

## The first edition of Ivorian Night

By AMALIA SHARAF  
News Editor

The Ivory Coast Student Association (ICSA) made history last weekend by hosting the first-ever Ivorian Signature Night on campus. The event, held in the Centennial Student Union Ballroom, brought together students, faculty, and community members to celebrate the vibrant culture of Côte d'Ivoire through music, dance, food, and fashion.

The evening was filled with performances, beginning with a traditional Ivorian drum and dance performance that captivated the audience.

Dressed in colorful, traditional attire, performers moved to the rhythmic beats of the drums, embodying the spirit of Ivorian festivals. A highlight of the night was the fashion show, where students modeled both traditional and modern Ivorian clothing, drawing applause and cheers from the crowd.

The ICSA President Tariq Bakayoko said the event was dedicated to everyone interested as the Ivory Coast cherishes diversity of culture.

“This is dedicated to everyone – alumni, Africans, because everyone knows that the Ivory Coast is where we have the most diverse people,” said Bakayoko. “We have people coming from Nigeria, coming from Guinea, coming from



MATT MILLER • The Reporter

The band played music throughout the Ivorian Night event, while attendees danced, ate and enjoyed fashion show and other performances on the first ever signature night organized by Ivory Coast Student Association.

Senegal and almost everywhere from Africa. And basically, this is not only a night for Ivorians, but for everyone.”

Emcee George Dinga opened the event by welcoming the attendees and reminding about the diversity of the African continent,

which was represented at the Ivorian Night.

“This is a very important and momentous event because what it symbolizes is the importance of African culture,” said Dinga. “And I know right now we are highlighting Ivorian culture as our main fo-

cus of the event, but it has a landmark into other nations in Africa.”

The culinary aspect of Ivorian culture was also a key feature of the event.

Attendees were treated to a variety of Ivorian dishes. For many attendees, it was their first time **IVORYCOAST on page 2**

## MSU sees highest enrollment in decade

By EMMA JOHNSON  
Editor in Chief

Minnesota State has reached its highest enrollment in over a decade, according to university officials.

MSU's enrollment now stands at 15,251 students, a 4.1% increase over last year. It's the 11th largest enrollment in 156 years, making MSU the largest state university in Minnesota.

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management David Jones said one of the contributing factors of the enrollment growth is MSU's academic programs.

“Whether it's aviation, nursing or communication, we continue to see growth which is exciting to see,” Jones said.

Jones said MSU's programs have also brought in transfer students. The transfer student enrollment now rests at 3,673, a 5.6% increase over last year. Jones said about 40% of students came from the Minnesota State system. While students have transferred from other universities, Jones said the biggest “feeders” are Normandale Community College, Riverland Community College and South Central College.

Jones also said from spring of 2024 to this fall, the retention rate for first-year undergraduate students was 86.1%, a nearly 86% increase from the previous year.

He said a new centralized advising model has been a factor in helping students stay.

“We have greater depth in the event that the advisor you need to talk to is out that day, there's somebody else who you can still meet with or connect with,” Jones said.

One of the groups contributing to the large enrollment are Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) students. There are 1,444 high school students taking college classes through MSU, which is 14.4% more than last year. The new entering first year class totals 2,361 students, the eighth-largest first-year class in 156 years and the second largest class since the pandemic.

Jones said the pandemic helped drive up PSEO enrollment as schools saw disrupted **ENROLL on page 2**

## Circle K preps hygiene kits for kids at MyPlace

By BEN LIVINGSTON  
Staff Writer

As temperatures plunge and classes start, the material needs among the most vulnerable are of heightened importance. One Minnesota State student organization is hoping to address those needs in the Mankato area.

The group Circle K put together 50 “hygiene kits” for MyPlace, a local after-school program serving Mankato youth. Kits included common hygiene needs such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss picks, hats, gloves, Chapstick, and even motivational notes for the children who will be getting these kits.

Attendees filled up an upstairs conference room in the Centennial Student Union, where the event was held. Along with the kits, volunteers also created posters for the upcoming Mankato marathon. These posters contained witty and humorous quotes to help give the runners a boost.

Madi Rosen is the Vice Presi-



BUSINESS WIRE • The Associated Press

Sunstar Americas announced the launch of three new lines of children's toothbrushes under the GUM Brand name.

dent of the Circle K's MSU chapter. Circle K International is the collegiate branch of Kiwanis International, a volunteer organization with over 600,000 members spread across 80 countries and geographic areas.

According to Rosen, Circle K's

mission is “commitment to service, leadership, and fellowship.” When asked how the event embodies that mission, she said, “by creating these kits, we are directly addressing the needs of individuals facing hardships like homelessness or poverty, providing essential supplies to help

them maintain health and dignity.

She continued, “This project features our values in many ways. The kits provide help to those in need, which shows our dedication to meaningful, hands-on service. Also, by working on this project together, we are strengthening another one of our core values, friendship.”

Freshman Mckenna Peterson attended the event and said she enjoyed it.

“I think it is a really good idea. I think it is very meaningful, like what they are doing and who they are giving it to. And I think the posters is a cute idea for the marathon.”

Right next to her was Freshman Ava Thelen, who said she first came for an ice cream social. Thelen also said she participated in National Honors Society in high school and that she really enjoys volunteering.

Another person that attended the event was Akorede Balogun, a senior who also serves on the student senate. He says he came with his group, Black Intelligent Gentle- **CIRCLEK on page 2**

## Directioners mourning singer Liam Payne leave tributes



EBRAHIM NOROOZI • The Associated Press

Fans gather to pay tribute to late British singer Liam Payne, former member of the British pop band One Direction in Treptower Park in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024.

By DANICA KIRKA  
The Associated Press

Hundreds gathered Sunday in London's Kensington Gardens to mourn Liam Payne as fans around the world grieved for the One Direction singer who died this past week.

Directioners, as supporters of the massively successful boy band are known, left tributes in London, Glasgow, Paris, Sydney and New York this weekend as they celebrated the life of the 31-year-old who died Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires.

In London, they clapped and sang after gathering near a statue of Peter Pan, the fictional boy who never grew up created by J.M. Barrie. The mourners, mostly young women, left heart-shaped balloons, photographs and flowers at the base of the statue, which sits next to a narrow path next to a waterway known as The Long Water.

Mindful of the crowds in the limited space, organizers asked fans to leave their tributes then move away to allow others to approach the statue.

Fans Lauren Anderson and Natasha Bradley, both 23, said they wanted to be with others who shared their grief.

◀CIRCLEK from page 1  
men.

"This is very nice volunteering," he said. "We are here to pack kits for MyPlace youth. ... Winter is coming up ahead. We are going to be giving out hand warmers, sweaters, and stuff like that. We are trying to have fun."

They have done this project

◀IVORYCOAST from page 1  
experiencing authentic Ivorian cuisine.

Assistant Professor Orlando Jayasiri Gunesekere said he is always on the lookout for signature nights organized by Kearney International Center, International Student Association and related RSOs, because he enjoys learning and interacting with people from different cultures. He said this is what motivates him to "experience a new culture, the food from

"Your parents, they don't really understand how much (One Direction) really meant to you growing up," Bradley said, explaining why she came to the park.

The vigils followed those that took place outside the Casa Sur Hotel in the chic Palermo neighborhood of Argentina's capital immediately after Payne fell from his third-floor hotel room. The four surviving members of One Direction issued a joint statement saying they were "completely devastated" by the death of their bandmate.

In Paris' Tuileries Gardens, hundreds of fans — many of them crying and carrying flowers — gathered to remember Payne.

They sang songs and consoled each other. Some lit candles. Others brought photos and artwork of Payne, as well as notes, letters and bouquets. About 400 people attended the gathering, overlooking Paris' historic Place de la Concorde.

Distraught 26-year-old Emilie Houdinet said she'd been a fan of the band since 2011.

"They helped me. They were there throughout my adolescence to age 18. They were a bit like dads to us," she said. "They were just a boys band but they were very important to us."

in previous years, most recently where they made 50 more kits for a Mankato homeless shelter during their first meeting of the semester.

During the meeting, Rosen highlighted the numerous opportunities to get involved as well as the club's weekly meetings are 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays.

that culture and just the ambiance of the evening. This is a good end of the week event as well."

According to the ICSA members, the preparation for the event took more than 10 weeks. They have worked on the program, dances and offered foods, while trying to showcase the Ivorian culture in its full magnificence. Tiffany Beda, the ICSA treasurer said they had over 100 people attending the event, which was a success for the signature night.

## Video captures efforts to save lives

By RUSS BYNUM & EMILY  
WAGSTER PETTUS  
The Associated Press

The metal gangway where dozens of people waited to board a ferry boat made a loud, creaking noise before snapping in the middle amid panicked cries from those sent plunging into the water. Some clung desperately to the railing, while others began to float away with the tidal current.

"There was no time for anyone to get off," said Icy White, who watched from about 30 feet away at the ferry dock on Sapelo Island. "It took seconds."

White's family was among hundreds visiting the isolated Georgia barrier island Saturday for a fall festival spotlighting the history and culture of its tiny Gullah-Geechee community of Black slave descendants. The celebration gave way to tragedy when the gangway collapsed, sending seven visitors to their deaths.

White of Atlanta recorded video of the immediate aftermath on her cellphone and shared it with The Associated Press. It shows tourists and island residents jumping into action to rescue imperiled strangers and render aid to the injured in a remote location with few trained first responders initially on-site.

"There was no EMS that was there," said Darrel Jenkins, White's cousin. "We were the EMS."

Largely unspoiled Sapelo Island, most of which is owned the state of Georgia, has no roads or bridges connecting it to the mainland. Residents and visitors typically rely on ferries operated by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to make the 7-mile (11-kilometer) trip.

Natural Resources Commis-



LEWIS LEVINE • The Associated Press

A portion of the gangway which collapsed Saturday afternoon remains visible on Sapelo Island in McIntosh county, Ga., Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024.

sioner Walter Rabon told a news conference Sunday an estimated 700 visitors showed up for the Cultural Day event hosted by residents of Hogg Hummock, a tiny enclave founded after the Civil War by slaves who had worked the island plantation of Thomas Spalding. Rabon said his agency had 40 staff members working on the island during one of its busiest days of the year. The U.S. Coast Guard and local sheriff's and fire departments later joined search and rescue efforts with boats and helicopters. But Rabon praised civilian bystanders for their efforts immediately after the collapse sent about 20 people into the water.

"Their quick response and action saved additional lives," Rabon said.

White's video shows people clinging to metal railing on the broken gangway, dangling at a steep angle into the water. Some holding on at the bottom are partly submerged, while those closer to the top extend hands trying to

reach and pull them up. Others pass orange life preservers to those at the bottom.

At least a dozen people floating in the water can be seen drifting away from the dock, pulled by a strong tidal current that threatened to drag them out to sea. Still recording on her phone, White runs into a dockside parking lot shouting for others to come help.

"Who can help? Who can swim? Please, help! Help! Help!" she calls out. "The bridge fell! It fell! Please help! People are in the water!"

Another video clip shows volunteers attempting to comfort a crying woman with a broken leg at the water's edge. A few feet away, a man in latex gloves kneels performing chest compressions on someone sprawled on the ground, a muddy mix of rocks and shells.

Other footage shows volunteers using a blanket to form a makeshift stretcher for an injured woman, then carrying her toward a boat for evacuation.

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## Biden is concerned about the release of secret documents



SUSAN WALSH • The Associated Press

President Joe Biden, right, talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, July 25, 2024.

By AAMER MADHANI & DAVID KLEPPER  
The Associated Press

President Joe Biden is “deeply concerned” about the unauthorized release of classified documents on Israel’s preparation for a potential retaliatory attack on Iran, a White House spokesman said Monday. The Biden administration is still not certain if the classified information was leaked or hacked, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said. Officials don’t have any indication at this point of “additional documents like this finding their way into the public domain,” he said. Kirby added that the Pentagon is investigating. U.S. officials on Saturday had confirmed an investigation by the administration.

“We’re deeply concerned, and the president remains deeply concerned about any leakage of classified information into the public domain. That is not supposed to happen, and it’s unacceptable when it does,” Kirby said.

The documents are attributed to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, and note that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran’s

blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1. They were sharable within the “Five Eyes,” an intelligence alliance comprised of the U.S., Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Marked top secret, the documents first appeared online Friday on the Telegram messaging app and quickly spread among Telegram channels popular with Iranians.

Analysts at the SITE Intelligence Group, a consultancy that monitors and analyzes online threats from extremist groups, tracked the release of the documents to a Telegram channel popular with Iran-backed militias. The channel contained posts from an anonymous user with a long history of posting other supposedly top-secret content who said they had access to the documents. The user also wrote that they had sold some of the material and provided it to the Iranian military. The Telegram channel identifies itself as being based in Tehran, Iran’s capital. It previously published memes featuring Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and material in support of Tehran’s self-described “Axis of Resistance,” which includes Middle East militant groups armed by the Islamic Republic.

◀ENROLL from page 1 schedules along with MSU’s safety protocols.

“When we were given permission to start doing campus tours, we did them where other institutions didn’t. We started opening things up earlier than others and I think that made a difference when trying to get closer to normality,” Jones said. “Instead of doing remote tours, we did small groups tours to give students the opportunity to check this place out which I think made us more attractive to incoming students.”

Jones said the number of students at MSU is calculated through the 30th Day Enrollment, which counts every student who takes “at least one credit once.” There is also a full year equivalent where it’s all the credits students are taking. All the credits current students are taking are added up and divided by 30 which equals the number of full time students.

Jones said this method is “more accurate” for budgeting purposes.

Jones said the goal is to have 17,000 students attending MSU.

With around 2,900 beds in the dorms, talks of planning ahead for future housing developments are already underway.

“It’s not going to be enough,” Jones said. “Residential Life has hired a housing consultant who’s helping us figure out a demand strategy with how much housing we need to add to the inventory to meet all our needs and then figuring out what’s the price point that makes it affordable.”

Jones said he’s “fortunate” to work with faculty focused on students’ experiences.

“It continues to make us noteworthy across all corners of the Midwest that we’re a place that cares about the student development for people to go on and be successful alumni,” Jones said.

## Israel says more strikes are coming

By SARAH EL DEEB & SAMY MAGDY  
The Associated Press

Israel said late Monday it planned to carry out more strikes in Lebanon against a Hezbollah-run financial institution that it targeted the night before and which it says uses customers’ deposits to finance attacks against Israel.

At least 15 branches of Al-Qard Al-Hassan were hit late Sunday in the southern neighborhoods of Beirut, across southern Lebanon and in the eastern Bekaa Valley, where Hezbollah has a strong presence. One strike flattened a nine-story building in Beirut with a branch inside it.

The Israeli military issued evacuation warnings ahead of the strikes, and there were no reports of casualties.

Israeli military spokesperson Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said late Monday that Israel planned more strikes in the coming hours. Residents of the coastal region of Ouzai, near Beirut’s airport, reported airstrikes after evacuation warnings from the Israeli military.

Israeli ground forces invaded Lebanon earlier this month. The military said it aims to push Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon so that Israelis can return to their homes nearby after more than a



HUSSEIN MALLA • The Associated Press

Flames and smoke rise from an Israeli airstrike on Dahiyeh, in the southern suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024.

year of cross-border rocket and drone attacks. Israeli airstrikes have pounded large areas of Lebanon for weeks, forcing over a million people to flee their homes.

Hezbollah has been launching rockets into Israel nearly every day since Hamas’ deadly raid into Israel last year that sparked the war in Gaza.

The United States is hoping to revive diplomatic efforts to resolve both conflicts after the killing of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar last week, but so far all sides appear to be digging in.

The Arabic language spokes-

man for the Israeli military, Avichay Adrae, said Hezbollah stores hundreds of millions of dollars in the branches of Al-Qard Al-Hassan, without providing evidence, and that the money is used to purchase arms and pay fighters. The strikes were aimed at preventing the group from rearming, he said.

The institution, which has more than 30 branches across Lebanon, tried to reassure customers, saying it had evacuated all branches and relocated gold and other deposits to safe areas. Many customers are civilians unaffiliated with Hezbollah.

# BRETT SKILBRED

MANKATO CITY COUNCIL

NOV 5 • 2024

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★ **MEET BRETT SKILBRED**

Since moving to Mankato in 2012, I've been proud to live with my wife and raise our two sons in the city where my parents graduated from the Nursing and Business programs at MSU and started their life together. Through my involvement in local organizations and projects, I've gained unique insights into both the strengths and needs of our community. As a result, I'm deeply invested and committed to improving the quality of life for our residents and making Mankato a place where everyone can thrive.

★ **QUALIFICATIONS**

- I am a Finance and Operations professional with years of experience managing budgets and financials as well as building and supporting teams.
- As a partner in a local manufacturer, I've worked with our institutions on workforce development initiatives and hired local talent.
- I built a company and have helped develop vacant land by working with public feedback through the city approval process.
- Being a husband, father, coach, mentor, and volunteer has given me experience working with a variety of community members opening many new perspectives.

★ **VOICE**

As your representative, I will advocate for what truly matters to our community. I am dedicated to listening to your concerns and committed to working to make Mankato a place where everyone has a voice and feels valued.

★ **VISION**

Our city is growing and in the midst of great opportunity. The time is now for bold, forward-thinking leadership. My vision for Mankato includes enhancing our city's livability, driving economic prosperity, and ensuring fiscal responsibility.

★ **VITALITY**

I believe in fostering the energy and community that makes Mankato a great place to live, work, and grow. Through thoughtful development, engagement, and strong leadership, together we can ensure Mankato provides great opportunities and thrives for generations to come.

Prepared & paid for by the candidate Brett Skilbred 200 Essex Rd Mankato, MN 56001

# Editorial

Editorials represent the opinions of The Reporter editorial board. The opinions expressed here are not necessarily those of the college, university or student body.

Emma Johnson  
Editor In Chief

Amalia Sharaf  
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Variety Editor

## The Beauty of Diverse Friendships

In today's increasingly interconnected world, our campus is an example of global diversity, with students from over 100 countries, and is offering us a unique opportunity to form friendships across cultures. As students, we come from different backgrounds, but it's in this very diversity that we find an incredible wealth of experiences, ideas, and perspectives. Building friendships with people from different cultures doesn't just broaden our horizons. It enhances our lives in ways that are very meaningful.

When we surround ourselves with people who have different traditions, languages, and ways of seeing the world, we gain more than just exposure to new experiences. We grow as individuals, learning to appreciate the complexity and beauty of cultures across the globe. These friendships break down the stereotypes we may unknowingly carry and replace them with real human connections.

Through diverse friendships, we experience things that are completely new to us, whether it's celebrating holidays we've never heard of, tasting foods we'd never thought of trying, or learning to greet each other in different languages. These moments of cultural exchange open our minds to how vast the world truly is. We might find ourselves celebrating Diwali one month, enjoying Ivorian cuisine at a campus event the next, and then learning about Lunar New Year traditions from a classmate shortly after. It's through these shared experiences that we develop a deeper understanding of the values, histories, and stories that make each culture unique.

But beyond the excitement of learning new things, diverse friendships foster empathy. By forming close bonds with people from different backgrounds, we gain insight into the challenges they face, whether it's dealing with language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, or even the feeling of being far from home. We begin to realize that despite our differences, we all share common struggles, hopes, and dreams. This understanding helps us become better friends, better students, and ultimately, better global citizens.

These friendships also give us the opportunity to share our own culture with others. For many of us, it's a chance to reflect on our own traditions, values, and heritage, and explain them to someone who may have never experienced them before. There's a special joy in watching a friend's face light up as they try your favorite dish or participate in a holiday tradition that's meaningful to you.

As we navigate our years on campus, let's remember the value of diverse friendships. Let's make an effort to step outside our comfort zones, ask questions, and be curious about the world beyond our own. When we do, we build stronger connections with those around us and carry those lessons and memories with us long after graduation.

In the end, these friendships teach us that our differences are not barriers but bridges to deeper understanding and connection.

# Perspectives

## Redhead Ramblings: We're supposed to change



Courtesy Emma Johnson

While middle school and high school have been burned into my brain through awkward memories, there isn't much physical evidence left to prove it. Only a small portion of photos from sixth grade to my junior year of high school exist (another reason I'm glad my parents didn't allow me to have social media when I was younger). When I do come across those photos or my friends send me photos I forgot about, I internally shrivel up and question why I was ever allowed to leave the house.

At the same time, I'm glad that's my reaction to seeing how I used to be. We are supposed to constantly change and evolve into the person we want to become. I certainly wouldn't wear those glittery and tacky T-shirts I used to wear from Justice anymore. I'd rather learn to cook a gourmet dinner than attempt to do a trendy dance or lip



Emma Johnson  
Editor in Chief

sync video I saw on TikTok. More importantly, I wouldn't act like I used to, overexaggerating everything to make me seem a lot cooler than I actually was. I think it's one of the reasons we struggle with growing up. We go through the different phases of what makes us "us" without a blueprint or formula guiding us. What works for others may not work for us. Certain parts of my personality have stayed consistent over the years (reading, writing, spending time with my friends) and others have changed (the

nerdy iPhone games I used to play and thinking I could make it big on YouTube by posting videos). I've recognized the parts of myself I've needed to work on and taken the steps I needed to get to where I want to be.

The hard part about changing is realizing others might be stuck in their ways. Unfortunately, some of my friendships have grown apart. Some of these "friendship breakups" stem from not having as much in common anymore and others I've had to make the active decision to grow apart due to my morals and lifestyles not matching theirs. It's hard to make that conscious decision, especially when growing up we were close. However, as I've turned into the person I wanted to become, it was hurting me more than benefiting me. It takes a lot of effort to realize shortcomings and put in the work to change your life for

COLUMN on page 5▶

# Pulse

"What is your least favorite Halloween candy?"

Compiled by Logan Schlosser



AMBER PAULSEN,  
SOPHOMORE

"Tootsie Rolls."



MATTHEW KOPEL,  
FRESHMAN

"I hate Three Musketeers."



ERICA KEMP,  
FRESHMAN

"Almond Joy."



JACOB BYL,  
FRESHMAN

"Butterfinger."



KYLEE MACEDO,  
FRESHMAN

"Dots!"



WESTON HAUGEN,  
SOPHOMORE

"Caramel Apple Suckers."

# Should the minimum wage be lower for workers who get tipped?



ROSS D. FRANKLIN • The Associated Press

Dan Piacquadio, owner of Harold's Cave Creek Corral, poses for a photograph in his restaurant as he speaks about Arizona Prop 138 on minimum wage Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024

By KAVISH HARJAI  
The Associated Press

Mel Nichols, a 37-year-old bartender in Phoenix, Arizona, takes home anywhere from \$30 to \$50 an hour with tips included. But the uncertainty of how much she's going to make on a daily basis is a constant source of stress.

"For every good day, there's three bad days," said Nichols, who has been in the service industry since she was a teenager. "You have no security when it comes to knowing how much you're going to make."

That uncertainty exists largely because federal labor law allows businesses to pay tipped workers, like food servers, bartenders and bellhops, less than the minimum wage as long as customer tips make up the difference.

Voters in Arizona and Massachusetts will decide in November whether it's good policy to continue to let employers pass some of their labor costs to consumers.

The ballot measures reflect an accelerating debate over the so-called subminimum wage, which advocates say is essential to the

sustainability of the service industry and detractors say pushes the cost of labor off employers' shoulders and leads to the exploitation of workers.

The amount tipped workers make varies by state. Fourteen states pay the federal minimum, or just above \$2 an hour for tipped workers and \$7 an hour for non-tipped workers.

Arizona employers can pay their tipped workers \$3 less hourly than other workers. Under current rates, that means tipped workers' base pay is \$11.35 an hour.

Voters will decide whether to approve a measure backed by state Republicans and the Arizona Restaurant Association to change the minimum for tipped workers to 25% less than the regular minimum wage as long as their pay with tips is \$2 above that minimum.

The hourly minimum wage in Arizona is currently \$14.35 and increases yearly according to inflation.

Voters in Massachusetts are being asked to eliminate the tiered minimum-wage system.

There, voters will decide on a

measure to incrementally increase the state's tipped worker wage — currently \$6.75 per hour — until it meets the regular minimum wage by January 2029. The measure was put forward by One Fair Wage, a not-for-profit that works to end the subminimum wage.

If voters approve the measure, the Bay State would join seven states that currently have a single minimum wage. Michigan will soon join that group after an August state Supreme Court ruling initiated a phase-out of the subminimum wage.

"When you're not making the money that you should be making to pay your bills, it becomes hard on you," said James Ford, a long-time Detroit-based hospitality worker. "(The ruling) makes me think we're moving forward."

Other states have wage measures on the ballot. In California, voters will choose whether to raise the hourly minimum wage from \$16 to \$18 by 2026 in what would be the highest statewide minimum wage in the country. Measures in Alaska and Missouri would gradually raise minimum wages to \$15 an hour while also requiring paid sick leave.

◀COLUMN from page 4

the better, but it's worth it, no matter the days you think nothing is working.

So, how have I changed to get to where I am today? I don't care as much about what others think about me. Like I said earlier, I used to over exaggerate everything, feeling like I was the main character in other people's movies instead of my own. Now, I live my life how I want to instead of trying to gain validation from others. On the topic of validation, in the early days I had social media, I was hoping for likes and comments to validate my self worth. I'm

now in a place where I can hype myself up and not have to rely on others to say I'm successful or pretty. Most recently, the mental health struggles I have gone through over the last year and a half have given me tools to cope when times get tough, along with proving to myself I can get through hard times. It's gone beyond the thoughts and mindset I've done work on. I've surrounded myself with healthy friendships where there's nothing but support and happiness. I've become healthier as I've focused on making healthy meals for myself and by incorporating yoga and working out into my

daily routine. There are certain components of my life I'm still working on (finding a better work-life balance, prioritizing certain responsibilities) I know there's no deadline for when I need to make these happen, letting me go at my pace.

The biggest thing I've had to learn, as an anxious person, is how change can be good for us. I've always had the mentality that change was a bad thing and it's taken me a while to adapt to new changes. While I can't control the changes around me, I can control the changes of how I see and grow to challenges around me.

# Expelled Indian commissioner denies involvement in murder



THE CANADIAN PRESS • The Associated Press

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, left, walks past India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they take part in a wreath-laying ceremony at Raj Ghat, Mahatma Gandhi's cremation site, during the G20 Summit.

By JIM MORRIS  
The Associated Press

motivated?"

India's high commissioner to Canada has denied any involvement in the murder of a Canadian Sikh leader who was killed in British Columbia last year even though the Canadian government has named him as a person of interest in the assassination.

Sanjay Kumar Verma, who was expelled last Monday along with five other Indian diplomats, said in an interview on CTV's Question Period Sunday that the allegations are politically motivated.

"Nothing at all," Verma said when asked if he had any role in the shooting of Hardeep Singh Nijjar who was killed outside a cultural center in Surrey, British Columbia on June 18, 2023. "No evidence presented. Politically

Four Indian nationals living in Canada were charged with Nijjar's murder and are awaiting trial.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police went public this week with allegations that Indian diplomats were targeting Sikh separatists in Canada by sharing information about them with their government back home. They said top Indian officials were then passing that information to Indian organized crime groups who were targeting the activists, who are Canadian citizens, with drive-by shootings, extortions and even murder.

Verma denied the Indian government was targeting Sikh separatists in Canada.

"I, as high commissioner of India, have never done anything of that kind," he said.

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## Cubans struggle as power not fully restored for days



RAMON ESPINOSA • The Associated Press

Residents prepare a soup over an open fire during a blackout following the failure of a major power plant in Havana, Cuba, Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024.

By ANDREA RODRIGUEZ & MILEXSY DURAN  
The Associated Press

Many Cubans waited in anguish late Sunday as electricity on much of the island had yet to be restored days after a country-wide blackout. Their concerns were heightened as Hurricane Oscar slammed into Cuba's eastern coast, lashing it with heavy wind and rain.

Energy Minister Vicente de la O Levy said in a press conference he hopes the country's electricity grid will be restored on Monday or Tuesday morning.

But he recognized that Oscar, which hit Cuba's eastern coast Sunday evening, will bring "an additional inconvenience" to Cuba's recovery since it will touch a "region of strong (electricity) generation." Key Cuban power plants, such as Felton in the city of Holguín, and Renté in Santiago de Cuba, are located in the area.

Rain and thunderstorms were reported in Cuba's eastern provinces and strong two-meter swells were hitting the seafront promenade in the city of Baracoa, near where Oscar made landfall. No deaths have been registered so far, but local media reported damage to roofs and walls.

Some neighborhoods had electricity restored in Cuba's capital, where 2 million people live, but most of Havana remained dark. The impact of the blackout goes beyond lighting, as services like water supply also depend on electricity to run pumps.

People resorted to cooking with improvised wood stoves on the streets before the food went bad in refrigerators.

In tears, Ylenis de la Caridad Napoles, mother of a 7-year-old girl, says she is reaching a point of "desperation."

The failure of the Antonio Guiteras plant on Friday, which caused the collapse of the island's whole system, was just the latest in a series of problems with energy distribution in a country where electricity has been restricted and rotated to different regions at different times of the day.

People lined up for hours on Sunday to buy bread in the few bakeries that could reopen.

Some Cubans like Rosa Rodríguez have been without electricity for four days.

"We have millions of problems, and none of them are solved," said Rodríguez. "We must come to get bread, because the local bakery is closed, and they bring it from somewhere else."

## Moldovan president appears to win

By STEPHEN McGRATH  
The Associated Press

Moldova's pro-Western president early Monday looked set to win the first round of a presidential race but accused "criminal groups" of undermining a referendum asking voters to decide whether to secure a path toward European Union membership, which risked being narrowly rejected. Nearly 95% of votes were counted in the EU referendum that asks voters to choose whether to enshrine in the country's constitution a path toward the EU. About 52% of a total 1.2 million ballots voted "no," while 47% voted "Yes." However, ballots cast among the country's large diaspora were still being tallied and tended to favor the EU path.

"Criminal groups, working together with foreign forces hostile to our national interests, have attacked our country with tens of millions of euros, lies and propaganda, using the most disgraceful means to keep our citizens and our nation trapped in uncertainty and instability," said President Maia Sandu after about 90% of the votes had been counted. "We have clear evidence that these criminal groups aimed to buy 300,000 votes — a fraud of unprecedented scale," Sandu added. "Their objective was to undermine a democratic process." The two pivotal ballots were held amid ongoing claims by Moldovan authorities that Moscow has intensified an alleged "hybrid war" campaign to destabilize the country and derail its EU path. The allegations include funding pro-Moscow opposition groups, spreading disinformation, meddling in local elections and backing a major vote-buying scheme. In the presidential race of



VADIM GHIRDA • The Associated Press

Moldova's President Maia Sandu leaves after delivering a speech during a press briefing after the polls closed for the presidential election and the referendum on whether to enshrine in the Constitution the country's path to European Union membership.

11 candidates, Sandu looked set to win the first round with 39% of the vote but was unlikely to win an outright majority. She will likely face Alexandr Stoianoglo, a Russia-friendly former prosecutor general who outperformed polls with around 28% of the vote, in a run-off on Nov. 3. After polls closed at 9 p.m. local time, more than 1.5 million voters — about 51% of eligible voters — had cast ballots, according to the Central Electoral Commission. Cristian Cantir, a Moldovan associate professor of international relations at Oakland University, told The Associated Press that votes from the diaspora could prove crucial at this late stage.

"If I were a pro-EU politician ... that's where I'd look for signs of good news," he said. "I think the ideal scenario for them would have been to have something that showed overwhelming support for the EU — and that simply did

not happen." U.S. national security spokesman John Kirby echoed Russian interference concerns this week, saying in a statement that "Russia is working actively to undermine Moldova's election and its European integration." Moscow has repeatedly denied it is interfering in Moldova.

"In the last several months, Moscow has dedicated millions of dollars to influencing Moldova's presidential election," Kirby said. "We assess that this money has gone toward financing its preferred parties and spreading disinformation on social media in favor of their campaigns." In early October, Moldovan law enforcement said it had uncovered a massive vote-buying scheme orchestrated by Ilan Shor, an exiled pro-Russia oligarch who currently resides in Russia, which paid 15 million euros (\$16.2 million) to 130,000 individuals to undermine the two ballots.

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# SPORTS

## Mavs send Fighting Hawks flying

By EMMA BENJAMIN  
Staff Writer

The Minnesota State men's hockey team dominated the University of North Dakota Saturday after an unfortunate loss Friday in their second home series at the Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center.

In Friday's battle, UND snatched victory from the Mavs with a 3-2 win despite the Mavs dominating the Fighting Hawks and having a 2-0 lead. However, the Mavs shut down the Fighting Hawks Saturday, splitting the series with a 3-0 win.

The energy was high as a sea of purple and gold, and green and white crowded the arena to watch what was sure to be a weekend of thrilling competition. Anticipation flooded the building, as fans waited for the battle to begin.

The Mavs claimed a strong lead over UND as Josh Groll scored two goals early in the first and second periods with the assistance of Adam Eisele and Rhett Pitlick.

They continued to exert pressure on UND, maintaining control of the puck and firing shots left and right. Late in the second period, Zach Krajnik fired what was expected to be the final nail in UND's coffin. However, that would not be the case.

After an official review, the goal was disallowed, and Eisele received a five-minute major penalty for contact to the head and a game misconduct.

As the Mavs were about to kill off the penalty, UND came back in the third period with three goals, ending the game 3-2 and snatching the win from the Mavs.

Despite Friday's tough loss, the Mavs didn't let it affect their game and came Saturday to show they can compete with any team in the nation.

"It didn't matter the sacrifices needed, that's just this group. We probably played a cleaner game a night ago, but we played a gutsier, connected game. There was a lot of will in this one," said Head Coach, Luke Strand regarding the Mavs Saturday win.

Once again, energy was high as the intensity flooded the arena. The Mavs came out strong, confident and with a hunger for victory.

Early in the first, the crowd erupted as Eisele fired a beautiful top-shelf goal, putting the Mavs on top and showing Friday's major penalty wouldn't get him down.

The Mavs maintained constant pressure on UND's defense, firing shots left and right and battling every step of the



Courtesy Maverick Athletics

The Mavericks split their weekend with the University of North Dakota Fighting Hawks, with a 3-2 loss Friday and a 3-0 shutout Saturday night.

way.

In the middle of the second period, Groll netted his third goal of the weekend with assistance once more from Eisele and Pitlick in a battle in front of UND's net.

The Fighting Hawks were

under more pressure as they now had a bigger gap to close. In an attempt to come back, they pulled their goalie, but Brian Carrabes shatter their dreams of victory by scoring on the empty net.

The Mavs offensive domi-

nance was not the only reason they came out victorious Saturday. A huge part of their win was also the defensive sacrifices made to prevent scoring opportunities.

The team ended the night with a total of 34 blocked shots.  
**HOCKEY on page 8▶**

## Mavericks fall to Wildcats in momentum-fueled match

By MATTHEW BEYER  
Staff Writer

This past weekend, the Mavericks found defeat against the Wayne State Wildcats at home. Their season record now stands 13-5 (5-5 in the conference). Meanwhile, the Wildcats advance to 16-3 (10-1 in the conference).

In game one, senior libero Ellie Kline guided the Mavs to a confident 7-2 lead with two aces in the beginning run. The Wildcats responded to this with a run of their own, resulting in a score of 11-7. Mavs in the lead.

Halfway through the first set, the Mavs fell into trouble as the Wildcats seemingly found an impressive burst of momentum, out-scoring the Mavericks in the following run 8-2. Setting the Wildcats ahead 15-13.

For the remainder of the match, both teams consistently traded points back and forth until the Wildcats broke the cycle with a 4-0 run, leaving the Mavs behind 20-15.

Both sides of the net fought with determination for the remainder. But despite their best efforts, the Mavs could not pull

ahead as the Wildcats ended game one victorious 25-22.

Coming off of a victory, the Wildcats carried that momentum over into the start of game two. Scoring nine points over the mavericks two in the first run, the Wildcats set the tone of the match instantly.

MSU made an attempt to match the energy shown by the Wildcats, working their way back into the game with a back and forth service exchange until the score stood 13-9.

The Wildcats responded to that effort by marching their lead farther ahead with a 8-2 run. Setting the score 21-11. Despite a 4-1 run by the Mavs, game two ended in another Wildcat victory 25-15.

The Mavericks started game three by putting a swift end to the Wildcats momentum with a 5-3 lead early on. Thanks to a block by Kiya Durant and Avery Klein, the Mavs found the lead they had been searching for.

Both teams juggled the lead back and forth in the following moments. This was put to an end as Kiya Durant scored two kills, followed by an ace from Madison Miller. The Mavericks



LOGAN SCHLOSSER • The Reporter

The Mavericks fell into trouble during the first set as the Wildcats found bursts of momentum as the teams traded points back and forth viciously.

came out on top of the run with an 11-8 lead.

The match returned to a state

of back and forth from both sides but was interrupted by a 4-0 streak from Wayne State,

setting the Wildcats ahead 14-13.

**VOLLEYBALL on page 8▶**

## New York Liberty win first WNBA championship, beating Minnesota 67-62



PAMELA SMITH • The Associated Press

Minnesota Lynx guard Courtney Williams (10) drives against New York Liberty forward Jonquel Jones (35) during the third quarter of Game 5 of the WNBA basketball final series, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, in New York.

By DOUG FEINBERG  
The Associated Press

As confetti fell and Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York" blared through the arena, the New York Liberty celebrated the end of a long odyssey.

The team that always fell short, starting from their days in Madison Square Garden, through detours to Radio City Music Hall and Westchester County Center, finally found their way to the top. Start spreading the news, indeed: There's finally a pro basketball champion in New York again after a 67-62 overtime win over Minnesota in Game 5 of the WNBA Finals on Sunday night.

"I've been manifesting this moment for awhile. There's no feeling like it," Breanna Stewart said. "Credit to Minnesota, they gave us a tough series. The fans have been amazing everywhere we've gone. To bring a championship to New York, first ever in franchise history

it's an incredible feeling. I can't wait to continue to celebrate with the city. It's going to be bonkers." Jonquel Jones scored 17 points to lead New York, which was one of the original franchises in the league. The Liberty made the WNBA Finals five times before, losing each one, including last season. This time they wouldn't be denied, although it took an extra five minutes.

With stars Stewart and Sabrina Ionescu struggling on offense, other players stepped up. Leonie Fiebich started off OT with a 3-pointer, and then Nyara Sabally, who finished with 13 points, had a steal for a layup to make it 65-60 and bring the sellout crowd to a frenzied state.

"Whoever scores in overtime first usually wins," Liberty coach Sandy Brondello said.

Minnesota didn't score in OT until Kayla McBride hit two free throws with 1:51 left. The Lynx missed all six of their field goal attempts in over-

time. After Ionescu missed a shot with 21 seconds left, her 18th miss on 19 shot attempts, the Lynx had one last chance, but Bridget Carleton missed a 3-pointer with 16 seconds left.

Stewart, who missed a free throw with 0.8 seconds left in the end of regulation in Game 1, hit two free throws with 10.1 seconds left in overtime to seal the victory.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock the players hugged and streamers fell from the rafters at Barclays Center. Stewart and Jones hugged. The two prize free agent signees two years ago helped get this team its first title.

New York trailed by two in regulation when Stewart was fouled with 5.2 seconds left. After a lengthy video review, Stewart calmly hit two free throws to tie the game at 60. Minnesota had challenged the foul call and after the game coach Cheryl Reeve still questioned it, saying the title was stolen from her team.

Ellie Klein as libero led the Maverick stats with 16 kills, followed by Emma Loveall with 12 kills.

Kiya Durant ended with 11 kills as well as two blocks. Brooke Bolwerk found 45 assists as the setter for the Mavericks.

The Mavericks are scheduled to take on Concordia-St. Paul next week. They will travel to St. Paul on Oct. 24, where they will take on the Golden Bears in Gangelhoff Center.

pand their lead to 14-3 soon after.

The Mavericks showed signs of redemption from their rough start as they attempted to close the gap. Managing to reach 15 points before the Wildcats ended the night with a 25-15 victory.

This is not the first time MSU has struggled against Wayne State as they have not seen victory over the team since 2018. The Mavericks finished this time around with a total of 49 kills, 8 aces, and 45 assists.

◀**HOCKEY** from page 7

Defensemen, Mason Wheeler and Luke Ashton made noticeable efforts to keep the Mavs in the game.

Wheeler ended the night with seven blocks and Ashton threw himself in front of the puck on a UND breakaway to prevent a potential goal.

Fans can catch the next Maverick home series this weekend against the University of Nebraska Omaha at the Mayo Clinic Health System Events Center.

## Yankees and Dodgers meet in World Series for 12th time



ASHLEY LANDIS • The Associated Press

Planes fly over Dodger Stadium before Game 1 of baseball's NL Division Series between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres.

By RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

New York neighbors who became cross-country rivals, the Yankees and Dodgers renew their starry struggle in the World Series for the first time in 43 years.

"I've always had that sense being here that there's that underlying, craving for that," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said Monday. "The stars will be out. The eyeballs will be watching and, hopefully, we can deliver on a great Series."

Two of baseball's most successful teams face each other starting Friday at Dodger Stadium, the Yankees coming off their 41st American League pennant and the Dodgers their 25th National League championship. New York is seeking its 28th World Series title but first since 2009, the Dodgers their eighth and second in a five-year span.

"When you're playing for the Dodgers and playing for the Yankees, it better feel different," LA manager Dave Roberts said at Yankee Stadium last June. "If not, you better do something different for a profession."

Yankees pinstripes vs. Dodgers Pantone 294. The Bronx Bombers vs. the Dem Bums' descendants. The granite-and-limestone of new Yankee Stadium on chilly autumn nights vs. Dodger Stadium in

sunny Chavez Ravine, with the San Gabriel Mountains beyond the pavilions.

"It's kind of what the people wanted, what we all wanted," Dodgers star Mookie Betts said. "It's going to be a battle of two good teams, a lot of long flights across the country."

New York is 8-3 against the Dodgers in the most frequent World Series matchup, including 6-1 against Brooklyn and 2-2 since the rivalry became Big Apple against Tinseltown.

Mickey Owen, Al Gionfriddo, Cookie Lavagetto, Sandy Amoros, Johnny Podres, Don Larsen, Sandy Koufax and Reggie Jackson created indelible images in the matchup, which started in 1941 with one of the wackiest World Series turns.

Trailing 2-1 in the Series, Brooklyn led 4-3 with two outs in the ninth inning at Ebbets Field when Tommy Henrich swung and missed at strike three from Hugh Casey. The ball bounced away from Owen and rolled toward the Dodgers dugout as Henrich reached on the dropped third strike. Joe DiMaggio singled, Charlie Keller hit a two-run double on to win the title in five games.

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# Vikings lose close game to the Lions, need cleanup to keep contending



BRYCE KLUCKHOHN • The Associated Press

Minnesota Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell watches before an NFL football game against the Detroit Lions Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, in Minneapolis

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

After the Minnesota Vikings were narrowly defeated by the thriving Detroit Lions, coach Kevin O'Connell invented an only-in-football noun to assess his team's not-quite-complete-enough performance.

"It's just these little self-inflicteds," O'Connell said, highlighting the pre-snap penalties and handful of other seemingly minor mistakes that added up to the 31-29 loss to the Lions on Sunday. "I've got to get that stuff fixed. When you're trying to win at the level we're trying to win at against anybody we play, we can't do anything to help give football teams an out."

Falling into a first-place tie in the stacked NFC North with the Lions at 5-1, following a two-point defeat that was remarkably even statistically, the Vikings showed nothing to suggest they're not built to last in the division race and beyond. But there's certainly a formula for beating them when they're not at their best. The Lions used Jared Goff's sharp passing to negate blitzes by working medium-range routes in the middle of the field, the speed of running back Jahmyr Gibbs and an aggressive secondary that produced a key interception of Sam Darnold to hand the Vikings their first defeat.

"In a heavyweight battle like this, it comes down to situational football," safety Josh Metellus said. "We lost the situational football today."

The incompletions Darnold threw on third down with 2:46 left to force a punt with the Vikings up 29-28 and on the earlier 2-point conversion after they took the lead on Ivan Pace's fumble return touchdown were

glaring, but another more subtle snapshot of a less-than-ideal performance came before both of those plays midway through the fourth quarter.

After the Vikings had a fresh set of downs at the Detroit 32, O'Connell called a reverse pass that Justin Jefferson wisely skipped for a safe 3-yard run when the Lions sniffed out the trick play. Then Darnold was sacked on back-to-back plays to force a field goal.

"What I want to see is the little things that really good teams do to give yourself the best chance to win football games like this," O'Connell said.

What's working

The impact of running back Aaron Jones on the offense has been felt from the start, but the eighth-year veteran had his best game yet against the Lions with a season-high 6.82 yards per touch despite not being at full strength with a lingering hamstring injury from the previous game. Jones entered Monday sixth in the league with an average of 105.5 yards from scrimmage per game. The running game with Jones leading the way has been far more effective than in either of the past two seasons under O'Connell.

What needs help

The Vikings had four sacks, but most of their pressure came at the beginning and near the end of the game. In the middle, he got awfully comfortable with plenty of time to throw and plenty of open receivers to throw to.

Stock up

Rookie Will Reichard has been so reliable — making all three field goals including a 57-yarder on Sunday — that O'Connell would have sent him out to try a 68-yarder at the end of the game had the Vi-

kings not taken a penalty that pushed them out of range.

Stock down

Rookie Dallas Turner played only four snaps on defense against the Lions, a season low for the rookie. The 17th overall pick in the draft has been a nonfactor since suffering a knee injury in Week 2 and sitting out the following game. One reason has been the effectiveness of fellow edge rushers Jonathan Greenard, Andrew Van Ginkel and Patrick Jones.

"We're going to continue to see Dallas have an impact," O'Connell said. "It may be a growing thing as we go here, but I've got a ton of confidence in Dallas."

Injury report

The outlook in the trainer's room is trending up, with tight end T.J. Hockenson (knee) and guard Dalton Risner (back) nearing their season debuts. O'Connell said Monday more time was needed before determining whether either player would be deemed ready to face the Los Angeles Rams on Thursday night. The Vikings could wait one more game for Hockenson and two more games for Risner before the end of the three-week window during which they must be activated or be ineligible to return this season.

Linebacker Blake Cashman (toe) has a chance to play this week after sitting out the Lions game, O'Connell said, but if not he's highly likely to be ready in time for the Nov. 3 game against Indianapolis.

Key number

Plus-55 — The Vikings have the NFL's best first-quarter points differential by a wide margin, with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Los Angeles Chargers next at plus-29 entering Monday.

# LeBron and Bronny make NBA history at opener



JEFF CHIU • The Associated Press

Los Angeles Lakers guard Bronny James walks off the floor with forward LeBron James during halftime of an preseason basketball game.

By GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

If LeBron James Sr. and his son, Bronny, make NBA history Tuesday night by playing in the same game for the Los Angeles Lakers, Ken Griffey Sr. and Ken Griffey Jr. will be there to witness it.

The first father-son duo to play together in Major League Baseball plans to be in attendance at the Lakers' season opener in their downtown arena, where the entire crowd will be hoping the James family accomplishes the same rare sporting feat for the NBA.

"First father and son to play baseball, (and) now the first father and son to play basketball," the younger Griffey told MLB Network Radio. "It's a big deal for my dad and I to be there. We made history. Now we get to watch history, so that's what's going to be cool about it."

Bronny James is already excited to make his official NBA debut, but the Griffey's presence adds an extra layer of anticipation for the Lakers' second-round pick.

"Yeah, it's gonna be insane," the 20-year-old Bronny

said after practice Monday at the Lakers' training complex. "I mean, only two families to do it, so it's going to be a crazy experience, especially (with) what they've done."

Bronny made it clear that he doesn't know if he'll actually get to play against the Minnesota Timberwolves, and Lakers coach JJ Redick said "nothing has been finalized or anything" about Los Angeles' playing rotation.

Yet it seems unlikely the Lakers will wait to make the moment of history they've been planning ever since the franchise chose Bronny with the 55th overall pick this summer to play with LeBron, the 39-year-old top scorer in NBA history.

The father and son already played together in the preseason, first taking the court together outside Palm Springs earlier this month.

A father and son play together roughly once in a generation in North American professional sports. The Griffey's accomplished the feat in 1990 and 1991, playing in 51 games for the Seattle Mariners — and even homering in the same game on Sept. 14, 1990.

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# VARIETY

## 'Escaped Alone' serves apocalyptic themes with tea

By TINA DOLAN  
Staff Writer

Join three old friends and their apocalyptic-obsessed guest for tea at the MSU Theatre Department's next studio play, "Escaped Alone."

Set in an English garden, the friends in their 70s begin to discuss their deepest fears and struggles when Mrs. J, the catalyst of their dark conversation, joins the group.

Sarah Kottke plays Mrs. J. Her character brings up many visions about the end of the world, developing fears in the rest of the women.

"'Escaped Alone' is about four older women who are typically an underrepresented group in society. They are sitting in a garden, in their little bubble, drinking tea. But, my character, Mrs. J, breaks their structure and pops into monologues and visions about the end of the world," Kottke said. "There are a lot of apocalyptic themes and themes of feminism and union in this show."

Liz Albenesius plays Lena and says the play is abstractly written and is up for interpretation when explaining its theme.

"Some of the stuff is hard to get your head around and can be



TROY YANG • The Reporter  
Set in an English garden, "Escaped Alone" invites the audience into the lives of four older women who converse while sharing tea when one of them brings up visions about the end of the world, developing fears in the rest of the women.

otherworldly," Albenesius said. "I interpret the themes of the play as being 'listening' and 'communication.' As we gradually start to listen to Mrs. J but don't necessarily hear her at first, we will start to listen,

and there is a unique sense of how we interpret her."

Stage manager Jay Wetenkamp says each character has a moment in the play where they discuss their biggest fears and difficulties, show-

ing their vulnerable sides to the audience.

"One of the characters has agoraphobia, another has a phobia of cats, and one has trauma from killing her husband," he said. "They

all have moments where they talk about these heavy topics, but eventually return to having a good time and sipping tea."

Albenesius says the audience should not hesitate to laugh at certain scenes, even if they seem dark.

"People might not know it's OK to laugh. It's a distinct type of humor, and you have to grasp onto it," Albenesius said. "If you are reading this, allow yourself to let go, and be prepared for the story to fluctuate because we abruptly go from a laughing moment to being frozen when Mrs. J has her monologues."

Wetenkamp says the cast and crew have worked on this production since early September. The process of creating a show such as this one involves learning lines, blocking each scene and eventually including the technical aspects of the show.

"We add lighting, sound and costumes during tech week, which is at the end of production," he said.

"Escaped Alone" runs Oct. 23-26 in the Andreas Theatre at the Earley Center for Performing Arts. Tickets can be purchased online at MSUTheatre.com or at the box office in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

## Purple Thursday shows support for survivors

By ANAHI ZUNIGA  
Variety Editor

October is Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month (DVAM), a period that serves to educate and raise awareness on the topic of domestic violence and, most importantly, support survivors.

In connection with DVAM, Purple Thursday is a national day of action during the third Thursday of October where everyone shows support for education, resources and survivors by wearing purple, which represents unity, peace, courage, survival, honor and dedication to ending violence and letting survivors know they're not alone.

The Violence Awareness and Response Program encouraged MSU students to wear purple Thursday as a way to bring awareness to prevention efforts and to show survivors that MSU's students support them.

VARP Director Denise Crisafi explained how DVAM was first observed in 1981 as a national "Day of Unity," but was actually composed of several different movements, from the women's suffrage movement in the 1900s to the civil rights movements in the 1960s-1970s.

"We had multiple civil rights movements happening that were very anti-slavery, very pro-women, and a lot of that had to do with individuals of different identities and intersectionalities trying to advo-



Courtesy of Denise Crisafi  
October 17th was Purple Thursday, which is a national day of action during Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month where everyone shows support for education, resources and survivors by wearing purple.

cate for their rights in this country and during the 60s and 70s, what part of that discussion was violence against women, and particularly in the house, and how that was affecting women in domestic situations and also their children," Crisafi said.

Despite domestic violence in households being discussed first, Crisafi says domestic violence can also happen within intimate relationships, friends, roommates and

colleagues.

"We're talking about some type of contractual relationship. You're living together, you're married, maybe you're separated or divorced, but have children in common. Family Violence. But it's also to talk about different types of relationship abuse and inequity," Crisafi said.

"That could be with your friends, it could be with your roommates, it could be with your

family, people with whom you work. We like to extend that out to talk about what that looks like in different dynamics."

Crisafi said most students tune out the term domestic violence as they don't see it applicable to them due to its common association with family violence which leads to bringing more attention in talking about relationship abuse, regardless of how the relationship is defined.

"We use it as a time to normalize healthy relationship behaviors and not the unhealthy ones. We're trying to make the distinction between that, in terms of what relationship health is supposed to look like, and reminding people that they deserve it, whether or not they've even been in an unhealthy relationship, doesn't mean that they don't deserve to have a healthy one as their next connection," Crisafi said.

VARP provides confidential advocacy to students and colleagues on campus who have been impacted by sexual and domestic violence. Crisafi herself is a confidential advocate and is not required to report anything an individual says to the university Title IX or law enforcement.

"Part of the advocacy is informing somebody, and it might be in one meeting because we don't want to overwhelm them. But based on what they're saying, their needs are letting them know what options exist and feeling out their comfort level with reaching out," Crisafi said. "Sometimes I will go with them somewhere if they want to reach out immediately, and sometimes they want to do that on their own, and I leave it with them to do that, unless they want my support. Everything is driven by them. I don't make decisions for them at that moment."

"The only times I have to do that is where, by law, if they disclose

# What to stream: Bruce Springsteen doc, Halsey album, Billy Crystal on TV & more



NETFLIX/MAX/APPLE • The Associated Press  
This combination of images shows promotional art for the documentary “The Remarkable Life of Ibelin,” left, the series “Somebody, Somewhere,” center, and the new series “Before.”

The Associated Press

The Boss shines in the documentary “Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band” and Billy Crystal starring in a new series for Apple TV+ called “Before” are some of the new television, films, music and games headed to a device near you.

Also among the streaming offerings worth your time as selected by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists: Halsey’s fifth studio album, the return of “Special Ops: Lioness” and the video game Call of Duty: Black Ops 6 takes us to the 1990s.

### NEW MOVIES TO STREAM OCT. 21-27

— One of the documentary standouts of the Sundance Film Festival, “The Remarkable Life of Ibelin” packs an emotional wallop. The film, which won both the audience award and the directing award for documentary at Sundance, is Mats Steen, a quadriplegic Norwegian who died from a degenerative disorder at age 25. After his death, his parents discovered their son’s life was far richer than they had imagined. To a wide “World of Warcraft” community, Steen was Ibelin Redwood, a cherished virtual friend. Much of the film, directed by Benjamin Ree (“The Painter and the Thief”), is told through “War of War-

craft”-style animation. Streaming Friday, Oct. 25, on Netflix.

— There hasn’t been a shortage of Bruce Springsteen documentaries in recent years, but “Road Diary: Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band” (streaming Friday, Oct. 25, on Disney+ and Hulu), is still a notable addition to the ever-expanding cottage industry of all things Bruce. The film is directed by Thom Zimny, who was also behind the docs “Western Stars” and “Springsteen on Broadway.” This one candidly captures the band on their 2023-2024 tour, with archival footage mixed in.

— The M. Night Shyamalan-produced thriller “Caddo Lake” has been popular on Max lately, and the filmmaker’s own film, “Trap,” joins it Friday, Oct. 25. In “Trap,” Josh Hartnett stars as a serial killer taking his teenage daughter to an arena popstar concert. The event, though, has been fashioned as, well, a trap to catch him. In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr called it “a solidly entertaining film that’s mostly silly and sometimes unnerving.”

### NEW MUSIC TO STREAM OCT. 21-27

— In June, Halsey revealed she’d been privately battling both systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE, the most common form of lupus) and a rare T-cell lymphoproliferative disorder since 2022.

On Friday, she’ll release her fifth studio album, “The Great Impersonator,” written and recorded in that time, what she’s publicly referred to as “the space between life and death.” Lyrically, the album touches on those themes — and musically, it is a great return to form for Halsey, an exploration of the music she deeply loves, done in her own fashion. There’s the interpolation of Britney Spears on “Lucky,” the shoegaze-meets-numetal “Lonely is the Muse,” the pop-punky “Ego” and the folky “The End.”

— Also on Friday, Oct. 25, Andrea Bocelli — arguably the world’s most recognizable tenor — will release a new album of duets, simply titled “Duets,” on the 30th anniversary of his debut album, 1994’s “Il Mare Calmo della Sera.” Bocelli tackles his best known hits, now with new singing partners: Sarah Brightman on “Time to Say Goodbye,” Jennifer Lopez on “Quizás, Quizás, Quizás,” Céline Dion on “The Prayer,” and so on. It’s all A-listers here: Ed Sheeran, Gwen Stefani, Chris Stapleton, Marc Anthony, Karol G and more make an appearance.

— Country-pop star Kelsea Ballerini is in love. But her fifth studio album, “Patterns,” is no “happy-go-lucky, mushy, gushy record,” as she told The Associated Press earlier this summer. Instead, her album examines.

### ◀PURPLE from page 10

self harm or imminent harm to another person, or elder abuse or child abuse, I’d have to counseling report that. But otherwise, everything is in their control completely, and that’s what we do.”

VARP also hosts prevention education and active involvement, where Crisafi claims that both keynotes play a significant part in coming up with strategies for prevention.

“Part of my responsibility to the campus is proactive prevention, and that means talking about healthy relationships and consent, when we talk about bystander intervention, spotting the warning signs of an unhealthy or abusive relationship, strategies to intervene in those moments, or strategies to support a friend,” Crisafi

said.

Crisafi invites students who wish to become actively involved in this movement to partake in raising awareness during DVAM, especially on days such as Purple Thursday.

“A lot of times what we ask folks to do in their groups or individually is snap a picture, put it on social media, tag us in it, so that what we’re doing it’s not reactive. It’s actually a proactive way to bring awareness to the issue. Bring awareness also to what Violence Awareness and Response Program is doing,” Crisafi said.

Crisafi notes that, with the participation of several campus departments and student groups during Purple Thursday, it highlights the many resources MSU offers and how the campus com-

munity greatly cares about the issue of domestic violence.

“You see other student organizations, student groups, campus departments, are also posting, and we’re not being performative about it. Because then you see the other resources that are there,” Crisafi said. “I’ve invited not just our division, but other folks on campus who are doing this to cross post with us, so that individuals can see the amount of people on this campus who actually care about it.”

VARP provides services to people at MSU and assures them they’re supported. They as well provide resources for those who wish to learn more about this issue. For more information, visit [mnsu.edu/VARP](https://mnsu.edu/VARP).

# ‘Smile 2’ at No. 1 at box office while ‘Anora’ glitters in limited release



PARAMOUNT PICTURES • The Associated Press  
This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Naomi Scott in a scene from “Smile 2.”

By LINDSEY BAHR  
The Associated Press

Horror movies topped the domestic box office charts and an Oscar contender got off to a sparkling start this weekend. “Smile 2,” in its first weekend, and “Terrifier 3” in its second proved to be the big draws for general movie audiences in North America, while the Palme d’Or winner “Anora” got the best per-theater average in over a year.

“Smile 2” was the big newcomer, taking first place with a better than expected \$23 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. Parker Finn returned to write and direct the sequel to the supernatural horror “Smile,” his debut. Originally intended for streaming, Paramount pivoted and sent the movie to theaters in the fall of 2022. “Smile” became a sleeper hit at the box office, earning some \$217 million against a \$17 million budget.

The sequel, starring Naomi Scott as a pop star, was rewarded with a bit of a bigger budget, and a theatrical commitment from the start. Playing on 3,619 screens, it opened slightly higher than the first’s \$22 million.

Second place went to Universal and DreamWorks Animation’s “The Wild Robot” in its fourth weekend with \$10.1 million, bumping it past \$100 million in North America. Family films often have long lives in theaters, particularly ones as well reviewed as “The Wild Robot,” and some have speculated that it got a bump this weekend from teenagers buying tickets for the PG-rated family film and then sneaking into “Terrifier 3,” which is not rated, instead. Either way, Damien Leone’s demon clown movie, which cost only \$2 million to produce, is doing more than fine with legitimate ticket buyers. It added an estimated \$9.3 million, bringing its total to \$36.2 million.

“Rumors like that are PR gold,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “There’s no better indication that that movie is red hot right now.”

The No. 1 openings for “Smile 2” this weekend and “Terrifier 3” last were only possible because of

the failure of “Joker: Folie à Deux.” That big budget sequel continued its death march in its third weekend, falling another 69% to earn \$2.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$56.4 million.

Warner Bros. has a better performer in “Beetlejuice Beetlejuice,” which placed fourth in its seventh weekend with an additional \$5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$284 million. Star Michael Keaton also had another film open this weekend — the father-daughter dramedy “Goodrich” which stumbled in with only \$600,000 from 1,055 locations.

Rounding out the top five was the romantic tearjerker “We Live In Time,” which expanded to 985 theaters following last weekend’s debut on 5 screens. The A24 release starring Andrew Garfield and Florence Pugh earned \$4.2 million over the weekend. Audiences were 85% under 35 and 70% female, according to exit polls. The well-reviewed film will expand further next weekend.

One of the other brightest spots of the weekend was Sean Baker’s “Anora,” which opened in six locations in New York and Los Angeles and earned an estimated \$630,000. That’s a \$105,000 per theater average, the best since “Asteroid City’s” \$142,000 average last summer. The Neon release, a sensation at Cannes and a likely Oscar contender, stars Mikey Madison as a New York sex worker who falls for the son of a Russian oligarch.

After several weeks of would-be awards contenders and buzzy films (“Piece by Piece,” “Saturday Night,” “The Apprentice” among them) fizzling with audiences, “Anora’s” success is a promising sign that moviegoers will still seek out arty, adult fare.

“For moviegoers, there’s a lot on offer with something in every type of movie in every category,” Dergarabedian said. “I think we’re going to have a really strong home stretch with a great combination of movies big and small.”

The Walt Disney Co. also made a splash with several re-releases. “The Nightmare Before Christmas” got a place in the top 10 with \$1.1 million, while “Hocus Pocus” made \$841,000.

## Rock & Roll Hall of Fame to induct Cher, Foreigner, Mary J. Blige, Ozzy & more



Cher, left, and Dua Lipa perform during the 39th Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland.

By MARK KENNEDY  
The Associated Press

Hollywood stars Julia Roberts and Zendaya bookended Saturday's inductions into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, giving a little stardust to an eclectic lineup that included pop icon Cher, heavy metal's Ozzy Osbourne, hip-hop soul queen Mary J. Blige, soft rockers Foreigner and 83-year-old soul icon Dionne Warwick.

It was a five-hour-plus show that also honored hip-hop trailblazers A Tribe Called Quest, punk pioneers the MC5, the effortless dance music of Kool & the Gang, the soft rock of Foreigner, the beach bum tunes of Jimmy Buffett and the jam band fusion of Dave Matthews Band.

Dua Lipa opened the show singing Cher's "Believe" before the 78-year-old icon joined her onstage, giving way to Zendaya who noted that Cher is the only woman to have a No. 1 hit on a Billboard chart in each of the past seven decades. "Cher has got the goods," Zendaya said before Cher performed a rocking version of "If I Could Turn Back Time."

In her speech, Cher thanked her mother for instilling in her to always get back up after defeat. "I never give up," she said. "I'm talking to the women — down and out, we keep going."

Roberts helped induct Dave Matthews Band — she's a self-avowed superfan and she appeared in the band's video for the 2005 single, "Dreamgirl." Roberts, wearing a band T-shirt, said the appeal of the group is "spontaneous abandon," adding the first time she danced with her husband was to one of their songs.

The jam band, with their mix of funk, folk-rock, jazz, blues and pop, then played "Ants Marching" — asking the crowd to sing the chorus — "Crash" and "So Much to Say." The arena was still

full when they hit the stage after midnight, with the crowd singing along and swaying.

Matthews hugged Roberts, handed out the trophies to his bandmates, and called the class of 2024 impressive. "We're swimming in very deep water here," he said. He thanked the current and former band members and the bar owner who gave them a home in Charlottesville, Virginia. When he thanked the fans, they roared back.

Dr Dre inducted Blige, who is credited with creating a completely new category of music — hip-hop soul. The nine-time Grammy-winner's best-known song is "Family Affair" from her triple-platinum 2001 album "No More Drama." "When you listen to Mary, you understand you're not alone in heartbreak," Dre said.

Blige, wearing shiny black hat, a sparkly dress and long black gloves and boots, sang a mix of her hits, including "Love No Limit," "Be Happy" and "Family Affair." At the end of her set, a dancer brought up a cloak to wrap around her, in an echo of James Brown. "Move with grace. Trust the journey," she advised. "You are worthy."

Chuck D inducted Kool & the Gang, saying "This is a long-due celebration." The band had 12 Top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 including the 1980 chart-topper "Celebration" as well as "Cherish," "Get Down On It," "Jungle Boogie," "Ladies Night" and "Joanna." They've been eligible for the hall since 1994.

The Roots helped the band do a medley of hits that got the crowd grooving led by Robert "Kool" Bell — bass guitarist, co-founder and last original member — and longtime singer James "JT" Taylor. Confetti shot into the arena and Taylor asked the crowd to use their cellphone lights as he read off the names of 10 members who

were critical to the band's success.

Warwick arrived at the ceremony only a few days after attending a memorial to her longtime friend and collaborator, Cissy Houston. Teyana Taylor called her "truly one of a kind" as well as telling off the teleprompter operator for not putting "Ms." before her name. Jennifer Hudson sang "I'll Never Love This Way Again" and was joined by Warwick, who also sang "Walk On By."

Warwick said this year was the third time she was nominated for the Hall. "I am so pleased to be here," she said. "I'm just going to say this and get off the stage: Thank you, thank you, thank you."

Dave Chappelle helped induct A Tribe Called Quest — Q-Tip, Jarobi, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and the late Phife Dawg — the lone hip-hop group to make the cut this year. Chappelle said the group incorporated "jazz and soul in a way hip-hop had never seen." Queen Latifah, Busta Rhymes, Common, The Roots and De La Soul were on hand to perform a medley of Tribe hits, including "Bonita Applebum," "Scenario" and "Can I Kick It?"

Sammy Hagar introduced Foreigner, and thanked their fans for their tenacity to demand inclusion. The English-American rockers — with hits like "Cold as Ice," and "Waiting for a Girl Like You" — topped the charts in the 1970s and '80s but never made it into the Hall — much less a ballot — until last year, despite being eligible for more than 20 years.

Hagar noted that Foreigner currently tours without any original members. "That's how good the songs are," he said. "Who deserves this more than Foreigner?" Demi Lovato and Slash joined the touring Foreigner for "Feels Like the First Time" and Hagar then took lead for "Hot Blooded." Kelly Clarkson thrilled with a powerful "I Want to Know What Love Is."

## Writer Olivia Nuzzi part ways with New York magazine

The Associated Press

New York magazine and its star political reporter, Olivia Nuzzi, have decided jointly to "part ways" after reports that she had a personal digital relationship with a source while covering the 2024 campaign.

The magazine said Monday that its own internal review and an investigation by a law firm it enlisted found no issues with Nuzzi's accuracy or bias.

"Nevertheless, the magazine and Nuzzi agreed that the best course forward is to part ways," the publication said in a post on its website, which it framed as an update to readers. "Nuzzi is a uniquely talented writer and we have been proud to publish her work over her nearly eight years as our Washington correspondent. We wish her the best."

Last month, the newsletter Status, which broke the story, and The New York Times both cited unnamed sources in iden-

tifying Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as the person involved with Nuzzi. She has not confirmed Kennedy's involvement and Kennedy said in a statement that he had only met her once.

David Haskell, New York magazine's editor in chief, said in a note to staff members after the news broke that Nuzzi told them the relationship began last December, "after we had published her November profile." Nuzzi's only published profile that month was of Kennedy. The relationship reportedly ended in August, Haskell wrote.

The publication said at the time that if it had been aware of the relationship, Nuzzi would not have been permitted to cover the presidential campaign.

Last month, Nuzzi said in a statement to Status that the nature of some communication between herself and a former reporting subject turned personal early this year.

"During that time, I did not directly report on the subject."

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