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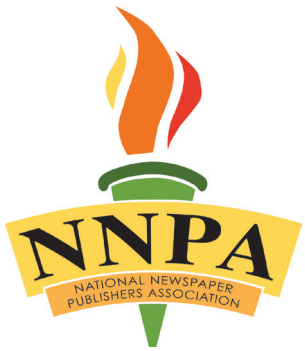


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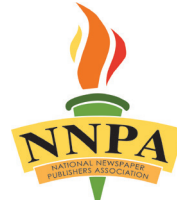
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Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes found guilty of seditious conspiracy

By Joe Fisher
UPI

Two Oath Keepers, including founding member and leader Stewart Rhodes, were found guilty of seditious conspiracy for their actions on and leading up to the U.S. Capitol attack on Jan. 6, 2021.

A federal jury in Washington D.C., reached a verdict on Rhodes and co-conspirator Kelly Meggs on Tuesday. Seditious conspiracy is the most serious charge any Capitol rioter has faced so far. They were also found guilty of obstruction of an official proceeding and aiding and abetting for their attempts to disrupt the transfer of power.

Three more Oath Keepers, Jessica Watkins, Kenneth Harrelson and Thomas Caldwell, were found guilty on the lower charges of obstruction and aiding and abetting, but they were found not guilty of seditious conspiracy, according to a press release from the Justice Department.

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Pro-Trump rioters breach the security perimeter and penetrate the U.S. Capitol to protest against the Electoral College vote count that would certify President-elect Joe Biden as the winner in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021. File Photo by Ken Cedeno/UPI

U.S. Senate passes bill to protect same-sex, interracial marriage

By Sheri Walsh
UPI

In a landmark bipartisan vote, the U.S. Senate passed legislation on Tuesday that protects the right to same-sex and interracial marriage.

The Respect for Marriage Act, which had already passed in the U.S. House, passed in the Senate on Tuesday night by a vote of 61-36. The bill received unanimous support from Demo-

crats, plus 12 Republicans who also backed the bill in a procedural vote earlier this month.

“With today’s bipartisan Senate passage of the Respect for Marriage Act, the United States is on the brink of reaffirming a fundamental truth: love is love, and Americans should have the right to marry the person they love,” President Joe Biden said in a statement responding to the bill’s passage Tuesday.

Lawmakers began voting around 3:45 p.m.

on three separate amendments proposed by Republican Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, Marco Rubio of Florida and James Lankford of Oklahoma.

The amendments called for additional protections for religious freedoms after some Republicans expressed concern that other changes to the bill did not go far enough. The bill passed without Lee’s amendment, which would have

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OPINION

Despite America's Trials, the Midterms Demonstrate That America Is Stronger Than Ever

President Joe Biden must lay out oversight for \$1.7T in new public spending

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist

The United States is about to spend a colossal amount of money, some \$1.7 trillion, on infrastructure and jobs; chips and science; and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Taken together, this is the largest spending approved by Congress probably since Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal on what can be called U.S. infrastructure broadly defined. In theory, these three laws, if properly and effectively implemented, should make the United States competitive and prosperous for the 21st century.

But will that happen? Is the Biden administration prepared and able to ensure that the American public will get its money's worth? What and where are the plans and strategies to execute and oversee these laws? And is Congress engaged productively?

The White House press release states the infrastructure and jobs law "will rebuild America's roads, ports, airports, bridges and rails, expand access to clean drinking water, ensure every American has access to high-speed Internet, tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice and invest in communities that have too often been left behind." About \$1.2 trillion was appropriated for this purpose.

The \$100 billion "Chips and Science Act will strengthen American manufacturing, supply chains and national security and invest in research and development, science and technology and the workforce of the future to keep the United States the leader in the industries of tomorrow, including nanotechnology, clean energy, quantum computing and artificial intelligence...and will boost American semiconductor research, development and production, ensuring U.S. leadership in the technology that forms the foundation of everything from automobiles to household appliances to defense systems."

Last, the \$370 billion "IRA will lower costs for families, combat the climate crisis, reduce the deficit, and finally ask the largest corporations to pay their fair share" by:

- Cutting prescription drug costs
- Lowering healthcare costs
- Defeating special interests
- Lowering energy costs
- Building a clean energy economy
- Reducing harmful pollution
- Making the tax code fairer
- Reducing the deficit

The aims of these spending programs are ambitious in the extreme. While administration critics dismiss the significance and impact of these acts, reading all three reveals the potential of this legislation if, and only if, each is successfully implemented. However, in this case, can a broken government work?

For decades, the plight of America's infrastructure has long been recognized. Over 40 years ago, a leading Washington think tank released a study that warned America's electrical power grid was antiquated and required immediate remedial action. That vulnerability has only increased, certainly in the cyber age and when far more electrical power will be required for the many hundreds of millions of electric vehicles that are expected to be on the road in coming decades.

The nation desperately needs a chief operating officer. Obviously, the secretaries of commerce, energy, treasury and transportation have key roles in making this work. But who is responsible for the integration and coordination among these departments? The public and Congress need to know. A COO would've answered this question.



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is, notwithstanding defeat, a vital ingredient for a successful democratic process. This is because accepting election results is the only way for power to be distributed fairly. This is precisely what transpired throughout this year's election season, and we are all in better shape for it. It indicated to the rest of the world that despite our



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

recent string of domestic problems, the United States is still able to agree on and find stability in its most fundamental doctrines.

As we move past the midterm elections, the focus switches to the 2024 presidential campaign. Both Democrats and Republicans will soon begin focusing on fundraising for their respective campaigns. In spite of Joe Biden's declaration that he would most likely run for president again, the spotlight is on the Republican candidates. Donald Trump has announced he will be running, but in light of the results of the midterm elections, I doubt that many people within or outside his party are enthusiastic about his running again. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence and Sen. Tim Scott (R-S.C.), on the other

hand, are gaining favor and financial support from the GOP base across the country. DeSantis' mandate and dominance in Florida is the most remarkable development so far. In Florida, Trump's margin of victory was just 3%, but DeSantis' margin of victory was 20%.

The fact that many Trump-endorsed MAGA candidates lost is an obvious sign that he is losing influence and standing in the Republican Party. Trump's attacks on DeSantis and Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin following the election results have further eroded his base's support. Coupled with the fact that Trump has become such a major issue for the Republican Party and is viewed as a loose cannon by a sizable portion of the populace, the former president's chances of being reelected are indeed challenging. To be blunt, the majority of people would rather see Trump become an elder statesman and support the emerging future leadership. This is an honest assessment of the situation. To be a successful candidate, the former president will need to demonstrate self-control and put forth the required effort, including heeding the counsel of political strategists and advisers. Trump, as we all know, is not a man who enjoys losing, and he is unlikely to accept the risk of running and losing again.

This is what brought at-

tention to DeSantis, who now has the mandate to -- unofficially -- enter the presidential race early and with confidence. He looks presidential; he seems equipped to lead. But what is most important is that he has a vision for the future and how he intends to build the nation's top executive, if he decides to run for office. Trump, on the other hand, bases his campaign on the fact that he is Trump, which is insufficient. Where is his vision, and what is his strategy outside "Make America Great Again"? The requirements of the people exceed that significantly. People are becoming bored of resentment-based and petty politics and are ready for something fresh.

Despite the fact that the party's defeats are still foremost in everyone's mind, 2024 will be different for the Republicans and foretells potential hope for the party. There will be a greater number of Democrats running for reelection in the Senate, including several contested races. This also affords the GOP a chance to reset and reorganize around messaging that appeals to a wide spectrum of voters, including independent swing voters and suburban voters whose confidence the GOP must continue to earn back. As the election pendulum swings from left to right, each political party has the chance to demonstrate to the American people why they are more qualified to lead the nation.

Qatar World Cup is beaming misogyny around the world

By Sophie King-Hill, University of Birmingham

One of the fundamental questions relating to the 2022 World Cup being hosted by Qatar is what message this gives to women and girls around the world.

FIFA purports to uphold human rights. Its decision, in 2010, to award the hosting duties for the 2022 tournament to Qatar was not, however, without controversy.

In the 12 years since, these issues have only intensified. The treatment of migrant workers throughout the run-up to the event has garnered continued attention, as has the way LGBTQ+ rights and women's rights are contravened by local law.

Misogyny, a sexist contempt and hatred of women, aims to keep women in a lower position than men within a patriarchal society. With discrimination against women enshrined in Qatari law -- which, among other things does not criminalize domestic violence or sexual assault -- misogyny is being beamed through televisions internationally, via the means of the 2022 men's football World Cup.

Women in Qatar

Qatari law undergirds a profoundly patriarchal system. Sex outside of marriage is banned and Qatari

women can only marry with the permission of a male guardian.

This controversial system of male guardianship also shapes women's ability to study, drive and travel. Men have the unquestioned right to divorce, yet the grounds on which a woman can apply for divorce is limited. Wives are expected to obey husbands and their priority is seen to be home-making.

Women cannot pass nationality on to their children, as men can, nor can they be their children's primary caregiver in case of divorce or the death of their husband. Female beneficiaries only get half of any inheritance their brothers receive.

Women are asked to provide proof of marriage to receive sexual health and antenatal care. And they have to abide by a strict dress code.

Crucially, domestic violence and rape is not criminalized. While family law forbids moral or physical assault by husbands against wives, reporting domestic abuse or sexual violence is frowned upon as it is seen to bring shame upon the family.

Both the lack of prosecution for domestic violence and the victim blaming that surrounds sexual assault point toward possible risks for any women attending the World Cup. Research shows that women face a heightened risk of sexual assault at any major sports

tournament. It also shows, in the United Kingdom, the increase in domestic violence around World Cup matches and other big sporting tournaments.

Women at World Cup

Reports have highlighted that this heightened risk has resulted in many women not wanting to travel to Qatar for the World Cup. This, in itself, is discriminatory.

Those who do head for Doha are advised to follow a strict dress code. FIFA's position on this is unclear. It states that people attending matches can wear what they want but also that they must respect local laws. When in public, women in Qatar are expected to cover up. They must forgo tight clothing and not show their cleavage, knees or shoulders, and contravening these rules can result in prison or fines.

Official advice for travelers published by the U.K. government also covers strict laws against relationships outside of marriage. There are multiple cases of visitors being punished for being seen to be in contravention of these laws. In June 2021, a Mexican World Cup official reported that she was sexually assaulted. As a result of this, she was accused of extramarital sex, which is against Qatari laws, rather than being seen as a victim of sexual violence. This saw

her threatened with imprisonment and 100 lashes.

And in 2020, 13 Australian women were forcibly removed, at gunpoint, from grounded Qatar Airways planes in Doha. They were then forced to undergo internal examinations, without their consent, as officials sought to find the mother of a newborn baby who had been found in the airport.

This subordination of women is in direct conflict with human rights laws. The United Nations and the European Convention on Human Rights categorically state that any compromise of women's rights contravenes international human rights laws.

Significant progress has been made in terms of women's rights worldwide in the last 25 years, not least in the sphere of football itself. Women's football has gathered enormous traction of late, particularly with the success of the England women's team winning the European cup.

By holding the men's World Cup in Qatar, and thereby not sanctioning the lack of progress the country has made in terms of women's rights, the impression given is that these rights are discretionary. Preventing discrimination and violence against women and girls, however, is never optional. This is not a cultural issue. It is a serious breach of human rights. The Conversation

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Oath

continued from page 1

Rhodes and Meggs face 20 years in prison for the seditious conspiracy conviction alone.

"Today the jury returned a verdict convicting all defendants of criminal conduct, including two Oath Keepers leaders for seditious conspiracy against the United States," said Attorney General Merrick B. Garland.

"The Justice Department is committed to holding accountable those criminally responsible for the assault on our democracy on January 6, 2021. The prosecutors and agents on this case worked tirelessly, with extraordinary skill, and in the best traditions of the Department of Justice."

James Lee Bright, the attorney for Rhodes and the other defendants, said his clients will appeal the decision.

Government witnesses included former Oath Keepers and law enforcement officers who attempted to secure the Capitol on Jan. 6. The prosecution, with the corroboration of its



witnesses, argued the Oath Keepers began conspiring to block the certification of the election and prevent President Joe Biden from

being sworn in, maintaining power for former President Donald Trump.

The prosecution laid out evidence including phone

messages, social media posts and recordings from meetings. The defense meanwhile attempted to portray the schemes of the Oath Keepers as talk from a loosely formed organization rather than a full-fledged conspiracy.

Earlier this month, Rhodes testified to a district court that the Oath Keepers inside the Capitol went "off mission" by entering the building.

"I didn't want them getting wrapped up into all the nonsense with Trump supporters," he said

Rhodes, 57, was allegedly in contact with the former president between his election loss and Jan. 6. In that time, prosecutors say he called on Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act with the intent of creating an

armed militia to act on his behalf.

"It will be 1776 all over again," Rhodes allegedly wrote to fellow Oath Keepers leaders in a group message. "Force on force is the way to go."

Rhodes is not believed to

have entered the Capitol on Jan. 6. Rather, he is alleged to have orchestrated on-ground activity from a nearby hotel room for a portion of the day. He testified that he went to the Capitol later in the day but could not get past the barricades.

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Marriage

continued from page 1

prevented the government from retaliating against religious individuals and institutions for their religious beliefs regarding marriage.

“This is a discouraging development in our country’s storied history of protecting the free exercise of religion,” Lee tweeted after the vote. “While I’m disappointed that my amendment was not included, I remain committed to preserving the religious liberties enshrined in our Constitution for all Americans.”

The final bill, which did

include a provision to ensure polygamous marriage remains illegal in the United States, repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal benefits to same-sex couples.

The measure now goes back to the U.S. House for another vote. If approved, the Respect for Marriage Act would then head to Biden’s desk where the president is expected to sign the measure into law before Democrats lose control of the House in January.

Biden called the Senate’s passage of same-sex and interracial marriage protections a “bipartisan achievement.”

“For millions of Americans, this legislation will safeguard the rights and protections to which LGBTQI+ and interracial couples and their children are entitled,” Biden said in a statement Tuesday evening.

While the bill does not make same-sex and interracial marriage legal in every state, it does force individual states to recognize another state’s legal marriage.

“Because of our work together, the rights of tens of millions of Americans will be strengthened under federal law. That’s an accomplishment we should all be proud of,” said Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who also tweeted a photo as he called his daughter and her wife about the bill’s passing.

“The bill we are passing today will ensure their rights won’t be trampled upon simply because they are in a same-sex marriage.”

While many Republicans did not support the bill, 12 GOP lawmakers helped form the coalition of bipartisan support that pushed it through.

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South Carolina Supreme Court orders Mark Meadows to testify in 2020 election probe

By Darryl Coote
UPI

South Carolina's supreme court has ordered former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows to testify before a Georgia grand jury concerning allegations that

former President Donald Trump and his associates attempted to meddle in the 2020 general election.

The five-judge court issued its unanimous ruling Tuesday that reaffirms a lower court's

decision from late last month that declared Meadows is "material and necessary" to an

investigation into allegations that Trump attempted to disrupt the administration of the

2020 presidential results in Georgia. "We have reviewed the arguments raised by Appellant and find them to be manifestly without merit," the southern state's high court ruled.

Fani Willis, the district attorney for Georgia's Fulton County, is leading the investigation

into allegations that Trump and those in his inner circle tried to overturn Georgia's results

of the November 2020 general election. Willis has sought Meadows' testimony as he has been connected to those efforts, including

having been on the line during a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call in which Trump asked Georgia

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to



"find" him 11,780 votes so he could win the southern state.

To compel his testimony, Willis had to seek permission from a judge in Meadows' home

state of South Carolina. After she was granted access to his testimony, Meadows appealed.

The former White House chief of staff was originally supposed to give testimony before the

grand jury on Wednesday. It is unclear when he will testify.

Testimony from Meadows is also being sought by the House select committee investigating

the assault by Trump supporters on the U.S. Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021.

The court decision on Tuesday also comes a week after Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,

testified before the Fulton County grand jury in Willis' investigation.

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Police update number of injured in Colorado LGBTQ+ club shooting

By Sheri Walsh
UPI

Police in Colorado have adjusted the number of injured in the deadly Club

Q shooting in Colorado Springs that killed five people.

In an update Tuesday, authorities confirmed that 22 people were wounded

at the LGBTQ+ nightclub on Nov. 19, including 17 with gunshot wounds and another five who suffered other injuries.

Initial reports on the

night of the shooting said the gunman had injured 18 people, while other reports gave the higher number of 25.

Colorado Springs police said they are still looking for at least a dozen more "victims without visible injuries," who were present at the time of the attack. Police are urging those patrons, who may have fled the nightclub, to contact the FBI to help with their investigation.

Authorities also identified the five victims, who died at the club, as Kelly Loving, Daniel Aston, Derrick Rump, Ashley Paugh and Raymond Green Vance.

The suspected gunman, Anderson Lee Aldrich, is charged with five counts of first-degree murder as well as five counts of bias-motivated crimes causing bodily injury.

Last Wednesday, the 22-year-old was ordered held without bond. In court filings, public defenders identified Aldrich as a non-binary person who uses they/them pronouns.



Aldrich made a virtual court appearance last week from a wheelchair after being released from a hospital. He was transferred to jail following treatment for injuries he suffered while being disarmed by clubgoers.

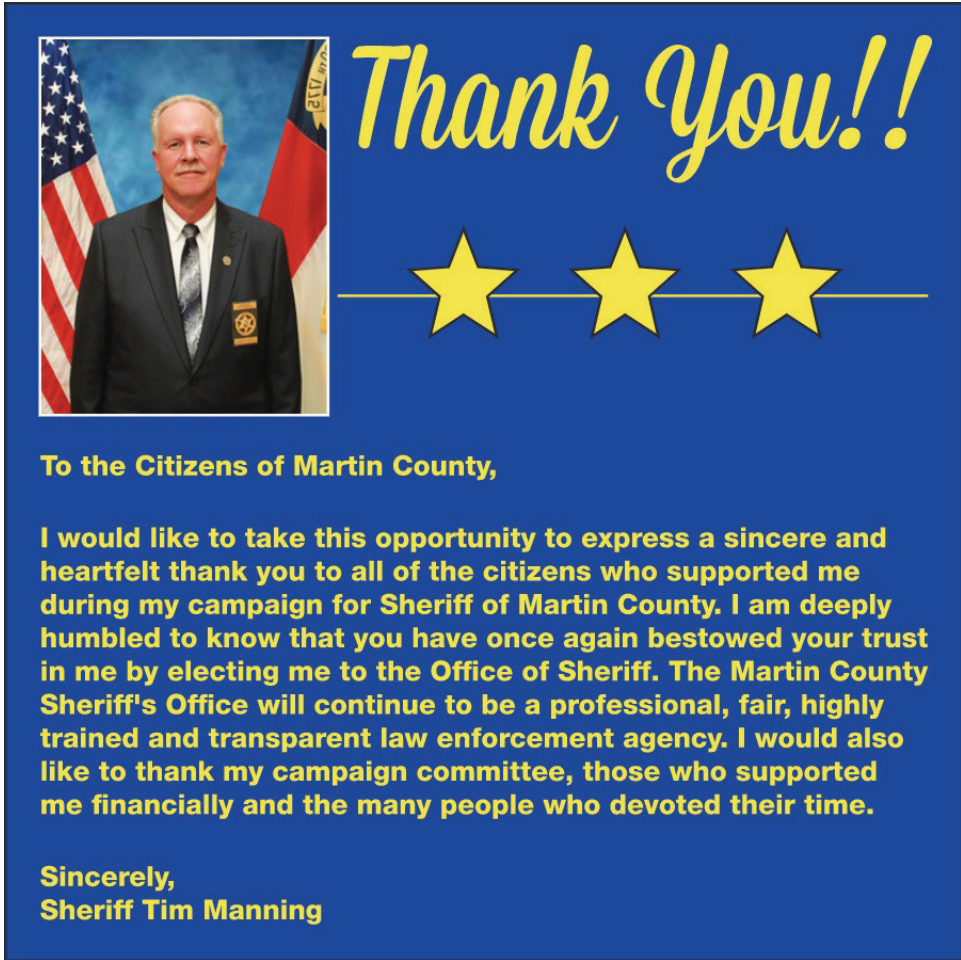
Two "heroic people" inside the club "confronted and fought with the suspect and were able to stop him from continuing to kill and harm others," Police Chief Adrian Vasquez told reporters the morning after the shooting.

Colorado Springs Police

identified the two heroes as Richard Fierro and Thomas James, who spoke earlier this week from the hospital where he was recovering from injuries.

"I want to support everyone who has known the pain and loss that have been all too common these past few years," James, a U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class, said in a statement on Sunday.

"My thoughts are with those we lost on Nov. 19, and those who are still recovering from their injuries."



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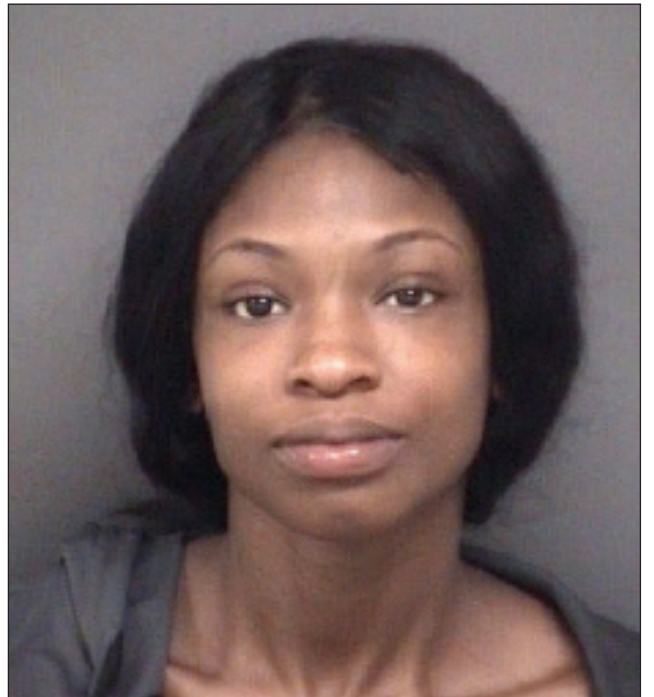
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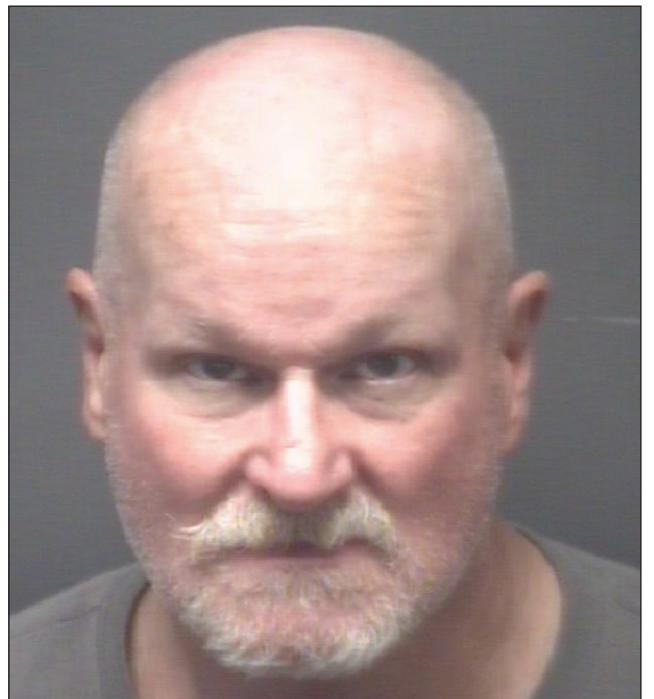
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World Cup 2022: Injured Christian Pulisic says he ‘will be ready’ for USA vs. Netherlands

By Alex Butler
UPI

Christian Pulisic, who was injured in the USA’s win over Iran at the 2022 World Cup, will be “ready” to battle the Netherlands on Saturday in the Round of 16, the star winger announced on social media.

“So [expletive] proud of my guys,” Pulisic wrote Tuesday in the post. “I’ll be ready Saturday, don’t worry.”

Pulisic sustained what the team initially called an abdominal injury -- and later deemed a pelvic contusion -- in the 38th minute of

the 1-0 win over Iran on Tuesday in Doha, Qatar. He sustained the injury after he scored the only goal of the game.

Pulisic remained on the ground and writhed in pain until he was looked at by trainers and walked off the field. He then returned to the game until halftime, but did not play in the second half.

The team announced Tuesday night that Pulisic is day-to-day.

The Americans will battle the Netherlands in the Round of 16 at 10 a.m. EST Saturday on Fox. The winner will advance to the quarterfinals.



NFL star Odell Beckham Jr. removed from plane by police

By Joe Fisher
UPI

Superstar wide receiver and Super Bowl champion Odell Beckham Jr. was removed from an American Airlines flight on Sunday after appearing to need medical assistance and refusing to put on his seatbelt.

Crew members of the American Airlines flight from Miami International Airport reported Beckham Jr. appeared to be in and out of consciousness, prompting them to call for medical assistance. Miami-Dade Police Department officers

responded for support in preparation of a medical emergency.

The flight was destined for Los Angeles and expected to last about five hours. The flight crew reported being concerned that Beckham’s condition would get worse during the flight. The incident with Beckham Jr. caused the flight to be delayed and all passengers to be removed from the plane.

Beckham Jr. was eventually told to exit the plane, which he refused to do.

“Upon the officers’ arrival, the flight crew asked Mr. Beckham several times

to exit the aircraft, which he refused,” police said in a statement. “The aircraft was deplaned, at which time Mr. Beckham was asked by the officers to exit the plane, and did so without incident.”

Beckham was not cited for the incident. Shortly after, he posted a message on Twitter which said, “Never in my life have I experienced what just happened to me... I’ve seen it all”

American Airlines released a statement about the incident without naming Beckham, according to ESPN, saying the flight was

delayed due to “a customer failing to follow crew member instructions and refusing to fasten their seatbelt.”

The flight took off about two hours later than it was scheduled to depart.

Beckham has not played football this season as he heals from a torn ACL which he suffered in the Super Bowl in February. He is a free agent and is being courted by several teams. He has meetings scheduled with the Dallas Cowboys, Buffalo Bills and his former team the New York Giants.



Parents file wrongful death suit over Stanford soccer player’s suicide

By Simon Druker
UPI

The family of a female Stanford University soccer player who took her own life is now suing the school, filing a wrongful death suit on Wednesday.

Katie Meyer was 22 when she was found dead inside her university dorm room in March. Her family contends the death was brought on by the school’s “negligent” disciplinary action, according to the lawsuit’s claims.

Meyer, who was a senior studying international relations and history, played goalkeeper for the Cardinal and made two critical saves in a penalty shootout to help Stanford beat North Carolina in the 2019 national championship. She was serving as the team’s captain at the time of her death.

On the night of Feb. 28, Meyer chatted with her family on a video call, during which they said she was in good spirits.

Later that night, she received a six-page disciplinary letter from the school, which threatened to withhold her diploma among other sanctions. She was found dead the next day in her on-campus dorm room.

An autopsy later confirmed the cause of death as suicide. The discipline stems from Meyer allegedly spilling coffee on a member of the school’s football team. The player had been accused of sexually assaulting one of Meyer’s soccer teammates, who was a minor at the time. That incident occurred on Aug. 28, 2021, the complaint states.

In the lawsuit, which was filed in California, Meyer’s father contends his daughter was standing up for her fellow player.

“Stanford’s after-hours disciplinary charge, and the reckless nature and manner of submission to Katie, caused Katie to suffer an acute stress reaction that impulsively led to her suicide,” the lawsuit states.

“Katie’s suicide was completed without planning and solely in response to the shocking and deeply distressing information she received from Stanford while alone in her room without any support or resources.”

The lawsuit also accuses the school of violating its own zero-tolerance policy towards sexual violence by failing to discipline the football player, who is not named in court documents.

The lawsuit names Stanford’s dean of residential education, Lisa Caldera, and President Marc Tessier-Lavigne as defendants.

In a statement, the school denied any wrongdoing.

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Mauna Loa, Kilauea volcanos erupting at same time in Hawaii

By Joe Fisher
UPI

The Big Island of Hawaii was experiencing two volcano eruptions simultaneously Wednesday for the first time since 1984.

Mauna Loa and neighboring volcano Kilauea were both erupting for the third straight day. Kilauea is a continually erupting volcano, while Mauna Loa erupted for the first time in 38 years on Sunday. Mauna Loa is the largest active volcano in the world.

"This is a rare time where we have two eruptions happening simultaneously," said Jessica Ferracane, spokeswoman for Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, according to CBS News. "To the people of Hawaii, this is a very sacred event that we are watching."

KITV Island Television, an ABC affiliate in Hawaii, reported the flow from Mauna Loa was inching toward the Daniel K. Inouye Highway, which abuts the Ka'Ohe Management Area to the east and Pu'u Wa'awa'a Forest Reserve to the west. It is a critical

connection point for traffic to move north and south through the island.

Emergency management officials said in a media briefing there was a "high probability" of lava reaching the highway.

Hawaii's Emergency Management Agency said there were no evacuation orders or threats to populated areas. It is estimated that, at the rate lava was flowing into the Northeast Rift Zone, it would take about 46 hours for it to reach the highway. It takes about six hours to close the road.

Lava was flowing from multiple fissures along Mauna Loa. Once it reaches flat land, it will pool together and spread more slowly.

"We expect it will probably take longer than that as the lava flow spreads out. It will probably interfere with its own progress, and we expect it to slow down," said Ken Hon, Hawaiian Volcano Observatory scientist.

Officials were discussing whether to attempt to redirect the flow of lava.

"Lava diversion is a tricky thing



to do, especially on flat ground," said Hawaii County Civil Defense Administrator Talmadge Magnoe. "It really comes down to a volume problem. What we're seeing now is -- take 10 of the biggest dump

trucks you can think of, we're getting that many dump trucks of lava every second delivered by this lava flow.

"So if you think you can pile up stuff in front of it faster than it can

deliver stuff, you're probably wrong."

Hawaii Gov. David Ige issued an emergency proclamation on Monday to allow various agencies to respond quickly should action need to be taken.

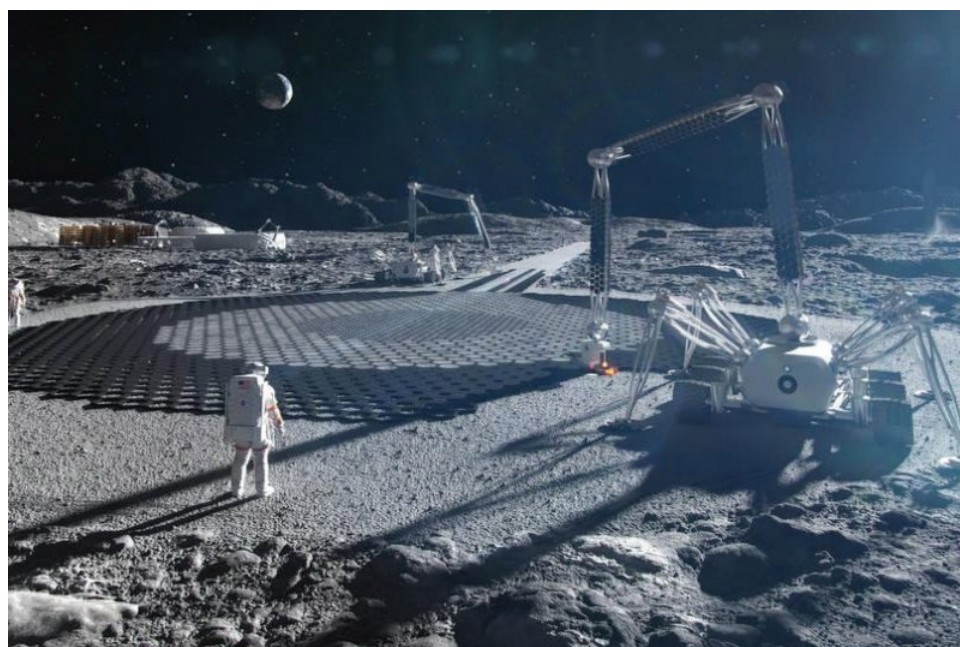
NASA awards contract for 3D-printed construction on moon, Mars

By Sheri Walsh
UPI

A Texas-based company has landed a five-year contract from NASA to build landing pads, roads and shelter on the moon and on Mars.

ICON, which is known for its 3D-printed homes and military barracks, announced Tuesday it has won a \$57 million contract from NASA to build Project Olympus, which will 3D-print infrastructure constructed from existing materials on the moon and Mars. The company is already using 3D-printing technology to build a 100-home planned community north of Austin.

"From the very founding of ICON, we've been thinking about off-world construction. It's a surprisingly natural progression if you are asking about the ways additive construction



and 3D-printing can create a better future for humanity," ICON co-founder and Chief Executive Officer Jason Ballard said in a statement.

"In order to explore other worlds, we need innovative new technologies adapted to those environ-

ments and our exploration needs," Niki Werkheiser, a director at NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate, said in a statement.

ICON has worked with NASA for two years using

large-scale 3D-printing technology to build prototypes for extraterrestrial

bases. The Austin-based startup has 3D-printed a simulated Mars habitat called Mars Dune Alpha, which NASA plans to use for simulated missions next year.

"We feel real weight and responsibility -- we're not just doing this for ourselves,

we're giving humanity the capability to build on other worlds," Ballard told Axios.

NASA could use ICON's technology on the moon as early as 2026, according to Ballard.

"The final deliverable of this contract will be humanity's first construction on another world, and that is going to be a pretty special achievement," Ballard said.

The new structures will test the limits of existing metal and inflatable architecture that will be required to protect inhabitants from a large range of temperatures, radiation and micro-meteorites, according to the company.

ICON said its proposed Project Olympus, which would be a self-driving 3D printer, would be delivered to the moon or Mars to print the structures. The company also plans to experiment with simulat-

ed lunar dirt to see how it behaves under reduced gravity.

"To change the space exploration paradigm from 'there and back again' to 'there to stay,' we're going to need robust, resilient and broadly capable systems that can use the local resources of the moon and other planetary bodies," Ballard said.

After winning NASA's contract on Tuesday, ICON tweeted a simulated video of its Project Olympus.

"From the lab to the field to the moon... it's time to build."v

From the lab to the field to the Moon...it's time to build. Check out ICON's Project Olympus --> <https://t.co/H9OSx-GLK3v> #lunarconstruction @NASA @NASA_Technology pic.twitter.com/Y62ailxPF4— ICON (@ICON3DTech) November 29, 2022

NASA Orion capsule reaches farthest distance from Earth in lunar orbit

By A.L. Lee & Sheri Walsh
UPI

NASA's Orion space capsule reached its farthest distance from Earth on Monday and successfully completed the first half of a mission that aims to ultimately return American astronauts to the moon.

"Just over an hour ago, Orion set another record clocking its maximum distance from Earth at 270,000 miles," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson announced at 5 p.m. EST on Monday from Johnson Space Center in Houston.

As Orion entered its 13th day in space, it marked the midpoint of its 26-day mission after initiating its distant retrograde orbit around the moon on Friday.

"Then on Saturday, Orion surpassed the distance record for a mission where a spacecraft designed to carry humans into deep space, and that record before

had been set by Apollo 13 at about 248,000 miles from Earth," Nelson said on Monday.

"We've largely completed the outbound leg toward the moon. We're going to have a period of time circling about the moon in distant retrograde orbit and then we're going to have the return leg," Artemis mission manager Mike Sarafin said.

During Monday's update, Nelson discussed "Commander Moonikin Campos," the name of the mannequin outfitted with sensors to gather data on what crew members might experience in flight on the spacecraft.

Those sensors will continue to gather data as the craft remains in orbit about 50,000 miles above the lunar surface for about a week to rigorously test its onboard navigation systems before it returns to Earth.

"When Orion comes home on

the 11th of December splashing down in a couple of weeks, we look forward to learning what all of the sensors will have told us in order to be able to put four human beings at the top of Artemis 2," Nelson said.

"And then we're going to the moon and into lunar orbit in preparation for Artemis 3 where we will have four go into a lunar, polar elliptical orbit that will then have two of the astronauts in the lander go down to the surface -- that will be the first woman and the next man."

NASA administrators indicated that the first leg of the mission was going according to plan following a minor setback in which mission control temporarily lost contact with the unmanned ship for 47 minutes on Wednesday.

"Good performance across the board on all our subsystems and systems, and certainly really hap-

py with the performance," Orion program manager Howard Hu said Sunday night.

During the second half of its mission, Orion will perform three orbital maintenance burns to keep the spacecraft on course. Engineers also planned to conduct a 24-hour examination of engine performance. And, because Orion has performed so well, the NASA team has added seven new tests to the existing 124 objectives.

"The halfway point in this mission allows and affords us an opportunity to step back and look at what our margins are and where we could be a little smarter to buy down risk and understand the spacecraft's performance for a crewed flight on the very next mission," Sarafin said on Monday.

Nelson added while "Artemis 1 has had extraordinary success and has completed a series of history-making events," the biggest test

will be returning to Earth.

"Since this is a test flight, the biggest test after the launch is the reentry, because we want to know that the heat shield works at about 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit, almost half as hot as the sun," Nelson said, adding "we stress it and we test it."

Training at Naval Base San Diego is already underway to recover the spacecraft after it splashes down in the Pacific Ocean next month, according to Sarafin.

The Artemis 1 mission, which launched from Kennedy Space Center on Nov. 16, sets the stage for astronauts to return to the lunar surface for the first time since 1972, which will happen sometime in 2025 or 2026 as part of the Artemis 3 mission.

Next year, astronauts will be aboard the Artemis 2 capsule, which will circle the Earth and moon as part of the mission's first manned test flight.



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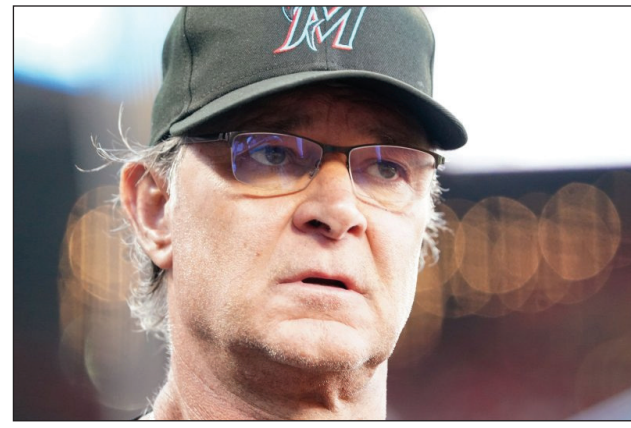
La Voz Latina

Blue Jays hire ex-Marlins manager Don Mattingly as bench coach

By Alex Butler
UPI

The Toronto Blue Jays hired former Miami Marlins manager Don Mattingly as their bench coach, the team announced Wednesday.

"It was great getting to know Don throughout this process and we are very excited about the experience he brings with him, from the variety of roles he has had over the years," Blue Jays manager John Schneider said in a news release. "The organization and I



are looking forward to his impact on the players and staff, as we look ahead to an exciting 2023 season."

The Marlins and Mattingly announced in September that they mutually agreed to part ways. Mat-

tingly, 61, posted a 437-583 record in seven seasons with the franchise. He previously went 446-363 in five seasons as manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Mattingly played for the New York Yankees from 1982 through 1995. He went on to serve as a special instructor and hitting coach for the Yankees from 2004 through 2007. Mattingly became the Dodgers' hitting coach before he was promoted to manager. He had joined the Marlins in 2016.

Argentina beats Poland, advances to Round of 16 at FIFA World Cup

By Simon Druker
UPI

Argentina scored twice in the second half to shut out Poland 2-0 in Group C play at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar on Wednesday, qualifying for the Round of 16.

The victory at Stadium 974 in Doha gave Argentina top spot in the group, finishing with six points and a 2-0-1 record.

Despite the loss, Poland advanced to the next stage, as well, with four points and a 1-1-1 record. Poland edged out Mexico, which had an identical record, based on the goal differential tiebreaker.

Mexico's 2-1 victory over Saudi Arabia Wednesday wasn't enough to catch Poland. Saudi Arabia, the fourth country in Group C, also was eliminated.

Argentina cruised to victory on second-half goals by Alexis Mac Allister and Julian Alvarez, as the country looks to capture its first World Cup victory since the late Diego Maradona captained the team in 1986.



Argentina applied pressure early, firing nine shots at Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, including a missed penalty kick by Lionel Messi, which was awarded after video replay. But Szczesny, who plays for the Italian Serie A club Juventus, withstood the barrage during the opening 45 minutes.

The Round of 16 begins Saturday,

when Argentina will play Australia, after the Socceroos upset Denmark to advance from Group D.

Poland will play France, which finished atop Group D with a 2-0-1 record. That match is scheduled for Sunday.

Four of the six matches in the next stage are set, with two on Monday yet to be finalized.



Cristiano Ronaldo, Manchester United agree to 'mutual' soccer split

By Alex Butler
UPI

Star striker Cristiano Ronaldo and Manchester United agreed to a mutual split, effective immediately, the English Premier League franchise announced Tuesday.

"The club thanks him for his immense contribution across two spells at Old Trafford, scoring 145 goals in 346 appearances, and wishes him and his family well for the future," the Red Devils said in a news release.

Sources told multiple news outlets last week that the Red Devils were considering a contract termination after the soccer icon made critical comments about the club in an unsanctioned interview. Those reports stated that United started the legal process against Ronaldo for a breach of

The club also said last week that it "initiated appropriate steps in response" to Ronaldo's interview. Ronaldo, who is now playing for Portugal at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, criticized Red Devils manager Erik ten Hag and others within the franchise Sunday in an interview with TalkTV's Piers Morgan.

Premier League employment contracts state that players shall not "knowingly or recklessly" say anything that "is likely to bring the club or the game of football into disrepute, cause the player or the club to be in breach of the rules or cause damage to the club or its officers or employees."

Ronaldo, 37, scored three times in six appearances this season for the Red Devils. He signed up for his second stint with the team in 2021. That pact was for two years, with a third-year option.

Portugal will open its World Cup slate against Ghana on Thursday in Doha, Qatar. Manchester United is set to face Cadiz in a friendly Dec. 7 in Cadiz, Spain.

"Everyone at Manchester United remains focused on continuing the team's progress under Erik ten Hag and working together to deliver success on the pitch," the Red Devils said.

Ronaldo, who announced Tuesday that he reached 500 million Instagram followers, did not publicly comment on his split with the Red Devils.

'Between 400 and 500' migrant workers died on World Cup projects, Qatar official says

By Joe Fisher
UPI

The death toll of migrant workers who prepared Qatar to host the 2022 World Cup is "between 400 and 500," according to the official responsible for organizing the event.

Appearing on Piers Morgan Uncensored, Hassan al-Thawadi, secretary general of the Supreme Committee for delivery and legacy, estimated the "honest and realistic total" of migrant workers who died on World Cup-related projects is at least 400.

"The estimate is around 400," he told Morgan. "Be-

tween 400 and 500. I don't have the precise number, that is something that is being discussed."

Morgan responded, "That is a lot of people," to which al-Thawadi agreed.

"One death is a death too many," he said. "Every year, I think the health and safety standards on the sites are improving. At least on our sites; the World Cup sites that we're responsible for."

The secretary general said trade unions have commended the improvements made to working conditions on the World Cup projects.

The Supreme Committee previously reported 40

migrant worker deaths, including three that were work related since 2014. In 2021, the Guardian reported 6,500 migrant workers died since Qatar was awarded the 2022 World Cup on Dec. 2, 2010. Those workers came from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

The Guardian story also suggests an even higher death total because the deaths of workers from other countries such as Kenya and the Philippines were not included.

The comments from al-Thawadi come after several international bodies have applied pressure to Qatar and Fifa over the

awarding and execution of the World Cup.

The European Union condemned both for the mistreatment and poor working conditions, as well as human rights violations by the host country. It approved a resolution to order both parties to compensate migrant workers and continue with worker's rights reform.

In October, Human Rights Watch, an international non-governmental organization, reported Qatari security forces were detaining LGBT residents without reason and subjecting them to poor treatment and outright abuse.