

Student Government Meeting Highlights Campus Updates

By AMALIA SHARAF
News Editor

Wednesday's Student Government meeting was highlighted by updates from student programs including Fraternity and Sorority Life, Student Success Advising Academy and Residential Life.

Sofia Melendez, a Sigma Sigma sorority President, told senators Sigma Sigma Sigma has 33 active members. This semester they have recruited 18 new members who will become active Oct. 22, making a total of 51 active members for Fall 2024.

The chapter has multiple philanthropies, including Tri Sigma Foundation: Sigma Serves Children. Sorority members donate and raise funds for the foundation's Robbie Page Memorial Fund award, which in turn donates funds to hospitals, clinics and research and therapeutic play programs in local communities.

March of Dimes, another philanthropy of the sorority, raises awareness in the community to make baby blankets and donate items to the March of Dimes' Military Baby Shower program.

"This is from Sigmas of all generations and we work tirelessly to make sure children and their moms have a fighting chance for a

bright, healthy future," said Melendez.

Amy Staloch, Director of Student Success — a professional development opportunity for staff and faculty members — said students in that program learn about academic advising practices and approaches, holistic student support and tools available to them to do this work.

"The opportunity is offered through the Student Success and Engagement advising for faculty and staff to really focus on what the advising experience of the institution is and how student success could look like," said Staloch. "We are recruiting participants from faculty and staff all over the campus. So, anybody from somebody working in the facilities to a faculty member can participate in this and go through three different levels — basic, advanced and expert."

Staloch encouraged students to share their experiences and anecdotes with the division. Students can email their stories and feedback to studentsuccess@mnsu.edu.

Anthony Bettendorf, the Director of Residential Life, presented on room and meal plan rates as well as a report on the work done over the summer. As stated in the report, McElroy F Hall has updated windows and shades and McElroy G



File photo

Director of Residential Life Anthony Bettendorf came to the weekly Student Government meeting, where he gave a report on the work done in residential halls over the summer.

Hall now has air conditioning units in all rooms. New pods and single-user restrooms were added to Crawford B. Carpeting, ductwork and baseboards were updated in

the Julia Sears residential community. Lastly, new restrooms were added across the Food Pantry in Carkoski Commons.

President Roshit Niraula shared

multiple updates with the Student Government body, starting off with an announcement of the Student Government's victory in the

STUDGOV on page 2

Donate socks and underwear with Socktober

By BEN LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

Four-hundred pairs of packaged socks and undergarments. That is the collection goal of a Minnesota State organization that aims to help those in need in our community.

Mavs in Action (MIA), the group behind the creatively named "Socktober," is the student programming team of the Community Engagement Office. MIA plans and manages service projects in the Mankato area. Elenore Milde is the president of MIA. She says "Socktober" is a national event with different organizations hosting it across the event.

"Each individual organization chooses where the donated items will go (i.e., their emergency shelters). The general goal is to collect socks as well as underwear and just basic undergarments to be donated to emergency shelters," she said.

During the event, teams or individuals sign up to "adopt" a Socktober box. Then they compete to see who can donate the most. The winning group will get to help MIA deliver the donations to area shelters. Milde says that socks and undergarments collected at MSU will



JOE VENABLES • The Reporter

Socktober is a socks and underwear drive for Mankato Area Shelters. Homelessness rates increase and thus the need for donations is also increasing.

be going to outside groups such as Partners for Housing, Committee Against Domestic Abuse, and Con-

nections Shelter. Homelessness has become a dire issue in Minnesota and across the country. Every three

years the Wilder Foundation conducts a count of unhoused people in Minnesota. While that num-

ber decreased slightly from 2018 (11,371) to 2023 (10,522), the number remains high. Along with the high numbers of people experiencing homelessness, the need for essential clothing items is also dire. Socks and undergarments are among the most in-demand items in homeless shelters.

Per tomssofmaine.com, there are two main reasons socks "are among the most valuable pieces of clothing to people without permanent housing. For one, feet work overtime when there's no cozy home (and laundry room) to return to each night. The other reason is that socks and underwear aren't often donated or, when they are, the goods can't be sanitized and put to use.

There is also a more regionally exclusive reason for the clothing's necessity. As fall passes and winter rolls in, Milde says their work is especially important.

"This is done because as the seasons change, emergency shelters are starting to open their doors to those in need. These people may not have basic hygiene products such as undergarments so anything raised will go to supplying them with their needs," she said.

SOCKS on page 2

Industry must do more to cut carbon pollution



DARRYL DYCK • The Associated Press

A boater passes between cargo ships on the harbor, in Vancouver, British Columbia, July 16, 2024.

By PETER PRENGAMAN
The Associated Press

For years, the international shipping industry has been criticized for making little progress in reducing the carbon-belching pollution released from the fuels that vessels use in moving most of the cargo that people use every day, such as food, cars and clothing.

Now, the new head of the International Maritime Organization, charged with regulating international shipping, is subtly calling out inaction and nudging companies to work harder. “What I’m finding is that there is more that can be done,” said Arsenio Dominguez, who gave a wide-ranging interview on the sidelines of the Hamburg Sustainability Conference in Germany this week. “The low hanging fruit is there.”

Dominguez, who took over as secretary general at the beginning of this year, said that includes using satellites to chart routes according to weather, to waste less fuel, cleaning the hulls of ships to reduce friction in the water and what is often referred to as slow steaming, reducing ship speed, which also uses less fuel and thus pollutes less.

Dominguez was careful to note that many companies are working to cut greenhouse gas emissions, which cause climate change. But getting to the IMO’s goal of a 30% reduction in emissions by 2030 will require immediate implementation of every possibility. Ultimately, major decarbonizing will mean an overhaul of shipping fuel, said Dominguez, a point industry leaders agree on. Today, most ships run on heavy fuel oil, which releases carbon dioxide along with sulfur, nitrogen and other

pollutants. Much cleaner fuels already exist, and many more are being developed, such as hydrogen, ammonia and biofuels. But they are more expensive, not yet available at scale and only better for the planet when made in clean ways. For example, hydrogen can be made from water and clean energy via a process called electrolysis, and that does not release greenhouse gases. It’s considered “green” hydrogen. However, nearly all hydrogen today is made out of methane, meaning natural gas, using steam-methane reforming, which releases carbon dioxide.

“Fuels, fuels, fuels,” Bud Darr, executive vice president for maritime policy and government affairs for MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company, said when asked during a panel at the sustainability conference on Monday what the biggest challenges were to decarbonizing.

“We need a massive scaling up of both production and shoreside infrastructure in order to deliver what we will need to operate the new generation of ships and equipment that we are investing in,” Darr said in a followup email. Currently, the shipping industry is responsible for about 3% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Their total emissions are expected to go up sharply in future decades unless major changes are made. Other parts of the world economy have made strides in decarbonizing, including electricity and ground transportation, thanks to electrification. Comparatively little has happened in shipping.

“The IMO has been very slow,” said Bastien Bonnet-Cantaloube, an expert on shipping and aviation decarbonization with non-profit Carbon Market Watch. “There was no progress in 10 or 15 years. Now things are starting to pick up.”

◀STUDGOV from page 1

best office decoration contest for Homecoming.

“Student Government won the best office decorations,” said Niraula. “Thank you to everyone who helped out. It was definitely a team effort.”

Niraula also said they met the President’s Cabinet during a meet

and confer event last Thursday. On Saturday, Niraula connected with alumni who visited the campus for the homecoming parade. In addition, Niraula updated students on the E-Sports area, saying students can communicate with E-Sports and varsity players to reserve the space for other networking opportunities and events.

Alaska’s Fat Bear Contest winner

By MARK THIESSEN
The Associated Press

In a storyline better befitting a melodrama than a popularity vote, Grazer won her second Fat Bear Contest Tuesday by defeating the male behemoth that killed her cub this summer.

Grazer beat Chunk by more than 40,000 votes cast by fans watching live cameras at explore.org of Alaska’s Katmai National Park and Preserve. Fans cast votes online for their favorite chunky competitor in tournament-style brackets that begins with 12 bears.

They picked the bear they believe best exemplifies winter preparedness by the fat they have accumulated over the summer feeding on the sockeye salmon that return to Brooks River. The bears often perch at the top of a falls in the river, grabbing leaping salmon out of the air as the fish attempt to hurdle the waterfall to spawn upstream.

This is where Grazer’s cub died after it slipped over the waterfall and was killed by Chunk, perhaps the most dominant brown bear on the river.

Grazer fought Chunk in an effort to save the cub, but it later died. The death was captured on the live cameras. Another death was captured live by the cameras just last week, delaying the release of the tournament bracket for a day. Bear 402, a female bear that was supposed to be a contestant in this year’s contest, was killed by a male brown bear the day the brackets were expected to be re-

◀SOCKS from page 1

We are only a little over a week in October, and Milde says they do not have an exact number of donated items, but Milde remains



T. CARMACK • The Associated Press

This image provided by the National Park Service shows bear bear 128 Grazer at Katmai National Park in Alaska on July 12, 2024.

leased.

Grazer has conspicuously blond ears and a long, straight muzzle, according to her bio page at explore.org. “She is a formidable presence on Brooks River. Her fearlessness and strength have earned her respect, with most bears avoiding confrontation,” it says.

Her other surviving cub from her third litter placed second two weeks ago in the Fat Bear Junior contest.

Chunk is perhaps the largest bear on the river, with narrow-set eyes, dark brown fur and a distinctive scar across his muzzle, his bio says. He used his size to rise to the top of the river hierarchy this year and secured the prime fishing spots.

“Chunk’s confidence and ag-

gression paid off, allowing him to feast on 42 salmon in 10 hours,” it says. “His physical success is evident in his bulky form.”

Adult male brown bears typically weigh 600 to 900 pounds (about 270 to 410 kilograms) in mid-summer. By the time they are ready to hibernate after feasting on migrating and spawning salmon — each eats as many as 30 fish per day — large males can weigh well over 1,000 pounds (454 kilograms). Females are about one-third smaller.

The annual contest, which drew more than 1.3 million votes last year, is a way to celebrate the resiliency of the 2,200 brown bears that live in the preserve on the Alaska Peninsula, which extends from the state’s southwest corner toward the Aleutian Islands.

optimistic. “We have heard that people are donating and interacting with the event. Additionally, we have heard from different RSOs explaining that they will be donating.”

Groups and Individuals can sign up online on MavCentral. All donations must be brand new, tagged or packaged. All sizes and genders are accepted.



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Rain, tornadoes and tropical storm-force winds lash Florida

By TERRY SPENCER & KATE PAYNE
The Associated Press

Hurricane Milton hurled rain, tornadoes and tropical storm-force winds at the U.S. coast Wednesday as time began to run out for residents to evacuate from the potentially catastrophic path the storm was carving toward Florida.

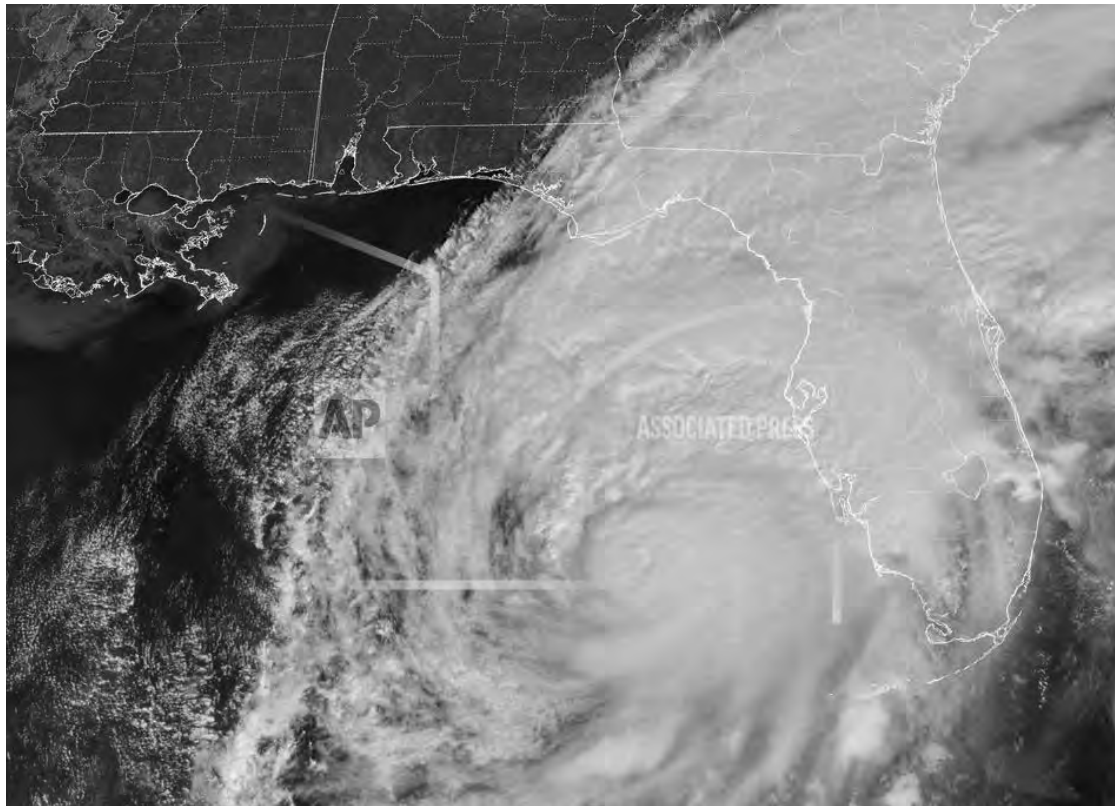
The National Hurricane Center stressed that it was not certain where Milton's center would come ashore Wednesday night because the storm's path might "wobble," but the entire Tampa Bay region and points south were at grave risk. Tropical storm-force winds began lashing the coast Wednesday afternoon.

Earlier, officials issued dire warnings to flee or face grim odds of survival.

"This is it, folks," said Cathie Perkins, emergency management director in Pinellas County, which sits on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay. "Those of you who were punched during Hurricane Helene, this is going to be a knock-out. You need to get out, and you need to get out now."

By late afternoon, some officials said the time had passed for such efforts.

"Unless you really have a good reason to leave at this point, we suggest you just hunker down," Polk County Emergency Management Director Paul Womble said in



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • The Associated Press

This GOES-16 GeoColor satellite image taken at 11:46 a.m. EDT and provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows Hurricane Milton in the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Florida, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024.

a public update.

Likewise, Pasco County officials told residents it was "time to ride out the storm where you are" and to expect that emergency workers would not be able to respond to calls for several hours during the storm.

Milton, which has fluctuated in intensity as it approaches Florida, was a Category 3 hurricane Wednesday afternoon. It was expected to remain a hurricane after hitting land and plowing across the state, including the heavily populated Orlando area, through Thurs-

day. Tampa Bay, near the top of a long stretch of coastline that could be in the bull's-eye, has not taken a direct hit from a major hurricane in more than a century.

"That doesn't mean that it couldn't happen," said Luisa Meshekoff, who nevertheless was staying

put with her partner and eight cats in their home, a brick warehouse in a mandatory evacuation zone in Tampa's Channel District. The couple considered leaving but felt bringing the cats to a shelter wasn't an option, and they worried that getting stuck on the roads could be dangerous.

"I think if you have water and batteries, everything's OK," Meshekoff said. "I could be singing a different tune by 2 in the morning."

Milton threatened communities still reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton's winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage. With the storm weaker but growing in size, the surge was projected to reach as high as 12 feet (3.6 meters) in Tampa Bay and up to 13 feet (4 meters) farther south, between Sarasota and Fort Myers.

Jackie Curnick said she wrestled with her decision to stay and hunker down at home in Sarasota. But with a 2-year-old son and a baby girl due Oct. 29, Curnick and her husband thought it was for the best.

Curnick said they started packing Monday to evacuate, but they couldn't find any available hotel rooms, and the few they came by were too expensive.

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How to stay bright when the day grows dim?

As the days shorten and the sunlight decreases, it's easy for us to feel our moods dip. Winter can bring long, cold stretches, less time outdoors and a sadder atmosphere; many are familiar with the winter blues, when we are feeling a bit more tired, less motivated and even a little sad.

But it doesn't have to be this way. With a few small changes to our habits and mindset, we can make the colder months a lot more manageable and even find joy during this season.

First, we need to prioritize getting outside. It may seem counter-intuitive when it's freezing, but fresh air and natural light have powerful benefits.

Even on a cloudy day, outdoor light is brighter and more beneficial than artificial indoor lighting.

By taking advantage of the daylight, whether through a short walk between classes or a weekend hike, we can give our bodies the light they desire to maintain energy.

Let's make the most of indoor spaces when we can't make it outside. Our campus has cozy lounges, libraries and MavPods where we can gather with friends or catch up on homework.

Using these spaces helps us avoid the cold and keeps us connected to others, which is essential for maintaining a positive mood. Social isolation often worsens during winter, but by planning study groups, movie nights or grabbing coffee with a friend, we can help fight that sense of isolation.

Physical activity is another crucial factor. It's tempting to stay under the covers and binge-watch TV when it's dark and cold. However, regular exercise can be one of the best tools for staying happy and healthy during the winter.

Whether it's hitting the gym, doing yoga in the residential community space or participating in intramural sports, moving our bodies releases endorphins, which naturally boost our mood and energy levels.

We should also remember to be kind to ourselves. Winter can be a tough time, but we must acknowledge our feelings and give ourselves grace. If we're feeling low, we can contact campus counseling services or talk to a friend. There's no shame in seeking help when needed and support is always available.

Finally, let's embrace the season. While we may miss the sunshine, winter has its own magic, especially in Minnesota.

Cozying up with a good book, watching the snow fall or drinking hot cocoa with friends are simple pleasures that only come this time of year. By focusing on the positives, we can shift our mindset and make winter a time of peace and connection.

Winter will come and go, but with the right approach, we can make sure our happiness stays strong. Let's face it together and brighten up even the darkest days!

Perspectives

Why Not Today? The hate said to us



The Associated Press

Trigger warning: This column contains uncensored examples of threats made against LGBTQ people.

"Fuck yourself" was the start of the subject to an email I once received in response to an article I wrote for the Reporter on the presentation on the intersection between neurodivergence and LGBTQ identity.

Here is the unedited body of the email.

You animals need to be beaten within an inch of your life for forcing your woke Neurodiversity faggotry down my fucking throat. Animals like you should be skinned alive and thrown into a river for the fish to feast. you fags force your diversity faggots down my fucking throat for nothing, but a paycheck. You aren't worthy of life and should be hanged. You don't fucking speak for me. The article that spawned this email is here:



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

The email ended with a link to the aforementioned article on neurodivergence.

It was not the first time I have been threatened for being queer. One particularly memorable moment involved someone threatening to throw me out of a second-story window.

Threats against LGBTQ people here in Mankato have a long history going all the way back to the days of LGBTQ activist Jim Chalgren.

In an interview Chalgren

gave to to Q Monthly, he said, "It was routine to get a death threat at least once a week, something like, 'Fags should die' or 'I should come over and slit your throat right now. I know who you are and where you live.' When we started the Office of Alternative Lifestyles, people would do scary stuff, like take a knife and cut a swastika into notices or write 'Death to Fags' in magic marker across everything."

At the same time, according to Morally Straight by Mike De Socio, Scott Vance received death threats after speaking out publicly for being kicked out of the Mankato Police Explorers Post.

One member of the Mankato faculty told me she had once had someone write the phrase "[faculty member] is a dyke and deserves to die" in an elevator in the building where she worked. She also describes receiving angry

COLUMN on page 5▶

Pulse

"What is something you find underrated?"

Compiled by Nathanael Tilahun



ABEL KASSA,
SOPHOMORE

"Pepsi."



KACI THURER
GRAD STUDENT

"Flossing."



AJ MARTIN,
JUNIOR

"One republic."



ERIN JAQUETTE,
GRAD STUDENT

"Hurricane Milton."



JOHN MANTOR,
SENIOR

"Physics."



ABLI KASSA,
SENIOR

"Pineapple on pizza."

Nobel Prize in chemistry honors 3 scientists who used AI to design proteins



IAN CHAYDON • The Associated Press

American biochemist David Baker speaks to reporters at his home, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, in Seattle.

By CHRISTINA LARSON, KELVIN CHAN & MANUEL VALDES
The Associated Press

Three scientists who discovered powerful techniques to decode and even design novel proteins — the building blocks of life — were awarded the Nobel Prize in chemistry Wednesday. Their work used advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence, and holds the potential to transform how new drugs and other materials are made.

The prize was awarded to David Baker, a biochemist at the University of Washington in Seattle, and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, computer scientists at Google DeepMind, a British-American artificial intelligence research laboratory based in London.

Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said the award honored research that unraveled “a grand challenge in chemistry, and in particular in

biochemistry, for decades.”

“It’s that breakthrough that gets awarded today,” he said.

Proteins are complex molecules with thousands of atoms that twist, turn, loop and spiral in a countless array of shapes that determine their biological function. For decades, scientists have dreamed of being able to efficiently design and build new proteins.

Baker, 62, whose work has received funding from the National Institutes of Health since the 1990s, created a computer program called Rosetta that helped analyze information about existing proteins in comprehensive databases to build new proteins that don’t exist in nature.

“It seems that you can almost construct any type of protein now with this technology,” said Johan Åqvist of the Nobel committee.

Hassabis, 48, and Jumper, 39, created an artificial intelligence model that has predicted the structure of virtually all the 200 million proteins that researchers

have ever identified.

The duo “managed to crack the code. With skillful use of artificial intelligence, they made it possible to predict the complex structure of essentially any known protein in nature,” Linke said.

The ability to custom design new proteins — and better understand existing proteins — could enable researchers to create new kinds of medicines and vaccines.

It could also allow scientists to design new enzymes to break down plastics or other waste materials that would neutralize pollution, Baker told a news conference, or even come up with entirely new material for semi conductors.

“I think there’s fantastic prospects for making better medicines — medicines that are smarter, that only work in the right time and place in the body,” Baker told The Associated Press.

One example is a potential nasal spray that could slow or stop the rapid spread of specific viruses, such as COVID-19, he said.

◀COLUMN from page 4 threatening phone calls that only stopped after the school gave her an answering machine so she could screen her calls.

In 1993, in response to a letter to the editor of The Reporter, a lesbian was the target of flyers posted around campus that contained her name, address and telephone number and urged people to call her in the middle of the night.

The flyers headline read, “Does This Lesbian’s Viewpoints Make YOU Angry??”

Starting in 1994, a group calling itself Zero Tolerance would leave a large number of homophobic flyers around MSU Campus. During this time period, two bomb threats made against LGBTQ events

on campus would be associated with Zero Tolerance.

In 2018 two lesbian couples in St. Peter were the targets of angry letters that included graphic death threats and a slew of hateful rhetoric.

“We need to eliminate your FAGGOT ASS, all of you! You never know...your house could be torched, a gun could be used to eliminate you, you just never know, you God Damn FAGGOTS,” read one of those letters.

Two of these threats have contained threats of mass violence. In addition to the bomb threats connected to Zero Tolerance, a threat to commit a mass shooting at Mankato’s pridefest was also made in the St. Peter letters.

I have sometimes wondered what would happen if the person or persons behind these threats was actually identified and caught. What can I say to someone so cowardly as to hide behind a digital maze? So disgusting that they threaten peoples’ kids?

What kind of personality would give birth to such a black soul of hatred?

Why do you so hate people who have never harmed you?

I have written this column for the purposes of educating people as to the scope of homophobic hatred that can exist in any community. I understand that including these threats might have made it a difficult read but it was nevertheless a necessary one.

Trump offers prayers for people in hurricane’s path after lashing out

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, WILL WEISSERT & JILL COLVIN
The Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump offered his prayers to those in the path of Hurricane Milton as it began to lash Florida while continuing to insult his rival, Vice President Kamala Harris, and other women — saying he had no interest in stopping even if it turned off female voters.

“I don’t want to be nice,” Trump said at his first of two rallies of the day in the pivotal battleground state of Pennsylvania. “You know, somebody said, ‘You should be nicer. Women won’t like it.’ I said, ‘I don’t care.’”

Trump kept up his campaign schedule even as the storm threatened to overshadow the presidential race with fears that it would cause catastrophic damage in Tampa and other parts of Florida’s Gulf Coast. Harris was to fly to Nevada later Wednesday for a western campaign swing, but first attended a briefing on the storm and the federal response that President Joe Biden received at the White House.

Speaking in Scranton, Pennsylvania, Trump lobbed personal insults at Harris — calling her “grossly incompetent” and “totally ill-equipped to do the job of being President of the United States” — and went after one of the hosts of ABC’s “The View,” which Harris appeared on Tuesday.

He called Sunny Hostin, who is Black and Latina, “dumber than Kamala.”

“That is one dumb woman. Sorry. I’m sorry, women, she’s a dummy,” he said of Hostin, who had asked Harris if there was anything she would have done differently than Biden over the last four years. Harris replied that “not a thing comes to mind” — a line the Trump campaign has seized on as it tries to paint her as nothing more than a continuation of Biden’s unpopular presidency in the race’s final stretch.

In a Tuesday social media post, Trump had said Harris was “being exposed as a ‘dummy’” and called the hosts of the daytime talk show “degenerates.”

He will appear in Reading, Pennsylvania, later on Wednesday, where he is expected to talk about the economy and immigration in a city that is two-thirds Hispanic.

Hurricane Milton has already disrupted the campaign, just two weeks after Hurricane Helene devastated large swaths of the Southeast. Trump, who moved to Florida after he left the White House, postponed a virtual event Tuesday night focused on health care and postponed a Univision town hall that was supposed to happen in Miami.

Harris has her own Univision town hall planned for Thursday in Las Vegas before returning to Arizona for her second visit to both states in less than two weeks.

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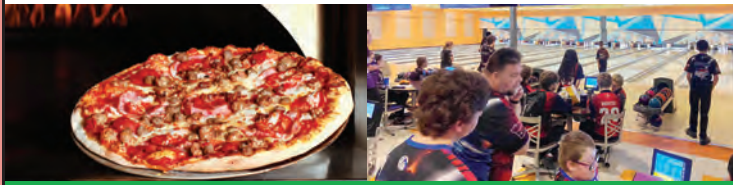
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SPORTS

Napheesa Collier leads Lynx back to the WNBA Finals

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

After the Minnesota Lynx soundly defeated the Connecticut Sun in a winner-take-all game to advance to the WNBA Finals, Napheesa Collier carried her 2-year-old daughter with her to the podium for the postgame interview.

The session was only a few seconds old when Mila, who got to stay up late on this monumental night, grew restless and was whisked away by her dad, Collier's husband, Alex Bazzell. Despite her toddler's protest and repeated cries to return to mom's arms, Collier remained cool and collected — just like she is on the court.

"What makes Phee special is the consistency and the way she shows up every single day," Lynx coach Cheryl Reeve said. "Phee is always the same: her work ethic, her demeanor, her passion for improving. She's improved every season. She's just been incredible, and every game it's more than scoring how she helps our team."

Collier's performance in Game 5 of the semifinals on Tuesday was simply vintage Collier. She had 27 points on 10-for-16 shooting, 11 rebounds, four assists, four blocks and one steal in 37 minutes to lead

the 88-77 victory that sent Minnesota to the finals for the first time since winning its fourth title in 2017. The Lynx will face the New York Liberty in Game 1 on Thursday.

"She's a great player. She made plays on both sides of the ball. She led her team all night. She was aggressive," said Connecticut's DeWanna Bonner, who was frequently matched up with Collier at the power forward spot. "She's been having a great year all year, so I didn't see that stopping this game. When she's in rhythm, it's tough to stop."

Finishing fifth in the league in scoring and third in rebounding as Collier did during the regular season is a remarkable feat. Factor in her WNBA Defensive Player of the Year award, and this is a true generational player in an era of the league when the star power has never been higher. But what sets Collier apart is how humble and unassuming she is, traits she possessed long before she became a mom and took most of the 2022 season off.

She's a renaissance woman off the court, an Olympian with Team USA who has partnered with her former college teammate and current Liberty star Breanna Stewart to found a 3-on-3 league, Unrivaled, that is scheduled to begin competition



ABBIE PARR • The Associated Press

Minnesota Lynx forward Napheesa Collier, center, celebrates with teammates after the 88-77 win against the Connecticut Sun of Game 5 of a WNBA basketball semifinals, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, in Minneapolis.

in January and pay six-figure salaries with equity stakes for players. Still, Collier is often one of the WNBA's more overlooked stars, having never been this far in the playoffs before and not playing for one of the league's marquee teams.

"I've played with so many great players, and Phee is so different, it's crazy," Lynx point guard Courtney Williams said. "She is so coachable, from anybody. It does not matter. She just wants to be great. She shows up every day in her humility and

the way she talks to people and the way she carries herself, it's actually insane. Like this girl's a bona fide superstar. They don't act like that. A lot of superstars do not act like that, and the way she shows up and she cares, it's different."

Travis Kelce to pursue showbiz career, football comes first

By ALICIA RANCILIO
The Associated Press

Travis Kelce plays a flirty nurse with swagger on FX's series "Grottesquerie," landed a cameo in "Happy Gilmore 2", and hosts a new game show.

If Hollywood's calling, he'll take the meeting — with one caveat. Football comes first.

"I still love coming in to work, getting after it, and chasing championships," said the Kansas City Chiefs tight end over Zoom. "That's what I've always dreamt of doing. But in the off-season, I do like to dabble around."

He wants to see where he's most comfortable adding, "I think you'll see me continue to find my lane."

On Oct. 16, Kelce debuts as the host of "Are You Smarter than a Celebrity?" on Prime Video.

Adult contestants answer elementary-level questions as celebrities like comedians Ron Funches and Nikki Glaser, "Vanderpump Rules" cast member Lala Kent, or former football player Chad "Ocho Cinco" Johnson help with the answer.

The final question is from the

6th grade and worth \$100,000.

Growing up, Kelce would regularly watch game shows with his older brother Jason, a former center for the Philadelphia Eagles.

They were big fans of Nickelodeon's "Double Dare" and "Legends of the Hidden Temple" plus classics like "Family Feud" and "Price Is Right."

"When it was time for 'Jeopardy!,' he says their dad, Ed, 'stole the remote and took over the room.'"

In an interview, Kelce spoke more about the show, his first love of football — but sorry Swifties, didn't discuss his relationship with Taylor Swift. Answers have been edited for clarity and length.

AP: What was the hardest part about hosting a game show?

KELCE: Taking control of the atmosphere was probably the biggest challenge. You have to make sure that everybody understands the rules and where they're at in the game.

AP: You're used to playing high-energy football. There is a lot of waiting on sets and repetitive takes. Was the change of pace a challenge?

KELCE: It's a completely



ADAM ROSE • The Associated Press

Travis Kelce, of the Kansas City Chiefs, on the set of the new game show "Are You Smarter Than a Celebrity" to air on Prime Video.

different world, 100%. I had to pick and choose when I had caffeine. Typically, I just drink it in the morning and I keep it going but I had to space it out throughout the day so I had the same energy all day long.

AP: Have you watched any of the episodes yet? If so, what did you think?

KELCE: I'll definitely watch but I'm actually terrified of watching myself in situations like this but I'll turn it on to critique myself. I'm my own worst

critic. I can only see the bad that I do in anything, even on the football field.

AP: Which subject on the show would you have the hardest time with?

KELCE: There's an astronomy category. I didn't know anything about that and I still don't. On top of that, I didn't even know that was taught in elementary school.

AP: You co-host a popular podcast with your brother. Has that success given you more

confidence as a personality, so-to-speak?

KELCE: I've always been genuinely myself. I think I get that from my parents and my upbringing. Just be confident in who you are, knowing that you live by good ethics, good morals, good judgment and things like that. I also had a whole lot of fun hosting "SNL" a few years ago and I think that kind of catapulted me into where I am.

AP: Who is a celebrity you'd like to see on "Are You Smarter than a Celebrity?"

KELCE: My brother Jason would absolutely kill it on this show. Without a doubt if there's one person I would recommend for it, it's definitely Jason. He would have fun and have some creative answers even if he didn't know the real answer.

AP: Football question. Did you ever want to play another position other than tight end?

KELCE: I'm a quarterback at heart. I can't throw anymore but I loved having the ball in my hands every single play. Over the course of my career, I've found that tight end just kind of suits my athleticism and my mentality better. I'm not a guy that likes to live by a lot of rules or have a lot of parameters and you need that to be a quarterback.

2 teams suing NASCAR ask court to recognize them as chartered



BUTCH DILL • The Associated Press

Bob Jenkins, owner of Front Row Motorsports and Co-Owner Michael Jordan, of 23XI Racing, pose before a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway, Sunday, Oct. 6, 2024, in Talladega, Ala.

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

The two teams suing NASCAR asked a judge for a preliminary injunction Wednesday so they can compete next season under the charter system they are challenging as their antitrust case moves through federal court.

23XI Racing, which is owned by Michael Jordan, veteran driver Denny Hamlin and Curtis Polk, and Front Row Motorsports, owned by Bob Jenkins, sued NASCAR and chairman Jim France last week in the Western District of North Carolina. The two teams accused NASCAR of being “monopolistic bullies” after refusing to sign new charters proposed by the stock car series.

The charter system is a revenue-sharing model that is similar to a franchise in other professional sports. Although charters can be sold and leased, the charters have contractually binding terms, expiration dates and can be revoked by NASCAR. Teams fought to have them made permanent but NASCAR would not consider the issue and the newest extension runs through 2031.

23XI and Front Row allege in their suit that the agreement that goes into effect next season limits competition by unfairly binding teams to the series, its tracks and its suppliers. 23XI and Front Row were the only two organizations out of 15 that refused to sign; almost every other team has said they signed on deadline only because NASCAR threatened to do away with the charter system entirely.

A hearing was set for Oct. 16 in federal court in Charlotte. NASCAR was also ordered to respond to the motion for expedited discovery by Friday

and respond to the motion for the preliminary injunction on Monday.

23XI and Front Row have hired Jeffrey Kessler, a top antitrust attorney who has represented the players in all four major professional North American sports. Kessler told The Associated Press that the two teams would sign the 2025 agreements if they receive a court order that would release them from a clause that prohibits teams from suing NASCAR.

“A court order will prevent (NASCAR) from enforcing that release term, and that way we can compete with the charters while we litigate against you going forward,” Kessler said. “We would sign them if they cannot enforce the antitrust release. If we don’t win the motion, then (the teams) will have to compete open.”

Jenkins told AP that the two teams stand to miss out on \$45 million in combined revenue if they compete as un-chartered teams. But, he’s willing to do so for Front Row because he believes the case against NASCAR is winnable.

“We’re pretty confident about this lawsuit or we wouldn’t be doing it,” Jenkins said. “There’s a lot of money out there. I’m hoping NASCAR won’t fight the injunction and we can move forward.”

Polk, who is Jordan’s long-time right-hand man and part of the 23XI ownership group, told AP he hoped Wednesday’s filing “highlights for Cup teams, their drivers, employees, sponsors and fans how restrictive is the economic system that we operate under.”

“The system is what enabled a take-it-or-leave-it offer, coupled with the threat of losing our charters on September 6th,” he said.

NASCAR has not comment-

ed on the lawsuit and does not comment on pending litigation. The court filing included back-and-forth communications between 23XI and NASCAR President Steve Phelps, including a Sept. 18 letter in which he defended the charter proposal.

“It appears after 2+ years of negotiations with teams, both collectively and individually, compromise and concession on both sides up until the last minute, we firmly believe that we have come up with a document that is fair and equitable to the industry,” Phelps wrote to Jordan and Hamlin. “You suggest that NASCAR somehow has ‘monopoly power’ and that 23XI and other teams ‘depend on (NASCAR) for a competitive opportunity’ and have been presented with a ‘take-it-or-leave-it offer.’ We feel — and our attorneys have confirmed — that this contention is misplaced — and similar types of claims have already been rejected by courts.”

23XI and Front Row currently field two cars each in the elite Cup Series and have reiterated to AP they intend to compete in 2025 as three-car teams with or without the charters. Front Row in May purchased an additional charter from Stewart-Haas Racing and 23XI in August entered a purchase agreement with SHR for a charter.

Tyler Reddick of 23XI was the regular-season champion and he and Hamlin, who drives for Joe Gibbs Racing, head into Sunday’s playoff elimination race at Charlotte Motor Speedway still eligible for this year’s Cup title.

The latest filing asks for immediate access to documents and files from six NASCAR executives, three of whom are members of the series-owning France family.

Tigers blank Guardians 3-0 in ALDS, clutch hitting and strong pitching



CARLOS OSORIO • The Associated Press

Detroit Tigers’ Riley Greene hits an RBI single in the first inning during Game 3 of a baseball American League Division Series against the Cleveland Guardians.

By LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

Riley Greene and Spencer Torkelson each drove in a run, and six pitchers combined to lift the Detroit Tigers to a 3-0 win over Cleveland Guardians on Wednesday and a 2-1 lead in their AL Division Series.

The Tigers, baseball’s hottest team the past two months, will have their first chance to advance in the playoffs since 2013 on Thursday night in Game 4 at Comerica Park.

“We’re human,” Torkelson said. “We know how close we are.”

Cleveland has gone 20 straight innings without scoring since opening the series with a five-run first and a two-run sixth in its 7-0 win. Steven Kwan had three of its six hits in Game 3.

“Short sample size, obviously in the playoffs it’s a lot more magnified,” David Fry said after going 0 for 3 with two strikeouts, contributing to the team’s eight runners left on base. “I think guys have hit balls hard. Balls aren’t really falling.”

After AL Cy Young Award favorite Tarik Skubal helped Detroit shut out Cleveland in

Game 2, manager A.J. Hinch put a stream of pitchers on the mound and kept the Guardians quiet at the plate.

Detroit reliever Will Vest entered with two on and two outs in the seventh, and Fry lined to a leaping Matt Vierling at third.

“He likes to pull the ball a lot, so I was ready for anything that came my way,” Vierling said. “I didn’t have time to think. I just had to react.”

Fans were fired up all day, chanting “Let’s go Tigers!” before the first playoff pitch in Detroit since 2014, and 44,885 were in the stands for the largest crowd in Comerica Park’s 25-year history.

“This is a huge victory for us, just to see the stadium and the whole city come out for the first playoff game in a decade,” Vierling said.

Right-hander Keider Montero retired the side in order in the first, and the previously slumping Greene hit a two-out RBI single in the home half.

Brant Hurter gave up five hits in 3 1/3 innings. Beau Brieske pitched two innings and Sean Guenther got one out. Vest threw 1 1/3 innings before Tyler Holton handled the ninth.

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VARIETY

Fall Festival brings in ASL practice for Mavs

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Variety Editor

As the fall weather finally begins to cool down, the American Sign Language Club hosted a fall festival, the club's first main event of the year, in the CSU Ballroom Wednesday. Minnesota State students were invited to join and engage with other peers while having the chance to practice their sign language around members of the deaf and hard of hearing community.

Sophomore and president of the ASL Club Abby Strong shared what the planning process was like for the festival as it was organized under the guidance of assistant ASL professor Kari Sween and ASL Club historian Anna Symens.

"We had a lot of meetings to just figure out what we wanted to do. We met with Kari and Anna; she's our event coordinator, and Kari wanted an event to have people sign and practice and just have a space where everyone's welcome, and we figured out some games to play, things to keep people entertained and just have a fun time," Strong said.

Strong notes that the event is a way to help spread awareness about the deaf and hard of hearing community.

"It helps people be more aware of the deaf culture and just signing in general, just to get the word



MATT MILLER • The Reporter
The American Sign Language Club hosted a fall festival in the CSU Ballroom Wednesday where MSU students were invited to join and engage with other peers.

out for students to be able to practice their sign and be more in the community and just not in class, and help them with conversations," Strong said.

As the festival required students to do minimal talking and to instead use sign language, Strong explains how it delivers an experience in what the deaf and hard of hearing community experience go

through on a daily basis.

"It's definitely a different experience being around people who are deaf and hard of hearing, and you really have to think about your sign more. And it's so different than just being in class, being around that community, and just seeing the struggles and the difficulty that it actually is, especially as a student still learning sign, I think it helps

being around there; being around people who are deaf and hard of hearing, and to see how they interact, is different than hearing people using sign."

The festival was full of activities, from ring toss to spin the wheel to card games, that provided a peaceful and interactive atmosphere. Popcorn was also hand-

FESTIVAL on page 11

Dive into an electrifying music genre

By TINA DOLAN
Staff Writer

Experience a unique music genre when listening to Todd Clouser's A Love Electric's blend of jazz, rock and surf sounds.

On Tuesday, the band performed their exhilarating tunes at the EJ Halling Recital Hall of the Earley Center for Performing Arts.

Minnesota-raised Todd Clouser is the lead singer and guitarist of the band. He composes and creates the band's instrumental charts, but he lets bassist Aaron Cruz and drummer Hernan Hecht transform the lyrics into something that makes sense to them.

"I'm primarily the composer in the band. I write songs and charts, then give them to the other guys," said Clouser. "It's on them to interpret the music or transform the song's ideas. Songs are written in a way that is not overly defined."

Clouser describes their concerts as alive, original, and sometimes experimental.

"The audience can expect to see music that's very alive. It's a show that won't repeat itself anywhere else," said Clouser. "We will play our original music and then span from instrumental pieces to experimental moments to a certain song."

The band's music is a work of expressive art that lets the audience observe Clouser and his band's cur-



LOGAN SCHLOSSER • The Reporter
On Tuesday, Todd Clouser's A Love Electric performed their music at the EJ Halling Recital Hall of the Earley Center for Performing Arts.

rent lives in a little surf town on the Pacific Coast of Mexico. He defines their music's genre as something other but heavily influenced by jazz and rock.

"Recently, I've spent a significant amount of time in a little Pacific Coast surf town in Mexico, and we kind of have this surf-rock guitar phase of the band," said Clouser. "I think in terms of genre, jazz

and rock is where we come from, meaning that's what influences us. But, the story our music mirrors is what is happening in our lives."

Clouser says performing in front of an audience is an exciting experience. He feels that each time he gets up on stage, he gets a chance to share his passion for music with people.

"It's thrilling to play in front of

people. It was very anxiety-inducing for me when I was younger. But as time has gone by, I've overcome that," said Clouser. "Every time I perform, it is an opportunity to share what I do and connect with people by offering them something, and just by them being there, they're offering us something."

The band formed when Clouser

MUSIC on page 11

Attention to Artists: Megan Moroney

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

As I've said before, country music was never my genre of choice until last year when I became obsessed with Chase Wright. In an attempt to branch out to a few other artists, I remember seeing a vibrantly colored album on someone's Instagram post with the title "Tennessee Orange" and the artist Megan Moroney.

Admittedly, I thought the song was about some sort of fruit, but was shocked when I felt warmed to hear a slow track talking about falling in love with a guy whose college team rivaled her own. Shortly after listening to the song, I decided to listen to the rest of her discography and immediately became obsessed.

Born in Savannah, Georgia, Moroney grew up singing country covers with her father and brother and learned to play guitar at 16. In college, she switched her major from accounting to music business and moved to Nashville in the middle of 2020 to pursue music. After sending out demos to several management companies, she dropped her debut EP "Pistol Made of Roses" in July 2022. Her debut album, "Lucky," followed in March 2023.

I think what drew me most to Moroney's music wasn't the catchy beats (although they are). It was the way she told stories in her songs. Society has found ways to repeat songs about partying, sex, drugs and glamorized lifestyles over and over, and people eat that up. She writes feel-good songs that make people get up and dance, empowering songs about family and friendships and sad songs that pull on listener's heartstrings (she's dubbed herself as a "professional emo cowgirl" on her Instagram).

Throughout her story-driven songs, listeners can get a good sense of how in touch Moroney's feelings are. We feel we're witnessing Moroney's heartbreaking during the news of an ex's engagement in a small town in the ballad "Hair Salon." We're sitting in the car as she drives away from a toxic relationship in "Mustang or Me." Her most heartfelt song comes from her sophomore album "Am I Okay?" The sweet guitar-laden song "Heaven By Noon" is a reference to her uncle who passed away during the 9/11 attacks.

It's not just somber tracks Moroney covers. Her songs about self-esteem and empowerment are the perfect balance of a gentle hug and a best friend hyping her girls up. "Girl in the Mirror" brings personal experience of putting herself down to make a guy feel better. The last line reminds girls to not "love the boy more than you love the girl in the mirror." When she gets

ARTIST on page 12

Riley Keough felt a duty to finish Lisa Marie Presley's book on Elvis



JORDAN STRAUSS • The Associated Press
Riley Keough, left, and her mother Lisa Marie Presley arrive at the 24th annual ELLE Women in Hollywood Awards on Oct. 16, 2017, in Los Angeles.

By KAITLYN HUAMANI
The Associated Press

Riley Keough was quick to agree to help complete her mother's memoir. She thought they'd write it together, reflecting on her extraordinary upbringing and life, but it became a much greater responsibility after Lisa Marie Presley's sudden death in 2023.

Finishing the task her mother — the only child of Elvis and Priscilla Presley and a recording artist in her own right — had started years earlier elicited "all kinds of emotions," Keough said in an interview with The Associated Press ahead of the book's release Tuesday.

"It just felt like a kind of a duty that I had to complete for her," Keough said. "I'm just happy that it's done and that it'll be in the world and there for people to read."

"From Here to the Great Unknown" is named in a nod to the moving lyrics of Presley's "Where No One Stands Alone," a song Lisa Marie recorded as a duet with her father over 50 years after he first released it and over 40 years after his death.

The book, which is Oprah Winfrey's latest book club selection, touches on themes of "love and loss and grief and mothers and daughters and addiction," Keough said, adding it was conceived as a way for Lisa Marie to tell her story in

her own words and connect with others.

Much of the book is indeed in Lisa Marie's words, as Keough faithfully listened to recordings of her mother recounting memories and experiences both big and small. Lisa Marie wrote openly about the day her father died, her relationship with her mother, her marriage to Michael Jackson, her struggles with addiction and her son Benjamin's death in 2020, among many other parts of her life.

Although Lisa Marie's life had been tabloid fodder since days after her birth, her memoir details intimate moments at Graceland, including how she feared for Presley's health as a young girl. In the chapter titled "He's Gone," she wrote that as a child, she often worried about her father dying and even wrote a poem with the line "I hope my daddy doesn't die."

She also wrote that Graceland became a "free-for-all" the day of Presley's death in 1977, with those at the house taking jewelry and personal items "before he was even pronounced dead."

Lisa Marie's frank writing extends into the section focused on her headline-making marriage to Jackson from 1994 to 1996. She wrote that Jackson confessed his love for her while she was still married to Keough, and that him wanting to have children with her, along

with his increasing reliance on prescription medications, is what fractured their relationship.

Keough said hearing her mother's voice in the recordings was at times "heartbreaking," but she enjoyed listening to happy memories, like how her parents met and fell in love. Keough is one of two children Lisa Marie had with her first husband, musician Danny Keough, along with their late son Benjamin.

"It makes me want to tell everyone to talk to their parents and record them telling all the stories about how they met and all these things because it's just very cool to have," she said.

Keough's role was to fill in parts of Lisa Marie's story that she hadn't gotten to before her death in January 2023 from a small bowel obstruction caused by bariatric surgery she had years prior. Some of those gaps included lighter moments and happy memories from her mother's adult life.

"Until my mom's addiction, really, which was when I was 25, I think we would all say that we had a really beautiful and exceptionally lucky and wonderful life," Keough said. "I wouldn't define our lives, collectively, as a tragedy. I think that there is so much more."

And while those funnier, lighthearted moments, like Lisa Marie zipping through Graceland on her golf cart and Keough playing,

◀FESTIVAL from page 10

ed out and despite students being recommended to communicate in ASL, interpreters were provided for those who needed it and

Sophomore MiCayden Schmitz and freshman Ava Koens attended together and shared their thoughts on the festival.

"I thought it was really fun. I was a little nervous since this is my first semester of ASL, but it's nice to learn more signs that I've never seen before. I would say the wheel was pretty fun. I got to answer questions and I got them right," Schmitz said.

"I thought it was really fun. I

was nervous too, but it was very inclusive and a lot of different activities to engage in with others," Koens said.

Having enjoyed their time at the event, both Schmitz and Koens shared that they would like to see more events like the fall festival in the later year.

"I think it would be fun. I would definitely attend and hopefully talk to more people than what I did," Schmitz said.

"It would be fun to do different events and keep continuing to go," Koens said.

American Sign Language is overall a significant part of the lives of the deaf and hard of hearing

community but it can also mean something greater as Strong says ASL can be just as important to hearing individuals as it is to the deaf community.

"It's good just to be aware of the deaf culture and to be able to have that communication. And I feel like the deaf culture is more of a community, and it's a thing to be a part of, and it means more than just signing, and it's more than just a way of communicating," Strong said. "I feel like it's more of a family and a community, and everyone's supported, everyone's welcome, everyone's very understanding, no matter what level of sign you're at, and everyone's just encouraged."

Sean 'Diddy' Combs seeks trial next April or May on charges



JORDAN STRAUSS • The Associated Press
Music mogul and entrepreneur Sean "Diddy" Combs arrives at the Billboard Music Awards, May 15, 2022, in Las Vegas.

By LARRY NEUMEISTER
The Associated Press

Sean 'Diddy' Combs wants to go to trial on sex trafficking charges next spring, lawyers for the jailed hip-hop mogul told a judge on Wednesday.

His preference for a trial in April or May was mentioned in a joint letter in which his lawyers and prosecutors advised a judge about what they expect to discuss at a hearing on Thursday in Manhattan federal court. Prosecutors said they will be available for trial but did not specify when they want it to occur.

Combs, 54, has been locked up since his Sept. 16 arrest on charges alleging that he has physically and sexually abused women for years. He has pleaded not guilty.

The indictment alleges Combs coerced and abused women with the aid of a network of associates and employees, while using black-

mail and violent acts including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings to keep victims from speaking out.

His lawyer, Marc Agnifilo, has said prosecutors are seeking to criminalize consensual sex that his client has engaged in.

He has said Combs plans to clear his name at trial.

The letter submitted to Judge Arun Subramanian, who is expected to preside over the trial, contained no mention of continued detention without bail for Combs after two other judges in separate proceedings concluded that no bail conditions could ensure the community would be protected if Combs was released.

Late Tuesday, lawyers for Combs asked the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan in court papers to reverse the detention orders and permit his release pending trial.

◀MUSIC from page 10

moved to Los Cabos, Mexico, in his early 20s to teach music at an international school. While in Mexico City, he met musicians Aaron Cruz and Hernan Hecht and they began playing together.

"As I was teaching and playing, I would go to Mexico City, where I met Aaron Cruz, a Mexican bass player, and Hernan Hecht, an Ar-

gentine drummer. They were like pillars of the creative music scene in Mexico," said Clouser. "We started playing together, and it was obvious from the beginning that I had to explore this trio and committed to that."

Check out Todd Clouser's A Love Electric's music at toddclouser.com, iTunes, or any music streaming service.

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Next Met Gala theme and celebrity chairs announced



The Associated Press
Photos show A\$AP Rocky, Colman Domingo, Lewis Hamilton, LeBron James and Pharrell Williams, who will serve as co-chairs for the next Met Gala.

By JOCELYN NOVECK
The Associated Press

The theme of the next Met Gala and its celebrity chairs have been announced: Pharrell Williams, Lewis Hamilton, Colman Domingo, A\$AP Rocky and LeBron James will help the museum launch an exhibit examining Black style in menswear over the centuries.

Williams and Hamilton were on hand Wednesday morning to help officials at the Metropolitan Museum of Art announce “Superfine: Tailoring Black Style,” the spring exhibit that will be launched by the Met Gala on May 5. A precise dress code for the star-studded gala — tailored specifically to the exhibit’s theme — will be announced early next year.

And this one’s for the guys: It’s the first fashion exhibit at the Met in over 20 years to focus exclusively on menswear, which explains the almost all-male slate of hosts. (Vogue editor Anna Wintour, who oversees the gala each year, rounds out the list of co-chairs.)

Hamilton, the Formula 1 star, gave poignant remarks on how fashion became a way of expressing his identity.

When he was young, Hamilton said, “I was forced to conform. From my daily routine down to what I wore. My routine was rigid. And as the only Black kid on the racing track, there was no one like me to look up to.”

◀ARTIST from page 10

back into a healthy relationship, she questions if she’s OK on her self-titled sophomore album track, recalling her nights of sadness to get to where she is.

Other self-esteem songs Moroney writes have a bite to them such as “I Love Me” and “I’m Not Pretty.” The former song off her EP tells her haters to “find somethin’ else to drink” if she’s not their cup of tea, and that she loves herself no matter what. The latter is a tongue-in-cheek track targeted at the mean girls who “pass the phone around like there’s nothing better to talk about” by over analyzing and judging her via social media to feel better about themselves.

The sadness has to eventually fade away, even if just for a bit, as Moroney’s upbeat records sound like the staple of small-town bars. The self-titled track on her debut album has touches of ’90s country a la Shania Twain, full of two-steps, piano and guitar solos and an addictive chorus. “Man on the Moon” is a boot-scooting boogie about sending a man to the moon after playing with Moroney’s heart, com-

Later in life, he said, “I started to express myself more creatively and more specifically, through fashion. Finding my identity in how I dressed. This was a huge positive change.”

“I know the power of representation and how fashion can be a vehicle to help push diversity forward and celebrate our differences,” Hamilton added. “I’m excited to celebrate Black history ... and to show that inclusion and creativity go hand in hand.”

Museum director and CEO Max Hollein said the exhibit, which will run for six months — more than previous Met fashion exhibits — would explore “the importance of sartorial style to the formation of Black identities in the Atlantic diaspora,” and would celebrate “the power of style as a democratic tool for rejecting stereotypes and accessing new possibilities.” He noted it was inspired by a book, “Slaves to Fashion: Black Dandyism and the Styling of Black Diasporic Identity” by Monica L. Miller (a Barnard professor and guest curator of the show).

Williams, who among his many pursuits is menswear creative director for Louis Vuitton, began by paying homage to the artists responsible for the pyramids in Egypt, and spoke broadly of the power of art.

“To me art is an expression of our humanity. It’s where we store our history, it’s how we tell our stories, and the literal manifestation of our dreams,” Williams said.

plete with convincing him “there’s a bar up there/and blondes for days.”

If that doesn’t convince him, Moroney takes matters into her own hands with “He Made Me Do It,” a sultry song about revenge. Moroney’s storytelling is at her best with “Another on the Way,” a banjo and drum-packed tale of a woman named Miss Daisy who runs a small-town bar. She tells Moroney men are like trains: “If you miss one, there’s another on the way.” The call-and-response in the bridge builds to a powerful last chorus, telling listeners everything will turn out okay.

Megan Moroney should be every girl’s country girl. I blast her music and sing along to every word as I drive down the interstate because I can’t help but be moved by her work. Her music is like the friend everyone should aspire to have: sweet, witty, powerful and fun. Her blend of Southern rock, country and pop with reminiscences of the country queens before her is refreshing and addictive, cementing her status as country’s newest “it girl.”

Broadway’s lights will dim for actor Gavin Creel

By MARK KENNEDY
The Associated Press

All of Broadway’s marquee lights will dim to honor the life of Gavin Creel following an outcry by theater fans when only a partial dimming was proposed after the 48-year-old Tony Award-winner’s death last month.

The Committee of Theatre Owners on Wednesday said all 41 Broadway theaters would dim their lights on separate nights for Creel, Adrian Bailey and Maggie Smith. The committee also said it was “reviewing their current dimming policy and procedures.”

The death of Creel on Sept. 30 put the spotlight on the practice of dimming marquee lights after a notable theater figure has died. While giants in the field get all of Broadway theaters dark for a minute, lesser figures may only have partial dimming.

Creel’s death prompted the Committee of Theatre Owners to decide that one theater from every theater owner would dim their lights. An online petition demand-



SETH WENIG • The Associated Press
Actor Gavin Creel poses for a picture in New York on April 23, 2009. Creel died Monday of a rare and aggressive form of cancer. He was 48.

ing all theaters participate was signed by over 23,000 people.

Actors’ Equity, which represents thousands of performers and stage managers, expressed their concern, saying “everyone who receives the tribute deserves the full tribute.” Playwright Paula Vogel said not dimming all the lights was a “travesty to this brilliant actor who put

money in pockets and joy in audiences.”

Creel was a Broadway musical theater veteran who won a Tony for “Hello, Dolly!” opposite Bette Midler and earned nominations for “Hair” and “Thoroughly Modern Millie.”

Partial dimming in the past has been enacted for theater producer.



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