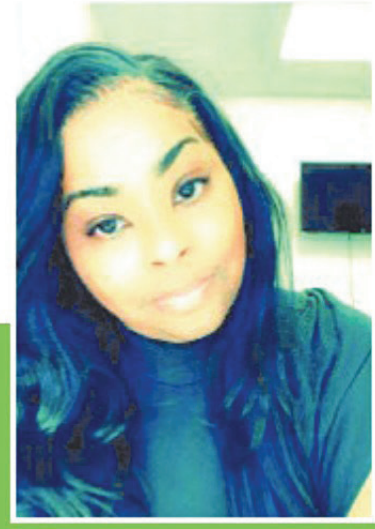


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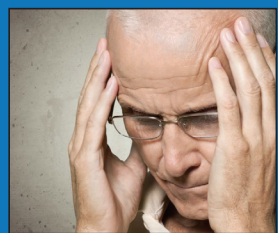
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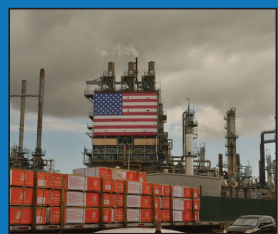
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BREAKING NEWS: CHICAGO MAYOR LORI LIGHTFOOT LOSES RE-ELECTION BID, CONCEDES DEFEAT

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Study: Vitamin D could help keep dementia at bay
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Bob Richards, first to win two Olympic gold medals for pole vaulting, dies at 97
Page 8



Intense fighting continues in Ukrainian city of Bakhmut
Page 10

Extra food support ends today for millions of low-income U.S. taxpayers

By Daniel J. Graeber
UPI

March 1 marks the end of maxed-out assistance programs that helped more than 30 million people get by during the COVID-19 pandemic, something that advocates said will likely deal a major blow to low-income U.S. households struggling under inflationary strains.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formally known as food stamps, included emergency allotments under provisions enacted in March 2020, just as the spread of COVID-19 was entering the pandemic stage.

Those emergency allotments ended when the calendar turned to March. The U.S. Center on



A meat packer stocks meat bins at the King Soopers supermarket in Lakewood, Colo. Pandemic-era food support came to an end Wednesday, leaving low-income U.S. households facing an uphill battle against inflation. **File photo by Gary C. Caskey/UPI**

Budget and Policy Priorities decline by \$90 per month and as estimates the average individual recipient will see SNAP support See **SUPPORT**, page 4

Drugmaker Eli Lilly capping monthly insulin costs at \$35

By Simon Druker
UPI

Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly said Wednesday it is voluntarily cutting the price of its insulin for all Americans, capping the out-of-pocket cost for the diabetes treatment at \$35 per month or less.

The Indianapolis-based drugmaker said that in addition to putting a \$35 cap on out-of-pocket customer costs for its Lilly insulin at participating retail pharmacies for people with commercial insurance, it is also cutting the price of several of its insulin injections.

The company is cutting the list price of its non-branded Insulin Lispro Injection to \$25 a vial. The change is effective May 1, making it the lowest-priced mealtime insulin on the market.

"While the current healthcare system provides access to insulin for most people with diabetes, it still does not provide affordable insulin for everyone and that needs to change," Eli Lilly CEO David Ricks said in a statement.

Eli Lilly said it will also introduce Rezvoglar in April, a basal insulin that is interchangeable with its Lantus injections but 78% cheaper at \$92 for a five-pack of Kwik Pens.

"The aggressive price cuts we're announcing today should make a real difference for Americans with diabetes. Because these price cuts will take time for the insurance and pharmacy system to implement, we are taking the additional step to immediately cap out-of-pocket costs for patients who use Lilly insulin and are not covered by the recent Medicare Part D cap."

Those without insurance are able to

House Judiciary subcommittee tackles causes of fentanyl crisis

By Avani Kalra
Medill News Service

House Republicans on Wednesday blamed immigration at the southern border for an increasing number of fentanyl deaths, stepping up their criticisms of Biden administration policies and calling for stricter regulations and more surveillance at the border.

During a hearing by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, Chairman Andy Biggs, R-Ariz. and other lawmakers zeroed in on the role of Mexican cartels and Chinese manufacturers in counterfeit



drug trafficking. "Last year, we seized about 700 pounds of fentanyl" along the Arizona border, Biggs said. "That's enough to kill everyone in Arizona 21 times, or half the population of the United States. The majority of that was encountered in the field, being back-packed across the border."

The committee directed a number of national security questions to Derek Maltz, who worked with the Special Operations Division at the Drug Enforcement Administration. Maltz, who retired after 28 years with the agency,

See **FENTANYL**, page 5

See **INSULIN**, page 3

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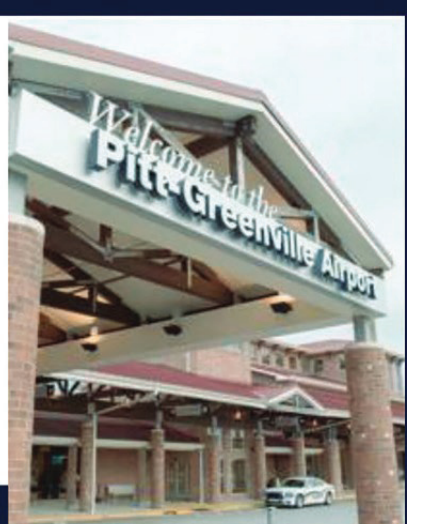
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OPINION

The United States Is Inching Toward World War III With China

Rail accidents: Public safety, accountability suffer due to deregulation

By Bruce Campbell & Jennifer Quaid

The ongoing environmental tragedy in Ohio caused by the derailment of a Norfolk Southern train carrying hazardous materials -- which sent toxic chemicals into the air and local waterways -- will take a long time to clean up.

And if a similar rail tragedy in Canada is an example, it could take even longer for residents to get answers about the cause and true damage of the accident.

Almost a decade has passed since a runaway train hauling 72 tank cars laden with highly volatile Bakken shale oil derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic -- a small Québec town near the border with Maine -- killing 47 people, orphaning 26 children, spilling 6 million liters of toxic material and destroying the town center.

The accident on July 6, 2013, was the worst industrial disaster on Canadian soil in over a century. A decade later, it has left the community with a legacy of economic, health and environmental effects.

Prolonged trauma

A rail bypass project, originally conceived as means of healing, has prolonged the trauma that has plagued the Lac-Mégantic community since that catastrophic night.

Construction of the bypass still has not begun. The route preferred by Canadian Pacific Railway, which will own the bypass upon completion, and supported by the federal government, has created deep divisions within the surrounding towns.

Citizens of the neighboring town of Frontenac recently voted overwhelmingly against the proposed route. Voters expressed concern about potential negative environmental and property damage not properly addressed by Transport Canada.

The dispute over the bypass is just one of the ongoing issues for the citizens of Lac-Mégantic. Their latest quest for justice through the courts came to a disheartening end on Dec. 14.

Justice Martin Bureau of the Superior Court of Québec found that Canadian Pacific Railway could not be held liable for damages suffered by the victims of the Lac-Mégantic disaster. The plaintiffs have appealed the decision.

Accountability questions

This case raises serious questions about who should be accountable for complex events that result in catastrophic harm. It's also a reminder that private litigation is an imperfect means of understanding how disasters happen and what should be done to better protect public interest in the future. Only a public inquiry can do that.

The class action lawsuit was brought against Montreal Maine & Atlantic Canada and 25 other defendants. MM&A subsequently went bankrupt.

In 2016, 24 of the defendants settled the claims against them by contributing \$460 million to a compensation fund. Among those who settled were Transport Canada, which paid \$75 million into the fund, Irving Oil (\$75 million) and World Fuel Services, the U.S. owner of the oil on the train (\$135 million). This was not an altruistic gesture, but rather a way to end their legal exposure because the settlement released them from the class action.

CP claimed no wrongdoing

Canadian Pacific did not join the settlement. From the outset, CP maintained it had engaged in no wrongdoing. It refused to acknowledge any responsibility in connection with the Lac-Mégantic disaster because the derailling occurred after the train was handed off to Montreal Maine & Atlantic in Montréal for the final leg of the journey.

The United States is inching toward World War III with China.

All the lights on the dashboard are flashing.

The pivot to Asia proclaimed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Massive arms sales to Taiwan.

The United States Taiwan Defense Command in Taiwan.

The Quad with Japan, Australia and India to encircle China.

The sale of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia and augmentation of U.S. Marine forces there.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's "in-your-face" gratuitous visit to Taiwan.

President Joe Biden's repeated threats to attack China if it invades Taiwan.

Harsh economic sanctions against China indistinguishable from the United States economic strangulation of Japan prior to Pearl Harbor.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's summons to deny China access to artificial islands in the South China Sea.

Naming China as the greatest threat to the United States in the Pentagon's National Defense Strategy released in October 2022.

Nearly two centuries of humiliation of China by the West beginning at least with the Opium War of 1842 to make Chinese drug addiction a western profit center. The United

States followed with the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and a prohibition on the naturalization of Chinese immigrants. The United States betrayed China during the post-World War I Paris peace talks by surrendering Shandong Province to Japan. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles



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refused to shake the hand of Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai during the Geneva Conference to settle the future of Vietnam and gratuitously sneered that the two would only meet in a car crash.

About That Randi Weingarten Meltdown...

Guy Benson

Taiwan is the same distance from the Chinese mainland as Cuba is to the United States. During the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, we were willing to initiate war if necessary to compel the Soviet Union to remove tactical nuclear weapons from Cuba, including a blockade. Cuba had requested the missiles to deter a planned second United States invasion on the heels of the Bay of Pigs debacle. The USSR blinked and removed the nuclear weapons in exchange for a sotto voce agreement

by the United States to remove Jupiter missiles from Turkey.

Today, the United States is a vastly greater existential threat to China than the Soviet Union's presence in Cuba was to the United States in 1962. Why does anyone think China would react less strongly than the United States did in the Cuban Missile Crisis to the U.S. arming Taiwan to the teeth, repeatedly threatening war, organizing the Quad, strangling the Chinese economy and treating the South China Sea as if it were the Gulf of Mexico? Why would the Chinese accept national security risks that the United States has shown it will not?

United States relations with China are combustible. Only a spark is necessary to ignite a conflagration that could lead to nuclear exchanges and threaten the species with nuclear winter and extinction. Something similar happened before with Austrian Archduke Franz Ferdinand's assassination by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip on June 28, 1914. It gave birth to World War I, which witnessed 20 million deaths and 21 million wounded. World War III could be precipitated by a shootout over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands or the Scarborough Shoal/Huangyan Island.

A war involving the U.S. and China would likely metastasize. According to the

Brookings Institution's Michael O'Hanlon: "Neither Beijing nor Washington would accept defeat in a limited engagement. Instead, the conflict probably would expand horizontally to other regions and vertically, perhaps even to include nuclear weapons threats -- or their actual use. It literally could become the worst catastrophe in the history of warfare."

In recent years, U.S. war games have generally shown China defeating the United States. One analysis concluded: "The overarching takeaway from participants in the war game: If China invades Taiwan, the Indo-Pacific region will plunge into a broad, drawn-out war that could include direct attacks on the U.S., including Hawaii and potentially the continental United States."

If a war with China over Taiwan seems crazy, it's because it is! We have no defense treaty with Taiwan. We have no diplomatic relations with Taiwan. It has no membership in the United Nations. It is within China's traditional sphere of influence. It is more than 7,500 miles away from the United States. Its independence is a featherweight to our national security. If China annexed Taiwan, imitating our annexation of Hawaii in 1898, the annexation would not be an existential threat to the United States.

U.S. isn't prepared for Russia, China challenges of 2023

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist

Thomas Hobbes asserted that without government, life would be "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short."

But, ironically, even with government, similar terms still might apply today. That is sadly true in America. About three-quarters of Americans see the country headed in the wrong direction. And an equal proportion report they are "dissatisfied" with their lives.

This bleakness is reflected in how numerous foreign capitals view America. With the war in Ukraine, NATO and other European allies are, for the moment, in agreement in reversing Russian aggression. However, that same favorability and support are far from global. In terms of populations, a significant majority tends to side with Russia and China over the West.

Anecdotal analysis is telling. South Africa's navy is exercising with Russia's and China's off its coasts. North African states from Algeria to Egypt are buying Russian oil, despite the boycotts and sanctions. And history also counts.

Perhaps the Vietnam War has been forgotten. However, U.S. interventions into Iraq twice, Afghanistan, Libya and even Ukraine, along with European colonialism, have not. Too often America is seen as arrogant, aloof and

unwilling to listen.

These criticisms beyond America's borders are reflected in the unprecedented political, social, cultural, ideological and economic divisions from within. Virtually every issue is deeply politicized between Democrats and Republicans. Last weekend, one of the Department of Energy labs released a report that concluded the COVID-19 virus likely came from China's biological research facility in Wuhan.

The origins of COVID-19 have two possible sources. The first is from nature and an animal to human zoonotic transmission. The second is a man-made virus created in a laboratory, such as in Wuhan, that could be part of a biological warfare program. Initially, many disregarded the conspiracy theory because far more Chinese people succumbed to COVID-19 than in any other country.

Less advertised was that the Energy Department report expressed "low confidence" in the source as being from a laboratory. The White House has no firm conclusion as to the origins of COVID-19, as U.S. intelligence remains divided. However, the political divisions have magnified the intensity and passion on both sides of the debate.

For the moment, the question of whether the United States is at a transformational inflection point, or what has been called a hinge of history,

is interesting. Such points after World War II were 1947 and the partition of India into Pakistan; 1948 and the establishment of Israel; 1949 and the formation of NATO; 1972 and Nixon's trip to China; 1989 and 1991 that led to the end of the Cold War and the implosion of the Soviet Union; and the al-Qaida attacks of 2001.

One could argue that Russian President Vladimir Putin's incursions into Georgia in 2008, Crimea in 2014 and Ukraine last year are also critical dates.

The reason that 2023 could be one such inflection point is that for the first time in its history, the United States faces both a nuclear armed economic superpower and a nuclear armed energy-rich adversary that launched the first major war in Europe since 1945.

If this assessment is correct, U.S. strategy has not anticipated these conditions and does not fit this new paradigm. And much as nuclear and thermonuclear weapons forever changed strategy because in war there could be no winners, only losers eviscerated under huge mushroom-shaped clouds, this dual challenge from China and Russia could have equally profound consequences.

But where are these matters being addressed? And part of any assessment, are the traditional definitions of containment, deterrence

and defense still applicable, or does each need revision for this era? For over a decade, neither China nor Russia has been contained or deterred. China has made its military one of the largest and most modern on Earth; fortified tiny islands in its contiguous seas; and strengthened its rhetoric on returning Taiwan to China.

The same freedom of action applies to Russia. Russia has intervened in Syria and Moldova, as well as Ukraine. It has threatened the use of nuclear weapons. And it has suspended New START. So what can be done?

In many ways, the United States seems to have lost its way at home and abroad. But administrations generally have greater flexibility regarding foreign and defense than domestic policy. With less than two years remaining in office, a major strategic review is unlikely to be undertaken by this White House. Yet that is what is needed now.

That returns to a common refrain of who will listen and who will lead?

Harlan Ullman is senior adviser at Washington's Atlantic Council, the prime author of "shock and awe" and author of "The Fifth Horseman and the New MAD: How Massive Attacks of Disruption Became the Looming Existential Danger to a Divided Nation and the World at Large." Follow him @harlankullman.



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CO-CHAIRS LAUNCH BIPARTISAN RURAL BROADBAND CAUCUS FOR THE 118th CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the co-chairs of the bipartisan Congressional Rural Broadband Caucus, Representatives James E. Clyburn (D-SC-06), Rob Wittman (R-VA-01), Bob Latta (R-OH-05), Annie Kuster (D-NH-02), Tim Walberg (R-MI-05), Angie Craig (D-MN-02), Richard Hudson (R-NC-09), and Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM-03), announced the continuation of the Caucus in the 118th Congress.

Since 2016, the Caucus, with more than 60 Members from both sides of the aisle, has collaborated to champion forward-looking, bipartisan policies to close the digital divide across our country. These efforts have contributed to the deployment of affordable, high-speed internet service in unserved and underserved rural communities.

In 2023, millions of Americans still lack a reliable, high-speed connection at home. The Caucus is focused on bringing together leaders from the federal government, states, and the private sector to close this gap and make high-speed internet service accessible for all Americans.

“Our efforts to deploy affordable, high-speed internet service is the modern equivalent of rural electrification in the 20th century,” said Rep. Clyburn. “Without a reliable connection and meaningful adoption, rural and underserved communities will continue to be left

behind in education, health care, and commerce. I look forward to collaborating with the Congressional Rural Broadband Caucus to build on our efforts to finally close the digital divide.”

“Closing the digital divide must be a bipartisan whole-of-government approach, which is why I am encouraged by our efforts on the Bipartisan Rural Broadband Caucus,” said Rep. Wittman. “As demonstrated in recent years, high speed broadband has the potential to revolutionize the way we live, and expanding high-speed internet is critical to economic development and growth in our nation. It is vital Congress works together to remove policies hindering broadband access in rural areas, and I am proud of the strides we have made so far. I am grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their leadership in expanding broadband access to Americans, and I look forward to our work in the 118th Congress.”

“In this day and age, access to the internet is absolutely essential for communicating and working with others,” said Rep. Latta. “Ensuring Ohioans and people across the country have access to reliable internet via rural broadband has long been a priority of mine in Congress. That’s why I am honored to serve once again as Co-Chair of the Rural Broadband Caucus in the 118th Congress. I look forward to working

in a bipartisan manner to advance solutions that close the digital divide and ensure federal dollars for broadband deployment are directed to unserved and underserved communities in Ohio and across America.”

“Whether it is a small business connecting with customers online or families receiving critical telehealth from home, access to quality and affordable broadband is crucial for rural communities across our country,” said Rep. Kuster. “COVID-19 accelerated our reliance on the internet to stay connected, and rural states like New Hampshire need confidence that they will have internet access when they need it most. I’m proud to once again join the Bipartisan Rural Broadband Caucus, this time as a co-chair, to close the digital divide and deliver for communities nationwide.”

“Access to a reliable, high-speed internet connection is essential for families, farmers, and small businesses throughout Michigan,” said Rep. Walberg. “That’s why I’m honored to serve as a Co-Chair of the Rural Broadband Caucus in the 118th Congress. I look for-

ward to working with my colleagues on policies that will bridge the digital divide, address the homework gap, and finally connect the truly unserved and underserved across the country.”

“In the 21st century, broadband is vital to the success of every small business, school, hospital and family, particularly in our rural communities,” said Rep. Craig. “As a member of the bipartisan Rural Broadband Caucus, I look forward to working across the aisle to ensure that closing the digital divide stays at the top of Congress’ agenda and that we provide our rural communities with the tools they need to succeed in today’s economy.”

“Expanding access to broadband for rural communities in North Carolina has remained a top priority for me, and I believe this caucus is well-positioned to deliver the much-needed results our constituents deserve,” said Rep. Hudson. “I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Rural Broadband Caucus to help close the digital divide in rural communities across the country.”

“An investment in broad-

band is an investment in our rural communities. It is an investment in education, health care, children, businesses, our economy, our families, and so much more,” said Rep. Leger Fernández. “Many New Mexicans don’t have reliable access to high-

speed internet. We cannot leave these communities behind without the tools to truly thrive in a 21st century economy. I look forward to working with the Rural Broadband Caucus to help all New Mexicans access this critical infrastructure.”



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Insulin

continued from page 1

join the company’s value program, which ensures access to its insulin for \$35 per month.

The 147-year-old company is planning an awareness campaign in the coming weeks to ensure people know about the change. It also hopes the move will equate to more business.

“We are driving for change in repricing older insulins, but we know that 7 out of 10 Americans don’t use Lilly insulin,” said Ricks, while urging lawmakers, regulators and the private sector to take similar steps.

The company also called on “policymakers, employers and others” to follow suit and join it in making insulin more affordable for the more than 34 million Americans living with diabetes.

“For the past century, Lilly has focused on inventing new and improved insulins and other medicines that address the impact of diabetes and improve patient outcomes. Our work to discover new and better treatments is far from over. We won’t stop until all people with diabetes are in control of their disease and can get the insulin they need,” the company said.

President Joe Biden said in

a statement Wednesday that the Eli Lilly announcement was a “big deal” echoing the company’s call for other manufacturers to follow along.

“For far too long, American families have been crushed by drug costs many times higher than what people in other countries are charged for the same prescriptions,” Biden said. “Insulin costs less than \$10 to make but Americans are sometimes forced to pay over \$300 for it. It’s flat wrong.”

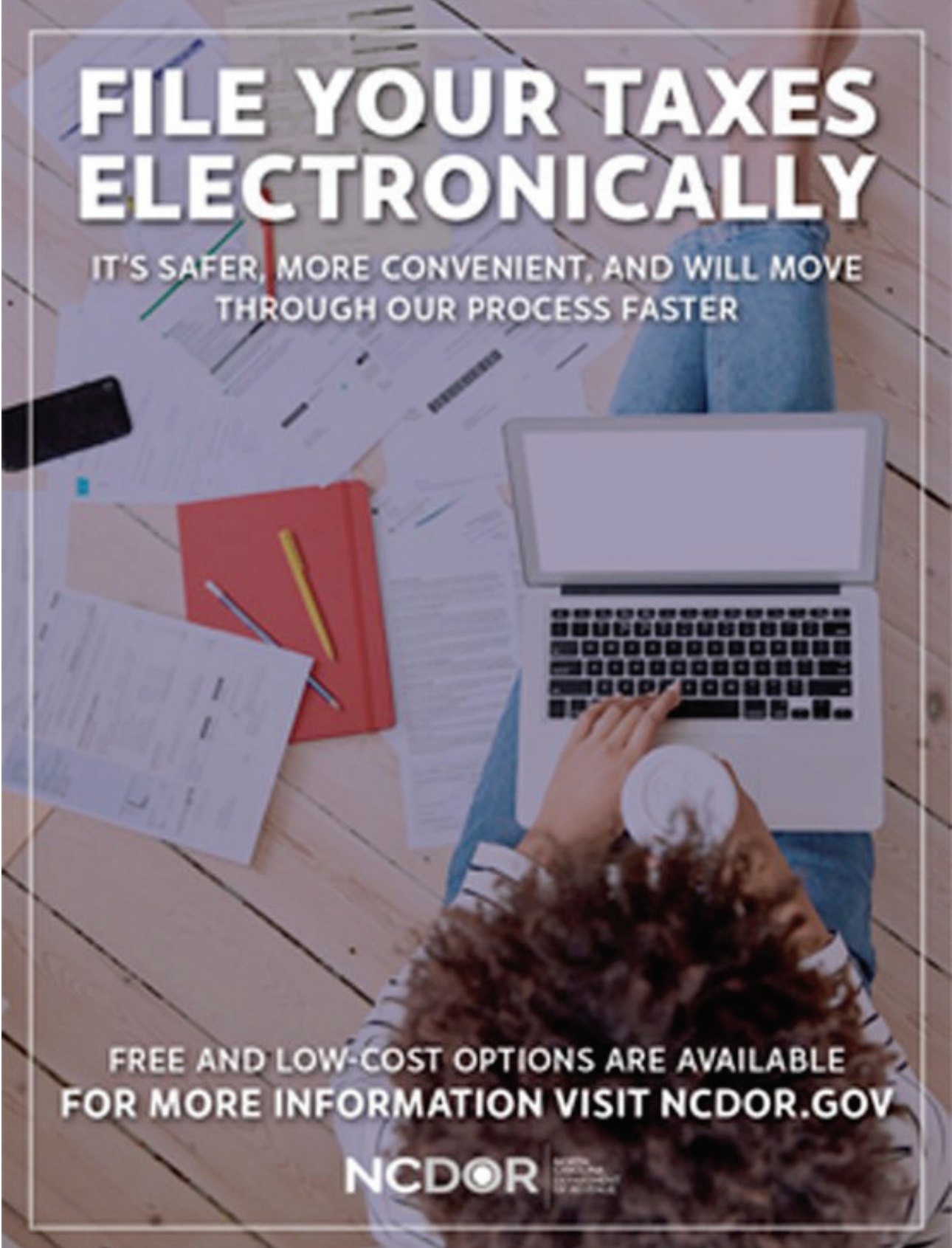
The American Diabetes Association also voiced its support for Eli Lilly’s move.

“We applaud Eli Lilly for taking the important step to limit cost-sharing for its insulin, and we encourage other insulin manufacturers to do the same,” the association’s CEO Charles Henderson said in a statement.

“While we have been able to help achieve significant progress on the issue of insulin affordability, including Medicare’s new out-of-pocket cost cap on insulin, state copay caps, and patient assistance developments from insulin manufacturers, we know that our work is not done. We will work to ensure that Eli Lilly’s patient assistance program is benefiting patients as intended and continue the fight so that everyone who needs insulin has access.”

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continued from page 1

much as \$250 in some extreme cases.

Ellen Vollinger, the SNAP director for the advocacy group Food Research and Action Center, told The Hill earlier this week that reductions will create obvious problems for low-income taxpayers.

"It's just not enough," she said.

Retirees drawing on social security are also at risk, with the AARP estimating that at least 8.7 million households receiving SNAP payouts included at least one person 50 years or older.

"The decrease in benefits will combine with the meteoric rise in food prices and will further exacerbate the challenges millions are facing to consistently access the food they need for a healthy, active life -- the definition of food security," said Nicole Heckman, AARP Foundation vice president for Benefits Access Programs.

While lower than last summer, inflationary pressures remain entrenched in the U.S. economy. The Consumer Price Index increased 0.5% in January after increasing by just 0.1% month-on-month to December.

For just food, however, inflation is sharply higher than that. Federal data from earlier this month showed grocery prices are up 11.3% over the 12-month period to January.

Working to control consumer-level inflation, the U.S. Federal Reserve is increasing its lending rates in an effort to slow consumer demand. Overall economic challenges may be exacerbated by the end of supplementary food support.

Leslie Gordon, the president and CEO of Food Bank for New York City, told CBS News she was expecting a flood of new arrivals.

"We anticipate a really significant uptick in the number of people who are going to visit us in the coming weeks," she said.

Study: Vitamin D could help keep dementia at bay

By Clyde Hughes
 UPI

Researchers from Canada and Britain said they found a connection between taking vitamin D supplements and living longer without the ravages of dementia in a large-scale study of more than 12,000 participants.

The findings, which were published Wednesday in the journal Alzheimer's & Dementia: Diagnosis, Assessment & Disease Monitoring, discovered 40% fewer dementia diagnoses among those in a group of 4,637 who took the vitamins than in the remaining group who did not.

The researchers from the University of Calgary's Hotchkiss Brain Institute and Britain's University of Exeter, said the mean age of the participants was 71 and did not have dementia when they signed up.

"We know that vitamin D has some effects in the brain that could have implications for reducing dementia, however so far, research has yielded conflicting results," Research leader Zahinoor Ismail, of the University of Calgary and the University of Exeter, said in a statement.

"Our findings give key insights into groups who might be specifically targeted for vitamin D supplementation. Overall, we found evidence to suggest that earlier supplementation might



be particularly beneficial, before the onset of cognitive decline."

According to the research, 2,696 participants progressed to dementia over 10 years. In that group, 2,017 (75%) had no exposure to vitamin D throughout all visits prior to dementia diagnosis, and 679 (25%) had baseline exposure.

"Preventing dementia or even delaying its onset is vitally important given the growing numbers of people affected," co-author Byron Creese of the University of Exeter, said in a statement.

"The link with vitamin D in this study suggests that taking vitamin D supplements may be beneficial in preventing or delaying dementia, but we now need clinical trials to confirm whether this is really the case."

The research comes on the heels of a pair of studies in November that suggested that social isolation substantially increased risk factors for dementia in older adults. The studies said using technology to encourage older adults to text and email to stay in touch helped them.

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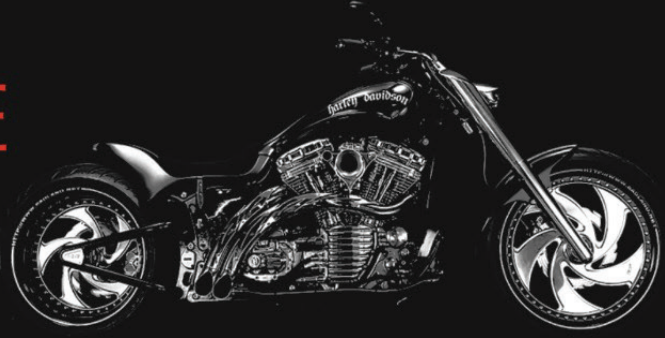
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Three Kansas City police officers shot during ongoing standoff

By Matt Bernardini

March 1 (UPI) -- Three Kansas City police officers were shot while executing a search warrant, as a standoff continued on the east side of the city Wednesday.

Sgt. Andy Bell, a spokesman for the Missouri Highway Patrol's Troop A said that the house where the shooting happened still had not been cleared, as the standoff reached 14 hours.

"Those efforts are going to continue in absence of having actual officers having to go inside of the house," Bell said, according to the Kansas City Star. "That's going to be the last resort at this point considering there has been gunfire that has already been exchanged."

Police said that three male officers who were shot do not have life-threatening injuries. They said that two people left the house voluntarily at 5:30 a.m., but were

still trying to determine if there was anyone else left in house.

Police said that they had used a drone and a robot to search the home.

Brian Gallardo, a pastor from Lifegate church said that his church would offer its space to law enforcement officials.

"We want to be a church that brings hope and brings healing and brings unity to every side of the fence," he said.

Two weeks earlier, Kansas City police officer James Muhlbauer was killed along with a pedestrian while in a car crash on duty.

"It's been more than an awful week," Kansas City Police Chief Stacey Graves said Tuesday. "But what I'm seeing here tonight, our officers are OK considering the circumstances. Some of their injuries may last far beyond today, but they are here with us."

Julie Su says she will fight for workers if she becomes labor secretary

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

March 1 (UPI) -- Julie Su, the Labor Department's deputy secretary, said she wants to continue to fight for the "forgotten and unseen" workers on Wednesday as President Joe Biden formally announced her as his nominee as the next labor secretary.

Su has been nominated to replace her boss, Marty Walsh, who is leaving the administration this month to become the executive director of the National Hockey League's player's union.

The Stanford and Harvard-educated Su had served as California's Labor and Workforce Development secretary before joining the Biden administration in 2021.

An attorney by trade, she is the daughter of Chinese immigrants whose mother was a union worker and whose father was a small business owner.

"Julie is the American dream," Biden said in a White House ceremony, where he also thanked Walsh for his service. "She is committed to making sure that dream is within reach of every American. That's what she's all about."

Su shared the story of her mother's arrival in the United States as an example of the country's "transformative power."

"Sixty years ago, my mom came



to the United States on a cargo ship because she couldn't afford a passenger ticket. Recently she got a call from the United States of America telling her that her daughter was going to be nominated to be U.S. Labor Secretary. So, I believe in the transformative power of America and the transformative power of a good job."

She said the union job her mother held gave her family a path to the middle class with a steady paycheck and benefits.

"When you said you wanted to be the most pro-worker, pro-union president in history and restore decency

and build the middle class, I said sign me up for that," Su told Biden during the ceremony. "I want to help do that. It's been my honor to be deputy secretary. Those shared values are what I will work to make real every day."

"I stand here today deeply grateful for the community. I look out and see today is a celebration of that community. When the president talks about those who have been forgotten or invisible, I know what he means because I've spent my career fighting for them to be seen."

Su's appointment must be approved by the Senate.

Fentanyl

continued from page 1

said he gained significant knowledge of Mexican cartels during his tenure with the DEA.

He stressed this is not the same drug crisis as 10 years ago or in the 1990s. Instead, Maltz labeled fentanyl as a national security crisis.

"The president should immediately declare a national security and public health emergency," Maltz said. "They [the cartels] need to be held accountable, even if it means using our U.S. military." He noted that the cartels are "killing more Americans than any terrorist organization," including Al Qaeda and ISIS.

During a separate oversight hearing Wednesday, Attorney General Merrick Garland also was asked about what the administration was doing to prevent fentanyl from entering the country.

"We have a huge epidemic of [a] fentanyl problem created by intentional acts by the cartels," Garland told the Senate Judiciary Committee. "We are doing everything we can within our resources to fight that."

Although House Democrats tried to avoid conflating migration across the southern border with the problem, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, condemned the Trump administration's focus on building a wall across the southern border while a fentanyl crisis exploded throughout the United States.

Jackson Lee praised the Biden administration's recent collaboration with the Mexican government, which aims to stop people in China and India from creating chemical precursors to fentanyl and sending them to Mexican cartels.

"The Biden administration and Congress have both taken decisive steps to address the scourge and disrupt the supply chain of fentanyl," Jackson Lee said. "We are giving them the resources they need to be the Superman, Batman and the mighty man."

Jackson Lee said the Biden administration invested in advanced inspection technology to help detect fentanyl at the border in this year's spending bill.

She emphasized the importance of education in ending the fentanyl crisis in the United States. She said she intends to introduce a bill that provides funding for teachers to give lessons about adverse effects of drugs.

She added a particular need exists to raise awareness of the dangers of fake prescription pills, noting that the cartels have mastered creating fake bills that resemble prescription oxycontin.

"We can disrupt the flow of things and also reduce the demand [for counterfeit pills]," Jackson Lee said. "For far too long, this country has chosen the wrong approach for parents, families and communities. Addiction treatment is a difficult and challenging path that impacts all of our communities."

Some of the most gut-wrenching testimony came from Erin Rachwal, of Wisconsin, who lost her son to fentanyl poisoning in his freshman year of college.

"Fentanyl is now the leading cause of death in the United States for people ages 18 to 45, and it's only getting younger," Rachwal said. "These are the ages when young adults like Logan should be thriving and excelling. But, instead, thousands of them are dying. Death leaves no opportunity to recover."

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U.S. energy data suggest waning demand for petroleum-based products

By Daniel J. Graeber
UPI

March 1 (UPI) -- A proxy for petroleum demand in the U.S. economy is well below year-ago levels and commercial inventories of

crude oil are bloated, suggesting waning demand, data show.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration, part of the Energy Department, showed Wednesday that commercial crude oil

inventories as well as the total amount of refined petroleum product supplied to the market over the seven-day period ending Feb. 24 were down from the same period last year.

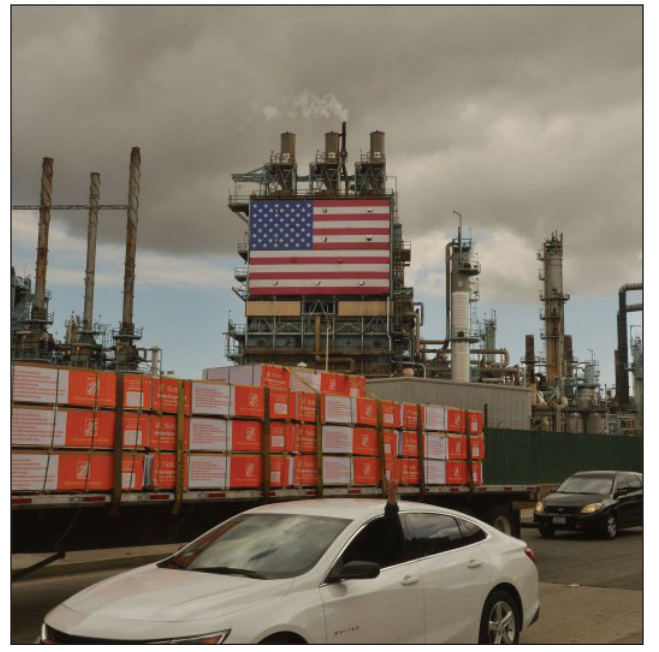
Commercial crude oil

inventories, not counting what's stored in the nation's strategic reserves, increased by 1.2 million barrels from the previous seven-day period. At 480.2 million barrels, commercial inventories are about 9% above the five-year average for this time of year.

The total amount of refined petroleum products supplied to the market, a proxy for demand, averaged 20.1 million barrels per day during the four-week period ending Feb. 24, a level that's 7.4% below levels over the same period last year.

Waning demand may be a result of lingering inflationary pressures as well as the severe winter storms that have occurred throughout February.

A late-winter storm brought a potent mix of wind, snow and rain across a wide swath of the central U.S. early Monday, with at least seven tornadoes causing widespread damage and a dozen injuries in Oklahoma. That followed an ice storm the previous week in Michigan, where tens of thousands of people are still without power.



Elsewhere, consumers continue to see elevated prices for everyday goods, while higher lending rates are creating headwinds in the housing market.

Commodity prices, meanwhile, remain below year ago levels.

The price for Brent crude oil, the global benchmark for the price of oil, was trading at around \$84 per barrel on Wednesday, compared to \$104.97 this time last year. Retail gasoline is fetching \$3.36 per gallon nationally, accord-

ing to AAA, down from \$3.62 per gallon on this date in 2022.

Gasoline production, meanwhile, increased by just over 3% from the week ending Feb. 17 to average 9.7 million bpd. Refineries operated at about 85.8% of their peak capacity, more or less unchanged from the previous period.

Refineries should be on the verge of a busy period of seasonal maintenance, which would suggest activity suffers over the coming weeks.

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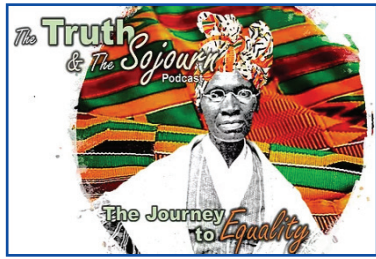
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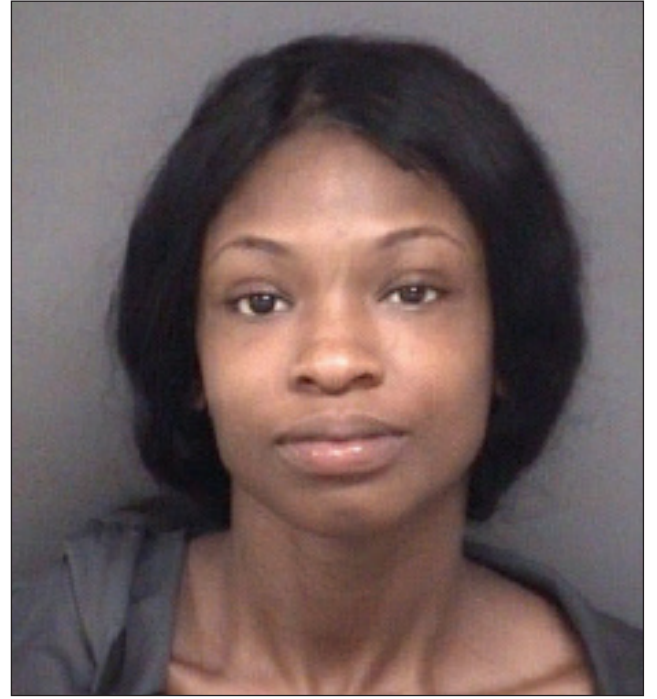
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 POSSESS STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE – FELONY



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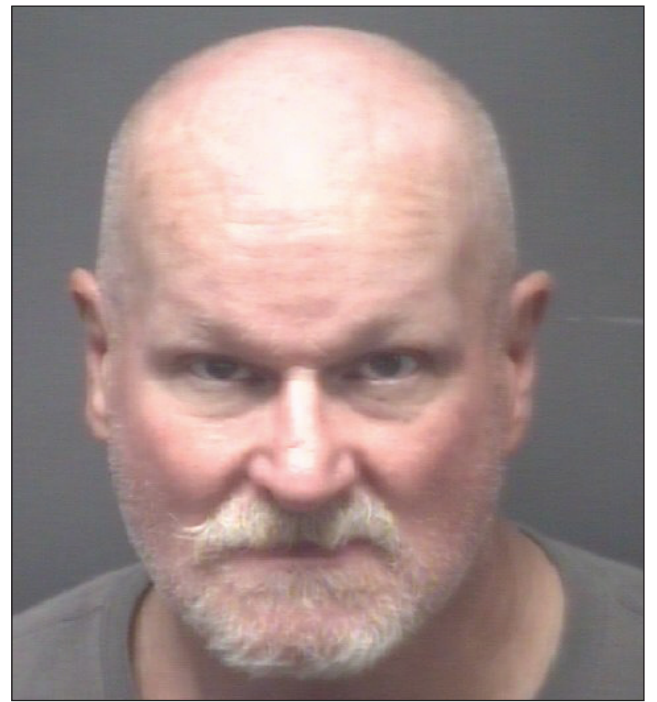
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Arrest warrant issued for NFL prospect Jalen Carter on reckless driving, racing charges

By Alex Butler
UPI

An arrest warrant was issued Wednesday for Georgia defensive lineman Jalen Carter, a top NFL Draft prospect, for his alleged involvement in a fatal January car crash, the Athens-Clarke County Police Department said.

We are in contact with his representatives,” Lt. Shaun Barnett said. “It was my understanding that his representatives were making arrangements [to turn himself in].”

Former Bulldogs offensive lineman Devin Willock and recruiting staff member Chandler LeCroy were killed in what police previously reported as a single-vehicle accident, but now appears to have involved two vehicles racing.

The crash occurred in downtown Athens, Ga., hours after the Bulldogs participated in a parade to celebrate their national championship.

Carter’s agent, Drew Rosenhaus, had no comment. Georgia coach Kirby Smart said he was “deeply concerned” by the charges.

Carter, 21, faces charges of reckless driving and racing. Police said investigators found that LeCroy, who drove a 2021 Ford Expedition, and Carter, who drove

a 2021 Jeep Trackhawk, were operating their vehicles in a “manner consistent with racing” about 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 10.

Investigators said they found evidence that showed both vehicles switched lanes, drove over the center turn lane, headed in opposite lanes of travel, passed other motorists and drove at high speed.

Police said evidence indicated that the Expedition was traveling at 104 mph before the crash. LeCroy had a blood alcohol concentration of .197% at the time of the crash, according to a toxicology report. The legal blood alcohol limit in Georgia for adults not operating a commercial vehicle is .08%.

“Investigators determined that alcohol impairment, racing, reckless driving, and speed were significant contributing factors to the crash,” police said, adding that the investigation is ongoing. The case was referred to the Solicitor General’s Office.

“The charges announced today are deeply concerning, especially as we are still struggling to cope with the devastating loss of two beloved members of our community,” Bulldogs coach Kirby Smart said in a statement.

“We will continue to cooperate fully with the authorities, while supporting these families and



Arrest warrants were issued on separate days for Georgia Bulldogs defensive end Jalen Carter (88) and linebacker Jamon Dumas-Johnson (10) for alleged street racing in Athens, Ga., that resulted in a death. **File Photo by Mike Goulding/UPI**

assessing what we can learn from this horrible tragedy.”

Fellow Georgia defender Jamon Dumas-Johnson was arrested last week for street racing and reckless driving. He is scheduled for arraignment at April 17 at 9 a.m. at the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse.

Carter, who is expected to be

one of the first picks in the 2023 NFL Draft, is in Indianapolis for the 2023 NFL scouting combine. He underwent medical examinations and was scheduled to speak to reporters at 10:30 a.m. EST Wednesday.

An NFL spokesperson told reporters at Carter’s scheduled

speaking time that he was among six players still conducting physicals and would not meet with the media.

The NFL scouting combine will run through Monday in Indianapolis. The 2023 NFL Draft will be held April 27 to 29 in Kansas City, Mo.

Bob Richards, first to win two Olympic gold medals for pole vaulting, dies at 97

By Matt Bernardini
UPI

Bob Richards, the first

person to win two Olympic pole vault gold medals and the first athlete to appear on the front of a Wheaties box,

died at age 97 on Sunday.

A Facebook post by his son Brandon said that Richards “passed in his sleep

peacefully surrounded by loved ones.”

Brandon Richards said that his father gave over

25,000 motivational speeches to companies and organizations.

“He always motivated us kids the same way to be the best we could be,” Brandon Richards said. “He was the greatest dad I could ever ask for and I will miss him dearly.”

Richards earned a bronze medal at the Olympics in 1948, then won gold in 1952 at Helsinki and in 1956 at Melbourne.

The only other person to win two Olympic pole vault titles is Yelena Isinbayeva from Russia.

His athletic success was celebrated on the cover of Wheaties cereal boxes for 13 years after he became the first athlete to appear on the front of a Wheaties box in 1958.

He also was the oldest living Olympic track and field champion before his death.

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Bob Richards, the first person to win two Olympic gold medals for pole vaulting, died at 97 on Sunday. **Photo from Wikimedia Commons**



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Will Anderson Jr., top pass rush prospects mimic NFL greats, eye top spot

By Alex Butler
UPI

Alabama linebacker Will Anderson Jr. and several other top pass rushers say they model their games after today's NFL stars. They each will now pursue consideration to be the No. 1 pick in the 2023 NFL Draft.

"It would mean a lot [to be No. 1]," Anderson told reporters Wednesday at the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis. "It just shows all the hard work, sacrifices and blood, sweat and tears to get to this moment are paying off."

"Just to have that spot is big time. I'm really appreciative to have the opportunity."

Anderson, Alabama quarterback Bryce Young and Georgia defensive tackle Jalen Carter were among the players many experts expect to be in consideration for the top pick this off-season.

An arrest warrant was issued Wednesday morning for Carter, putting chances in jeopardy.

Anderson has drawn comparisons to Hall of Fame pass rushers DeMarcus Ware and Derrick Thomas and All-Pro Von Miller, Khalil Mack and



Alabama pass rusher Will Anderson Jr. speaks to reporters at the 2023 NFL scouting combine Wednesday at the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis. Photo by Alex Butler/UPI

Myles Garrett.

The 6-foot-4, 235-pound defender said he also watches footage of San Francisco 49ers defensive end Nick Bosa for tips on how to get to the quarterback.

The two-time All-American and national defensive player of the year totaled 48 tackles for a loss and 27.5 sacks over his final two seasons at Alabama. Anderson said he plans to participate in most drills at the NFL combine.

He already met with seven NFL teams this off-season.

The Chicago Bears have the No. 1 overall pick in the 2023 NFL Draft, but are interested in trading that pick away. A quarterback-needy team could opt to exchange draft capital and/or players for the Bears' top pick.

The Houston Texans, Indianapolis Colts and Las Vegas Raiders are among the teams with Top 10 picks who also need quarterbacks.

The Bears, Arizona Cardinals, Seattle Seahawks, Detroit Lions, Atlanta Falcons, Carolina Panthers and Philadelphia Eagles are

among teams in the Top 10 who could opt to snag an elite pass rusher or interior defensive game wrecker.

Texas Tech linebacker Tyree Wilson is one of those targeted pass rushers.

"He is a phenomenal athlete," Anderson said of Wilson. "He is big, moves really well and can bend really well."

Wilson also is a Top 10 pick in many mock drafts, including in my initial edition.

"At the end of the day, it's a projection," Wilson said

of his expected draft slot. "I still have to put the work into the draft."

The 6-foot-6, 275-pound pass rusher drew comparisons to Pro Bowlers Ziggy Ansah and Carlos Dunlap throughout the draft process.

He said he models his game after J.J. Watt, Myles Garrett and Von Miller.

Wilson underwent foot surgery in November, but said he is now "really close to 100%" healthy. He will not participate in drills at the combine, but plans to be at Texas Tech's pro day and to host a private workout before the draft.

Wilson said he met with the Bears twice so far. He also met with the Raiders and Seattle Seahawks and planned to meet Wednesday with the New England Patriots.

"I'm a great worker and I'm passionate about football," Wilson said. "I will take [an] organization to another level."

Wilson totaled 27.5 tackles for a loss and 14 sacks over the last two seasons. Clemson's Myles Murphy and Bryan Bresee are among other defenders who could sneak into the Top 5 of the 2023 NFL Draft order.

Murphy, a 6-foot-5, 275-pound defensive end,

totalled 25.5 tackles for a loss and 14.5 sacks over his final two seasons with the Tigers. He has drawn comparisons to Ziggy Ansah, Trayvon Walker, Bradley Chubb and Antwan Odom, among others.

"I'm a guy who brings that speed aspect and that power aspect and can collapse the entire side of the pocket," Murphy said.

Bresee, a 6-foot-5, 305-pound defensive tackle, totaled 15 tackles for a loss and nine sacks in 25 career games for the Tigers. He also was a reason why the Tigers owned one of the nation's top rush defenses over the last several seasons.

He has drawn comparisons to Ndamukong Suh and Grover Stewart and is more touted as a run stopper and interior defender than as a dominant, exterior pass rusher.

Defensive linemen and linebackers are scheduled to work out for scouts Thursday in Indianapolis. Coverage will air at 3 p.m. EST on NFL Network.

"I'm excited about all the edge rushers in this class," Will Anderson said. "This is what we dreamed of as kids and we are getting the opportunity to go out there and make our dreams come true."

Ex-NFL star Irv Cross, who died in 2021, diagnosed with CTE

By Alex Butler
UPI

Former NFL star cornerback Irv Cross, who died in 2021, was diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, Boston University researchers announced Tuesday.

"Mr. Cross was diagnosed during life with mild cognitive impairment and was found at autopsy to have stage 4 chronic traumatic encephalopathy, which is the most severe type of the disease," said Ann McKee, a neuropathologist and the director of the Boston University CTE Center.

Boston University researchers announced earlier this month that they diagnosed 345 of 376 (91.7%) former NFL players studied with CTE. She said Cross was among those diagnosed with the delayed neurodegenerative disorder.

"For the last five years of his life, Irv stopped being able to do the things he loved and his problems with his balance, memory, and delusions, were very embarrassing and depressing for him," Liz Cross, Irv's wife, said in a news release from the Concussion Legacy Foundation.

"His life became a constant struggle, and he suspected it was from CTE. Now that we know for sure, Irv would want others to learn about the disease and the risks of playing tackle football, especially for children."

Boston University researchers said they found "multiple" lesions and tangles inside Cross' brain. Common symptoms of CTE include: memory loss, confusion, impaired judgment, impulse control problems, aggression, depression, dementia and more.

Researchers believe that CTE is caused



by repetitive brain trauma, including concussions and other hits to the head that do not cause symptoms.

The Philadelphia Eagles announced that Cross died Feb. 28, 2021, near his home in Roseville, Minn. No cause of death was provided at the time.

The Hammond, Ind., native attended Northwestern University, where he was part of legendary coach Ara Parseghian's first recruiting class for the Wildcats.

He later entered the NFL as a seventh-round pick in the 1961 NFL Draft. Cross spent six seasons with the Eagles and three seasons with the Los Angeles Rams. He made the Pro Bowl in 1964 and 1965.

He worked as a local radio and TV sports reporter while he played in Philadelphia. He also worked as an Eagles player and defensive backs coach in 1969, his final NFL season. He kept the coaching role in 1970.

Cross joined CBS in 1971 when he became the first Black person to work as a full-time sports analyst on national TV.

He was awarded the Pro Football Hall of Fame's Pete Rozelle Radio-Television Award in 2009, making him the first Black person to ever receive the honor. Cross also served as the athletic director at Idaho State and Macalester College.

Ex-Blackhawks winger Patrick Kane calls trade to Rangers 'bittersweet'

By Alex Butler
UPI

Veteran winger Patrick Kane says it was "bittersweet" to learn he was traded from the Chicago Blackhawks to the New York Rangers, but the move puts him in a "better spot" for a fourth championship.

The teams announced the trade Tuesday night.

"This has been an emotional time for me and my family, but I feel this decision puts me in the best spot to immediately win another Stanley Cup," Kane said in a news release. "This isn't about me leaving the Blackhawks, but this is an opportunity for me. The Blackhawks did everything they could to put me in a great position and I will forever be grateful."

"It is bittersweet to leave a place that is so special to me, but I will always carry the memories we made in Chicago."

The Rangers will send the Blackhawks a conditional second-round pick in the 2023 NHL Draft, a fourth-round pick in the 2025 NHL Draft and defenseman Andy Welinski in exchange for Kane and defenseman Cooper Zech.

The Arizona Coyotes



also will send defenseman Vili Saarijarvi to the Blackhawks as part of the transaction.

The Blackhawks' new second-round pick can become a first-round pick (in 2024) if the Rangers make the Eastern Conference finals.

Kane, 34, joined the Blackhawks as the No. 1 overall pick in the 2007 NHL Draft. The Buffalo, N.Y., native scored 26 goals and tied his career-high with 66 assists in 78 games last season. He scored 16 times with 29 assists through 54 games this season.

The four-time All-Star, three-time champion and former MVP scored 446 goals and logged 779 assists through his first 1,161 NHL appearances. Kane ranks third in Blackhawks history, behind only Bobby Hull and

Stan Mikita, in goals scored. He trails only Mikita in total points and assists for the Blackhawks.

"I will miss the roar of the United Center, the deafening sound of the anthem and the people of Chicago," Kane said. "Together, we made memories that will last a lifetime like the three Stanley Cup Champions banners that will forever hang at the United Center."

"I look forward to this next step in my career and will forever be appreciative for all I have received from the Blackhawks and Chicago."

The Rangers (34-17-9) will face the Philadelphia Flyers (23-28-10) at 7:30 p.m. EST Wednesday in Philadelphia. The Blackhawks (21-34-5) will host the Dallas Stars (31-16-13) at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in Chicago.

Intense fighting continues in Ukrainian city of Bakhmut

By Matt Bernardini
UPI

Intense fighting in the eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut continues, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has signaled that Kyiv is preparing its soldiers for a counteroffensive.

"We are preparing for the return of our warriors to actions for the liberation of our land," Zelenskyy said Tuesday, according to CNBC.

The commander of Ukraine's ground forces said that 800 Russian soldiers had died near Bakhmut since Thursday, as the city remains the main fighting area at the moment.

During a visit to Uzbekistan on Wednesday, Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said that the Biden administration saw "zero evidence" that Russian President Vladimir Putin was prepared for serious peace talks.

"To the contrary, the evidence is all in the other direction," Mr. Blinken said, according to the New York Times. "The real question is whether Russia will get to a point where it is genuinely prepared to end its aggression."

At the same time on Wednesday, Russian authorities sent a 12-year-old girl to an orphanage after she drew an anti-war picture at school. They also arrested her father on Wednesday after he made an anti-war comment on social media.

The painting by Masha Moskaleva, featured a Ukrainian flag and a Russian flag with the phrases "No to war" and "Glory to Ukraine" written on it, as well as a woman shielding her child from Russian missiles.

Her teacher reported her to school authorities and she was visited at the school by Federal Security Service (FSB)



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visits with Ukrainian soldiers currently defending the city of Bakhmut during a visit to the Donetsk region of Ukraine on Dec. 20, 2022. Bakhmut continues to be the sight of intense fighting. Photo via Ukrainian Presidential Press Office/UPI

Ukrainian drone crashes 60 miles from Moscow, prompting Putin military order



Simon Druker

Feb. 28 (UPI) -- A Ukrainian military drone shot down by Russian forces Tuesday reportedly was attempting to attack a gas facility deep within Russian territory about 60 miles from Moscow.

Russian military sources also regrouped along the Ukrainian border following a series of similar drone attacks, the result of a direct order from President Vladimir Putin.

A Russian military official confirmed the downing of the Ukrainian UJ22 drone, which crashed about 60 miles from Moscow, leading to the order to close ranks.

The multi-purpose unmanned UJ22 drone is produced by Ukrainian firm Ukrjet. It has a range of 800 miles, according to the company.

Andrei Vorobyov, Moscow's regional governor, said the drone failed to hit a Gazprom gas distribution facility.

"There are no casualties or destruction on the ground. There are no risks to the safety of local residents," Vorobyov said on Telegram.

Ukraine did not immediately publicly claim responsibility for the attempted attack.

An adviser to Ukraine's Minister of Internal affairs tweeted a photo of the downed drone.

Russian media outlets reported at least one drone did hit its target Tuesday.

Three separate unmanned aerial vehicles flew across Russia's Belgorod region which borders Ukraine, along the upper Donets River.

Officials in the sea port of Tupapse confirmed at least one drone did cause an explosion, but denied that any oil tanks were hit. The port city is located about 300 miles from Ukraine, near the Russian port of Novorossiysk.

Air raid sirens reportedly could be heard in several Russian cities, but the country's Emergency Ministry attributed it to hackers.



Intelligence chief: 'Havana syndrome' likely not caused by foreign foe

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

March 1 (UPI) -- The mysterious "Havana syndrome," a set of medical symptoms suffered by U.S. diplomats and military personnel overseas, is "very unlikely" caused by a foreign foe, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said Wednesday.

The unusual diagnoses, with some of the first cases identified by U.S. officials in Havana in 2016, have resulted in unknown reasons for symptoms ranging from ringing in the ears to cognitive difficulties.

Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines said the events, which are formally known as anomalous health incidents, were likely caused by other factors such as "pre-existing conditions, conventional illnesses and environmental factors."

In January 2022, the CIA concluded that the

Havana syndrome was unlikely caused by a foreign adversary. The CIA said then it believed the mysterious ailments were probably created by environmental causes, undiagnosed medical conditions or stress.

Some in Congress have argued that Havana syndrome could be a targeting effort by Russia against U.S. personnel, but investigators through the years have discovered no significant evidence supporting that possibility.

The U.S. intelligence community said it has reviewed hundreds of incidents and a wide range of factors surrounding them but failed to come up with any definitive answers. About 1,500 suspected cases have been reported by the U.S. government in 96 countries.

People who report suffering from the ailments have criticized the U.S. government as not taking them seriously enough.