

'MODERN COLONIAL CONFLICT'

A year of atrocities,
hurt and hope for
Palestine

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

The words "Are you still alive?" should never have to be spoken during a phone call. For sophomore Salem Abuatiya, it's a typical conversation starter for a friend who still lives in Palestine.

"One of my friends is a doctor and I used to call him often to check in on him, but it's not a good feeling to keep asking him if he's alive still," Abuatiya said.

Abuatiya said he tries to keep a positive outlook for his friends and family, but it isn't always easy.

"Sometimes it's not easy to think 'Oh, I left them there to die while I'm somewhere safe. If I stayed there, at least I could have died with them,'" Abuatiya said. "I also feel being in America and telling our stories helps because at least I have a mission here."

Oct. 7 marked one year since the Hamas attack on Israel which then sparked a genocide in Palestine, killing thousands and displacing millions. Director of the Kessel Peace Institute and Associate Professor of History Jameel Haque said the conversation around the discussion of Palestine has disappeared from national conversations along with U.S. taxpayers contributing to funding the genocide.

While smaller news organiza-



Courtesy Mavericks for Change

Minnesota State students march for the protest to bring attention to the current issues in Palestine. The posters indicate "Free Gaza," "Eyes On Palestine, Sudan, Congo" and "No Genocide."

tions have continued coverage in Palestine, Haque said he feels larger news companies censor how they talk about Israel and Palestine.

"This isn't a religious conflict at its core. This isn't an age-old hatred. This is a modern, nationalist colonial conflict," Haque said. "It's detrimental to a greater understanding of what the situation actually is."

Abuatiya said he's "very mad" at how news outlets are "making

America try to be the hero" and inaccurately representing Palestinians in news coverage through generalizations.

"They're saying 'Oh, there's no genocide. All of Gaza is Hamas' and 'Israel is allowing some food into Gaza. Look how kind those people are! They're slaughtering and bombing them, but still, look how kind those people are,'" Abuatiya said.

Mavericks for Change Plan-

ning Committee Member Jordan Muller said the media is not covering the events of what's happening in Palestine that would be "ground-breaking international news" if it happened in Israel. Muller also said the way the media uses "weaponization of the passive voice" when speaking about Palestine.

"They say 'a child in Palestine died,' not 'a child in Palestine was killed by Israeli soldiers,'" Muller

PALESTINE on page 2

Sleeping NapPods announced at Student Government

By AMALIA SHARAF
News Editor

If you're perpetually sleep-deprived, or maybe just need a good nap once in a while, Student Health Services might have just what you need.

At Wednesday's student government meeting Student Health Services Health Educator Lori Marti introduced a plan for installing several Energy NapPods on campus. The NapPods will be purchased with funds allocated to the university by the Minnesota State System.

"About three years ago, the Minnesota State System gave additional funding to our campus for mental health services and programs," said Marti. "One of the things that I'm exploring to do with this funding is to purchase one or two NapPods. Metronaps have a specific kind of NapPod called an Energy Pod, and that is what we are thinking of bringing to our campus."

Student Health Services studied Minnesota State students' sleeping habits using the data collected on campus. They found students will "benefit from naps," as about 3% of students on campus are chronically sleep-deprived. According to Marti, a short nap will provide a quick solution for sleep deprivation.

"We also know that good quality sleep is intricately tied to your mental health and your academic success," Marti said.

Marti said they are exploring two locations for NapPod installation, which are the second floor of the Memorial Library and Ford Hall. The choice of location also depends on the accessibility of the NapPods for students as the Student Health Services aim to make it available for as many students as possible.

"The Energy Pod that I'm looking at purchasing meets ADA compliance. Placement would allow enough room around it," said Marti. "They originally have two arms and the manufacturers will remove the left arm leaving the right arm, which has all the controls on it, so it will be easier to transfer for people who have mobility issues."

SLEEP on page 2

Disability Awareness Month celebrated in October

By BEN LIVINGSTONE
Staff Writer

According to the World Bank, one billion people, or 15% of the world's population, experience some form of disability. That makes people with disabilities the largest minority group in the world. The fight for the rights of that minority has been, and continues to be, a long and arduous journey. The significance of this struggle is heightened in October, which is recognized as Disability Awareness Month.

In recognition of the month, Accessibility Resources at MSU will be presenting a documentary called "Defiant Lives" over the course of three weeks. The 2017 documentary, which was written and directed by Sarah Barton, shares the accounts of disability rights activists and goes over the history of the movement. The documentary's website describes the film as fea-



Courtesy Beth Claussen

Protest organized to bring awareness to the disability issues. The person on the photo brings the poster indicating "Inaccessible Transport Sucks."

turing "interviews with more than 30 of the leading activists of the past 40 years, plus more than 600 pieces of archival footage and pho-

tographs sourced from around the globe. The story is supported by a stirring soundtrack, which strongly places the audience emotionally at

the heart of the action." Following the 30-minute interval of the documentary showing each night, there will be time for discussion.

Beth Claussen is the director of Accessibility Resources. The office is responsible for consulting with students with disabilities and creating reasonable accommodation to remove barriers to academics, housing, programs, and activities. Claussen said the film they plan to show encapsulates the progress made by previous generations of activists and the continual fight for disability rights, including for what she calls "hidden" and "invisible" disabilities.

"There are so many different types of disabilities, and most of them are hidden disabilities, you don't think about it. ... The largest percentage of students we work with are mental health, you know, learning disabilities [like] ADHD, she said.

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LOGAN SCHLOSSER • The Reporter

Lori Marti presents the new mental health initiative for students – NapPods – which will enable an opportunity to take quick naps on campus.

◀SLEEP from page 1

To use the NapPod, students do not need to sign up ahead of time as they work in a first come, first serve fashion.

“The beauty of the Energy Pod is that there’s an indicator light on it,” said Marti. “Ideally, the instructions that students, and anyone who uses it, will get is that this is meant for a 20-minute nap. They have shown to have the most benefit.”

Users will not have to worry about setting the timer. The NapPods have a pre-programmed timer and when the 20-minutes are over, the NapPod will gently

turn on the lights while also making slightly shaking motions.

In addition, NapPods have the pre-programmed music in it, so that students can fall asleep while listening to the calming sounds. There is an option to use their own music as well.

The NapPods are semi-private. They have a dome that users can pull over for privacy.

There is also a place to store the belongings while taking a nap.

Marti did not announce the installation dates, but explained that “a lot of it depends on when we will be ready to order them.”

◀PALESTINE from page 1

said. “It’s biased and it’s entirely neglecting the reality of what’s going on in the wider situation.”

Mavericks for Change, a social justice group dedicated to raising awareness on Palestinian issues, has been involved in a number of events, ranging from protests to an encampment that took place during 2024’s graduation week. The group, along with the support of Student Government, passed a resolution in February to protect Pro-Palestinian voices on campus. Mavericks for Change President Cole Koets said while quite a few students have joined the group, he knows there is a “large swath” of students who aren’t educated on what’s going on in Palestine.

“We encourage their participation in the movement and that they go and look into the reality of the situation and fight for a cause in their time,” Koets said. “There is potential for real, genuine change in how we view our foreign policy as a country and we think Mankato students should get involved and play a role in that.”

Other college campuses across the United States have changed the way students can protest after the large rise of protests and encampments dedicated to raising awareness on Palestine.

Haque said Minnesota State could “serve as a model of what universities should be doing,” citing President Inch’s willingness to speak with students and allowing them to exercise their constitutional rights.

“We started with a movement of zero people as I was just holding up a sign in front of the CSU and we’ve built up to about 200

people who are involved with these protests and a core group of about 50 that are actively involved,” Haque said.

Abuatiya said he’s “happy” with the way MSU has allowed students to speak out about Palestine.

“MSU has been respectful of what we have done and I’m hopeful about more progress being made,” Abuatiya said.

Koets and Muller said one of the legislative goals Mavericks for Change has is to go through several university avenues, such as student government, in hopes of finding where endowment funds are going and to divest money from Israel, should MSU be funding the genocide.

As the 2024 election comes closer, people will be seeking how politicians respond to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Haque said while the Democrat and Republican parties in the past 50 to 60 years have condoned Israel’s actions, younger progressives are changing how they see the conflict.

“They’re saying “These are my tax dollars and I’m not comfortable with funding the occupation in the West Bank and attacks on Gaza,” Haque said.

Koets said he believes Americans are struggling to pick a political party to vote for based on how both parties have handled the situation.

“When parties are ignoring the humanity and opinions of young voters, they cast away a new burgeoning voting block,” Koets said.

Abuatiya said with how politicians have been handling the Palestinian genocide, it’s “like choos-

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New ResLife Director aims for collaboration

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

When students arrive on Minnesota State’s campus, they want to feel like they have a space to call their own, while being in an environment that feels like home. The new Residential Life Director Anthony Bettendorf said he wants to make MSU feel like home for students.

Before arriving at MSU at the beginning of July, Bettendorf has spent over 20 years in higher education, including his role as Director for Residential Life at Gustavus Adolphus College, the Assistant and Area Director of Housing and Residential Life at the University of Iowa and a Residence Director at the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities.

After hearing about the open position, previously run by Cindy Janney, Bettendorf said he was “jazzed” about everything he saw upon his first visit.

“When I read the job description, I saw this would give me more opportunities to do not only things I already loved doing but to do things that I maybe hadn’t done as much before and to continue to grow professionally,” Bettendorf said.

For Bettendorf, it means working with students to help them have a successful college experience and working with supportive staff.

“There’s a tremendous team of people here who care a lot about the students and want to make their experience fantastic,” Bettendorf said. “I get up every morning excited to come to work.”

Some of Bettendorf’s responsibilities include overseeing the residence educators and residen-



NATHANAEL TILAHUN • The Reporter

New Residential Life Director Anthony Bettendorf aims at creating a space for that feels like home for Minnesota State students.

tial facilities and working with the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH).

One of Bettendorf’s goals for this is to get a better handle on where Residential Life sits regarding campus and to collaborate with other departments and students.

“We’re starting to hear interests students have and hopefully the information we gather this fall will help,” Bettendorf said. “It’s important to have all of the voices and all of the stakeholders to be a part of planning.”

Feedback surveys have been sent out to students living in the dorms about changes they’d like to see happen. Bettendorf said he’s interested to see how students will react to the bathroom renovations on Crawford’s A and B halls. The renovations are turning community-style bathrooms into individual spaces with a toilet, shower and sink.

Bettendorf said while he was working at the University of Iowa they implemented a similar style of bathroom to their residence halls.

“I was excited to see those because it takes the gender out of the floors since bathrooms are separate. In Iowa, they gave us the possibility to do some different things with gender-neutral housing which is something we’ve added to our surveys to see how students would feel about that,” Bettendorf said.

Bettendorf mentioned the residence educators have helped make sure new students feel welcomed by the MSU community in the dorms.

“It’s also a lot of work done by community advisors through WoW events, the MavChats and the programs the hall directors put on to help build connections in the university,” Bettendorf said.

Despite having started work at
RESLIFE on page 5 ▶

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MINNESOTA STATE

Minnesota State University, Mankato
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People with felony records can now vote in Nebraska



NATI HARNIK • The Associated Press

Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen holds a news conference in Lincoln, Neb., Nov. 4, 2020.

By MARGERY A. BECK
The Associated Press

Nebraska's top election official had no authority to strip voting rights from people convicted of a felony, the state Supreme Court ruled Wednesday in a decision that could add hundreds of new voters to the rolls and potentially help tip the balance on Nov. 5.

The order by Republican Secretary of State Bob Evnen could have kept 7,000 or more Nebraskans from voting in the upcoming election, the American Civil Liberties Union said. Many reside in Nebraska's Omaha-centered 2nd Congressional District, where both the presidency and the makeup of Congress could be at stake.

In July, Evnen had ordered county election officials to reject voter registrations from those with felony convictions, citing an opinion from the state attorney general. That opinion, which Evnen had requested, deemed as unconstitutional a law passed this year by the Legislature immediately restoring the voting rights of those who complete the terms of their felony sentences.

"Patty and Selma at the Department of Motor Vehicles may not be constitutional scholars, but they know that they are expected to follow the law," Justice Lindsey Miller-Lerman wrote in Wednesday's ruling, using names that appear to reference the older sisters of Marge Simpson from the animated TV show "The Simpsons."

She also criticized Evnen and Attorney General Mike Hilgers

for taking it upon themselves to declare the law unconstitutional, writing, "Do we want to live in a world where every state employee who has a hunch a statute is flawed gets to ignore it?" Evnen released a statement following the ruling saying he had reversed his earlier order to county election officials. Hilgers simply said he appreciated the court's clarification.

Nebraska is heavily Republican overall but is one of two states — the other is Maine — that apportions its Electoral College votes by congressional district.

The Omaha-area district has twice awarded its one vote to Democratic presidential candidates — to Barack Obama in 2008 and again to Joe Biden in 2020.

In a 2024 presidential race shown by polling to be a dead heat, a single electoral vote could be decisive.

Registered Republicans outnumber Democrats in the district by more than 13,000 following a 2021 redrawing of the boundaries.

But the district also has nearly 114,000 independent and third-party voters. In 2020, Biden bested former President Donald Trump there by more than 22,000 votes.

Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris and Democratic groups have spent millions there to secure the precious electoral vote — far more than Trump and Republican groups.

Nebraska also has competitive races for one U.S. Senate seat and the 2nd District's U.S. House seat.

◀ **DISABILITY** from page 1

Claussen continued, "Those trailblazers who, many years ago, fought for civil rights of people with disabilities were more so people who had physical disabilities.

They did protests, and they sat on the steps off of their wheelchairs... at Washington D.C.

They really set the stage for all people with disabilities, and more and more, it's the invisible disabilities that people are recognizing that we need to continue to kind of fight for.

Presentations of the film and

subsequent discussions will take place every Thursday in October, starting on the 17th. This is all free and open to everyone.

Claussen also highlighted another way to get involved is to check out the student group AYA, or Access Your Abilities.

She says the goal of the group is to raise awareness around the disabled community and plan events to help do so. AYA is open to all people, regardless of ability.

The event is free and will be held every Thursday, starting on Oct. 17th, for the rest of the month.

Billie Jean & 100 athletes to celebrate 50th anniversary

By MELISSA MURPHY
The Associated Press

Billie Jean King started the Women's Sports Foundation with a \$5,000 check. She's turned that investment into \$100 million and a half century of helping girls and women achieve their dreams through travel and training grants, local sports programs and mentoring athletes and coaches. King will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation by honoring the 1999 U.S. women's World Cup champions, PWHL and Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Mark Walter and the 2024 WNBA rookie class on Wednesday night in New York.

"What makes me happy is creating opportunities and dreams for others," King told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "I look back and that's what drives me."

Nearly 100 female athletes will attend the awards dinner to celebrate the milestone and King, a tireless advocate for equal pay and more investment in women's sports. That includes awards host and soccer honoree Julie Foudy. She graduated from Stanford and played for the 1999 U.S. soccer team that won the World Cup before a record crowd of more than 90,000 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

"She's remained a friend and mentor and such a catalyst for changing the trajectory of women's soccer and so many sports," said Foudy, a former president of the Women's Sports Foundation and current soccer broadcaster for Turner and TNT. After the World Cup win, Foudy and the team turned to King, Donna Lopiano and Donna de Verona for advice



DAMIAN DOVARGANES • The Associated Press

Tennis great Billie Jean King speaks after being introduced as grand marshal of the 136th Rose Parade next year on the front steps of the Tournament House in Pasadena, Calif., Monday, Oct. 7, 2024

about improving pay and starting a professional soccer league.

"I'll never forget, (King) said 'What are you guys doing about it?'" said Foudy, regarding their collective leverage with the U.S. Soccer Federation. "And as players, that was the exact epiphany we needed at that moment." Foudy and the '99ers eventually witnessed the successful struggle toward equity, helping lay the foundation for the current U.S. women's national team to receive the same pay and working conditions as the men's team. A players' lawsuit against the federation resulted in a landmark \$24 million settlement in 2022.

"Billie doesn't have just one meeting. She'd check in and follow up and ask 'What do you need?'" Foudy said. "She was at that first (WUSA professional) game in Washington D.C. (in 2001) and was a big proponent of the importance of having a league and player pool for the longevity and

growth of women's soccer."

The current iteration is the NWSL, which formed in 2013 and now has 14 teams. Foudy is part of the ownership group of Angel City FC. New owners Bob Iger and Willow Bay acquired a controlling stake in the team in July, with a value of \$250 million. King recently joined forces with Mark and Kimba Walter to create the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), which will launch its second season in late November. U.S. Olympic gold medalist Kendall Coyne Schofield reached out to King to help unify the fractured pro hockey landscape into one viable league. King, who is part of the Dodgers' ownership group, collaborated with Walter to form the new six-team league.

The WNBA rookie class, led by No. 1 pick Caitlin Clark, will receive the Next Gen Award for "showing up, showing out and boldly carrying the torch forward."

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Emma Johnson
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Finding enjoyment in non-major related courses

In high school, we are required to take the classes we need in order to graduate. That varies from science, arts, math, history, writing and foreign language. This same concept is applied in college. However, some of us might either be confused, frustrated or curious as to why we need to take non-major-related courses as we first assume we'll dive right into our major and its material.

A student may be a biology major currently taking an art course. There might be some of us majoring in theater that are taking our necessary math course this semester.

And for business majors, they might consider a geology course to complete their lab. However, questions remain about why we truly have to take these courses that have to do nothing or are involved in our career paths.

Easy answer: general education courses are essential and can help us uncover our potential.

Personal growth is a key point in our journey throughout college. We can learn more about ourselves and keep an open mind whenever we take more non-major courses throughout our years. The point is to step out of our comfort zones and expand our understanding on other subjects that are unknown to us or are incredibly passionate about. We never know when we'll discover a hidden interest.

Taking classes outside your chosen major can probably help us students explore other majors and discover what we actually want to pursue. When we first enter university, most of us have decided on a major while others remain undecided.

The first two years usually serve as a period to complete general education requirements so in that time, our interest might be driven to one of the non-major courses and its subject matter.

It's not uncommon for a student to switch their major during their four years at university. It can also be a good thing to want to register for a minor when a major may not require one.

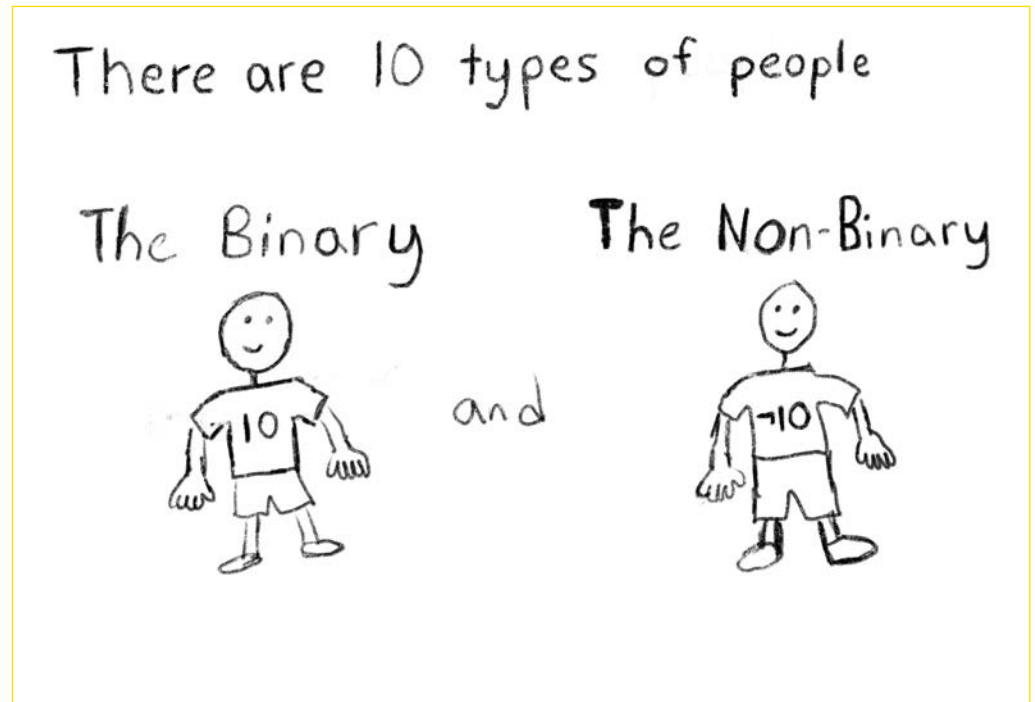
Taking non-major related courses can provide good knowledge on certain topics and help you develop a well-rounded education. You can build a background on all areas of studies and avoid being burnt out all the time. If we greatly focus on our single area of study by taking numerous courses all related to our major, it can get overwhelming and yes, even boring.

Adding a diverse non-major course to your schedule can help enhance your critical thinking and abilities, giving you balance in your academic life.

In college, we as students are offered more than the typical science, art, history and math course. We have the opportunity to possibly learn more than we did at our previous schools and outside our majors. So instead of being annoyed of having to take non-major courses, take a deep breath and embrace the opportunities these classes have to offer.

Perspectives

Why Not Today? Beyond the binary of gender and sexuality.



Courtesy Jeremy Redlien

I once had a shirt that read, "There are 10 types of people in this world. Those who understand binary and those who do not."

Yes, I am a dork.

Binaries are useful. Without binary, we would not have the complex computer systems we increasingly rely on to run our society. Not all binaries are bad.

Anyways, in recent years, the label non-binary has come into increasing vogue as a means for describing their gender identity.

I remember what I was taught in biology class as much as anyone else. That men have XY chromosomes and women have XX chromosomes and that was that. Oh yeah, and maybe someone should mention that intersex people exist.

As I've gotten older I, like many others, have come to understand that this was not entirely reflective of biology,



Jeremy Redlien
Staff Writer

much less our social reality.

It took me a while to come to understand myself as non-binary. Not even giving presentations where I talked about transgender and non-binary gender identities caused me to have a sudden epiphany.

I never felt particularly confused about it either but while I never saw myself as a woman, I never felt entirely like a man either (and all the term implied).

Beyond cisgender and transgender there are a multitude of gender identities.

Agender people are people who do not have a strong identification with either masculine or feminine traits and was the first term I felt myself identifying with.

Non-binary is an umbrella term that refers to anyone who identifies outside the gender binary.

Gender fluid people are those whose gender identity exists in a constant flux and can express a variety of gender presentations.

Of course as gender identity exists beyond a binary, so too does human sexuality exist beyond gay, straight, and bisexual.

Pansexual individuals experience sexual attraction regardless of gender identity.

Asexual people are those who do not experience sexual attraction to other people.

There are also demisexual and gray aces, which are people who experience weak

COLUMN on page 5 ▶

Pulse

"What's your favorite Halloween movie?"

Compiled by Matt Miller



HAMZA SIDDIQUI,
SENIOR

"Scary Movie."



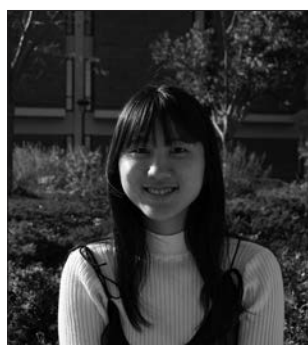
JULIE TRAN,
PSEO STUDENT

"Practical Magic."



SAL ALOISIO,
SOPHOMORE

"Night of the Living Dead."



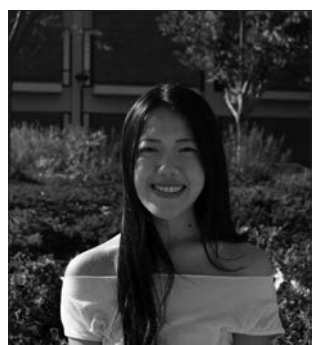
KOKORO ISHIHARA,
JUNIOR

"Coco."



MARTIN BRAHMBHATT,
FRESHMAN

"The Conjuring."



PANG THAO,
JUNIOR

"The Nightmare Before Christmas."

Archdiocese of Los Angeles agrees to pay \$880 million to victims of sexual abuse



DAMIAN DOVARGANES • The Associated Press

People attend a memorial service outside the Cathedral of Our Lady of Angels in Los Angeles, Jan. 19, 2021.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles has agreed to pay \$880 million to victims of clergy sexual abuse dating back decades, in what an attorney said was the largest single child sex abuse settlement with a Catholic archdiocese, it was announced Wednesday.

After the announcement of the agreement in principle, Archbishop José H. Gomez said in a statement, "I am sorry for every one of these incidents, from the bottom of my heart."

"My hope is that this settlement will provide some measure of healing for what these men and

women have suffered," the archbishop added. "I believe that we have come to a resolution of these claims that will provide just compensation to the survivor-victims of these past abuses."

Attorneys for 1,353 people who allege that they suffered horrific abuse at the hands of local Catholic priests reached the settlement after months of negotiations with the archdiocese, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The agreement caps a quarter-century of litigation against the most populous archdiocese in the United States. Attorneys in the Plaintiffs' Liaison Committee said in a joint statement, "While there

is no amount of money that can replace what was taken from these 1,353 brave individuals who have suffered in silence for decades, there is justice in accountability."

Under the settlement, the plaintiffs will engage in a process — that will not involve the archdiocese — to allocate the settlement amount among the participants.

The archdiocese has previously paid \$740 million to victims in various settlements and had pledged to better protect its church members, so this settlement would put the total payout at more than \$1.5 billion, the Times said.

◀ PALESTINE from page 2

ing which gun to be killed with" and he's "not hopeful" about a big change from either political party.

While the future of Palestine remains unknown, Haque said there are two outcomes: a one-state solution where "Palestinians are given basic human rights and political rights akin to the end of apartheid in South Africa" or complete genocide and expulsion of Palestinians.

"It's hard to predict which of those two outcomes is coming, but one solution is something everybody in the world should want

and one is something we should all be vehemently opposed to," Haque said.

Muller said the way he sees the future outcome of the genocide could expand to a "wider and larger" conflict worldwide.

"We are already seeing Israel get into aggressions with other nations, predominantly Lebanon, Yemen and Iran," Muller said. "It's very unfortunate that that looks like the route it's heading more than a peaceful realm."

Koets said he wants students and the greater Mankato community to know their taxpayer dollars are going to fund the Palestinian

genocide.

"\$18 billion is an unfathomable amount of money we could have been putting towards Americans who are struggling," Koets said. "The fact we are willing to finance a conflict overseas with great disregard to Americans at home is not just incredibly depressing, but indicative of the current state of politics in the United States."

Abuatiya said he just wants people to think about others and to open their eyes to what's happening.

"Open your mind," Abuatiya said. "If you open your eyes, you're going to help save lives."

◀ COLUMN from page 4

sexual attraction or require a strong emotional connection to a person before experiencing sexual attraction.

Now I have a story to share. Once when I was watching a video game streamer, someone in the comments mentioned the idea of being dreamsexual. For those who aren't aware, dreamsexual refers to only experiencing sexual attraction while asleep or dreaming.

My immediate, less than

honorable reaction was to think, "dreamsexual, man that is so silly!"

Fortunately, the less lizard part of my brain caught up and was like, "Hey! wait just a second! Who are you to be calling someone's sexuality 'silly'?"

Let me put it this way. If someone really did experience this and since they claim to, then there is no compelling reason not to believe them, then well obviously dreamsexuals exist.

Furthermore if dreamsexuals exist, what exactly about a human being simply existing is silly?

I share this story because it can be easy to dismiss queer people's existence as silly or stupid and has been a frequent strategy used by bigots to promote hatred against us.

We are queer. We are here. And our existence is not silly.

Unless we want to be silly by wearing a shirt that reads "There are 10 types of people..."

OPINION: We must stand behind science, not lies

By BEN LIVINGSTON
Staff Writer

Amid the devastation left behind hurricanes Helene and Milton, Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Green (R-Georgia) wrote on X (formerly Twitter) on Oct. 3, "Yes they can control the weather. It's ridiculous for anyone to lie and say it can't be done."

A United States Representative, one of the highest and distinct roles an individual can serve in, has just suggested human beings have control over natural disasters and weather patterns.

At face value, this post can be disregarded as nonsense and even laughable. But underneath the surface, it is emblematic of a way more dangerous trend.

Hurricane Helene and Milton survivors have been pummeled with misinformation and disinformation. The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Deanne Criswell called the issue "absolutely the worst I have ever seen." FEMA even posted a page responding to rumors surrounding the hurricanes.

Here are some of the rumors that FEMA had to fact-check as false: "FEMA will only provide \$750 to disaster survivors to support their recovery," "FEMA is blockading people in Florida and preventing evacuations," "FEMA distributes aid based on demographic characteristics," and "FEMA is in the process of confiscating Helene survivor property; If I apply for disaster assistance and my land is deemed unlivable, my property will be seized."

These lies were spread by not only outside agitators, but politicians, whose role it is to ensure the

safety of their constituents. People in the Southern United States have been given one-two punch with Hurricanes Helene and Milton. They lost homes, livelihoods, and the worst of all, friends and families. The last thing they need is those attempting to capitalize on the situation, be it to politicize the issue or spread dangerous lies.

In the instance of a natural disaster like a hurricane, people are against the clock.

Accurate, reliable, and relevant information is crucial in crafting people's emergency planning.

That information typically comes from trusted organizations such as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Weather Service (NWS), and the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Local news also serves a fundamental role, being on the front lines of these disasters.

What we do need, as active and engaged citizens, is to stand up for the truth.

Trust the scientists and professionals who have dedicated their lives to the study of weather.

Listen and share information from trusted sources like NOAA, NWS, and the NHC that have kept us safe for decades.

We should not take any falsehoods surrounding natural disasters lightly. Lives and recovery resources are on the line when gone undetected.

Not only discourage others from getting and spreading information from unverified sources, but counter it with the truth.

In sum, know where your information is coming from.

Stand up for and spread factual information from verified sources. Doing so will save lives.

◀ RESLIFE from page 2

MSU three months ago, Bettendorf said he's impressed with the passion faculty and staff have to let student's voices be heard.

"The student voice here has so much influence and sway here than I've seen at other institutions

I've worked at," Bettendorf said. "It makes it fun to work with the students on these projects."

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SPORTS

Maverick Hockey takes on UND

By REPORTER STAFF

After splitting a series with Merrimack last weekend and holding on to a top-20 ranking, the Minnesota State men's hockey team faces one of the toughest matchups of the young season this week as the University of North Dakota comes to town for a two-games series.

UND, ranked fifth in the most recent USCHO.com DI poll, has only played one game this year; the Fighting Hawks defeated Providence — at the time ranked No. 11 — 5-2 in Grand Forks. (They also dropped an exhibition game against Augustana 4-1.)

Since the 1997-98 season, the teams have met 68 times, with UND dominating the series with a 40-19-9 record.

But the Fighting Hawks haven't won in Mankato since 2013.

Minnesota State's women's team dropped a pair of games last weekend against WCHA conference foe St. Thomas. Friday's game ended up 4-3 and Saturday's game ended up 4-1. The women's team is off this week. Their next action is Oct. 25-26 at Minnesota.



TROY YANG • The Reporter

The Mavericks will take on the UND Fighting Hawks. UND has not won a game in Mankato since 2013.

Volleyball team facing challenging week

By REPORTER STAFF

A tough pair of matches in the next few days is on tap for Minnesota State's volleyball team.

MSU, which holds a 13-3 overall record (5-3 in Northern Sun conference play) first travels to Sioux Falls to take on the Cougars (11-6, 6-3 NSIC) 6 p.m. Thursday. Then it's a matchup with No. 8 Wayne State at 2 p.m. Saturday.

The Mavericks rebounded nicely this week, winning two matches after dropping a pair the week before.

Minnesota State last week defeated No. 20 University of Minnesota-Duluth on their home court in a three-set sweep. It was the second consecutive game MSU has won in Duluth. Then, over the weekend, the Mavericks hosted a pair of matches against Minot State and UMary, defeating both teams

from N.D. to improve to 13-3 with a 5-3 conference record.

Two players who stood out for the Mavericks last week were freshman Avery Klein (career-high 13 kills against UMD), and senior middle blocker Kiya Durant (16 total blocks in 10 sets last week and 19 kills).

Minnesota State is one of the best blocking teams in the conference in 2024. The team averages 2.52 blocks per set, which ranks second amongst NSIC teams, and has 139 total blocks this fall. Opponents also only average 1.6 blocks per set against the Mavericks, which is fourth in the conference.

Defensively, the Mavericks are the top team in opponent hitting percentage, allowing players on the other side of the net to hit just .141 against them. The team also ranks third in the NSIC in digs, averaging 17.55 per set.



TROY YANG • The Reporter

The MSU volleyball team are hitting the road to Sioux Falls to play the Cougars before coming home to take on Wayne State Saturday.

Mavericks head coach Corey Phelps has led this team to a great start. This is his fourth season as full-time head coach; He served as the interim head

coach for a year and a half before earning the head coaching job. Phelps has a 47-51 record with the Minnesota State volleyball team.

NWSL expansion team BOS Nation FC apologizes for new campaign

By JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

The National Women's Soccer League expansion team in Boston apologized on Wednesday

for a "Too Many Balls" marketing campaign that drew a harsh reaction from the transgender community and others.

A day after unveiling the slogan as part of the rollout of the team name BOS Nation FC, the

organization said in a statement that "we missed the mark" with an attempt to "create a bold and buzzworthy brand launch campaign."

"We fully acknowledge that the content of the campaign

did not reflect the safe and welcoming environment we strive to create for all," the team said, "and we apologize to the LGBTQ+ community and to the trans community in particular for the hurt we caused."

Liberty takes 80-77 win over Lynx, now leads 2-1

By DOUG FEINBERG
The Associated Press

Sabrina Ionescu hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer from the top of the key with 1 second left and Breanna Stewart scored 30 points to help the New York Liberty beat the Minnesota Lynx 80-77 on Wednesday night, taking a 2-1 lead in the WNBA Finals.

With the game tied at 77, Ionescu had the ball and dribbled around before pulling up a few steps behind the arc and hitting from 28 feet to break the tie.

"I didn't really remember it. I had to look at the video real quickly and see how far I was," Ionescu said.

"In the timeout Sandy (Brondello) was like, 'You're going to shoot the shot.' I feel like I was able to get a little separation in range. Get a really good shot to go. I let the shot clock wind down and got the space."

The Liberty erased a 15-point deficit to move one victory from winning their first title.

Game 4 is Friday night in Minnesota, with a deciding fifth game in New York on Sunday if necessary.

Stewart scored 22 of their 45 points in the second half.

"We don't win this game without Stewie," Ionescu said. "There's nothing I can say. That shot's nice, but what (Stewart) was able to do for us tonight willed us back into the game."

Minnesota didn't get a real shot to tie at the buzzer.

"Great player made a good shot," Minnesota guard Kayla McBride said. "I guarded her for 40 minutes."

The Liberty have appeared in the finals five times before, including last season, and lost each one.

Trailing 73-69 with 2:26 left in the fourth quarter, the Liberty scored eight straight points, including the first five by Jonquel Jones.

Ionescu, who had a relatively quiet game, then hit another 3-pointer after a Lynx miss to make it 77-73 with 55.5 left.

Bridget Carleton got the Lynx within 77-75 with a layup 21 seconds later.

Billie Jean King helps celebrate 50th anniversary of her Women's Sports Foundation



DAMIAN DOVARGANES • The Associated Press

Tennis great Billie Jean King speaks after being introduced as grand marshal of the 136th Rose Parade next year on the front steps of the Tournament House in Pasadena, Calif., Monday, Oct. 7, 2024.

By MELISSA MURPHY
The Associated Press

Billie Jean King started the Women's Sports Foundation with a \$5,000 check.

She's turned that investment into \$100 million and a half century of helping girls and women achieve their dreams through travel and training grants, local sports programs and mentoring athletes and coaches.

King will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the foundation by honoring the 1999 U.S. women's World Cup champions, PWHL and Los Angeles Dodgers co-owner Mark Walter and the 2024 WNBA rookie class on Wednesday night in New York.

"What makes me happy is creating opportunities and dreams for others," King told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "I look back and that's what drives me."

Nearly 100 female athletes will attend the awards dinner to celebrate the milestone and King, a tireless advocate for equal pay and more investment in women's sports.

That includes awards host and soccer honoree Julie Foudy. She graduated from Stanford and played for the 1999 U.S. soccer team that won the World Cup before a record crowd of more than 90,000 at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

"She's remained a friend and mentor and such a catalyst for changing the trajectory of women's soccer and so many sports," said Foudy, a former president of the Women's Sports Foundation and current soccer broadcaster for Turner and TNT.

After the World Cup win, Foudy and the team turned to King, Donna Lopiano and Donna de Verona for advice

about improving pay and starting a professional soccer league.

"I'll never forget, (King) said 'What are you guys doing about it?'" said Foudy, regarding their collective leverage with the U.S. Soccer Federation. "And as players, that was the exact epiphany we needed at that moment."

Foudy and the '99ers eventually witnessed the successful struggle toward equity, helping lay the foundation for the current U.S. women's national team to receive the same pay and working conditions as the men's team. A players' lawsuit against the federation resulted in a landmark \$24 million settlement in 2022.

"Billie doesn't have just one meeting. She'd check in and follow up and ask 'What do you need?'" Foudy said. "She was at that first (WUSA professional) game in Washington D.C. (in 2001) and was a big proponent of the importance of having a league and player pool for the longevity and growth of women's soccer."

The current iteration is the NWSL, which formed in 2013 and now has 14 teams. Foudy is part of the ownership group of Angel City FC. New owners Bob Iger and Willow Bay acquired a controlling stake in the team in July, with a value of \$250 million.

King recently joined forces with Mark and Kimba Walter to create the Professional Women's Hockey League (PWHL), which will launch its second season in late November. U.S. Olympic gold medalist Kendall Coyne Schofield reached out to King to help unify the fractured pro hockey landscape into one viable league. King, who is part of the Dodgers' ownership group, collaborated with Walter to form the new six-team league.

The WNBA rookie class, led by No. 1 pick Caitlin Clark, will receive the Next Gen Award for "showing up, showing out and boldly carrying the torch forward." The popularity of Indiana's Clark and Chicago's Angel Reese generated unprecedented WNBA attendance, more nationally televised games and record-breaking TV ratings this summer.

"Caitlin Clark is fantastic," King said. "It reminds me of Chris Evert in 1971, when she changed everything at the U.S. Open. Anytime a player can do well, she helps everybody."

The rookie class includes Cameron Brink (Stanford), Kamilla Cardoso (NCAA champion South Carolina), Rickea Jackson (Tennessee), Jacy Sheldon (Ohio State), Aaliyah Edwards (UConn), Reese (LSU) and Alissa Pili (Utah).

The WNBA lags in pay equity, with Clark receiving only \$76,000 in her rookie season compared to the NBA No. 1 pick, who gets \$12 million. WNBA players may see an increase in salary in 2026 from a new 11-year media rights deal for approximately \$200 million a year ahead of the next collective bargaining agreement. The players' union is interested in increasing the WNBA revenue share from 9.3%, while NBA players receive about 50% of the money generated from TV deals, ticket sales, merchandise and licensing.

King says it may take more time to close the pay gaps because women's sports is "still in its infancy."

"The NBA is 78 years old, the WNBA is 28 years old," King said. "(Former NBA Commissioner) David Stern made a huge difference, he was a marketing genius. We need to continue to do that for women's sports."

Super Bowl loss still stings for 49ers headed into Chiefs rematch



DOUG BENC • The Associated Press

Kansas City Chiefs running back Isiah Pacheco (10) runs the ball past San Francisco 49ers defensive back Deommodore Lenoir (2) in NFL Super Bowl 58 football game, Feb. 11.

By JOSH DUBOW
The Associated Press

Eight months later, the pain of losing a second Super Bowl in five seasons to the Kansas City Chiefs has barely subsided for the San Francisco 49ers as they prepare for a rare regular-season rematch.

Memories of Chris Jones blowing up key plays with pressure, Patrick Mahomes creating plays with his arm and feet, and Travis Kelce getting open in key spots in Kansas City's 25-22 overtime win are hard to avoid as the Niners (3-3) watch tape of that game back in February in preparation for a visit from the Chiefs (5-0) on Sunday.

"Everyone understands that we've lost the two Super Bowls to them. So I mean, that can give a little post-traumatic stress when you turn on the tape," coach Kyle Shanahan said Wednesday.

"I think that's human nature. But you've got to make sure you don't get caught up in that. This game has nothing to do with past games, that was last year."

The game on Sunday marks the 10th time in NFL history the teams that met in the Su-

per Bowl played again in the following regular season, with the defending champion going 6-3 in those games.

The 49ers don't want to dwell on that game and know a regular-season win won't make up for a Super Bowl loss.

But they also can't avoid rewatching it in search of any tips that can help them this week.

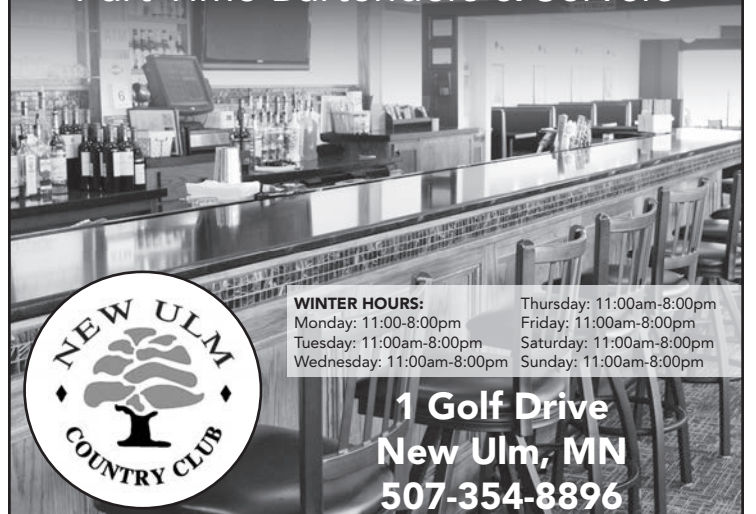
"It's definitely a little emotional," defensive end Nick Bosa said. "But at this point, it's just a game so we're just looking at the tape, trying to learn from it. A lot of similarities from last year. A few new guys, but a really good defense and an offense obviously has No. 15 (Mahomes) back there. So always dangerous."

The loss in February stings in part because the 49ers had so many opportunities to come away with the franchise's first championship since the 1994 season.

San Francisco built a 10-0 advantage early and held three leads in the fourth quarter and overtime that Mahomes and the Chiefs were able to erase and eventually overcome thanks to coming up big in key moments.

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VARIETY

Chad Lewis unveils the paranormal

By ANAHI ZUNIGA
Variety Editor

The fall semester is already half-way into October and that means spooky season is afoot. Ghosts, monsters, vampires and haunted houses are all classics for Halloween terror.

But they're just myths, right? Or so everyone thought.

In light of Halloween approaching at MSU, researcher Chad Lewis shared his own personal tales of exploring the world of the paranormal with students and public in the Ostrander Auditorium Tuesday and how sometimes, the real horror might be closer than you think.

Educational Entertainment Chair Sara Gustafson revealed the Student Events Team had hosted the event two years prior with Lewis as a guest and due to positive feedback, the event made its return this year.

"We had a really good turnout, with not only MNSU students, but also public turnout, so we decided to bring it back. Chad Lewis is not only locally accredited in Minnesota, but he's also nationally accredited, so we wanted to offer a spooky speaking event free to the public to kind of go into the season of Halloween," Gustafson said.

Like the Minnesota Zoo Mobile she organized in late September, Gustafson said the storytelling event serves a purpose of providing

educational entertainment for students on campus.

"It's learning about spooky things. It's fun to get scared. It's fun to have a little bit of a haunt. But educational wise, he takes historic monuments, historic locations, and he will explain the history of the location," Gustafson said. "Then he explains, 'Here's where you'll find ghosts or haunted auras.' It takes a spooky fun experience and brings education to the audience about how it became spooky."

Having studied the strange and unusual for nearly 30 years, Lewis shared what his favorite aspect of investigating the paranormal is.

"For me, it's the adventure of it, getting to these places. Try taking the backroads, exploring local history and mystery and the legend and more of it, more so than even if it turned out to be true or not true. I love the adventure of it and just exploring the legend and what it means to us," Lewis said.

Lewis has traveled to numerous places to seek the paranormal which includes Puerto Rico and Costa Rica in search of Chupacabras; Canada to look for Bigfoot; famous Roswell, New Mexico in search of UFOs; and Transylvania, Romania in search of vampires, a place he favors.

"I was in Transylvania, hunting for vampire legends, and that was one of my favorites, because people still in a lot of other countries,



TROY YANG • The Reporter
Researcher Chad Lewis shared his own personal tales of the paranormal with MSU students and the public in the Ostrander Auditorium Tuesday.

they take these legends seriously," Lewis said. "I love when the locals really are fearful of the legends and so much of Transylvania was like that, that people still didn't want to talk about vampires or the legends of them, because they felt like that would bring it closer to them."

Among his ventures, Lewis has also investigated within the U.S., particularly Minnesota in search of Wendigos, mythological, cannibalistic creatures that are one of the oldest North American legends that first began with the First Nations people in Canada, and quickly spread throughout the Great Lakes region, claiming that these

beasts now roam the forests of Minnesota.

"Most people think these are just legends and superstitions from 400 years ago, but there are numerous places in Minnesota where they still think a Wendigo is residing, from Grand Rapids to Warroad to Bemidji, where they name certain locations, a couple lakes and an island after the Wendigo throughout the state, and they believe that's where the Wendigo still resides," Lewis said.

Lewis said his goal is to integrate a sense of adventure within college students as whether or not

PARANORMAL on page 11▶

Attention to Artists: August Royals

By EMMA JOHNSON
Editor in Chief

While most of the smaller artists I've discovered have been through collaborations or social media, I never thought my work at the Reporter would lead me to discover one of my favorite up-and-coming artists. Back in 2021, I wrote an article about songs I'd put on the perfect fall playlist. I was coming up short with fall-sounding songs from my playlist and listened to Apple Music's Fall Playlist.

One of the first few songs that came up on shuffle was a song called "Blue Football" by August Royals. Thinking it was a song about football or maybe seasonal depression, I was instantly hooked by the echoing guitar strings that opened the song. The song scratched an itch I didn't know I had. It was the perfect combination of laid back R&B and alternative. I decided to see what other works he'd put out and quickly became a fan.

Having grown up playing ukulele in Georgia, Royals attended college at Belmont University in Tennessee where he majored in music business. After moving to LA, he reconnected with Brockhampton band member Kevin Abstract, whom he'd met a year prior. After Brockhampton blew up, Royals posted small clips on social media and SoundCloud, where one of them went viral in 2019. Royal wrote songs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, dropping his debut EP "Inhaler" in March 2022.

Like any other artist, Royals covers topics such as heartbreak, mental health and the emotions that come with all of it. However, he doesn't fall into one specific genre. Royals has told other news outlets his music ranges from alt-pop, touches of '80s rock, R&B and alt-rock. While his talent comes out through his lyricism, Royals has perfected balance when it comes to how he crafts his songs: if the beat is strong, he'll ease back with softer vocals. If the beat is soft, the lyrics pack a punch.

On "Inhaler," Royal's emotions are displayed throughout the course of nine songs. "Overdose" is an alt-rock tune describing how drug use is impacting his life and how he realizes he needs help. "Surrender" takes the alt-pop with fun synths and an electric guitar solo before drums and distant vocals take over the last third of the song, a musical surrender complimenting the lyrics of falling into a toxic relationship.

Not all of Royals' songs are dark and heavy. "Kiss My Scars" is an alternative R&B ballad about wondering why his partner would be with him, healing parts of him

ARTIST on page 11▶

'Hold each other close' at the Mankato Brewery

By TINA DOLAN
Staff Writer

Kaleb Braun-Schulz & The Nightingale Band and Ben Scruggs' Poor Lemuel band will hold a dual album release Friday at the Mankato Brewery.

The show, "Hold Each Other Close," will feature live music from the two bands and more local musicians.

Braun-Schulz says they wanted the show to include other Mankato musicians, as the event's proceeds go to the Arts Center of St. Peter.

"We started to think we should get other musicians from the area involved with this," said Braun-Schulz. "Fortunately, in this area, we are all a friendly and close-knit group of musicians, making it fairly simple to reach out and get them to be a part of this event as well."

Ben Scruggs says people should attend this event if they are unaware of the solid and inclusive community Mankato has. He says this event is great for meeting new people and supporting local artists.

"I think this event is for anybody who isn't aware of the supportive community we have here in Mankato," said Scruggs. "I think it's a great place for people to meet each other and maybe find something really cool they can be a part



Courtesy of Kaleb Braun-Schulz
Kaleb Braun-Schulz & The Nightingale Band will be performing at the dual album release show, 'Hold Each Other Close,' Friday, Oct. 18, at the Mankato Brewery.

of. We are a very inclusive bunch of people who love making art."

Braun-Schulz says the dual album concept is about uplifting each other as musicians and advancing their music to different audiences.

"Everyone involved with the event are great people. We all care

about each other and the community and try to do whatever we can to lift each other up and push things forward. So, hold each other close," said Braun-Schulz.

Ben Scruggs' Poor Lemuel will release "All About the Days I Knew When You Were Really Mine," an Americana rock album about fam-

ily and nostalgia.

"The album title is a lyric from the last song on the record. I wrote a lot of the songs before the pandemic when my kids were younger. There is a feeling of family and a bit of nostalgia to the whole thing," said Scruggs. "It's about me be-

MANKATO on page 11▶

Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal's 'La Máquina' explores masculinity & aging



REBECCA CABAGE • The Associated Press
Gael García Bernal and Diego Luna pose for a portrait to promote the film "La Máquina" on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024, in West Hollywood, Calif.

By LESLIE AMBRIZ
The Associated Press

Separately, Diego Luna and Gael García Bernal are highly regarded actors. Together, they are a force to be reckoned with since starring in Alfonso Cuarón's 2001 cult classic "Y tu mamá también."

They have embarked on another on-screen project, co-starring in Hulu's first Spanish-language production, "La Máquina," now streaming. That's 12 years after working together on the 2012 film "Casa de Mi Padre."

"Working with Gael is that. It's returning to the familiar, to what has always been there," Luna said at the series' Los Angeles premiere. "We've continued this connection and maintained it very easily."

"La Máquina" tells the story of an aging boxer (García Bernal)

whose manager and close friend (Luna) secures him one last chance at a comeback. Their final shot at victory is challenged when mysterious forces threaten the fight and life itself. The show is produced by Searchlight Television, along with Luna and García Bernal's production company El Corriente de Golfo.

On set, showrunner Marco Ramirez says the synergy between Luna and García Bernal had him replacing scripted lines for the duo's playful banter.

"They were kind of born to work together and born to riff with each other," Ramirez said. "I would be like, 'This scene is fine. The writing is okay, but what they're doing is so much better.'"

Luna and García Bernal spoke with The Associated Press about how the series deals with aging and body image, as well as the role ac-

tivism plays in their lives as actors and producers.

The interview has been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: Your characters explore the themes of body image and aging from different points of view. Why was it important for you to share your character's perspective, and more broadly, a male perspective?

LUNA: There is this monster we have to fight which is a pressure of like, 'How do we look?' We are on screens all the time and we are televised 24/7.

These two characters are struggling to let go and move into the next stage. It's fascinating to create a parallel — and at the same time, make characters so different. This man, Andy, the guy that I portray, he's a guy who wishes to be seen, but he's looking in the wrong places.

◀**PARANORMAL** from page 10
they believe in folklore, it can help spark an adventure with friends and allow them to test their bravery in search of haunted locations.

"What I think students can learn from the program is that there are a lot of weird things. No matter where you live, where you are, there's a lot of adventure, even

◀**ARTIST** from page 10
he didn't know he needed to be healed. The closing track "Oxygen" has a muted beat, with breathless pants as the rhythm to describe the enthralling feeling of falling in love and the need to be around his partner.

While Royals hasn't released an EP since 2022, he has dropped a number of singles since then, experimenting with his music even more. "Angel Arms" is a light-hearted love song about falling down into "angel arms I never had to doubt." Its sweet rhythm with little synth pops are glittery and add to the emotion woven through

though some of our restaurants may all look the same, our hotels, our stores," Lewis said. "No matter where you are, those may look the same, but the legends are different. I think this program illustrates that there's a lot of weirdness out there, if you're willing to go and dig for it."

With Paranormal Minnesota Tales pairing well with Halloween season at MSU with Lewis's haunt-

the song, making it impossible to frown listening to this track. "Love You 'Til I Die" could have easily been added as a bonus track to "Inhaler" with its mix of R&B and alt-pop. Not just matching "Inhaler" with the music, but also with the lyrics, telling of trying to balance being in a perfect relationship and relapsing with drug addiction.

Royals ventures into new territory he hasn't previously gone with his single "Every Time I Go." Sounding like '80s rock at its finest, Royals's most upbeat track talks about staying with a lover, no matter the distance between them. His most recent single "Drown" goes

ing experiences, the Student Events Team is now in motion with their main spooky event, CSU Haunted Takeover.

"This year, the CSU Haunted Takeover is 'Haunted CSU,' so it's conspiracy theories and haunting stories about things about the CSU, where people have seen ghosts or heard voices," Gustafson said.

back to his darker roots as hard-hitting bass and drums are coupled with lyrics that describe his previous addictions once again as he "drowns" in them.

Since "Drown" dropped in September in 2023, Royals hasn't released new music, teasing clips of his projects on Instagram and even a brief 24-hour EP on his SoundCloud last December. While I hold onto the little clips he has teased, I can see a promising future for Royals. He's not afraid to talk about subjects other artists might skirt around and his bending of genres makes him one artist everyone should be on the lookout for.

Family looks for missing Broadway dancer Zelig Williams



RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE • The Associated Press
Mieoki Corbett-Jacobs talks about the search for her cousin 28-year-old Zelig Williams, a dancer who went missing on Oct. 3, during a news conference.

By JEFFREY COLLINS
The Associated Press

A family in South Carolina pleaded for help Wednesday in finding Broadway dancer Zelig Williams, whose disappearance nearly two weeks ago has also drawn the concern of the broader theater community, including Hugh Jackman.

Williams, who danced in New York productions of "Hamilton" and "MJ The Musical," was last seen Oct. 3 in Columbia, when he left his home. Friends said they got an automatic emergency notification from his iPhone minutes later, Williams' family said.

They reached out but did not hear back. Williams' empty car was found undamaged in an isolated parking lot for the Palmetto Trail

a day after deputies determined he was driving at the nearby Congaree National Park about 15 miles (24 kilometers) from downtown Columbia, according to the Richland County Sheriff's Department.

Williams' family said at a news conference that they think he stopped taking his medication just before he disappeared and are worried he might be behaving erratically or even could appear in a trance-like state to people looking to help him.

Tips from the community are likely going to be critical to finding Williams, Sheriff Leon Lott said at a news conference at the department's headquarters, joined by family members of the dancer.

Deputies said nothing, including foul play, has been ruled out in the case.

◀**MANKATO** from page 10
ing aware that I'm in a moment of time that will pass and I'm making memories right now."

Kaleb Braun-Schulz & The Nightingale Band will release "The Things You've Kept, You'll Keep Until..." a folk-rock and pop album.

"This album stays true to my folk-rock roots but goes into all kinds of different realms and dimensions. It gets dancy, subdued, and sometimes sad at some

points," said Braun-Schulz. "Everything is done with this contemporary-sounding production, and this album has good ebb and flow regarding the moods and vibes. It is all over the place but I think it all adds up to a very cohesive and nicely flowing album."

Are you interested in going? Doors open at 6:30 p.m., and the event is open to all ages. Tickets cost \$15, and you can buy them online at www.mankatolife.com. With every ticket purchased, everyone will receive a copy of both albums.



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Liam Payne, former One Direction member, dies at 31

By ISABEL DEBRE and KAITLYN HUAMANI
The Associated Press

Former One Direction singer Liam Payne, 31, whose chart-topping British boy band generated a global following of swooning fans, was found dead Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires, local officials said.

Buenos Aires police said in a statement that Payne fell from the third floor of the Casa Sur Hotel in the trendy Palermo neighborhood of Argentina's capital, resulting in "extremely serious injuries." Medics confirmed his death on the spot, the statement said.

Pablo Policicchio, the communications director for the Buenos Aires Security Ministry, said in a statement to The Associated Press that Payne "had jumped from the balcony of his room." Police rushed to the hotel in response to an emergency call just after 5 p.m. local time, he said, warning of an "aggressive man who could be under the influence of drugs or alcohol."

The hotel manager can be heard on a 911 call obtained by the AP saying they had "a guest who is overwhelmed with drugs and alcohol ... He's destroying the entire room and, well, we need you to send someone, please." The manager's voice became more anxious as the call went on, noting the room had a balcony.

Alberto Crescenti, head of the state emergency medical system,



Liam Payne of One Direction performs during the Honda Civic Tour at Qualcomm Stadium on Thursday, July 9, 2015, in San Diego, Calif. RICH FURY • The Associated Press

told Argentina's Todo Noticias TV channel that authorities were investigating the circumstances of his death and conducting an autopsy.

Payne had been vocal about struggling with alcoholism, posting a video in July 2023 to his YouTube channel where he said he had been sober for six months after receiving treatment. Representatives for

Payne did not immediately return emails and calls.

Dozens of One Direction fans flocked from across Buenos Aires to the Casa Sur Hotel after the news broke, forming lines that spilled into the cordoned-off street outside the hotel where police stood sentinel. Forensic investigators were seen exiting the hotel, from where

Payne's body was removed around three hours after the fall. Young women filming with their cell-phones expressed shock and heartbreak as a makeshift memorial with rows of candles and bouquets quickly grew outside the hotel.

"I didn't think he was going to die so young," 21-year-old Isabella Milesi told the AP.

Payne was one of five members of One Direction, which formed when they each auditioned for the British singing competition series "The X Factor" in 2010, two years after Payne's first attempt to get on the show. At 16 the second time around, Payne sang Michael Bublé's version of "Cry Me a River," appearing nervous at the start but warming up with the audience's cheers and applause.

After each singer failed to make it through the competition as solo acts, Simon Cowell and his fellow judges combined Payne, Zayn Malik, Harry Styles, Niall Horan and Louis Tomlinson into what would become one of the most successful boy bands — even though they lost the competition.

Each member had their own persona, with Payne — who hailed from Wolverhampton, a city in the West Midlands region of England — being known as the responsible one. The band became known for their pop sound and romantic hits like "What Makes You Beautiful," "Night Changes" and "Story of My Life." Payne had prominent solos on songs including "Stole My Heart" and "Change Your Ticket," co-writing several of the band's hits. They had six Top 10 hits on the Billboard charts by the time they disbanded in 2016 and a highly loyal fan base, known as "Directioners," many of whom were teen girls.

"I've always loved One Direction since I was little."



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