no matter who the opponent was," Love said.

"But definitely, you look at this week — an NFC North opponent, 3-0 team, really good team — so definitely it would mean a lot to get back and push myself to get back for this game."

Love's ability to move around effectively will be paramount as the Packers face a Vikings defense that has an NFL-leading 16 sacks.

"That's definitely a concern," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "So we've got to do a great job in terms of our protection calls, making sure we get a body on a body and then you've got to go and actually block these guys which isn't the easiest task to do either. I think they've got a lot of good rushers in there. I think they rush collectively as a unit as one as good as anybody."

With Love out the last two weeks, the Packers have won on the strength of a dominant rushing attack and opportunistic defense.

The Packers lead the NFL in takeaways (nine) and rushing yards (204 per game).

Willis has played a big role in that ground attack by rushing for 114 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries.

He also has completed 75% of his passes the last two games for 324 yards with two touch-

downs and no interceptions.

"He's getting the ball out, he's not taking any sacks," Love said.

"He's just avoiding those negative plays, which is able to keep the offense moving, and he's made some big-time throws, he's made some big-time scrambles. He's played at a really high level so far."

Willis says there's no change in his approach this week as Love moves closer to a return.

"Same as last week, same as the week before that, same as the first week in Brazil," Willis said. "You just try to prepare as best you can and be ready to go if called upon."

Love wants to make sure he's ready as well as he prepares mentally for his comeback while "knowing that you're not going to be 100 percent." He wants to make sure he's not worrying about the possibility of hurting the knee again once he gets back on the field.

"If it happens, it happens," Love said. "Just control what I can control at the end of the day, and try and protect myself as best I can and just hope those things don't happen."

Notes: OL Jordan Morgan (shoulder) didn't practice Wednesday after missing the entire Titans game and the second half of the Colts game.

Limited practice participants included Love, CB Jaire Alexander (quad), DL Kenny Clark (toe), LG Elgton Jenkins (rest), TE Tucker Kraft (shoulder), TE Luke Musgrave (quad), C Josh Myers (shoulder), WR Jayden Reed (calf/quad), OT Zach Tom (quad) and CB Carrington Valentine (ankle).

## Tennessee football's 10% talent fee opens discussions



ALONZO ADAMS • The Associated Press

Tennessee celebrates after defeating Oklahoma during an NCAA college football game in Norman, Okla., Sept. 21, 2024.

By GARY B. GRAVES  
The Associated Press

The quiet part about the evolving landscape of name, image and likeness compensation in college athletics was bound to be said out loud, and it wasn't that shocking when Tennessee's athletic department stepped forward, cleared its collective throat and stated the obvious.

A week has passed since the school announced a 10% "talent fee" for 2025 football season ticket renewals to help pay its athletes and help the No. 5 Vols attract and keep the best talent.

That's in addition to a 4.5% hike that athletic director Danny White explained on video helps the program "remain flexible" as the collegiate model changes.

The price hike could be viewed as a preemptive move following an agreement to pay \$2.78 billion in damages to hundreds of thousands of athletes dating to 2016. As part of that settlement, schools have agreed to distribute up to \$21 million in revenue to athletes annually, starting as early next fall.

Anticipating all of that hitting their budgets, some schools have already incorporated ticket price increases. Tennessee might be the first to mention a surcharge specifically for talent as the bidding wars for top players are exposed for what they are.

"I can't imagine that they're going to be the only ones that announce something like that," Louisville AD Josh Heird told The Associated Press. "It's just, how do you feel like you can as an athletic department come up with that from that revenue number to try to compensate the student-athletes at the highest possible level?"

The NCAA in July 2021 opened the door for NIL payments to athletes, which led to the advent of so-called collectives, funded by boosters, around many programs that are separate from school athletic departments.

It's too early to predict where collectives will end up, but regulating them is a key part of the settlement.

As for talent fees, the question is whether season ticket holders will accept paying another surcharge besides charges for handling and convenience added to the face value. Ditto for the single-game spectator mulling how much the price of admission will run.

Judging from the announcement from Tennessee — which consistently sells out 101,915-seat Neyland Stadium for Vols home games with thousands more on a waiting list — indications are they will.

And the school likely has plenty of company at football powerhouses such as Alabama, Georgia, Ohio State and Texas, for starters.

But that fan acceptance also ratchets up the high expectation of hoisting the national championship trophy, or at least of regular appearances in the expanded 12-team College Football Playoff. Not that any of those schools have a problem understanding the assignment.

"Given the landscape of college athletics and today's economy, I think most fans at the power conference schools will likely be OK with a marginal talent fee or tax like what we're seeing here because they want to field competitive teams," said Lamar Reams, department chair and professor of sports administration at Ohio University.

"For the fans, this is a very specified and transparent tax that they know that they can contribute to. So, if there's some success on the field and down the line, they can certainly take the perspective that they had or played some role in contributing to that."

Reams noted that such fees might not be palatable for fans of a school with less football success or tradition.

And those willing to pay initially may balk eventually if the on-field or on-court results don't provide a return on the investment.

## LeBron and Bronny James are already scrimmaging with Lakers



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press

LeBron James arrives at the premiere of "Starting 5" on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024 at The Egyptian Theatre Hollywood in Los Angeles.

By GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

LeBron James and his son, Bronny, are already scrimmaging with the rest of the Los Angeles Lakers during voluntary offseason workouts.

JJ Redick and his coaching staff are planning and discussing the moment early in the new season when a father and son will share an NBA court for the first time.

While the specifics of that historic day aren't set yet, Redick shares the basketball world's anticipation of the chance to watch the top scorer in NBA history playing alongside the Lakers' new second-round draft pick.

No father and son have ever played in the NBA simultaneously, let alone on the same team.

"We don't have anything planned, per se, in terms of a commitment to do it this way," Redick said. "We obviously have talked about it as a staff, and we've gotten into some specifics of what that might look like, but we haven't committed to anything, and obviously there's a discussion to be had once we're all together, with Bronny and LeBron, too. They should be a part of that discussion as well."

Redick and general manager Rob Pelinka expressed excitement for the team-up Wednesday during a preseason news conference. Redick sees only positive aspects in pairing the duo on the court, and he doesn't anticipate any friction or concerns in the family dynamic.

"I don't look at it as a challenge that's unique from any other challenge of coaching a player or coaching a relationship," Redick said.

Pelinka then humorously interjected an anecdote from a recent workout scrimmage: "Maybe the challenge is on Bronny, when like in our pick-up game, he got switched on to LeBron, and LeBron took him baseline, up and under off the glass. The words exchanged afterwards were probably more

challenging than anything else."

The Lakers haven't announced or decided how long Bronny, who will turn 20 during training camp, will be on the NBA roster with his famous father, who turns 40 in December.

Although the front office hasn't confirmed it, Bronny James seems likely to spend much of the upcoming season in the G League developing his skills. He played in only 25 games during his sole season at the University of Southern California after recovering from cardiac arrest during an off-season workout.

Pelinka and Redick are still extremely bullish on the 6-foot-2 Bronny's ability to become an NBA contributor.

"Bronny, I feel very fortunate that I get to coach him, because he's young and he's hungry and he's got a lot of inherent skill sets that we can really mold into a really good NBA player," Redick said. "On top of that, he's a fantastic kid. He's extremely coachable. He's got the right spirit and energy every single day."

LeBron James took a vacation after leading the U.S. to a gold medal at the Paris Olympics, but he has been back in the gym for the past two weeks, Redick said.

The Lakers' front office didn't make any bold moves over the summer, constrained by their top players' contracts and the new league system that has made it much more difficult to upgrade rosters, according to Pelinka.

So the Lakers roster around the James family will be largely the same group that made the Western Conference finals in 2023, but then finished eighth in the West last spring before losing to Denver in the first round.

Those Lakers weren't an elite team even with excellent health for LeBron and Anthony Davis, two high-mileage veterans who have struggled with major injury problems in previous seasons.

## Farve's Parkinson's diagnosis discovery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brett Favre was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in January after he began having trouble using his right arm and was unable to hold a screwdriver steady, the Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback said in an interview with TMZ Sports.

Favre disclosed he has the disease Tuesday as part of his testimony to a congressional committee about a welfare mispending scandal in Mississippi.

Favre revealed the diagnosis to TMZ Sports in late August but requested it not be reported, the outlet noted in the story it posted Tuesday.

He gave permission for his diagnosis to be reported after the congressional hearing.

Favre said he suspected something was wrong when his right arm would get "stuck."

He said he didn't notice a decrease in strength but was unable to hold a screwdriver with one hand.

He said he notified his physician about the problem when he struggled to put on a jacket.

"I felt my arm, the strength was there, but I could not guide it," he told TMZ Sports. "And it was the most frustrating thing."

Favre said five Parkinson's specialists told him they believed head trauma played a role in his developing the disease.

"Well, hell, I wrote the book on head trauma," said Favre, who once estimated he had "thousands" of concussions.

Favre said one of his doctors



MARK SCHIEFELBEIN • The Associated Press

Former NFL quarterback Brett Favre appears before the House Committee on Ways and Means on Capitol Hill, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2024.

told him people typically show more effects of the disease by the time they are diagnosed.

New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers, who was Favre's teammate for three seasons in Green Bay, said Wednesday it is "unfortunately" part of the game.

"You know, the older you get, and some of you know this, like the mortality gets kind of thrown in our face a little bit more," Rodgers said.

"It's actually unfortunately more normal to hear about a death or a cancer diagnosis or a diagnosis like this. And it doesn't desensitize it for me. I mean, I feel bad for him and (his wife) Deanna, but it's unfortunately part of our game. That's part of the risk of playing."

Favre, who does not face criminal charges in the welfare case, has repaid just over \$1 million in speaking fees fund-

ed by a welfare program in the state.

He also said he had been an investor in a biotech company with ties to the case. The biotech firm has said it was developing concussion treatments.

Favre was known for his durability during his Hall of Fame career.

He had an NFL-record streak of 297 consecutive starts, a figure that goes up to 321 if playoff games are included.

He won three straight MVP awards with the Green Bay Packers from 1995-97.

Favre led the 1996 Packers to their first Super Bowl title in nearly three decades and brought them back to the Super Bowl the following year.

Favre was with Green Bay from 1992-2007 and also played for the Atlanta Falcons (1991), New York Jets (2008) and Minnesota Vikings (2009-10).



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## Adam Scott hopeful to end 21 years without playing on a winning team



GRAHAM HUGHES • The Associated Press

Team members Adam Scott, of Australia, left, and Taylor Pendrith, of Canada, look on during practice for the Presidents Cup golf tournament.

By DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

Adam Scott has never played on a winning team in the Presidents Cup, a tale as woeful as the Internationals losing streak against the Americans.

He has played in 49 matches and partnered with 16 players. He was part of the tie in South Africa when he made his debut in 2003, and nine consecutive losses followed. The 44-year-old Australian realizes he won't get many more chances.

And yet his optimism is as high as ever.

"We are determined to go out there this year and change the script of this event," Scott said. "Certainly, I want to improve my record in this event and I'm very determined. I don't know how many more opportunities I'll get, if any. So this is a big week for me.

"But I have a lot of belief in this team," he said. "I can't remember feeling so comfortable coming into a Presidents Cup."

That's been the vibe at Royal Montreal over three days of practice as the Internationals get ready for the opening session of fourballs Thursday against a U.S. team that on paper looks to be as powerful as ever. The Americans are led by Scottie Scheffler and Xander Schauffele, the top two players in the world.

U.S. captain Jim Furyk threw out a few wrinkles for the opening pairings. He split up Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay for only the second time since they began playing these team cups in 2019. Schauffele is in the opening match with Tony Finau against Jason Day and Byeong Hun An, while Cantlay is the fifth and final match with Sam Burns against Hideki Matsuyama and Corey Conners, one of three Canadians on home soil.

Scott is in the second game out with Min Woo Lee, one of his many proteges, against Collin Morikawa and Sahith Theegala.

International captain Mike

Weir has been preaching the present to his team. In some respects, they consider the start of these matches to be 2019, when Ernie Els spearheaded a change in logo to give a team from all over the world a new identity.

They had a great chance in Australia in 2019. They had a great rally at Quail Hollow in 2022 after getting in a big hole early with a team decimated by defections to LIV Golf.

"We've got a lot of young guys on the team, and they're not remembering past defeats or anything like that," Weir said.

Scott would not be one of those young guys, although he now is embracing the youth movement. He is one of only three players — Matsuyama (5) and Day (4) are the others — who have played more than twice in the Presidents Cup.

Nothing compares with 10 tries without winning.

"That's a long stretch," Finau said. "That's tough luck at the end of the day. Adam is an incredible guy. As a competitor, I don't feel bad for him. I'm sure he has some Presidents Cups where he had a winning record and the team loses. You can't really solely blame it on Adam. These are team events.

"But at the end of the day I'm on the U.S. side and for this week we don't want any of those guys to win."

That's been the message for the Americans, who don't want their own streak to end. They own a 12-1-1 record since the Presidents Cup began in 1994. But they are coming off another road loss to Europe in the Ryder Cup, and the risk being without a professional cup for the first time since 1998 if they don't win at Montreal.

"You have to earn it," Finau said. "It doesn't matter how good our record is in the Presidents Cup. At some point they're going to start winning some Presidents Cups. It's going to happen. We're not going to play this many and ... I obviously want the Americans to win the next 50. It's not going to happen."

# Aaron Hernandez limited series

By KAITLYN HUAMANI  
The Associated Press

From a podcast to multiple documentaries, the rise and fall of the once revered NFL star Aaron Hernandez is certainly well documented.

An FX limited series is latest to rehash the saga, attempting to go beyond the headlines and dig deeper into his story.

"American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez" stars Josh Andrés Rivera as the New England Patriots tight end.

It details Hernandez's troubled childhood with an abusive father who demanded his son play football and project masculinity and toughness to the world. Secretly, Hernandez also struggled with his sexuality.

He played college ball at the University of Florida and was drafted by the Patriots. Over time, the series shows how Hernandez's behavior grew increasingly erratic.

He was convicted of murder and died by suicide in 2017 while serving a life sentence. After his death, research showed Hernandez's brain showed evidence of chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE).

"What we tried to do with this show — is take a tabloid headline, take some story that you think you know about Aaron Hernandez ... and go behind it and see what it's like to walk in the shoes of all the people who are part of this,"



WILLY SANJUAN • The Associated Press

Josh Rivera poses for a portrait to promote the FX television series "American Sports Story: Aaron Hernandez" during the press tour.

said Brad Simpson, one of the series' executive producers, in an interview.

Hernandez's life, crimes and death have been detailed before in long-form writing, documentaries including Netflix's "Killer Inside: The Mind of Aaron Hernandez," and the podcast "Gladiator: Aaron Hernandez and Football Inc.," which is the basis for "American Sports Story."

Rivera, known for his supporting roles in the recent "Hunger Games" prequel and 2021's "West Side Story," said playing the former tight end was a "responsibility that you have to approach with a certain level of sensitivity."

Once he started learning more about Hernandez's life,

diving into recordings of phone calls he made from prison and watching clips from his interviews, Rivera said he began to see the layered intricacy of Hernandez's life.

And he only became more eager to play him.

"To a lot of people, he was very charming and very charismatic and easy to get along with. There were not a small amount of people who felt that way, so that was interesting because you have to dissect the 'why,'" Rivera said. "There's clearly a magnetism there, disguising an inner life that's very complex."

Rivera said he enjoyed the challenge of that character work, calling Hernandez "a chameleon."

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# VARIETY

## Minnesota Zoo educates Mavs

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Variety Editor

When MSU students walk on campus, everyone is expected to go to class, attend a meeting or go study. But on Tuesday, the Minnesota Zoo Mobile and its team of naturalists made sure students stopped by the CSU mall on their way to class to meet some of their remarkable creatures up close.

As the Minnesota Zoo Mobile was on campus two years prior, Educational Entertainment Chair Sara Gustafson said its return was to both bring an educational and entertaining environmental experience to students on campus and to also help them take a break throughout the day.

"When I do events, they have to provide some sort of educational entertainment to students so the zoo mobile gives students the opportunity to come and look at animals, hold animals, but also learn about them," Gustafson said. "A big thing I was also thinking about when planning this event was it gives people a break from classes just to sometimes relax, because a lot of the time animals are used to relax, ease minds and take your brain off of the stress of college."

Sara C. Swenson, an educator at the Minnesota Zoo, was part of the Minnesota Zoo Mobile team who showed off all the animals to



LOGAN SCHLOSSER • The Reporter  
On Tuesday, the Minnesota Zoo Mobile and its team of naturalists arrived at the CSU Mall where students were able to stop by and see some of their various animals up close.

students and first introduced Lyra, a tiger salamander.

"When they are babies, tiger salamanders swim around in the water like a tadpole. They're very closely related to frogs. They're in the amphibian family. So like frogs and toads, they have a larval state when they're babies, where they're in the water and then they go up

on land when they're older," Swenson said. "But they're still very dependent on being near the water, because their skin needs to be wet for them to breathe. They breathe through their skin, so anything that touches their skin will get absorbed into their body."

Swenson then moved on to Squeeze, a ball python that right

away wrapped itself into a ball around the former's wrist.

"They get that name because they do like to curl up in a ball for protection, but also for warmth. So usually, when I go to get her from her enclosure at the zoo, I find her in a little spiral swirl, with her chin resting on up her back coil, looking

ZOO on page 15▶

## Attention to Artists: Almost Monday

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor in Chief

As much as I love the seasons changing in the Midwest and all that comes along with it, there's a part of me that wishes I lived on the West Coast so I could drive up and down the coastline in a convertible with my music blasting. Thankfully, I can live out those dreams by putting up-and-coming pop trio Almost Monday on the aux cord.

Consisting of Dawson Daugherty on vocals, Luke Fabry on bass and Cole Clisby on guitar, the group met in college in Southern California where they started the band. They draw inspiration from numerous musicians including Prince and David Bowie. They emailed Mark Needham, the producer for Fleetwood Mac and The Killers, on a whim who connected them with producer Simon Oscroft. Their first EP "don't say you're ordinary" was released in the middle of 2020, a time when the world needed to hear fun music. Their debut garnered over 30 million streams and has only continued to climb after their sophomore album "til the end of time" dropped in 2021, with numerous other singles released.

Someone can rarely say they were a fan of a band from the very beginning and were able to see bands rise over time. I'm lucky to say I was able to do that for Almost Monday. I discovered them when I was listening to another favorite band of mine, Sofi Tukker, who did a dance remix of Almost Monday's song "broken people." Wanting to compare the remix to the original track, I found the original to be addicting, energetic and totally different from the mainstream pop being poured through the radio.

It probably took me all of two days to learn the lyrics to the four songs they had on their first EP and I craved more of their music. Ever since then, each announcement of a new song has me giddy for its release and it's been exciting to see how they've found their distinct style. The universal thread of funky, groovy rhythms, twangy basslines and sun-kissed, shimmery lyrics make for the ideal genre of California pop.

I think why I find Almost Monday to be a great listen is how different each track sounds, yet when played consecutively, mesh together. "come on come on" opens with faint whistling before letting the keys and drums take center stage, yet remain in the background. "parking lot view" opens with chants and has fun plays on words like "this California king needs a queen/and baby that's you." The EP-titled track has nostalgic synths and gentle lyrics to remind the lis-

ARTIST on page 15▶

## Travel through the multiverse in 'Constellations'

By TINA DOLAN  
Staff Writer

Life involves many decisions; sometimes, regret settles in, and we wish things could have turned out differently. Even the smallest choices can turn into life-altering experiences.

Come watch Marianne and Ronald's relationship change through parallel universes as every choice they make results in alternative outcomes at Minnesota State's first theater production, "Constellations."

"Marianne is a physicist dealing with cosmology, and one of the things she brings up in the show is the multiverse. We get to see her and Ronald's relationship play out multiple times and in ways based on small choices made," Director of Constellations Casey Ring said.

"Constellations" is a play about regret and hope as sometimes, in our lives, we make bad decisions that we wish we could take back. But, we can also make good decisions that steer us to happier outcomes.

"To get more metaphorical, this play is about regret and hope. As people, we all have those moments in our lives that we look back on and wish we would have made a different choice," said Ring. "We



MATT MILLER • The Reporter  
"Constellations" explores characters Marianne and Ronald and how their relationship changes through parallel universes as every choice they make results in alternate outcomes.

do, at times, see the characters make good choices and get to view where those potentially lead them."

Ring had a unique experience getting this type of play up and running, as he had to make sense of the script's unusual non-linear timeline.

"The first step in directing this play, even before casting and get-

ting into rehearsals, was figuring out the linear timeline since it's a non-linear story. I had to build through the lines based on what events happened where," said Ring. "The second step was figuring out which timelines all fit together."

Ring was able to get close to the cast, as the performance only involves two actors. It took them

weeks to get into character and learn the timeline of events of the play.

"We spent a couple of weeks just doing character work and figuring out who these people are. Even across all of the different choices they make, some being derivations away from who they were before,

CONSTELLATIONS on page 15▶

# Video game actors' union calls for strike against 'League of Legends'



CHRIS PIZZELLO • The Associated Press  
Actor Sena Bryer, second from left, joins other demonstrators in a SAG-AFTRA video game actor strike picket line outside Warner Bros. Studios on Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024, in Burbank, Calif.

By SARAH PARVINI  
The Associated Press

"League of Legends" is caught in the middle of a dispute between Hollywood's actors union and an audio company that provides voiceover services for the blockbuster online multiplayer game.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists called a strike against "League of Legends" on Tuesday, arguing that Formosa Interactive attempted to get around the ongoing video game strike by hiring

non-union actors to work on an unrelated title.

Formosa tried to "cancel" the unnamed video game, which was covered by the strike, shortly after the start of the work stoppage, SAG-AFTRA said. The union said when Formosa learned it could not cancel the game, the company "secretly transferred the game to a shell company and sent out casting notices for 'non-union' talent only." In response, the union's interactive negotiating committee voted unanimously to file an unfair labor practice charge against the company

with the National Labor Relations Board and to call a strike against "League of Legends" as part of that charge.

"It's bad enough that Formosa and other companies are refusing to agree to the fair AI terms that have been agreed to by the film, television, streaming, and music industries, as well as more than 90 other game developers," said the union's national executive director, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland. "To commit illegal unfair labor practices is beyond the pale and won't be tolerated by SAG-AFTRA."

## ◀ZOO from page 14

ever so comfortable," Swenson said.

Other animals included were Atlas, who is an Ouachita Map turtle, giant African millipedes and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. All animals rotated every 15-20 minutes during their time on campus.

Gustafson discussed the possibility of having the Minnesota Zoo Mobile return in the future due to its planning and easy access to stu-

dents.

"It's a really easy way just to get animals on campus so that people have something to do during the school day, because having classes back to back and just being able to walk outside and come stop by is super convenient for students, and it's just such a great thing for people to just become aware of more animals that you may think are gross, but actually realizing that they're just kind of like us. They're just trying to live," Gustafson said.

Visitor Lillian Fred and MSU Senior Baylie Viland stopped by the campus mall together to see the featured Minnesota Zoo animals.

"I think this is a cool experience that they've come out to show students. My favorite has been the snake. I just like snakes overall," Fred said.

"I definitely like this experience. I love animals. My favorite has been the salamander, because she's adorable," Vinland said.

## ◀CONSTELLATIONS from page 14

they're still the same characters," said Ring. "It's important to find the characters' souls and who they are at their core to stay consistent."

Since the performance involves life tribulations, the audience will be able to relate to the characters'

successes and downfalls.

"I think the audience will relate to wishing they could take something back but also hoping for the best and by the end of your time on earth, you could end up happy," said Ring.

If interested in attending the

performance, Constellations runs from Sept. 25-28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Andreas Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts. Tickets are available at the box office in the Performing Arts lobby or online at [mnsueventickets.universitytickets.com](https://mnsueventickets.universitytickets.com)

## ◀ARTIST from page 14

tener they are perfectly unique.

Their sophomore album is even a better follow-up, if not more lively than their debut. Songs like "live forever" and "this is growing up" hold an aura of nostalgia, but deliver the energy of summer nights. The title track holds softer pop tones while "hailey beebz" mellows out by incorporating ballad-like verses.

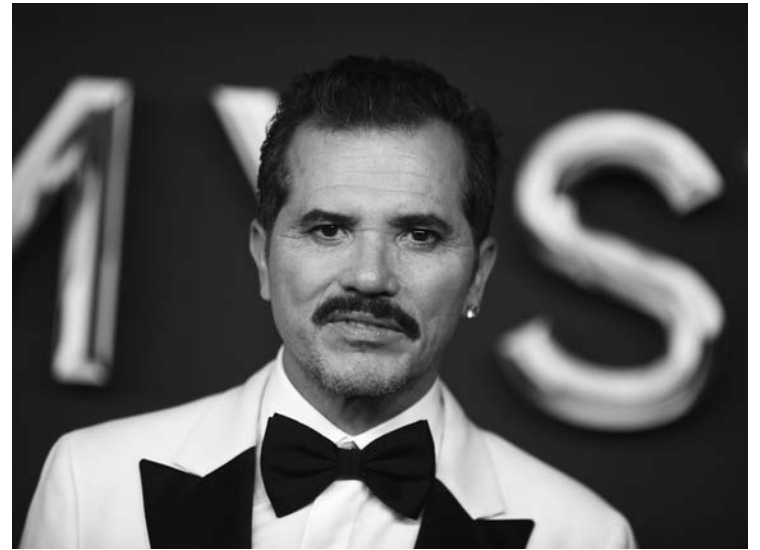
In recent songs, Almost Monday has hit the California pop atmosphere in full swing by embodying elements of surf music

and heavier instrument solos. Their single "only wanna dance" is a non-stop dance bop, complete with an echoing chorus and epic guitar solo for the bridge. Early 2000s beats filled with angsty passions round out the song "cough drops" while "cool enough" has chanting na's and a snappy bassline. Their upcoming debut album "DIVE" has singles that equally balance pop and surf music. "is it too late?" has a near frantic tempo with breathless lyrics about wanting an ex back and hoping it's not too late to change their mind. The laidback vibes of "sun-

burn" contrast with the brighter lyrics of only being with someone temporarily but "they will always be the sunburn" stuck to them.

For not even having 100,000 followers on Instagram, their streams reaching the multimillions says a lot about where Almost Monday is headed in the future. I can't be sad whenever I hear their music and in a world where there's a lot to stress about, their music is the energy we need to be hearing. While the band's name suggests the end of a weekend, in their world, it's just beginning.

# John Leguizamo shares Latin American history in PBS series



RICHARD SHOTWELL • The Associated Press  
John Leguizamo arrives at the 76th Primetime Emmy Awards on Sunday, Sept. 15, 2024, at the Peacock Theater in Los Angeles.

By MARK KENNEDY  
The Associated Press

If you think Latin American history starts with Christopher Columbus, John Leguizamo would like to have a word.

He points out there were great empires and civilizations during the thousands of years before 1492 — like the mighty Incas, Aztecs and Maya, whose great strides in medicine, engineering and science echo today.

"I get power from that," says the actor and activist. "It helps me to keep going in today's America that is a difficult landscape at the moment."

Leguizamo is spreading the word with a new PBS three-part series, "VOCES American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos," which unspools the fascinating history and often overlooked contributions of Latino people. It starts airing Friday.

"John Hopkins University did a study and found that 87% of Latino contributions to the making of America are absent in the history textbooks. And the 13% that's there gets less than five sentences. So this is our corrective for that," Leguizamo says.

The first part includes the legacy of the Taino, Maya, Aztec and Inca, or as Leguizamo calls them, "the OG civilizations of Latin America."

Then the show explores the Latino roles in the American Revolution and Civil War and the building of the United States. The third part is about the fight for Latino civil rights and preserving their cultural history.

"I want my daughter to feel very proud of the ancestry and the roots that she came from and hopefully other Latino kids and adults will get the same feeling from it," says co-creator and director Ben DeJesus.

"American Historia" features over a dozen leading historians, anthropologists and experts, as well as actors reading source material, including Benjamin Bratt, Bryan Cranston, Rosario Dawson, Laurence Fishburne, Ethan Hawke, Edward James Olmos, Rosie Perez, and Liev Schreiber.

"This is only the beginning for us. We look at this as volume one. We look at this like our virtual visual history book. And the history book is incomplete unless we keep digging deeper and further," says DeJesus.

It is often a tough series to watch, especially when Columbus brought three boats with troops and billions of germs that would mean an apocalypse for Indigenous people — disease, enslavement, rape and forced displacement. Gold that was plundered from the Americas funded the Enlightenment.



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