President Jonathan Koppell
Meets with Student Media

John LaRosa | The Montclarion

Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell is interviewed by the university’s student media organizations.

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The interview featured representatives from The Montclarion, WMSC, Montclair News Lab and Red Hawk Sports Network.

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“We know that while the viral load of a person who’s vaccinated may be lower, in some way, it’s not zero,” Koppell said.

Koppell said he wants students to embrace the idea of wearing a mask to protect their community.

“We do these things, not because the government tells us to or not because the university issued a rule, but because we’re a community and we’re going to create this public good together,” Koppell said.

As for his personal vision for the future of Montclair State, Koppell explained that he wants to expand the university’s offerings and create new ways to earn degrees.

“There will always be a place for the four-year, on-campus degree program, but I think people are looking for a lot more variety, you know, maybe a mix where some of it’s online and some of it’s face-to-face, or some of it’s online asynchronous but some of it’s synchronous,” Koppell said.

Koppell also emphasized that he wants the school to become known for its commitment to public service and for helping local communities.

“One of the great aspects of this university is the diverse student body,” Koppell said. “I think it’s a strength that can be amplified and leveraged. I think students today want to be in a diverse environment and they want to, not only be surrounded by a diverse group of students, but they want to benefit from being part of a diverse campus community.”

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Koppell said the university needs to make sure the faculty reflects the same diversity shown in the student body.

“It’s a disconnect if the faculty, and the leadership, frankly, doesn’t also reflect the same diversity in the student population, so we need to make sure that when we’re doing [the] hiring and recruiting, we’re drawing a diverse pool of applicants and that we’re making an environment that people want to come to,” Koppell said.

Jenna Sundel
News Editor

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Montclair State Reports Increase in COVID-19 Cases

As the fall academic term begins, Montclair State University reported that 23 students and two employees have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19) during the first week of classes.

According to Andrew Mees, Montclair State’s media relations director, the numbers are moderate when compared to the large number of students on campus this semester.

“The while we are always concerned about the safety of our campus, it is important to remember that with nearly 19,000 students on campus this fall, this is a relatively modest number of cases,” Mees said.

The university is still requiring all students, employees and visitors to complete the Hawk Check self-assessment before coming to the university to avoid spreading the virus.

Nathalie Cuello, a junior psychology major, said the cases are increasing because students are not following the safety guidelines.

“I think there is a problem coming from the students,” Cuello said. “They are not being careful inside or outside the school and [not] being honest when it comes to answering the questions in the Hawk Check.”

On the other hand, Christie Etienne, a junior medical humanities major, said students and faculty have been following the university’s procedures.

“I have seen students wear their masks as the university asks them to,” Etienne said. “[Professors] are very persistent about us wearing masks in class.”

Allison Pontier, a junior psychology major, is not bothered by the rise in numbers.

“Yes, COVID-19 is a big concern but being that practically everyone on campus must be vaccinated, [there’s no need] to worry,” Pontier said.

According to Mees, the cases reported have not presented any severe symptoms. As of Friday, Sept. 10, there were no hospitalizations.

“We did have some cases in which students were vaccinated,” Mees said.

“Three of the cases are unvaccinated students.”

COVID-19 updates will be posted on our website every Friday.

Red Hawk Rap Sheet

Friday, Sept. 10

Theft: A male student came into Police Headquarters to report an incident of theft by extortion. The student reported that an unknown individual had begun calling his cell phone demanding $3000 or he would do harm to the student’s family. This incident is under investigation.

Friday, Sept. 10

University Hall: A male student came into Police Headquarters to report a theft. The student advised that he misplaced his wallet while in class at University Hall and at the conclusion of class realized that his wallet was gone. This incident is under investigation.

Friday, Sept. 10

Stone Hall: Officers responded to Stone Hall in regards to a report of a dispute in progress. Officers were met on the scene by a male and female student who reported engaging in a verbal argument. The female further explained that the male party pushed her during the course of the argument; however, she declined to press charges against the accused. Nothing further to report.
Montclair State Commemorates the 20th Anniversary of 9/11

Kayla Mulligan
Contributing Writer

Montclair State University commemorated the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks made on Sept. 11, 2001.

Students gathered early on Saturday morning in the Student Center before dedicating their day to serve their community. The volunteers worked with several organizations, including AmeriCorp, Jersey Cares, Habitat for Humanity and more in aiding with different services.

Angely Francisco, a senior family science major, expressed the importance of giving back to the community.

“It's really important to get out into the actual community and branch out beyond Montclair State,” Francisco said. “It's important to see the different organizations that are making a change and taking part in that.”

The effects of 9/11 extended beyond New York City, reaching communities across the country. Julia Rodano, a freshman computer science major, shared her reasoning for partaking in this event to honor the day and its significance.

“The day in general hits close to home for many in the communities surrounding New York City,” Rodriguez said. “Almost everybody can say they know at least one person who has been personally affected by the attacks of that day. That serves as more motivation to get involved and help those affected.”

Before the volunteers departed for their day of service, Montclair State President Jonathan Koppell shared a message about the importance of service in remembering the attacks on 9/11.

“I think a day of service is an appropriate response to honor the day of 9/11,” Koppell said. “What came out of that day that can be seen as a positive was the general sense of community and the urge to give back to the community as a whole. This day of service is about rediscovering, celebrating and energizing that impulse to come together.”

Koppell went on to highlight the importance of not only remembering the destruction of that day, but remembering the immediate reaction to the attacks, the focus on coming together and building a better society. Koppell concluded by applauding the students and volunteers who dedicated themselves to honoring 9/11 by giving back to the community.

In the 20 years since the tragedy of 9/11, one sentiment has remained: the desire to build a better, more unified community through selfless service.

To see more photos, check out our website.
PHOTO ESSAY: Gov. Phil Murphy and Rep. Mikie Sherrill Attend Gun Violence Prevention Rally

Gov. Phil Murphy addresses attendees of the rally.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Rep. Mikie Sherrill, along with others, spoke at the Bloomfield Public Library on Sept. 10 to rally against gun violence.

Gov. Phil Murphy and Rep. Mikie Sherrill, along with others, spoke at the Bloomfield Public Library on Sept. 10 to rally against gun violence.

The politicians shared their personal stories and why they believe putting an end to gun violence matters, not only to them, but to the whole nation.

The crowd made their voices heard outside of the library, holding up signs and banners to take a stand against gun violence. The day ended with hugs, smiles and people proud of the future they are building.

To see more photos, check out our website.

Rep. Mikie Sherrill speaks at the rally against gun violence.

Michael Callejas | The Montclarion

A warm embrace of support after an emotional day of speaking at the rally.

Michael Callejas | The Montclarion
Montclair State Board of Trustees Votes to Raise Tuition Prices

Montclair State accepted the largest freshman class in the university’s history.

As the new academic school year begins, students may have noticed some differences in their bills. Over the summer, Montclair State University announced it would raise its prices.

The board of trustees voted to raise tuition and mandatory fees for all undergraduate programs by 1.7%. In-state students now have to pay $227 more than previous years, bringing the total to $13,298.

For out-of-state undergraduate students, tuition and mandatory fee rates increased 1.8%, bringing the total to $21,418. Rates for most master's and doctoral students, both in and out of state, increased by 3%, and rates for MBA programs increased from 1.9% to 2.9% depending on the chosen program.

Andrew Mees, Montclair State's media relations director, explained that the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic was not a factor in the decision.

"The pandemic was not a factor," Mees said. "In fact, the university took several measures prior to the 2020-2021 academic year to ensure tuition and fees remained flat during the height of the pandemic."

Though Montclair State's tuition is the highest it has ever been, Mees said it still places the university as the third, lowest-priced public university in New Jersey.

Mark Carchidi, a senior filmmaking major, said the increase won't affect him much but believes tuition should not have been raised.

"It's kind of a 'kick me while I'm down,'" Carchidi said. "I feel like things are so limited right now because of the pandemic and so many classes are online. [Tuition] should've gone down."

According to Mees, increases were necessary to fund salary and other inflationary costs, among other things. He said this will ultimately allow the university to continue to provide affordable, high-quality education for its students.

Fae Santana, a senior jurisprudence, law and society major, said this increase makes her anxious.

"It might be an issue if I end up having a balance and not being able to graduate," Santana said. "Especially because I'm having trouble paying for my books right now."

Santana is no stranger to struggling to pay their tuition and fees, as last year she had to pay $400 out of pocket, which she did not have.

"I ended up having to borrow money," Santana said. "It added stress to my semester when I'm already a single parent and doing so many other things."

Montclair State's tuition was not the only thing that increased. Students who receive New Jersey's Tuition Assistance Grant (TAG) will also see an increase in their award. It is at an all-time high, which the university expects to offset the increase in tuition and mandatory fees. TAG awards come in the form of financial aid support that does not have to be paid back.

Mees also said the university is increasing the aid it provides to undergraduates with its own resources by 40%. If a student is struggling to pay their tuition and fees, there are a few things they can check out, such as scholarships, grants and a new program called Garden State Guarantee.

Fae Santana said the tuition increase will affect her personally.

Students also have the option to contact the Office of the Dean of Students if they are struggling to afford the cost of attendance.
The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has affected all of us throughout the last year, especially those who work in our healthcare industry. This past summer, our very own front-line workers and Montclair State University students traveled abroad to Italy to study and work with doctors.

Thanks to the Doctors in Italy program, established in 2018, four Montclair State medical students had the opportunity to shadow real doctors in their day-to-day activities in Italy for up to five weeks.

The co-founder of Doctors in Italy, Nadia Neytcheva, enjoyed having Montclair State students in her program.

“All the girls from Montclair State were incredibly passionate about healthcare, absolutely professional, bright and clearly have a great future in healthcare ahead,” Neytcheva said. “We were truly happy to have them shadow with us in Rome.”

Neytcheva believes these students embody what she created this program to do.

“The program was created with the purpose of sharing the knowledge of these doctors with students from all over the world who are on a path to become members of a global community of medical professionals,” Neytcheva said.

“Ever since co-founding this program, I’ve been genuinely excited to see the positive impact it has on students, and how they change and grow in a matter of weeks.” Mariana Luna-Martinez, a sophomore biology major, arrived a few weeks before her classmates and was very excited to see her school be represented.

“I felt like we, as a [Montclair State] community, had the most representation and that made me really happy,” Luna-Martinez said. “Even though we didn’t know each other yet, I still felt that connection to home while meeting all these fantastic people from all around the world that are there for you.”

Luna-Martinez studied in the five-week program, while Qiana Archer, a senior biology major, was a part of the two-week program, though both are equally as enriching. The Doctors in Italy leaders match students up with different people from Campus Bio-Medico University of Rome, one of Italy’s best hospitals, so they can shadow doctors from all different fields of medicine.

Archer explained that she was able to see many specialties of medicine while abroad.

Mariana Luna-Martinez travels to her favorite place, the Amalfi Coast.

Photo courtesy of Mariana Luna-Martinez

Madelyn Spano from Texas Tech University (left) was one of the people Luna-Martinez (right) was able to meet while abroad.

Photo courtesy of Mariana Luna-Martinez

WHEN IN ROME: MONTCLAIR STATE STUDENTS THRIVE WITH DOCTORS IN ITALY PROGRAM

Samantha Bailey
Feature Editor
Archer (second from left) poses with some fellows from other universities.

“I was able to see different things each day,” Archer said. “I got to see cardiology, anesthesiology, orthopedics, emergency medicine and even the research facility over at the university. Each day I was able to do something different.”

Luna-Martinez agrees with Archer in that the program can be eye-opening for anyone wanting to experiment with different areas of the field.

“It helps to give you some insight for what you want to do because the medical field is a broad spectrum,” Luna-Martinez said. “You go into this program with an idea of what you want to focus on, and maybe you figure out that’s not for you, but you find another specialty that you fall in love with.”

While abroad, the students traveled to other regions of Italy and went to events with their program coordinators. Classes and work ran Monday through Thursday which left their weekends open for traveling.

“On Fridays, the Doctors in Italy program would host excursions for us,” Luna-Martinez said. “One day, we went to a lake and another day we went to the Colosseum. We went to Perugia and to a chocolate factory, which had the best chocolates I’ve ever had.”

Throughout the five weeks, they got to experience all Italy had to offer while still studying medicine. The environment the Doctors in Italy program creates is one meant to keep them excited and comfortable throughout their whole trip. The program coordinators even set up family dinners on Mondays and Thursdays to help students get to know each other, the program and Italy itself.

This helped ease some of Archer’s fears about feeling alone while doing the program in Italy.

“I didn’t want to go over there and be very alone, by myself and walking around by myself. It was my first time in Italy,” Archer said. “We all kind of came together as a group and decided to go to dinners and things together, outside of the program, to help get to know each other better.”

There are many opportunities for scholarships and grants to help fund this trip. Applicants need to write essays for some, while others they qualify for by filling out an application and submitting their grades. Luna-Martinez thinks it is a great experience for anyone in the medical field looking to try something new.

“I was a little hesitant to do this program because it is in a whole other country,” Luna-Martinez said. “But I took the opportunity to do something. You never know when you might get this opportunity again. Don’t be afraid to take that risk because you never know what you may be missing.”

The Doctors in Italy study abroad fellowship program summer 2022 applications are now open and you can find them, along with more information, on their website.
Complaining about parking at Montclair State University is a time-honored tradition by now, and with good reason. Every year around mid-August, thousands of students hop online to purchase a commuter parking pass, dread rising in their guts as they envision the inevitable. In a couple of weeks, they will be one car amongst the glut of vehicles filled with anxious, impatient drivers silently praying to an entity of their choosing for a place to park.

Car Parc Diem, the biggest and most popular commuter parking lot, has eight levels of parking available to the many students who drive to Montclair State. But with 2021 seeing the enrollment of the largest incoming class in the university’s history, the already unreasonable bad parking situation has gotten even worse. Despite a multilevel parking deck and multiple commuter lots located around campus, it’s impossible to pass a day on campus without overhearing multiple complaints about how difficult it is to find a spot.

A full-year commuter parking pass costs commuters $277.23 this year with tax. It’s $277.23 for the possibility of having to park what feels like miles away from your first class. For $277.23, you too will have to show up at least two hours before your 9:45 a.m. class, depending on how far away you live.

For years, administrators have claimed they are working to address the myriad of problems and complaints surrounding Montclair State’s parking options. But the administration’s insistence on as many in-person classes as possible means more commuters, more people forced to pay exorbitant amounts for parking passes that guarantee nothing. Forcing students to spend money they may or may not have due to the hardships of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic while causing such unnecessary stress is unethical.

But why work to address a problem when it brings in a profit? There’s no point in pretending the university’s only motivation to return to a “normal” learning environment was for the comfort and overall happiness of students. Parking passes are a separate expense from tuition and necessary for anyone who has a car, and no commuters means less income.

Clearly, commuter parking passes were and are oversold beyond the number of available spaces. This is likely because, in addition to more people present on campus, commuters and residents still have to share designated parking lots. Even more baffling is the fact that many of the smaller lots where commuters can park are located near the residence halls, while residents must duke it out with visitors in the Red Hawk Deck to find parking or search for off-campus spots.

Leaving campus on time is just as excruciating as arriving. Clusters of pedestrians cross the busy streets, sometimes recklessly and with no interruptions for several minutes. With the usual crossing guards having mysteriously vanished, replaced by the occasional presence of a single university police officer, traffic is often backed up by Yogi Berra Drive multiple times a day.

Logistically, this is a complicated problem, and one of the simplest solutions would be to put a lower cap on the number of commuter parking permits sold. Another option is to designate certain levels in the Red Hawk Deck for visitor parking and give residents the majority. Ideally, space could be found and allocated for another multilevel commuter lot.

What cannot be allowed is a continuation of the current approach, which seems to be hoping everything will right itself as the semester goes on. The university anticipated a large incoming class; surely it could have worked to prevent an existing problem from becoming a daily calamity, and yet that didn’t happen. It’s certainly hard to feel welcomed back to campus when even the most basic amenity is overpriced and largely unavailable.

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**Campus Voices:**

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“Sorry, it’s been a little bit stressful. It’s like a war in the morning looking for spots, especially if you don’t come super early. Some of the lots are really hard to find. They have some hidden lots, but they’re also very small and they’re not freshman-friendly places if you don’t know the area.”

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“The parking situation here on campus has gotten pretty bad. I feel like Montclair State really jumped the gun by accepting too many freshmen this year. They’re not giving everyone a good deal on the parking either, it’s way too expensive and some kids are taking like 30 or 40 minutes just to get out of here.”

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“I used to park at Car Parc Diem. Guess what? I had to park on the eighth floor one day. I got to park on the third floor last semester. It was a ghost town and I didn’t like it. Other than that, it’s kind of fine. It’s like a survivor movie, you gotta find your own spot.”

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“There’s just way too many people and not enough spaces, that’s obvious. I just think the school needs to start putting money into building more spaces or extending the parking deck, or doing whatever they can.”

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By Olivia Licini

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**How do you feel about parking?**

- Esther Soka
  Film Studies
  freshman

- John Larosa
  Journalism
  Senior

- Jordan Jean-Luis
  Television and Media
  Junior

- Michael Crisco
  Sports Communication
  Freshman
Bugging Out In Campus Housing

Whether it’s a sticky door or a faulty outlet, students always have their grievances with their living space when moving back to school. It is the nature of college living as there are thousands of beds spaces on campus. I’m sure it is a daunting task to clean and prepare every single one for move-in day; things are bound to slip through the cracks.

However, there seems to be a new problem this year at Montclair State University: bugs.

And not just any bugs, but cockroaches. If you are a relatively normal person, this probably skeeves you out a bit. It certainly did when I heard it, especially because it seemed to be an issue in the Village at Montclair State, an apartment-like complex for upperclassmen and also my place of residence this year.

When I heard the rumors of roaches in the Village, I was concerned but not too stressed, since I hadn’t seen any evidence of them in my apartment. But sure enough, a couple of days later, I was working on campus when one of my roommates texted me saying we had a problem. This worried me, so I tried to call her but she didn’t answer.

She texted me a couple of hours later, saying it was all okay now and she would tell me later because she didn’t want to stress me out. I was already stressed so I told her to just spill the beans. Turns out, she had found a cockroach in our bathroom, clinging to her hair towel. I felt terrible for her. No one likes roaches but this particular roommate despises bugs. She informed me that she promptly picked up the roach with several tissues, flushed it down the toilet and let Residence Life know what had happened.

Nothing was done that day but an exterminator was scheduled to check out our place the next day.

This visit from the exterminator happened when I was home with two of my other roommates. We were relieved to see him and hopeful that he would resolve any other potential issues. However, our expectations weren’t exactly met. The exterminator spent about three minutes in our bathroom, said we were good to go and then quickly left.

One of my roommates asked him as he was leaving if we would have any more problems.

“Uh, no,” he said without even glancing at us. “Well, probably not. Well, if there is a problem, just tell them.” With that, he was gone. We all looked at each other in confusion. It did not seem to be a thorough check, and he certainly did not seem entirely confident that there wouldn’t be any more problems.

Honestly, I am not surprised there are roaches in campus housing, and it’s not just because thousands of messy college students live in them. Many of these rooms weren’t lived in last year due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and when the people move out, the critters move in.

With that being said, I will not condemn Montclair State for having a roach problem. But I must say I was not thrilled with my personal experience of how it was handled.

I am no exterminator, nor do I consider myself an expert on cockroaches, but I at least would have checked the kitchen. Luckily, we have not found any more evidence of bugs in our apartment, but I doubt this will be the last time cockroaches find their way into the Village this year.

If you see one in your residence, contact Residence Life right away; I certainly hope you have a better experience than I did.

EMMA CAUGHLAN
MANAGING EDITOR

Emma Caughlan, a junior journalism major, is in her first year as managing editor for The Montclarion.

Thumbs Up

“Jeopardy!” stage renamed after Alex Trebek
Lil Nas X wins video of the year at the Video Music Awards
Latest Nintendo Switch update includes Bluetooth audio connectivity

Thumbs Down

Montclair State student found dead after going missing during Tropical Storm Ida
1,400 dolphins killed in one day in the Faroe Islands
North and South Korea both test nuclear missiles minutes apart
There Is No Trust In Rust

Few things are certain on campus, like the wind tunnel that stretches from Cole Hall to Richardson Hall, finding classrooms with a random piano and the frequency of people on anything with wheels flying down the sidewalks. The new semester not only rejuvenates the campus but brings hundreds of skateboards, bikes and scooters to the sidewalks and walkways.

There are plenty of places to park your bike, as nearly all the buildings on campus have a bike rack within wheeling distance. But what happens if there is a storm?

As of writing this, there is only one designated bike shelter, located adjacent to Machuga Heights. While it’s a welcome addition for residents in the Heights, it puts into question the safety and security of other residential and commuter students who depend on bikes and scooters.

There are solutions, like buying a bike tarp and fastening it to the bike on rainy days. But lest we forget, Montclair State is an incredibly windy campus. Even the strongest bike tarp on the market is no match for the forceful winds students face just walking to class.

One could also argue that it is a student’s responsibility to take care of their bike. While that is extremely obvious, it is also rather callous. Not everyone has the time and ability to take their bike to a shelter and not everyone can afford the cost of repairs.

Bikes are a mode of transportation that a lot of people depend on, as they are faster than walking and more eco-friendly than a car. Having a place to store a bike and ensure its safety is part of ownership.

Some may argue that a student should bring their bike inside on rainy days. Doing so would be far too complicated, as it would mean occupying a significant portion of one’s room as well as creating unnecessary hassle for Residence Life staff and facilities. Plus, most bicycles are not foldable and can’t be tucked in a book bag like a scooter.

One could just take it to the bike shelter, but that alienates a significant portion of students who might not be close enough to the building. For example, on Monday evening I realized there was a thunderstorm outside. Fearing for my bike’s safety, I ran outside and had to ride the bike across campus in the pouring rain and the thunder.

In hindsight, it was a dumb move, but I had nothing to protect my bike from the elements. That bike has been with me for years, and I don’t want to lose it to a storm.

There are plenty of ways to incorporate a bike shelter adjacent to the residential buildings. Having sheds or other similar designated areas that provide shelter from inclement weather could make a huge difference.

Bike parking areas are crucial to the general populace as a place to keep a valuable mode of transportation safe, and at least they are available across campus.

But having a bike shelter in an accessible and available area away from the elements is something that should be a major amenity for all students and faculty on campus. It’s another aspect of parking we should consider beyond cars.

Carley Campbell, a junior journalism major, is in her third year as a staff writer for The Montclarion.
The Montclarion Crossword Puzzle and More!

Montclair State University Edition

Across
5. In 1927, the school was renamed Montclair State ______
6. One of the three communities Montclair State is located in
7. The name of Montclair State's mascot
8. Formerly named College Hall

Down
1. The name of Montclair State's new president
2. One of the freshman dorms
3. Montclair State's first dormitory
4. The library was named after this person

Sudoku

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3 4 2 5 1 8 9 7 6
7 1 8 2 6 9 3 4 5
9 6 5 3 7 4 1 2 8
4 3 7 9 8 1 5 6 2
6 5 1 7 2 3 4 8 9
2 8 9 4 5 6 7 3 1
8 7 3 6 9 5 2 1 4
1 9 4 8 3 2 6 5 7
5 2 6 1 4 7 8 9 3
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Word Search
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across
s i k g f g w t u s l x w p z z o
d l h g f e b a b s e a l g x m i l
i s g v k s x b u a n b w d n q y h q l
i y c p k p s l a j k y e h o r w g m
z m q w d k f t m e o q t j g a a o j s
w c i l k i t c z t o n p i g i wu i g
v b v q q c r s x q y b a j j x k e n
u r c e a r u b p i z c y b y r g k s i
u i t c f f p a v v r h m n e q u o s
c u x m a q l z r c t g g c t l a i s
e t k a f h k q a k s x e i a l o h o
e t a t s r i a l c t n o m d e a l d r
q h f r c d d o a i u b v c h h l w e
e x b q x z p a m b a i n c r t n a n k
k o g f w a a h o w h o s g a i o h o w
z l b k q n j r y y k v r p h s e t a
d l e f e u g a r p s y q r p k f n h
u n i v e r s i t y h a l l l a m e i a q
s t h g i e h a g u h c a m c a i i l l v
l l a d a h e r o m x x k r d m b n
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*For answers to the puzzles, please check The Montclarion Facebook page every Thursday.*
Join an Assassin’s Race Against Time in ‘Kate’

Mary Elizabeth Winstead, widely known for her early role in the horror film “Final Destination 3,” delivers fans a new type of thrill as the titular lead in Netflix’s “Kate.”

The film takes little time to throw viewers into the hectic, fast-paced adventure of Kate, a female assassin ready to trade in her mentally and physically demanding life for the one she never got to experience, complete with a white picket fence and a family dog. Her dream is quickly derailed when she’s poisoned with a lethal radioactive substance that only gives her 24 hours to live, which is just enough time for one final mission to exact murderous revenge on the mobster behind her death.

As suggested by the loaded synopsis, this is not the ideal film choice for the faint of heart. With extremely graphic fight scenes, writer Umair Aleem and director Cedric Nicolas-Troyan do not shy away from exposing the audience to sliced-off heads, open flesh wounds or gruesomely long stabbings. Nor is there any shortage of dangerous stunts as the film follows Kate through high-speed car chases and fatal fistfights.

The movement of the camera especially highlights this. It’s hard to ignore cinematographer Lyle Vincent’s artistic hand at work as an array of low angles and spinning shots fill the screen, making the experience feel uniquely personal and just as haywire as if you were Kate herself or one of the unfortunate gang members she shows no mercy on.

While Kate may appear to be a cold killer that shows no remorse for her victims, there is one exception that sets her apart from most other action film protagonists: a soft spot for children that results from feeling forced to grow up at a young age. Kate’s unresolved childhood trauma is what paves the way for her value of protecting children and shielding them from the horrors of her job, as seen to fruition in her relationship with Ani, played by Miku Patricia Martineau.

An outspoken teenage girl, Ani becomes intertwined with Kate when she is kidnapped as collateral damage, a way to lure out Ani’s uncle, who happens to be the one who poisoned Kate. The initially, and understandably rocky relationship between Kate and Ani turns into a Stockholm syndrome scenario when the teenager learns to admire the assassin’s fierceness and chooses to accompany her on the mission even when given the choice to return home.

This opens the door for the emotional intensity that exists within “Kate.” Though clearly an action film with the number of punches and shootouts that get thrown into scenes, there are an equal amount of scenes that develop the genuinely caring relationship between Kate and Ani, adding elements of drama to the film. Viewers may be drawn in by the convincing stunts and rugged attitude performed by Winstead, but they stay for the authentic relationship she and Martineau have so much success in building for their characters.

The audience may also stick around for the culture. “Kate” is based in Tokyo, Japan; it works hard to incorporate the country’s way of life, from the language, brightly lit streets and T-shirt vending machines to cultural dances and upbeat Japanese music. Though it’s certainly pleasing to the eye and adds substantial vibrance to an otherwise dark film, Japanese movie critics and fans have mixed reactions to how the country is represented. Many felt “Kate” presented Japan in the most stereotypical fashion possible, a setting explored through the eyes of a foreigner. Others, however, found the point of view to be interesting and felt the story’s action-filled plotline was enough to save face. The opinion lies with the individual viewer.

All put together, “Kate” is a sleek and sexy movie composed of rugged characters with several layers to them, equating to a film that pleases action junkies and drama lovers alike. Viewers can feel satisfied knowing they accompanied Kate during the last 24 hours of her life, receiving the opportunity to witness a thrilling adventure and equally moving friendship.

Megan Lim
Entertainment Editor

Mary Elizabeth Winstead plays the titular lead in “Kate.”

Kate’s fierceness.

Mary (right), played by Miku Patricia Martineau, admires Kate’s fierceness.

“Kate” does not fall short in graphic, fight scenes or dangerous stunts.

“Kate” is about a female assassin with 24 hours left to live.
Kacey Musgraves’ ‘Star-Crossed’ is Tragically Beautiful

Emma Caughlan
Managing Editor

Country star Kacey Musgraves released her fifth studio album titled “Star-Crossed” on Sept. 10. Its predecessor, “Golden Hour,” swept the 2019 Grammy Awards, winning best country album and album of the year. It raised Musgraves to fame, and she became known for her authenticity, creating her own music genre somewhere in between country, pop and indie.

Needless to say, Musgraves’ fans and music lovers alike have been waiting for this next chapter for quite some time.

Unfortunately, “Star-Crossed” is not the happy ending fans were hoping for following “Golden Hour.” Instead, it is a quintessential divorce album filled with regret, loss, anger and hope. Musgraves’ classic introspection and storytelling create a tragic story album.

Musgraves chronicles her frustration, pain and desperation at the beginning of a relationship’s end in tracks like “Simple Times.”

“Angel” and “Hookup Scene.”

The end of the album embodies Musgraves’ feelings of strength and hope for the future, with a dash of disco in the songs “Keep Lookin’ Up,” “What Doesn’t Kill Me” and “There Is A Light.”

The album closes with what might be Musgraves’ holdest experimentation.

The final track, “Gracias a la Vida,” is a simple and haunting ballad that seems to pour right out of the singer’s soul. She thanks life for the beauty and ugliness it brings, ending the story with a sense of peace.

The song is entirely in Spanish, which is complemented nicely by the bits of Ranchera influence sprinkled throughout the rest of the album.

“Ast yo distingo dicha de quebranto / Los dos materiales que forman mi canto / Y el canto de ustedes que es el mismo canto / Y el canto de todos que es mi propio canto,” Musgraves sings. These lyrics translate as: “This is how I distinguish happiness from breakage / The two materials that make up my song / And everyone’s song that is my own song.”

Due to its experimentation, I do not expect “Star-Crossed” to do as well with awards as “Golden Hour.” And though I can’t say the new album has the former beat just yet, it has a chance, as it does seem to get better every time I hear it.

Musgraves undoubtedly delivered another bold and seamless album. It’s a great listen whether you are a fan or not. But fans beware: “Star-Crossed” may make “Golden Hour” a much sadder story.

Top Picks to Stream

Hispanic Heritage Month Edition

“Selena” on HBO Max

Looking for something to watch in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month? If you haven’t already seen the timeless classic, “Selena,” starring none other than Jennifer Lopez, you should definitely give it a go.

As Lopez’s breakout role pre-“Jenny from the Block,” the 1997 biographical musical drama tells the story of Selena Quintanilla-Pérez. It chronicles the singer’s life from her journey to becoming the Queen of Tejano music to the heartbreaking ending we all know to be true.

“Selena” is a reviving yet heartrending reimagining of the personal life of the musician, her family and how she became the renowned artist we know her as today. Stream it now on HBO Max.

“Coco” on Disney+

An instant family favorite, “Coco” is a beautifully animated fantasy film that tells the story of Miguel, a young boy with a passion for music. His normal life is disrupted when he is accidentally transported to the Land of the Dead. Here he meets passed relatives and unique people that accompany him on his mission to return to the living. If time runs out and he fails, Miguel will be stuck among the dead forever and unable to return home.

Home is Santa Cecilia, Mexico, a location rich in culture. In particular, viewers are taught the importance of Día de Muertos, or Day of the Dead, and experience the language, art, customs and music of the culture along the way. “Coco” immerses people in the values and beauty of Mexican tradition, the perfect watch to kick off Hispanic Heritage Month!

- Megan Lim
Entertainment Editor
Kanye West’s ‘Donda’ and Drake’s ‘Certified Lover Boy’ Make Headlines Over Which Is The Better Album

Trinity Corney
Staff Writer

All people are talking about right now is Drake’s new album, “Certified Lover Boy,” released Sept. 3. It out-streamed Kanye West’s “Donda,” released Aug. 30, in just three days. According to Rolling Stone, “Certified Lover Boy” was streamed over 430 million times in the United States. Meanwhile, “Donda” was a little under the bar with 423 million streams. Those figures are impressive for albums released five days apart.

West and Drake have been feuding since 2018. Whether it is real or just a marketing stunt, the two are living legends in the music industry with different artistic styles.

I wanted to be thrilled and shocked by “Donda” and “Certified Lover Boy,” but both are overhyped and did not meet my expectations. The albums are long enough that you could pick a handful of songs for a playlist, but neither shifted the culture of music. The artists did not give fulfilling projects as a whole, and I think people can agree these were not memorable.

While West took more risks artistically, he did not execute the rollout properly. On the other hand, Drake used his usual formula to satisfy fans but did not push the boundaries.

West’s “Donda” is confusing because there is no real connectivity to bring all 27 songs together. If it was more refined and delivered in a more linear format, it could have been better, but it seems as though West did this project just to test the public and see how far he can maintain the audience’s attention.

However, since this is considered to be his second faith-based project, I respect West for only having a clean version of the album and staying true to what he believes as a Christian.

More notable tracks are “Off the Grid” and “Jesus Lord.” These songs give you an inside look into West’s mind and memories of his mom, anxiety and drug addiction.

“Man, it’s hard to be an angel when you surrounded by demons (Jesus) / I watched so many people leave (Lord) / I see ‘em change by the season, that’s mama’s seasonin’,” West says in “Jesus Lord.”

Though you can’t limit art, albums should not be 27 tracks like “Donda” or even 21 tracks like “Certified Lover Boy.” Artists like Drake and West should know what they are trying to achieve and choose what is best to finalize it.

As far as my rating for the projects, I give “Donda” a seven out of 10 because I did not like the flow of the album and felt like it did not reach where it was trying to go. I give “Certified Lover Boy” an eight out of 10 because of the wordplay and various features with different artists.

Overall, both albums are listenable, just not memorable or complete. Both could have benefited from revisions and not rushing the rollouts. As for which is better, it’s really all about preference.

Drake’s “Certified Lover Boy” was released Sept. 3.

Kanye West’s “Donda” was released on Aug. 30.
Women’s Soccer Bounces Back With Big Victory Over Ursinus

Women’s soccer team played with a vengeance after tough loss

Jess Liptzin
Assistant Sports Editor

On Sept. 8, Montclair State University dropped a close game to Vassar College in what was the program’s first loss since the 2019 New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) championship game. Using this as a wake-up call, the Montclair State women’s soccer team played with a vengeance this past weekend. The Red Hawks came out firing, netting three goals in a 3-1 win over Ursinus College. Head coach Patrick Naughter recognized his team’s drive and that they would bounce back. The long season is expected to have losses here and there, but he knows that the teams who find success are those who move on from those losses.

“It’s an older group,” Naugh- ter said. “They are mature and they do a good job of flushing it and moving on to the next one. They’ve lost very few games in their career. They don’t like losing. There was a little bit of a look in their eyes the last couple days of training. I knew we were going to make a good effort.”

That they did, as it didn’t take long for the Red Hawks to get going. Just eight minutes into the game, Montclair State was rattling off multiple shots. Then, finally, in the 17th minute forward, graduate student Zoë Steck broke it open. This was Steck’s second goal in two games. She wasn’t letting Ursinus even gain an attempt.

At this point in the game, Montclair State had two goals and held the Bears to zero shots on goal. It was another clean, defensive showing, not letting Ursinus even gain an attempt.

In goal for the Red Hawks was senior Lindsay Freewalt. Freewalt hadn’t played any matches in over a year. Sophomore midfielder Samantha Gabriele scored her first goal of the season in the 71st minute of the game.

In this game, she didn’t miss a beat. The senior let nothing pass other than a late goal with just 30 seconds left.

“Naughter and the coaching staff were aware of Freewalt and the history she has with Ursinus. She posted a shoutout in a 1-0 victory back in 2019, so they expected her to pick up right where she left off.”

“I think Linds [Freewalt] did well,” Naughter said. “We de-cided to give her the game here. She’s been sharp in training [and] a couple years ago she played at Ursinus, and that was one of the best games we had a goalkeeper play in the last few years, so it was awesome to see her again today.”

In the Red Hawks 1-0 overtime victory against Ursinus College in 2019, the lone goal came from the now senior midfielder, Catherine Carnevale. This was another impressive game for Carnevale, who came out strong and controlled the midfield for the Red Hawks. Montclair State’s final goal of the game was courtesy of se-nior midfielder Chiom On-yewuenyi. It was her first goal of the season.

This bounce-back win puts the Red Hawks at 3-1. Their next matchup comes against DeSales University on Sept. 15 at their home field.

The following game will be a big-time showdown between Montclair State and Rutgers-Camden on Sept. 18 at MSU Soccer Park. This game will be a rematch of the 2020 NJAC Championship where the Red Hawks defeated the Raptors, 1-0.
"In America, the President reigns for four years, but Journalism governs forever." – Oscar Wilde

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Fax 973.655.7804
E-mail Montclarionchief@gmail.com
Montclair State Men’s Soccer Topped By
NYU In Heartbreaking Fashion

OT goal by NYU gives Red Hawks first loss of season

With about 10 minutes remaining in the first half, New York University midfielder Alex Roviro-ILLA connected with his teammate, Nicholas Suter, on a free-kick to level the score. Suter got his head on the ball, putting it just past the keeper, and hit the post before it eventually rolled in.

The eighth-ranked Montclair State University men’s soccer team took on New York University at Pittser Field in a regular-season matchup on Sept. 11. Montclair State drew first blood. Senior defender Ryan Catalano whipped the ball into the middle toward freshman midfielder Amer Lukovic. Lukovic was able to keep his composure and ultimately slam it past the keeper to put the Red Hawks up 1-0.

The Red Hawks kept the pressure on for the majority of the first half. Montclair State was using their press as an advantage and when they got dispossessed, they tried to win it back right away. While it was somewhat working, the Red Hawks were never able to capitalize early on.

The Violets refused to go away. With about 10 minutes remaining in the first half, New York University midfielder Alex Roviro-ILLA connected with his teammate, Nicholas Suter, on a free-kick to level the score. Suter got his head on the ball, putting it just past the keeper, and hit the post before it eventually rolled in.

The first half was even at one. Montclair State seemed to be in control for most of the half, but not being clinical enough in the final third hurt them. The Red Hawks had a total of 10 shots while the Violets registered six shots heading into halftime.

Head coach Todd Tumelty is confident in the team and knows that they will only get better.

“I just think we have to be better in the final third,” Tumelty said. “We had opportunities, we had chances. We’re gonna get there, it’s early [and] once we start clicking, I think it’s going to be an exciting team to watch.”

Both sides have tremendous depth and were able to rotate many players into the match. The second half began and it was much of the same story: a back-and-forth game between two good teams, however, Montclair State had the upper hand.

About a minute into the second half, the Red Hawks were already threatening. After a giant throw-in, the ball found freshman defender Alex Zielonka for a volley only for it to be hit directly to New York University goalkeeper Luca Mancuso.

With both teams searching for that match-winning goal, it began to get extremely physical. At one point, it looked like the referees were beginning to lose control of the game. Each side was awarded a yellow card and on top of that, there were a combined 22 fouls in the second half alone.

The Violets are a very physical team that likes to play straightforwardly. Tactically speaking, Tumelty notes, the Red Hawks were given a challenge that they are not used to.

“They were playing super direct,” Tumelty said. “They were playing balls in over the top and making it difficult for our backs. Our backs had to turn and run. They couldn’t play with the game in front of them.”

Both teams defended exceptionally well throughout the match. The Violets put the Red Hawks in some dangerous positions, however, the Montclair State backline led by senior Daniel Rodriguez and sophomore Julian Zanora made shots hard to come by.

The game would head into overtime after no goals were scored during the second half. Montclair State tallied eight total shots compared to only one from the Violets. In overtime, the first side to score wins the match.

After about seven minutes of play, New York University capitalized on what seemed to be the first real defensive error committed by Montclair State.

Forward Oliver Kleban made a nice run with the ball at his feet and linked up with Arkan Tahasildaroglu for the game-winning goal. New York University stormed the field in celebration leaving the Red Hawks devastated on their own pitch.

Junior forward Josiah Crawford spoke about staying motivated after a tough loss.

“I just think about it for a little bit but then I forget about it,” Crawford said. “I move on to practice and see what I can work on and develop for my next game.”

The Red Hawks are in for a long yet exciting season. They will look to bounce back against Moravian College on Sept. 15 and will return to MSU Soccer Park to face Rutgers-Camden on Sept. 18.
Football Team Looks to Turn Around A Rough Road Trip After 0-2 Start
The Red Hawks hope to bounce back after a tumultuous start to the season.

Matt Orth
Assistant Sports Editor

Last season for the Montclair State University football team was unique, to say the least. The season was played in the spring instead of the fall. Only three games were played in the whole season, so every game really counted then.

But in the end, the Red Hawks beat out William Patterson University in a dominant fashion to win the New Jersey Athletic Conference (NJAC) North Division championship. Going into this season, the team, including senior defensive back Mike Ramos is happy there is a sense of normalcy going into the fall.

“The spring was very different,” Ramos said. “I have never played a football season in the spring instead of the fall. But in the end, win the game.”

Brennan Ray, another senior defensive back for the Red Hawks and First Team All-NJAC selection last season recognizes that with any football game, there is always something to improve upon, whether it’s a win or a loss.

“We did have a great performance, there are little things we do have to work on so that we can duplicate that performance, or even do better in the next game,” Ray said. “We really have to work on our technique this week. We already know what to do and where to be, and we have great game plans from our coach Todd Agresta. So ultimately, we have to work on that and communication.”

All the way down in Pennsylvania, the Red Hawks’ next game started with quite the bang as Montclair State forced a safety by Delaware Valley University after forcing them to play from their own one-yard line. Then, it looked as though what they practiced paid off. But right at the end of the first half, once again, the game began to slip away from the Red Hawks.

Delaware Valley scored a 71-yard passing touchdown to end the half. The second half of the game only got worse. A rushing and a passing touchdown summed up the third for Delaware Valley, and a 51-yard punt return for a touchdown in the fourth was the last straw for the Red Hawks to find any way to win the game. It was truly a soul-crushing way to end.

It is also important to note that the Red Hawks defense has had a lackluster start to the season. They have only mustered up 181 yards of offense in the first two games as both the passing and rushing attacks have struggled mightily. Montclair State has yet to register an offensive touchdown this season.

But even with a disappointing start from the football team, Ramos will not let this get them down.

“We just have to take it week by week,” Ramos said. “This is not a good feeling at all, but our main focus is Salve Regina [University] this Saturday. We aren’t focused on anything else other than that game.”

The Red Hawks’ next game is against Salve Regina on Sept. 18. Thankfully, this game will be right here at Sprague Field and even with masks being required for all fans, it is expected to be a packed house for the Montclair State side. Ray is more than excited for the home crowd coming up in a few days.

“This time, the fans are not taking it for granted,” Ray said. “They are going to be rowdy and we want to feed off that energy. Right off the jump when we come out onto the field – that energy helps us to play a whole lot better.”

So if you are looking to support your school and help the football team get on the right foot this weekend, this is the time to bring your friends and family and scream as loud as you can for the Montclair State football team. The noise can help to cloud their thoughts of the past and focus on what is hap-
Former Division I Athlete Zoë Steck Joins Women’s Soccer Team

Former UConn soccer player is making an impact for a talented Montclair State squad

Zoe Steck joined the Montclair State women’s soccer team as a transfer graduate student this season.

Head coach Patrick Naughter had watched Steck play out of high school before she committed to UConn. He knew Steck was special and would be a crucial asset in this year’s 2021 season. “I had seen Zoë play a bunch when she was a club and high school player,” Naughter said. “I knew she was a hardworking physical forward who is clean in front of a goal.”

As for how she fit in with the team, Naughter was very straightforward. “Seamlessly, I feel like she has been here forever,” he said. “Great kid, great teammate.”

In Steck’s senior year at Nutley High School, she led the entire state in goals scored with 41. She broke many records at the school, including being the only soccer player to break the 100-goal mark. She completed her four years reaching 107 goals. Both her skill as a player and teammate flourished in high school as she was a two-time captain.

One of her teammates and longtime best friend at Nutley High School was senior Samantha Gabriele. The two kept in touch when they went their separate ways in college. “Being that Zoë was one of my best friends when we were in high school together, hearing that she was coming to Montclair [State] was super exciting,” Gabriele said at the beginning of preseason training. “We always had great chemistry on the field so I am interested to see how that translates on the college level.”

Coming from a Division I school, Steck mentions how the women’s soccer team at Montclair State is run just as well as many Division I schools in the nation. From the team practices to the overall culture of the team, she feels as if there isn’t much of a drop-off between the two divisions.

“If you were to throw me into the program with no names on the shirt, not telling me where I am or who I’m with, I would have no doubt that Montclair State would be a successful [Division I] program,” Steck said.

The opportunity presented by the NCAA to play another year presents a unique situation for graduate students. Steck understands she is going to a new school, and only for a year, so it was important to find a perfect match, which she thinks she has with Montclair State.

“Coming somewhere for a year, I was just looking for somewhere that would willingly take me in, like open arms, knowing I was only going to be here for a short period of time,” Steck said. “Going somewhere I knew I could make a difference, share what I know, share what I can do and really just create something special in the short period of time. Everything I heard from the group of people I spoke with said you don’t have to be here long to feel like you’re a part of their family.”

Steck understands the women’s soccer program at Montclair State has a winning culture. She has made a few personal goals this season as well. “Obviously coming here you always have the idea you want to win [the New Jersey Athletic Conference title],” Steck said. “You want to win to perform at a high level and a lot of the girls were saying they want to go back to back. I really want to make a run in the tournament and playing in the NCAA’s. I never had the opportunity to do that at UConn, so this year, making a tournament run and going out being successful and playing is not a far-fetched idea for us.”

As an undergraduate, Steck was a psychology major and is now studying sports administration for her master’s degree. Continuing to do what she loves and what she has played since kindergarten while pursuing her passion was ideal for the soccer player.

Steck’s work ethic throughout her academic and athletic career has presented her with so many great experiences throughout her life. But her most rewarding opportunity? Being able to return to her home state and play as a Red Hawk.

“Coming home, this is what I know, this is what I love,” Steck said. “This is the ideal way to finish out my career.”