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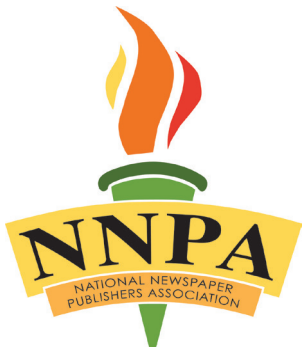
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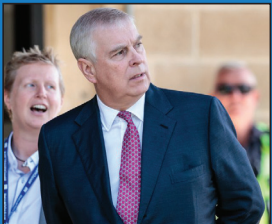
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Biden rejects effort by Trump to keep White House visitor logs away from Jan. 6 committee



President Joe Biden's decision rejects claims of executive privilege by former President Donald Trump to keep White House visitor logs out of the hands of a House committee investigating the January 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol. **File Photo by Pete Marovich/UPI**

By Doug Cunningham
UPI

President Joe Biden has rejected another effort by former President Donald Trump to keep official White House documents out of the congressional committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack at the U.S. Capitol.

White House counsel Dana Remus said in a letter to the National Archives on Tuesday that White House visitor logs should be turned over to the House Jan. 6 committee within the next two weeks. The logs show people who

visited the White House when Trump was in office.

The committee had been seeking the visitor logs, but Trump fought their release on claims of executive privilege.

"The president has determined that an assertion of executive privilege is not in the best interests of the United States, and therefore is not justified, as to these records and portions of records," Remus wrote in the letter, according to The New York Times.

"Constitutional protections of

See VISITORS, page 9

Tou Thao says use of knees was part of training

By Clyde Hughes & Daniel Uria
UPI

Tou Thao, one of three former Minneapolis police officers charged in the death of George Floyd, testified Tuesday that he was taught to use his knees to keep a suspect pinned to the ground as part of his training with the department.

The former officers -- Thao, J. Alexander Kueng, and Thomas Lane -- face federal charges of violating Floyd's civil rights during his arrest in May 2020, which resulted in his death. Former officer Derek Chauvin suffocated Floyd by kneeling on his neck for nearly 10 minutes.

The three are charged with violating Floyd's rights while acting under government authority. During the arrest,

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Gunmaker Remington agrees to pay \$73M to settle suit with Sandy Hook families

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

Gunmaker Remington has agreed to pay more than \$70 million to settle a lawsuit with several families of victims of the Sandy Hook shooting attack that killed 20 young children a almost decade ago.

Court documents filed on Tuesday show that the company agreed to pay \$73 million to nine Sandy Hook families to settle the case, which stems from the assault-style

rifle used in the attack -- a Remington Bushmaster XM15-E2S AR-15.

Shooter Adam Lanza used the rifle to kill 20 first-graders and six educators at the Newtown, Conn., elementary school on Dec. 14, 2012. Lanza also killed his mother before the attack, and killed himself at the end of the assault.

As part of the settlement, the families are also allowed to release materials related to how Remington marketed the rifle.



Armed police leave Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on December 14, 2012, after 20 first-grade children were shot dead by gunman Adam Lanza. **File Photo by John Angelillo/UPI**

"The plaintiffs re- See SANDY, page 3



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OPINION

A Twisted Love Affair with China

Ukraine tensions hearken back to Cuban Missile Crisis

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave

For the moment, the Ukraine crisis seems less tense as, reportedly, Russia has moved some of its forces from the Ukraine border back to garrisons.

Some will suggest that perhaps this is a signal similar to the Cuban Missile Crisis of nearly 60 years ago. When Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev ordered his ships destined to Cuba to reverse course, Secretary of State Dean Rusk famously responded, "We were eyeball to eyeball, and I think the other side just blinked."

This was not a blink by Russian President Vladimir Putin. From the beginning of this crisis, and despite the prima facie evidence of Russian troops massing around three-quarters of Ukraine's borders, an invasion seemed the most foolish action Putin could take. Had he done so, his major aims of a new strategic framework for Europe based on pre-1997 conditions; ending NATO expansion; and denying Ukraine NATO entry would have been impossible to achieve. Worse for Putin, the NATO response would have been powerful, painful and predictable.

What then motivated Putin? The Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962 is relevant. By the late 1950s, Khrushchev had ascended to leadership of the party and the Politburo. Dwight Eisenhower was in the last year of his administration. Ike had accepted the notion of "peaceful coexistence" with the Soviet Union. And Ike had both reduced U.S. defense spending and changed its trajectory to depend on nuclear and thermonuclear weapons to deter the Soviets.

Since thermonuclear war was unthinkable -- a thermonuclear bomb is at least 1,000 times more powerful than the A-bombs dropped on Japan in 1945 -- Khrushchev saw the opportunity to follow suit and shift precious resources from the military to the civilian sector. The generals were less than happy. In January 1960, after the 21st Party Congress three months earlier in the fall, Khrushchev announced substantial defense cuts and slashed reserves by about 1 million troops.

But Khrushchev's plans would be turned upside down by the 1960 presidential election. John F. Kennedy won by the slimmest of margins. His campaign platform focused on rebuilding defense that Kennedy said had been eroded by the Eisenhower-Nixon administration, promising to redress the huge "bomber and missile gaps" that gave Moscow a huge lead.

There was a missile gap. But it was the United States that was far ahead. That made no difference. As Kennedy swept into office on Jan. 20, 1961, he "promised to pay any price and bear any burden" in the defense of liberty. Following up, he sent three separate requests to Congress for more supplemental defense spending and approved plans to triple the size of America's nuclear inventory. In April, he approved the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba.

Khrushchev was in huge trouble. The generals, knowing the true state of Soviet defenses, could not allow the United States to gain an even larger advantage. And in no uncertain terms told Khrushchev.

In order to sustain his priority to improve Russian standards of living and the civilian economy, Khrushchev was faced with a seemingly impossible dilemma. Deciding he could use Berlin, a city well inside East Germany and thus Soviet Control and divided among the four victorious Allied powers (the United States, United Kingdom, France and the USSR) after World War II, as leverage, he met the new U.S. president in Vienna in June.

Kennedy's reaction to the summit: "He just beat the hell out of me." Khrushchev drew the obvious conclusion that would resolve his dilemma.

Instead of spending billions on matching America's nuclear might, Khrushchev would outflank it with shorter-range nuclear missiles that could target the U.S. east coast from Cuba. Cuba would agree, and the United States had short-range Jupiter missiles aimed at Russia in Turkey. A weak Kennedy would have no choice except to accept the *fait accompli*.

Throughout our ongoing struggles with China, one key battle appears to have already been won by our adversary: the battle for arts and entertainment.

Boasting a population of over 1.4 billion people, many of whom have the financial means to pay for and consume a wide variety of forms of entertainment, their market share for television, movies and art rivals that of the actual country that produces the films -- the United States. With a powerful government that has no qualms about restricting both media and the messages that their citizens consume, China has the ability to cut a movie's box office earnings in half, obliterate television show viewership numbers and completely deny entertainers and celebrities any form of notoriety within their country at the push of a button.

China's impact on major American films is extremely strong yet very subtle -- so subtle that it would go unnoticed by the public if it weren't for eagle-eyed viewers. This style of influence is predicated on the omission or subtle alteration of information rather than a clear, unequivocal message.

One such instance occurred in mid-2021, when the long-awaited sequel to the 1986 film "Top Gun," "Top Gun: Maverick," sparked outrage within the United States when it was revealed in the trailer that the bomber jacket worn by Tom Cruise in the film, the

same jacket worn in the 1986 version of the film, had the flags of Japan and Taiwan removed and replaced with random symbols. This would not be significant if the jacket was not otherwise identical to the jacket in the former film. The fact that these two nations' flags were replaced is an unmistakable demonstration of Chinese coercion; this conclusion is especially convincing considering the



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conflicts that China has with the two countries omitted.

In one of the most embarrassing instances of a celebrity kowtowing to Chinese pressure in recent memory, John Cena, a prominent, A-list American actor, while conducting an interview promoting the film "Fast and Furious 9," exclaimed, "Taiwan is the first country to watch 'Fast and Furious 9.'"

The mere suggestion of Taiwan as an independent country seemed to be too far beyond the pale for China to bear listening to, subsequently landing Cena between a rock and a hard place, with escape from either direction being at the cost of his career or his reputation. Inevitably, he chose the path most followed and embarrassingly portrayed himself as a Chinese sympathizer who cared more about the feelings of Chinese wallets

than he did for the United States' ally, Taiwan.

"Fast and Furious" films frequently gross twice as much in China as they do in the United States. It's clear that the studio likely pressured Cena to make a humiliating apology to China. Cena apologized in Mandarin in his video and pleaded for forgiveness for his "mistake." "I made a mistake, I'm so, so sorry for my mistake. I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm very sorry. You have to understand I love and respect China and Chinese people. I'm sorry."

As a result of this controversy, Cena became an internet joke overnight. Dubbed as "John Xina," you can find images of his face Photoshopped over an image of Mao Zedong.

If that wasn't enough, Lady Gaga was barred from performing in China just because she visited with the Dalai Lama in 2016. Brad Pitt was banned for nearly 20 years because he starred in the film "Seven Years in Tibet." More recently, Keanu Reeves has run into trouble with Chinese censors for his presence at a Tibet benefit concert.

These are only a few examples of the Chinese government's censoring of big-name entertainers, many of which are known, and there's likely even more that are unknown. The main problem is that China's economic system serves a dual purpose: It employs a form of government-run capitalism that encourages industry growth through private in-

vestment, while a big brother government keeps a close eye on them, waiting for them to succeed so that they can pounce and reap the benefits of a wider reach through new, innovative technology. This is true in both the entertainment and technology industries, with the Chinese government's influence pervading practically every area of both. For example, the Chinese government has forced WeChat, a popular social media platform in China with over one billion users, to pass up all of its users' data so that the government can better manage and track them. WeChat would not exist if it weren't for private investment, and it wouldn't be misusing its users' data if it weren't for the government.

Truth ends where censorship begins. This is true in many facets of life, including in entertainment, social media, public spaces and sidewalks. When someone's lips are sewn shut, ideas cannot develop, and consequently, truth will never come to be. For a government seeking to maintain control over its citizens' daily lives, censorship is the most effective instrument for persuading them to believe what it wants, yet there will come a day when people care more about the ideals of freedom than the entertainment they consume. When that moment comes, a choice between censorship and freedom will materialize, and American movie studios will have to decide which of those two markets they prefer.

U.S. military may need to invest more in Arctic capabilities

By Abbie Tingstad & Scott Savitz

Moscow and Washington turned to diplomacy this week amid intensifying Russian military activity in the vicinity of its near abroad. The buildup of troops along the Ukrainian border and sending of "peacekeeping" forces to support the Tokayev regime's violent crackdown on protests in Kazakhstan are not comparable except in their timing. However, they serve as a double reminder of Russia's political stature and military might.

The Barents Sea region of the Arctic, where Russia meets Norway, is becoming another seam of tension between NATO and Russia. The region features the headquarters of the Russian Navy's Northern Fleet in Severomorsk, as well as valuable technology and mining hubs and Indigenous and other communities. Russia has been intensifying the frequency and scale of exercises in the area. NATO has also conducted exercises close by in recent years, prompting Russian responses. Moscow also disputes the maritime limits of Oslo's jurisdiction in the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard, based on its interpretation of a 1920 treaty.

Despite continued diplomacy to resolve NATO-Russia points of contention within and beyond the Arctic (including the

alliance's relationships with Ukraine and Georgia), Russia's recent military activity in the Arctic raises questions for the United States as to what types of Arctic military capabilities it needs as part of an overarching strategy to ensure credibility at the negotiating table and an ability to deal with crises.

Part of the challenge is the Arctic's uniqueness. In a crisis, redeployment of forces from other regions to the Arctic would be hampered by the region's extreme climate, its remoteness, the vast distances within it, its sparse infrastructure, its limited transportation and medical services and scarce satellite coverage. Equipment needs to be tailored for the harsh Arctic environment; similarly, personnel need prior training within it to be able to operate effectively despite nights that last for months, ionospheric effects that impede communications, the need to wear bulky clothing that hampers movement and manual dexterity and a host of other challenges.

The last decade has seen numerous U.S. national and service-specific Arctic strategy documents aimed at spurring plans for new capabilities and capacity. The most important recent investment decision has been to re-capitalize the U.S. Coast Guard's icebreaker fleet. However, two important

factors critical to effective U.S. preparations for countering Russia in the Arctic (and perhaps China, which in recent years has become increasingly involved in the region) are often overlooked.

The first is the need for a capability-based, portfolio approach to Arctic investments. The United States may need to ensure access, mobility, support infrastructure, domain awareness and communications across multiple domains in the region. To achieve this, the United States could invest in many other areas besides icebreakers.

Second, the United States might do well to focus more on U.S. ally and partner capabilities in the region. The United States relies on alliances, often espousing the benefits of partnership, and indeed the United States has "friends in high places" in the Arctic, including NATO allies Canada, Denmark and Norway, as well as healthy relationships with Sweden and Finland. Other non-Arctic allies, such as Britain and the Netherlands, also have Arctic military capabilities. It could be critical to expand joint training and exercises with these nations, as well as to increase emulation of some of their exquisite Arctic capabilities. Furthermore, being a good partner also requires investment. For the United States in the

Arctic, this could include gaining interoperability and ability to share more in areas where the United States is historically strong, such as air and subsurface naval power, as well as intelligence.

Operating in the Arctic is inherently expensive: Equipment needs to be designed or modified to withstand harsh conditions, and the costs associated with building or maintaining infrastructure are high. Deploying assets, equipment and personnel there to train also is expensive and discomfiting. Despite this, it could be critical that the United States make the necessary investments -- including in partnerships -- to ensure a robust ability to operate in the Arctic to withstand Russian challenges in a forbidding region. Making the right investments at the right scale (i.e., averting the possibility of a new Cold War) could aid in diplomacy, as well as in military preparedness.

Abbie Tingstad is associate director of the Engineering and Applied Sciences Department, co-director of the Climate Resilience Center and a senior physical scientist at the nonprofit, nonpartisan RAND Corp. Scott Savitz is a senior engineer at RAND.

The views and opinions expressed in this commentary are solely those of the authors.



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Girl missing since 2019 found alive under staircase in N.Y. home

By Sommer Brokaw UPI

A 4-year-old missing since 2019 has been found alive under a staircase in a New York home.

Detective Eric Thiele, of the police department in Saugerties, 45 miles south of Albany, told NBC News Tuesday he was executing a search warrant on a residence in the area on Monday night when he saw a blanket after flashing light between the steps of a staircase.

"Detectives used a halogen tool to remove several of the wooden steps, and that is when detectives saw a pair of tiny feet," police said in a statement to NBC News. "After removing several more steps, the child and

her abductor were discovered within. The space was small, cold and wet."

Police said the 4-year-old girl, Paislee Shultis, and her abductor Kimberly Cooper were located over an hour into the search of the residence in a makeshift room under a closed staircase leading to the basement.

Paramedics determined the girl was in good health and returned her to her legal guardian, police added.

Paislee was reported missing in July 2019 from Cayuga Heights.

Her non-custodial parents have been charged.

Cooper, 33, was arrested for custodial interference and endangering the welfare of a child. She was also remanded into custody for an outstanding warrant

from Ulster County Family Court.

Kirk Shultis, Jr. 32, was charged with felony custodial interference and misdemeanor endangering the welfare of a child. Kirk Shultis Sr., 57, was charged with felony custodial interference and misdemeanor endangering the welfare of a child.

Officers executed the search warrant after receiving a tip about her whereabouts, according to the Saugerties Police Department. They had also followed previous leads to the residence, but the Shultises had "denied any knowledge of the little girl's whereabouts," police told NBC News, adding they previously had "limited access into the residence."



Paislee Shultis was found being held within a hidden location at a residence in Saugerties. Photo by N.Y.Saugerties Police Dept

Sandy

continued from page 1

quest that the court set a status conference, to be held at a date convenient to the court and counsel for the parties so that the parties may further report on the settlement, including what must be accomplished before the case can be withdrawn," the document said, ac-

ording to WVIT-TV.

Financial details were not disclosed in the documents, but a lawyer for the families said Remington agreed to pay \$73 million.

While a 2005 federal law shields most gun manufacturers from wrongful death lawsuits for how their weapons are used, Sandy Hook families developed a strategy of holding Remington partly responsible for the

way it was marketed.

The families said that Remington's marketing praised the rifle's militaristic qualities and reinforced the image of a combat weapon, a violation of Connecticut law. Remington petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019, but the court refused to hear the company's appeal and allowed the suit to move forward. Remington filed for bankruptcy in 2020.

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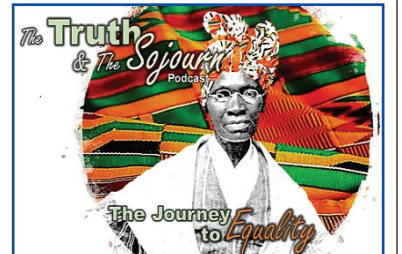
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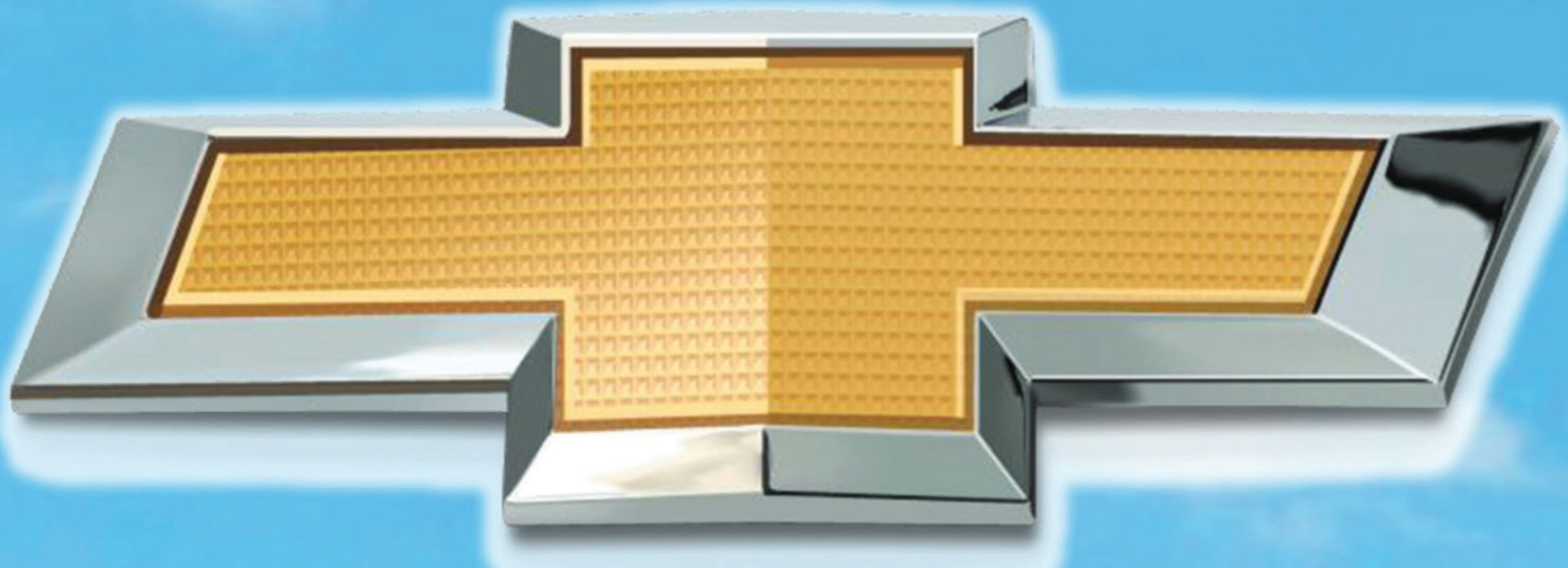
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Floyd

continued from page 1

Kueng knelt on Floyd's back, Lane held his legs and Thao warned bystanders to stay back.

Specifically, the federal charges accuse Lane, Kueng and Thao with depriving Floyd's rights under color of law -- and Thao and Kueng are also charged with willfully failing to intervene while Chauvin used unreasonable force that resulted in death.

Thomas Lane (L), J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao (R) face federal charges of violating George Floyd's civil rights in his arrest and death in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020. Photos courtesy Hennepin County Sheriff's Office

Thao's attorney Robert Paule on Tuesday showed the jury a photo of Thao, taken during his training at the police academy in 2009 that showed him and another cadet using their knees to pin a handcuffed actor posing as a suspect to the ground in a prone position.

"Just to be clear, is this something that was typically

taught at the academy when you were there? Paule asked Thao.

"Yes," Thao replied.

Thao also said he was never told that such a maneuver was "improper."

On Monday, former Baltimore police officer and use-of-force expert Timothy Longo testified that the former officers should have intervened and provided medical attention.

Longo said that the officers failed to comply with acceptable police practices. Other experts testified that Floyd's arrest was "a survivable" event and that CPR could have saved his life.

Thao on Tuesday testified that he had "no idea" how serious Floyd's condition was until after paramedics took him away in an ambulance and firefighters arrived on the scene to assist paramedics with CPR.

"I kind of connected the dots ... OK. I guess this guy was in critical condition when they left," Thao said.

Under cross-examination from Assistant U.S. Attorney LeeAnn Bell, Thao said he was aware that Chauvin placed his knee on Floyd's neck and that Floyd had stopped talking and ap-

peared unconscious. He also acknowledged that police are trained to begin CPR immediately if someone loses a pulse and no paramedics are present and have a duty to intervene if another officer is committing a crime.

Thao also testified that

Floyd complained he couldn't breathe as officers attempted to get him into the squad car, but noted that similar complaints had become "a regular occurrence" after Eric Garner, a 43-year-old Black man, uttered the same complaint

as a New York City police officer placed him in a banned chokehold that led to his death.

He also testified that he and Chauvin drove to the scene at Cup Foods, the convenience store where Floyd was arrested, to back

up Lane and Kueng despite a dispatcher calling them off.

"From my experience, Cup Foods is hostile to police. It's a well known Bloods hangout," he said, adding Lane and Kueng would not have been aware of this as they were rookies.

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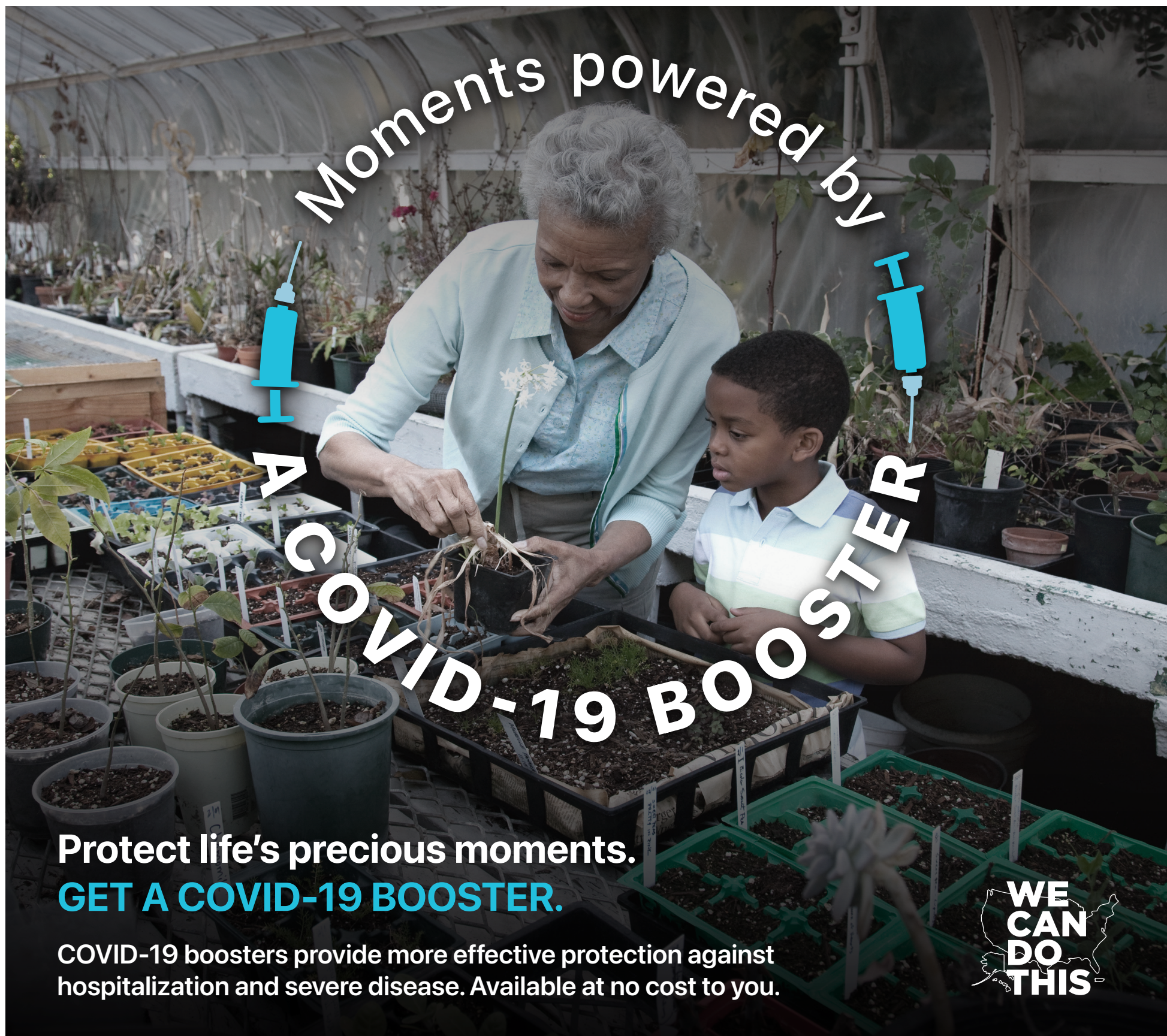
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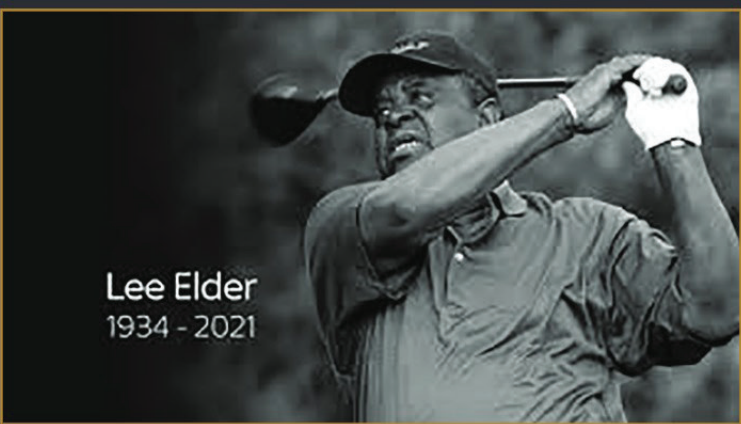
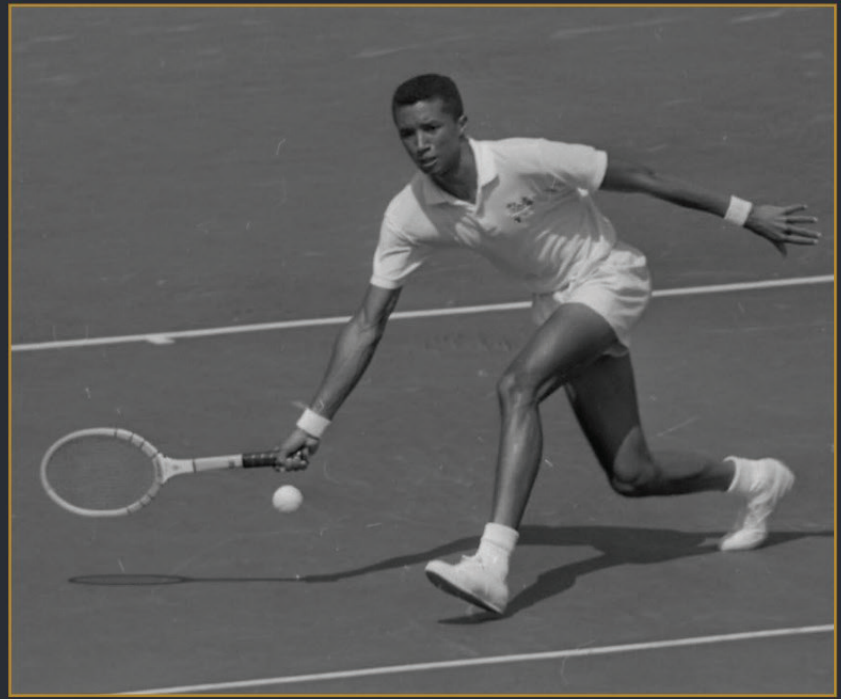
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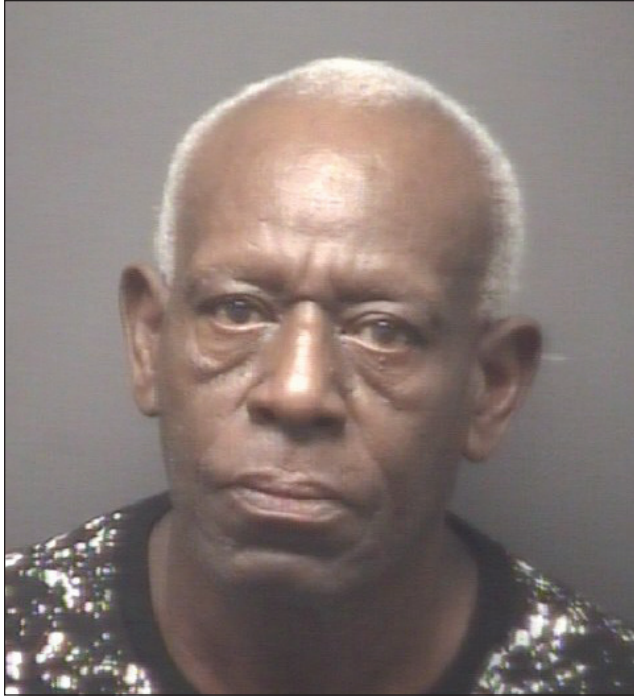


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AWDWIKISI – FELONY
VIOLATION OF RELEASE CONDITIONS – FELONY



Prince Andrew settles sexual abuse lawsuit with Virginia Giuffre, avoids trial in NYC

By Simon Druker
UPI

Britain's Prince Andrew has reached an agreement to settle a lawsuit filed by Virginia Giuffre that says she was sexually assaulted by the royal as part of a

trafficking operation when she was a minor, officials said Tuesday.

The settlement was detailed in a court filing in New York City, but it does not specify the amount of money Andrew agreed to pay.

The deal avoids a public trial in New York that would have likely brought embarrassment to Britain's royal family. Prince Andrew is Queen Elizabeth II's second-eldest son after Prince Charles.

In a letter to U.S. District Court Judge Lewis Kaplan, Prince Andrew's lawyers said that he will make a "substantial donation to Ms. Giuffre's charity in support of victims' rights."

Giuffre has accused Prince Andrew of sexually abusing her when she was 17 -- and said she was put up to it by disgraced financier and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself in a New York City jail in 2019 awaiting sex trafficking charges.

Virginia Giuffre is seen leaving Manhattan Federal Court on August 27, 2019 in New York City. File Photo by Louis Lanzano/UPI

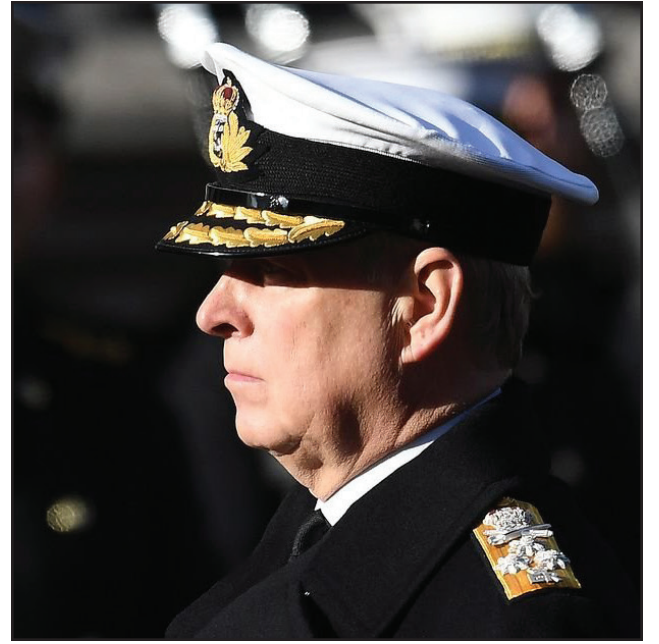
The letter also states that Prince Andrew had

"never intended to malign Ms. Giuffre's character" and recognized that she "suffered both as an established victim of abuse and as a result of unfair public attacks." Both admissions were part of the settlement agreement, attorneys said.

Andrew had unsuccessfully made attempts to get the lawsuit dismissed. In January, his attorney urged Kaplan to dismiss the case, arguing that Giuffre failed to articulate what happened to her. Around that same time, he was formally stripped of his royal titles and duties.

Tuesday's agreement came just weeks before Andrew was scheduled to give a deposition in the case under questioning from Giuffre's attorneys.

In 2015, Giuffre accused Ghislaine Maxwell, a close associate of Epstein's and confidant of Prince Andrew, of recruiting her and other underage girls to be sexually abused. She also said Epstein and Max-



Britain's Prince Andrew is seen during an event in London, Britain, on November 10, 2019. Tuesday, court documents showed that he's agreed to settle accusations of sexual assault in New York court. Photo by Andy Rain/EPA-EFE

well offered her to Prince Andrew on more than one occasion.

The letter filed in court also says that Prince Andrews "regrets his association with Epstein."

In December, Maxwell was found guilty on five of six related charges in federal court.

Court documents show that Giuffre settled a similar case against Epstein 11 years ago for \$500,000.

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Visitors

continued from page 1

executive privilege should not be used to shield, from Congress or the public, information that reflects a clear and apparent effort

to subvert the Constitution itself.”

Remus said that the National Archives, which is the repository for all official presidential records, should turn over the visitor logs to the committee within 15 days.

Remus sent the letter to the National Archives on Tuesday and said she would notify Trump’s attorneys on Wednesday.

The House committee investigating the Capitol attack has been seeking the visitor logs to get an idea of

Trump’s associations in the days and weeks leading up to the Jan. 6, 2021, assault by radical Trump supporters who sought to block Biden’s official certification as president-elect.

Last year, Biden rejected a similar claim of executive

privilege for other documents sought by committee investigators. Trump unsuccessfully tried to block their release in court. The former president could also go to court to try and block the release of the visitor logs.

National Archives, should turn over the visitor logs to the committee within 15 days

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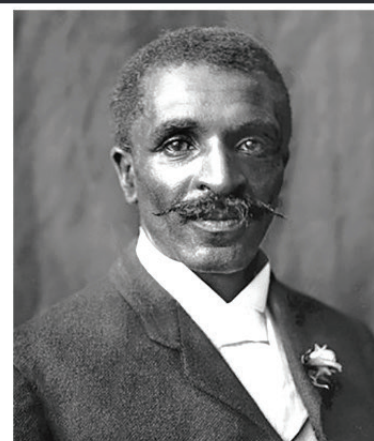
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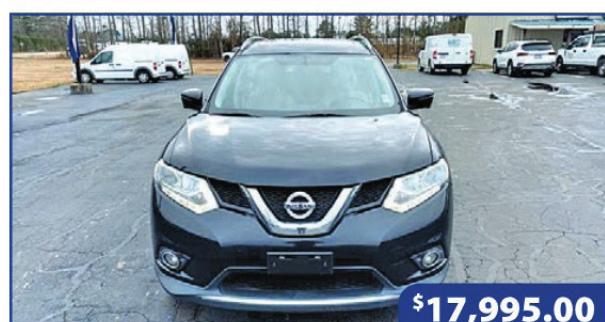
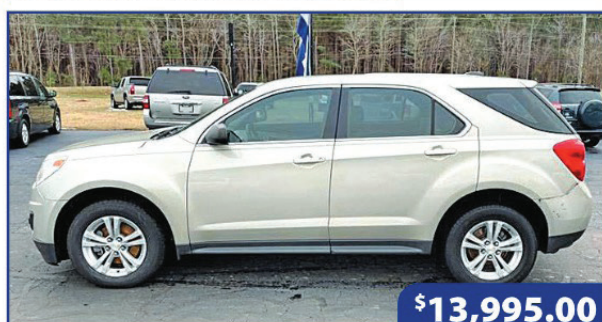
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Rage Against the Machine sets dates for 'Public Service Announcement' tour

By Wade Sheridan
UPI

2022

Rage Against the Machine announced on Tuesday the rescheduled dates for their Public Service Announcement tour with special guests Run the Jewels.

The tour was initially postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"All tickets for the moved dates will be honored. Fans who would like a refund have until March 15, 2022 and should contact your point of purchase. Thank you," Rage Against the Machine said on Twitter next to the rescheduled dates.

The Public Service Announcement tour will kick off in 2022 on July 9 at the Alpine Valley Music Theatre in East Troy, Wis., before it wraps up on Aug. 14 at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

The tour will then resume in 2023 on Feb. 22 at the Pan American Center in Las Cruces, N.M., before it wraps up on April 2 at Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit, Mich.

Rage Against the Machine were recently nominated for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Here is the full list of dates for Rage Against the Machine's 'Public Service Announcement' tour

July 9 -- East Troy, Wis., at Alpine Valley Music Theatre

July 11 -- Chicago at United Center

July 12 -- Chicago at United Center

July 15 -- Ottawa, Canada, at Ottawa Bluesfest

July 16 -- Quebec City, Canada, at Festival D'Ete De Quebec

July 19 -- Hamilton, Canada, at First Ontario Centre

July 21 -- Toronto, Canada, at Scotiabank Arena

July 23 -- Toronto, Canada, at Scotiabank Arena

July 25 -- Buffalo, N.Y., at Keybank Center

July 27 -- Cleveland at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse

July 29 -- Pittsburgh at PPG Paints Arena

July 31 -- Raleigh, N.C., at PNC Arena

Aug. 2 -- Washington, D.C., at Capitol One Arena

Aug. 3 -- Washington, D.C., at Capitol One Arena

Aug. 8 -- New York at Madison Square Garden

Aug. 9 -- New York at Madison Square Garden

Aug. 11 -- New York at Madison Square Garden

Aug. 12 -- New York at Madison Square Garden

Aug. 14 -- New York at Madison Square Garden

Biden urges county leaders to use American Rescue Plan, infrastructure law funds

By Clyde Hughes & Daniel Uribe
UPI

President Joe Biden addressed a group of Democratic and Republican county officials from around the country Tuesday afternoon at the National Association of Counties 2022 Legislative Conference at the Washington Hilton.

The conference, which started on Saturday, brings together nearly 2,000 elected and appointed county officials to focus on federal policy issues that impact the counties' residents.

"Folks, my name is Joe Biden and I used to be a

county councilman," Biden said. "And I ran for the Senate because it was too damn hard being in the council."

Biden used the speech to highlight programs throughout the nation that were or will be funded -- in whole or in part -- by the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Infrastructure law.

"I urge all of you to use the flexibility we built into the law and spend those funds wisely, to build a future around working people who make up the communities you run," he said.

The president particularly cited Howard County in Maryland, which announced

a plan in mid-January that would give full time Howard County Public School workers a bonus of \$1,800 for their work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

He also praised three counties in Kentucky for "expanding high-speed Internet to nearly 100,000 homes and businesses" and Cook County, Illinois, for using funds to work with Southland Metals Hub to prepare workers for manufacturing and infrastructure jobs.

"Rescue Plan funds we delivered to your counties, they can help each of you build a strong, diverse workforce you'll need to take up and take on these

infrastructure jobs so that there are more families that can deal themselves into this booming economy," he said.

Biden also pushed for another piece of signature legislation, the Build Back Better plan, citing the burden that costs for childcare and prescription drugs place on families.

"You want to benefit a family? Reduce the cost of prescription drugs that they have to pay," Biden said. "In America, we pay the highest price for prescription drugs in the world -- of any developed nation in the world. About two to three times what other countries pay."

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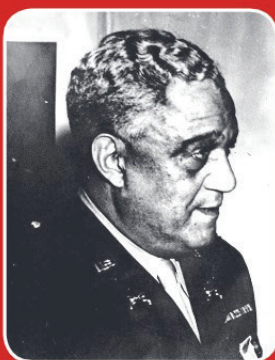
Many adults expect to lose some hair as they age, but hair loss in children can cause alarm, especially when they become upset about bald spots or thin hair. However, hair loss in children is relatively common.

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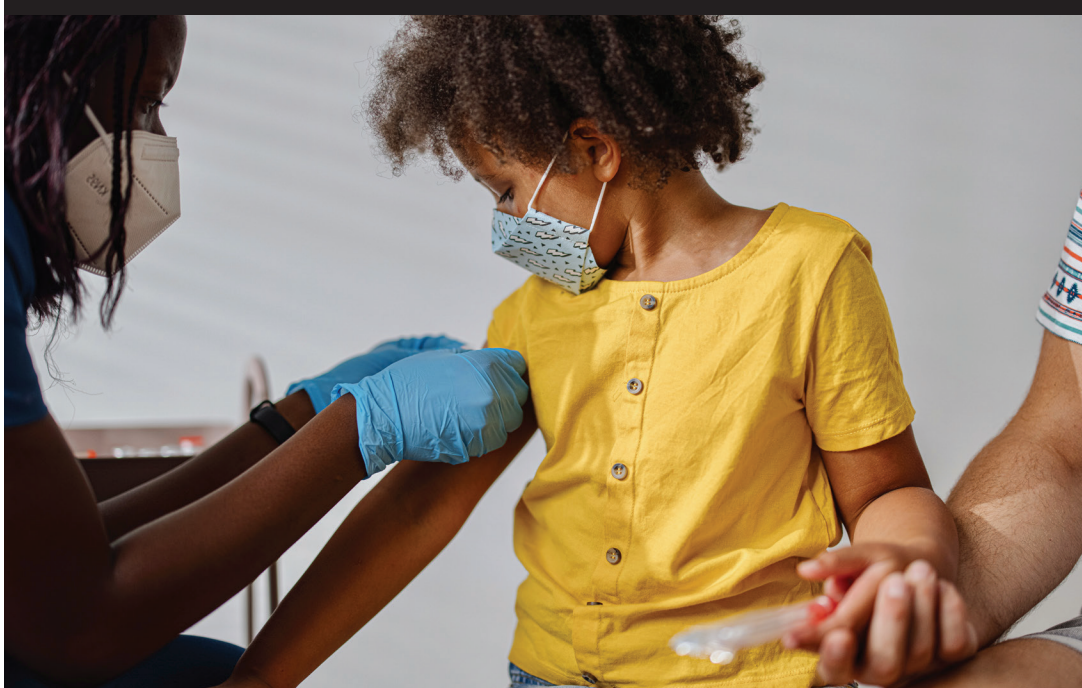
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