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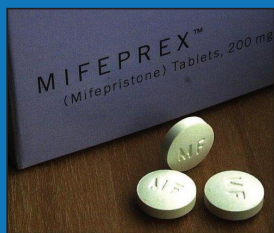
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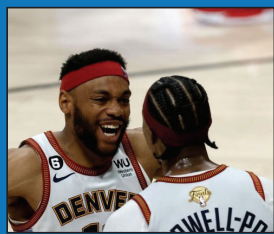
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## GOP Sen. J.D. Vance vows to 'grind' Justice Department to a halt over Trump indictment



Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance announced Tuesday that he will hold up all of Attorney General Merrick Garland's Justice Department nominations in retaliation for the federal indictment of Donald Trump.. **File Photo by Aaron Josefczyk/UPI**

By Joe Fisher  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance announced Tuesday that he will hold up all of Attorney General Merrick Garland's Justice Department nominations in retaliation for the federal indictment of Donald Trump.

While Trump was being processed in a federal courthouse in Miami on Tuesday afternoon, Vance posted a video from Capitol Hill on Twitter sharing his plan.

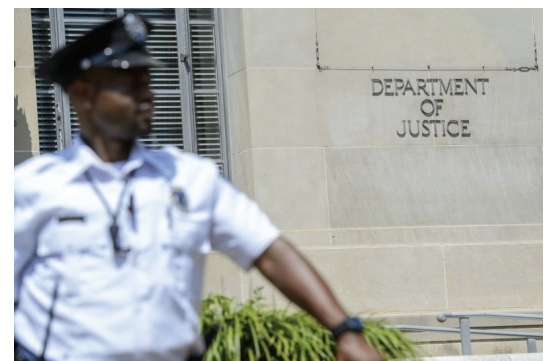
"I've announced today that I will be holding all Department of Justice nominees that Merrick Garland will use if confirmed,

not to enforce the law impartially -- but clearly to harass his political opponents," Vance said. "I think we have to grind this department to a halt until Merrick Garland promises to do his job and stop going after his political opponents."

Until Merrick Garland stops using his agency to harass Joe Biden's political opponents, I will hold all DoJ nominees. pic.twitter.com/UVRwi6Ue01 — J.D. Vance (@JDVance1) June 13, 2023

"Donald Trump is just one and the

See **VOWS**, page 7



An Alabama man has pleaded guilty to running a child exploitation website, according to the Justice Department. **File Photo by Bonnie Cash/UPI**

## Alabama man pleads guilty to running child exploitation website

By Patrick Hilsman  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- An Alabama man pleaded guilty to being the administrator of a website that distributed images of sexual abuse against minors.

"William Michael Spearman, 57, of Madison, was the lead administrator of the website which had been operating for many years," the Justice Department said in a press release Tuesday.

"The website included a section devoted to the sexual abuse of infants and toddlers, a section devoted to images and videos depicting children being subjected to pain and torture, and a section devoted to avoiding detection by law enforcement," the Justice Department said.

Spearman pleaded guilty to running a child exploitation enterprise and faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison, with a maximum sentence of life in prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 21.

Several other individuals have been convicted

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# PGA Tour-LIV Golf merger puts priority on 'collecting a ton of money'

By Taylor McKee  
Brock University

In June 2022, Greg Norman, a former world No. 1 golfer, became the public face of LIV Golf -- a tour backed by the Saudi Public Investment Fund that pledged to "holistically improve the health of professional golf on a global scale."

The fact that such an accomplished professional chose to represent the tour was an early indicator of the reach and prominence it would soon have across the sport.

Only one year later, LIV Golf -- and the Saudi sovereign wealth fund that finances it -- are official partners with the PGA Tour.

The merger has caused the PGA Tour to formally acknowledge LIV Golf as its equal and partner. The PGA Tour has validated and enshrined LIV Golf as a legitimate, powerful presence within the sport. By extension, the PIF has been granted a full-time seat at the international sporting table.

LIV Golf has gone from a renegade tour that attracted top players away from the PGA Tour to becoming a legitimate partner that will shape the future of the organization it sought to compete with only one year ago.

### New partnership

The PGA Tour isn't simply swallowing up a fledgling, unsuccessful competitor, which is what usually happens in professional sports. Instead, it is forming a genuine partnership with the PIF.

The language of the agreement makes this clear:

"PIF will initially be the exclusive investor in the new entity, alongside the PGA Tour, LIV Golf and the DP World Tour. Going forward, PIF will have the exclusive right to further invest in the new entity, including a right of first refusal on any capital that may be invested in the new entity, including into the PGA Tour, LIV Golf and DP World Tour."

Leading up to the union, many in the golf community aired their unease about LIV Golf and what this move represented for the sport's development.

After winning the 2022 Canadian Open last June, Rory McIlroy, who has been one of the PGA Tour's most staunch defenders and LIV Golf's most outspoken critics, said:

"What [LIV] are doing over there doesn't really mean anything apart from just collecting a ton of money."

The question of finances has been central to the premise and promise of LIV Golf since its creation. The last-place finisher at the 2023 Charles Schwab Challenge in May earned about \$17,000.

At the LIV golf tournament held in the same month, the last-place finisher earned \$127,000, while the winner took home \$4 million, a whopping \$3.5 million more than the Schwab winner.

Such calculations have caused many to openly question why the LIV tour -- which features many excellent athletes but not necessarily the world's top golfers -- was comfortable paying potentially inferior players considerably more money.

### Inflated salaries

A foundational principle of sport that is becoming quaint with each passing day is that an athlete, team or league possesses a quantifiable value that directly relates to their salary.

This value can be enhanced by successes on and off the field, priced into budgets, traded and exchanged, all while being managed within the complex dynamics of a sports entertainment industry.



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# OPINION

## FBI's Misuse of Surveillance Tool Underscores Need for Conservative Oversight

Recent disclosures have plunged the FBI back into a storm of controversy due to its abuse of the robust surveillance tool Section 702, with almost 300,000 incidents recorded in 2020 and early 2021. The unsettling instances of misuse encompass searches connected to the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol, and the Black Lives Matter protests. As conservatives, it is incumbent upon us to critically examine these activities and push for the changes needed to safeguard the rights and privacy of Americans.

Section 702 was established in the aftermath of the heinous terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. This extensive communications database compiles massive quantities of information, encompassing emails, text messages and telephone conversations, in a bid to thwart terrorism and collect intel on foreign administrations. Although its central goal is to focus on foreigners, it inadvertently seizes the communications of U.S. residents and organizations communicating with these foreign individuals. The extent of the information held in this database is unknown, given that it encompasses data from across the globe, stored on servers worldwide.

One unsettling element of Section 702 lies in its potential for overstepping bounds and infringing on the privacy of American citizens. Barbara McQuade, a former U.S. attorney, drew attention to situations where



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

gathering intel on a foreign target, such as Russian President Vladimir Putin, could unintentionally implicate American citizens in the data capture. This situation poses significant concerns regarding the safeguarding of Americans' Fourth Amendment rights, which defend against unwarranted searches and seizures.

The recent disclosures bring to light the extensive and inappropriate utilization of Section 702 by the FBI.

The FBI carried out over 278,000 searches contravening Justice Department guidelines, targeting individuals with no connection to issues of national security. These searches ranged from investigating crime victims to individuals detained during protests, and even contributors to a congressional candidate. This sweeping and unmerited

use of the database corrodes the faith entrusted in law enforcement agencies and endangers the civil liberties of citizens abiding by the law.

We must recognize that this isn't the first instance where the FBI has come under scrutiny in relation to Section 702. Previous inspections have uncovered abuses, including searches involving the name of a congressional member. Advocates for civil liberties contend that the FBI employs this tool as a loophole for searches without a warrant, sidestepping judicial supervision. Although the Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of Section 702, Congress must exercise control and ensure that the tool is used responsibly.

Conservatives have long been critical of the FBI, particularly due to its involvement in the investigation of the Trump campaign's alleged connections to Russia. The wiretapping of Trump campaign adviser Carter Page further fueled concerns about the agency's actions. The recent report by special counsel John Durham raised serious questions about the FBI's conduct during the Trump-Russia investigation. Consequently, Republicans in Congress have established a subcommittee to investigate potential abuses within the FBI and

other federal agencies.

Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) expressed the sentiment shared by many conservatives, insisting that reauthorization without significant reforms is unlikely. Conservatives must support his stance and rally behind comprehensive reforms that address the misuse of Section 702, strengthen privacy protections and ensure that the FBI adheres to strict procedures in its use of the database.

Preserving the balance between national security and individual liberties is of paramount importance. As conservatives, we must hold our government accountable, demand transparency and safeguard the rights enshrined in our Constitution. The misuse of Section 702 by the FBI serves as a stark reminder that vigilant oversight and reforms are necessary to prevent further encroachments on Americans' privacy and civil liberties.

Clear guidelines must be established to minimize the incidental collection of U.S. residents' data and prevent abuse of the database for unrelated purposes. Congress should also implement robust reporting requirements, ensuring that the FBI provides regular updates on its use of Section 702 and any associated violations.

## Donald Trump, Boris Johnson aim for second acts under cloud of crimes

By Harlan Ullman,  
Arnaud de Borchgrave  
Distinguished  
Columnist

To paraphrase Winston Churchill, "Never in the course of human events have a British prime minister and an American president concurrently faced charges of committing high crimes and misdemeanors?"

In Britain, former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, fined for violating a COVID-19 law prohibiting large public gatherings and holding a drinks party, resigned his seat in the House of Commons to avoid a further parliamentary investigation. But Johnson seems determined to remain engaged in British politics, attacking Premier Rishi Sunak for malfeasance.

Is Johnson preparing for a second act in politics, as Sir Winston did in his return from "the wilderness" of political exile, becoming prime minister in May 1940? If so, Johnson must reverse the mood of most of his fellow citizens who want him gone for good. That is indeed a steep mountain to overcome.

The case of Donald Trump is far more serious. What Johnson has done was buffoonish and trivial by comparison in terms of law breaking. That does not mean his future personal conduct toward his political rivals will not be destructive. It most likely will.

Reading the 37 indict-

ments against Trump, who is the only president to have been twice impeached and acquitted, is breathtaking. Trump ignored, disregarded or violated the most basic security laws and rules for safeguarding classified material that, if disclosed, could do exceptionally grave damage to the nation.

Punishment for the charges runs from five to a maximum of 20 years confinement and a \$250,000 fine for each.

The number of top secret and "code word" documents noted in the indictment is chilling. While the specific countries are not mentioned, it does not take a spymaster to guess that Iran, Syria, North Korea, China and Russia are among them. Other documents were labeled "NOFORN," meaning no distribution to foreign states, inferring that disclosure of material would be detrimental to some and "FIVEY," meaning limited to "Five Eyes" of the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. And a few bore atomic energy labels.

While Trump had falsely asserted he could declassify documents, nonsensically by thinking about it, nuclear energy secrets cannot be downgraded in classification even by presidents. And the cavalier manner in which documents were moved around and stored, if that word is sufficiently vague enough to describe their handling,

was stunning if not incredulous. That Trump's attorneys will cite wrongful possession of classified material by President Joe Biden and former Vice President Mike Pence, will make no difference.

Neither the president nor the former vice president, once informed of wrongful possession, did not lie or fail to return the material as required. According to the indictment, Trump lied, withheld and obstructed returning all the classified material, insisting that, despite the ironclad law declaring all official documents belonged to the nation, they were his.

How anyone can accept this explanation, and his supporters do, suggest the land mines that lie ahead in this prosecution.

A week before, an Air Force lieutenant colonel had been sentenced to three years confinement for improper possession and storage of highly classified material. But that officer was not a former president, as some will argue who assert the charges against Trump are politically driven. Yet, the law is the law.

Worsening the case against the Donald are his own comments on tape and on television readily admitting possession of highly classified material and in the former case, bragging about it. It is difficult to see, how in a trial that is conducted without "fear or favor" and under the law, Trump cannot be

convicted.

The judge, Aileen Cannon, was a Trump appointee. Her prior ruling over the documents was unanimously overturned by an appeals court consisting of all Republican appointees. No doubt questions will be raised over a possible conflict between her oath of office and loyalty to Trump, regardless of how she conducts the trial.

As a result, has Biden been slipped the political equivalent of a nuclear hand grenade with its pin pulled, waiting to explode? No matter how this case, as well one existing and possibly other indictments unfold, the old legal aphorism will apply. Tough cases make for bad law.

Biden has no choice except to let justice run its course. He will be attacked nonetheless. But unlike Gerald Ford, who pardoned Richard Nixon and lost the presidency as a consequence, Biden has a better option. He can commute the sentence in exchange for Trump's commitment to retire permanently from politics. Or the grenade can explode.

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.

# British lawmakers call for reform after woman jailed for late medical abortion

By Paul Godfrey  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- The head of the British parliament's equalities panel called Tuesday for reform of the country's 162-year-old abortion law after a woman was jailed for taking abortion medication beyond the second-trimester limit.

Senior Conservative lawmaker Caroline Nokes said the 1861 Offenses Against the Person law Carla Foster was prosecuted under was "very out of date" and parliament should schedule time to debate overhauling it.

A judge in Stoke-on-Trent sentenced Foster to 28 months in prison Monday -- of which she will serve 14 -- after she pleaded guilty to taking abortion pills at home during



Senior British political and legal figures renewed calls Tuesday for a rethink of the country's 162-year-old abortion law after a 44-year-old woman was jailed for 28 months for using the abortion medication mifepristone beyond the 10-week legal limit. **File photo by Bill Greenblatt/UPI.**

COVID-19 lockdown in 2020 when she was 32 and 34 weeks pregnant. Abortion is legal up to 24 weeks but must be performed in a clinic beyond 10 weeks.

Commons Women and Equalities Committee chair

Nokes said MPs should "decide in the 21st Century whether we should be relying on legislation that is centuries old."

"This is not something that has been debated in any great detail for many years now. And cases like this, although

tragic and thankfully very rare, throw into sharp relief that we are relying on legislation that is very out of date. It makes a case for parliament to start looking at this issue in detail," said Nokes.

She added that the judge in the case had indicated he believed parliament needed to rethink the country's abortion laws.

Other senior figures made similar calls to decriminalize abortion led by Labor MP Diana Johnson who tried and failed to push through a bill repealing sections of the 1861 act in 2018.

"Society has moved on, healthcare has moved on, and I think parliament has a role now to look at reforming our abortion laws," Johnson told The Guardian.

The former chief prosecutor for the northwest of the country, Nazir Afzal, said if such a case came before him he would not go forward with it because would not be in the public interest.

"Had I been involved, had I been doing this particular case, I would not have prosecuted it," said Afzal who also cited public attitudes to abortion and mitigating circumstances surrounding the case.

Forster already has three children, one of whom is disabled.

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to reverse the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the abortion-inducing pill mifepristone, allowing women continued access to the drug pending the outcome of legal

challenges.

The justices rejected rulings by a Texas District Court judge and the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals, instead backing the Biden administration's decision not to rescind FDA rules that make the pill widely available.

"The stakes could not be higher for women across America. I will continue to fight politically-driven attacks on women's health," U.S. President Joe Biden said. "But let's be clear -- the American people must continue to use their vote as their voice, and elect a Congress who will pass a law restoring the protections of Roe v. Wade."

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down women's constitutional right to abortion in June 2022.

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# TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG VISITS COLLAPSED I-95 IN PHILADELPHIA

By **Simon Druker**  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited the site of Sunday's fatal collapse of an elevated portion of I-95 in Philadelphia on Tuesday. Buttigieg said he met with first responders as well as state and local officials to hear updates about efforts to reconstruct the roadway. "We are here to help with funding, technical expertise and anything else needed to rebuild quickly," Buttigieg said.

collapsed portion of I-95, hear updates from state/local officials about reconstruction efforts and meet first responders.

This is a key artery for people and goods, and PennDOT has our full support in their work to rebuild safely and efficiently. [pic.twitter.com/JOxRz4dOP1](https://pic.twitter.com/JOxRz4dOP1)— Secretary Pete Buttigieg (@SecretaryPete) June 13, 2023

He added that the Department of Transportation was working to make funding available to the state after Gov. Josh Shapiro signed

an emergency declaration on Monday.

"There's no question in my mind that all the resources that PennDOT needs will be available. We've already made it clear that they are available ever since the governor's disaster declaration made it possible," Buttigieg said.

The highway is a major artery along the East Coast, running south to Miami and connecting New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C.

Buttigieg on Tuesday said trucks would need to

find alternative routes as officials work to ensure goods move along the roadway as "efficiently as possible" while repairs are underway, but said it was necessary to complete repairs quickly.

"Obviously that is a lot of America's GDP moving along that road every single day," he said.

Construction crews continue to remove debris from the northbound lanes and have also started demolition on the southbound side.

Structural damage caused by the impact and subsequent explosion forced engineers to condemn elevated portions of the interstate in both directions, after discovering severe weaknesses in support beams. Investigators started focusing on intense heat as the likeliest cause of the collapse.

"You can very directly see in the burn marks and the twisted metal what the effects are when thousands of gallons of combustible fuel burn directly beneath a structure like this," Buttigieg said.

Both sections will need to be fully removed and replaced before the stretch of highway can fully reopen.

"I-95 will be impacted for a long time, for a long time," Philadelphia City Managing Director Tumar Alexander said Sunday.

Family members on Monday identified Nathaniel "Nate" Moody as the person killed in the collapse.

## What Is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth observes the day federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to ensure all enslaved people were freed. The troops arrived in Texas two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. Juneteenth celebrates the true end to slavery in the United States of America and is considered the longest-running African American holiday.

Juneteenth is also called Black Independence Day, Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, or Juneteenth Independence Day. The name "Juneteenth" refers to the date combining June and nineteenth.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. This declaration freed the enslaved of the Confederate states in rebellion against the Union. He announced that the enslaved "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

Before the American Civil War, many people and leaders of the North had been primarily concerned with stopping the extension of slavery into western territories that would eventually achieve statehood within the Union. With the Southern states seceding and the start of the Civil War, the continued tolerance of Southern slavery by Northerners seemed to no longer serve any constructive political purpose. Emancipation quickly changed this and declared more than three million enslaved living in Confederate states to be free. However, more than two years passed after President Lincoln's proclamation, and it was two months after the end of the Civil War before the news reached African Americans living in Texas. Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas June 19, 1865, and announced the abolishment of slavery. On this date, Major General Gordon Granger of the Union Army issued General Order No.3 in Galveston, Texas, with Granger saying, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

Congress ratified the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution nearly six months later, on December 6, 1865, formally abolishing slavery. The freed enslaved marked June 19 the following year, kicking off the first celebration of Juneteenth.

On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law enshrining June 19 as the national day to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. President Biden said, "Juneteenth marks both a long, hard night of slavery and subjugation and the promise of a brighter morning to come. This is a day, in my view, of profound weight and profound power. A day in which we remember the moral stain, the terrible toll that slavery took on the country and continues to take."

Today, all 50 states, and the District of Columbia, recognize Juneteenth as a holiday or observance.

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# Vows


continued from page 1

most recent example of the fact that Merrick Garland uses his department for political purposes," he continued.

Garland appointed special counsel Jack Smith to oversee the investigation into former President Trump's handling of classified documents. Trump pleaded not guilty to all 37 counts facing him, including obstruction of justice, on Tuesday.

"Let's make this department work a little bit more slowly until Merrick Garland changes course and does his job the right way," Vance said.

Vance does not serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee.




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# Sen. Richard Blumenthal opens Senate investigation into PGA Tour, LIV Golf merger

By Clyde Hughes UPI

June 12 (UPI) -- Sen. Richard Blumenthal announced Monday he has opened an investigation into the planned merger of the PGA Tour and Saudi Arabian-backed LIV Golf.

As chair of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, Blumenthal, D-Conn., called for the PGA Tour and LIV Golf to give this subcommittee all communications and records between the two regarding the merger.

Blumenthal said he was disturbed by Saudi Ara-

bia's human rights record around the world and how he said the nation uses sports and the PGA Tour to whitewash its activities. He also asked if the PGA Tour plans to keep its tax-exempt status.

"PGA Tour's agreement with [Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund] regarding LIV Golf raises concerns about the Saudi government's role in influencing this effort and the risks posed by a foreign government entity assuming control over a cherished American institution," Blumenthal wrote

to the PGA Tour.

"Critics have cast such Saudi investments in sports as a means of 'sports washing' -- an attempt to soften the country's image around the world -- given Saudi Arabia's deeply disturbing human rights record at home and abroad. In fact, prior to this agreement, PGA Tour was one of the loudest critics of LIV Golf's affiliation with Saudi Arabia."

Blumenthal asked for various detailed records from LIV Golf CEO and former PGA great Greg Norman, writing that the merger raises "serious questions regarding the reasons for and terms behind the announced agreement."

Last Tuesday, the PGA Tour and its rival upstart in LIV Golf stunned the sports world in announcing their merger, combin-



Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., speaks during a press conference at the U.S. Capitol on August 2, 2022. Blumenthal said he opened an investigation into the PGA Tour, LIV Golf merger on Monday. File Photo by Bonnie Cash/UPI

ing its golf-related commercial businesses and rights with those of the other tours into a "collec-

tively owned, for-profit entity."

Europe's DP World Tour is part of the merger.

The PGA Tour and LIV Golf agreed to end all litigation against each other with the announcement.

## Pitt County Commissioner Melvin C. McLawhorn



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## 'They Cloned Tyrone' poster, trailer tease Jamie Foxx sci-fi mystery

By Annie Martin UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- Netflix is teasing the new film They Cloned Tyrone.

The streaming service shared a poster and trailer for the sci-fi mystery film Tuesday featuring John Boyega, Teyonah Parris and Jamie Foxx.

The poster features artwork of Parris, Foxx and multiple versions of Boyega.

Damn...They Cloned Tyrone. pic.twitter.com/nWxsPXOVsSQ— Netflix (@netflix) June 13, 2023

The trailer introduces Boyega, Foxx and Parris as a "hustler," "pimp" and



Jamie Foxx stars in the sci-fi mystery "They Cloned Tyrone." File Photo by Jim Ruymen/UPI | License Photo.

"pro" who uncover a government conspiracy.

"A series of eerie events thrusts an unlikely trio onto the trail of a nefarious government experience conspiracy in this pulpy mystery caper," an official description reads.

The cast also includes Kiefer Sutherland, David Alan Grier, J. Alphonse

Nicholson, Joshua Mikel and James Moses Black.

They Cloned Tyrone is written by Juel Taylor and Tony Rettenmaier and directed by Juel Taylor.

The film will have its world premiere Wednesday at the American Black Film Festival and will start streaming July 21 on Netflix.

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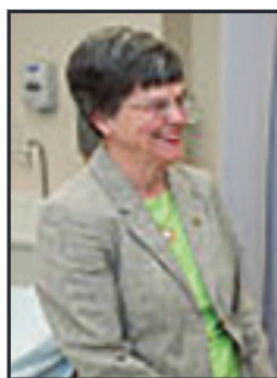
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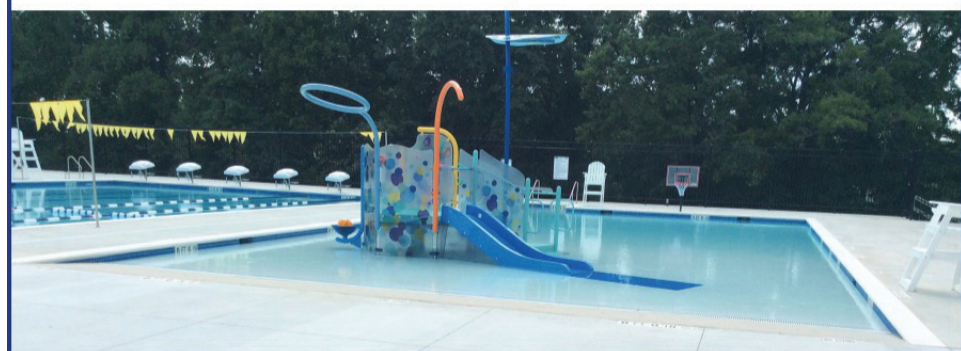
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## House to vote on gas stoves, firearm braces after McCarthy, hardliners compromise



Despite Monday's deal, tensions were still thick between House Kevin McCarthy and members of the GOP's ultra-conservative wing who staged a revolt that postponed the legislative session for a week. **Photo by Bonnie Cash/UPI.**

By A.L. Lee  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- The House will begin voting on a series of proposals this week after Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached a tentative deal Monday with a faction of 11 GOP hardliners to end a weeklong revolt.

Two of the four bills that will get a vote following the impasse would keep gas stoves on the market in response to increasing clean energy regulations, while another would protect people's ability to attach stabilizing braces to their firearms.

Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C., who attended the meeting with McCarthy as a member of the conservative bloc, said he would now vote in favor of the House rules, which would push through the series of GOP priorities, although the legislative package was not expected to pass the Senate.

"We aired our issues. We want to see this move forward as a body," Norman said. "We're concerned about the economic security of this country. And to that end, we will work. If we don't have that, there's gonna be fights. There's a lot more fights down the road."

Monday's agreement capped a tumultuous week in the House after members of the conservative Freedom Caucus voted with Democrats last week to oppose new procedural rules on the House floor, a rare strategy that blocked a package of GOP bills and postponed the legislative session for a week.

It was the first time in more than 20 years that such a vote failed.

McCarthy met with the bloc on Monday and ended the strike by agreeing to several concessions that

would further entrench the party's right-wing in major budget negotiations and cut spending below the deal McCarthy reached with President Joe Biden in late May to pay the nation's debt.

Despite Monday's deal, tensions were still thick between McCarthy and the members of the GOP's ultra-conservative wing as more votes were canceled on Monday due to the hold-out.

While Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., told reporters at the Capitol "The floor will be functioning this week," he also called for McCarthy's power-sharing agreement, which elevated him to the speaker's chair in January, to be renegotiated.

"He understood that and we understood that," Gaetz said. "And it has to be renegotiated in a way so that what happened on this debt limit vote would never happen again, where House conservatives would be left as the less desirable coalition partner than Democrats."

Previously, Gaetz and others in the caucus expressed serious concerns about the current debt deal, while noting they would seek increased spending cuts during upcoming budget talks.

The latest Republican resistance was a sign of increasing frustrations with McCarthy among far-right lawmakers and also centrist Republicans, who were negotiating with the Speaker behind closed doors since Biden signed the Fiscal Responsibility Act on May 29.

"There's a larger discussion about how we sort of rebuild the conservative coalition within the Republican Party so that we can restore the unity that we had before the debt limit increase," said Rep. Bob Good, R-Va., who also attended

Monday's meeting.

The deal reached between Biden and McCarthy suspended the nation's \$31.4 trillion borrowing limit, known as the debt ceiling, until January 2025 while also cutting discretionary spending. Far-right Republicans believe the legislation did not go far enough to roll back government spending.

Far-right Republicans, who handed the speakership to McCarthy in January after 15 rounds of voting, had promised a reckoning ahead of the debt-limit deal.

"We also will enforce the agreement that we reached in January, under which Kevin McCarthy assumed the speakership," Rep. Dan Bishop, R-N.C., said previously.

## Consumer inflation drops, but remains above the Fed's target rate

By Daniel J. Graeber  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- Energy prices helped drag consumer-level inflation lower over the 12-month period to May, though so-called core inflation remains well above the Federal Reserve's 2% target rate, the Labor Department reported Tuesday.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the Consumer Price Index increased by 0.1% last month, following a 0.4% month-on-month gain to April. Over the 12-month period to May, CPI increased 4%, down from the 4.9% reading over the year to April, to reach the slowest pace of increase since March 2021.

"The energy index fell 3.6% in May after rising 0.6% in April," the monthly report on consumer-level inflation read. "The gasoline index decreased 5.6% in May, following a 3.0% increase in the previous month."

Energy prices are in retreat amid concerns about lingering inflation and weak economic growth in the world's largest economy. A decision by Saudi Arabia to trim oil production in July did nothing to spoil the mood.

The price for Brent crude oil, the global benchmark, was trading at around \$74 per barrel at the start of the trading day on Tuesday, down 13% from the beginning of the year.

Retail gasoline prices averaged \$3.59 for a gallon



Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell will unveil the next move in the fight against consumer-level inflation later this week. So-called core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, is still above the 2% target rate set by the Fed. **File photo by Ken Cedeno/UPI.**

of regular unleaded on Tuesday. Demand is low during winter months, with gas starting the year at around \$3.22 per gallon. But the price at the pump is \$1.40 less than year-ago levels.

Prices for food from the grocery store remain elevated at 8.3% over the 12-month period to May. At the wholesale level, however, prices are moderating and relief may be coming, particularly for staples such as eggs.

So-called core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, came in at 5.3% to May, and the 0.4% month-on-month increase marks the third straight month for that level of increase.

President Joe Biden in a statement released about an hour after Labor Department figures were published said that his administration's plans for lowering the cost of living for everyday families are working.

"Annual inflation is now at the lowest level since March 2021, and less than half of what it was last June," he said. "After gas and grocery prices increased rapidly last year due to the war in Ukraine, inflation has fallen for 11 months in a row."

Consumers, however, remain somewhat pessimistic. A survey of consumer sentiment from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York showed the one-year expectation for consumer-level inflation is at its lowest since May 2021, though most felt inflation would remain entrenched over the long term.

The annual CPI peaked at 9.1% in June 2022, which was the biggest increase since November 1981.

The latest CPI reading will be fodder for the Federal Reserve when it meets later this week to consider its next move in the fight against consumer-level inflation.



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## Guilty

continued from page 1

for their involvement with the website.

Selwyn David Rosenstein, of Boynton Beach, Fla., was convicted of conspiracy to advertise child pornography, five counts of advertisement of child pornography and possession of child pornography. Rosenstein was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Gregory Malcolm Good, of Silver Springs, Nev., was convicted of conspiracy to advertise child pornography and

conspiracy to distribute child pornography. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 22.

Robert Preston Boyles, of Clarksville, Tenn., was convicted of conspiracy to advertise child pornography and conspiracy to distribute child pornography. He is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 15.

Matthew Branden Garrell, of Raleigh, N.C., was convicted of conspiracy to advertise child pornography and conspiracy to distribute child pornography. Garrell is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 1.

The case was investigated by multiple federal agencies.

# HEAT COACH SPOELSTRA HOPES LESSONS TRANSCEND BASKETBALL AFTER NBA FINALS LOSS

By Alex Butler  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- Miami Heat coach Erik Spoelstra hopes lessons learned during his team's unprecedented run through the 2022-23 season, which ended with an NBA Finals loss, "will transcend" basketball, he told reporters after Game 5.

"We would have liked to be able to climb the mountaintop and be able to get that final win," Spoelstra said at his news conference after the 94-89 loss to the Denver Nuggets on Monday in Denver.

"But I think this is a team that a lot of people can relate to."

The Heat, who scored the fewest points per game in the NBA, were the first play-in tournament team in league history to reach the Finals.

They were dismissed by many because of a lackluster regular-season campaign, fuel Spoelstra often used as motivation for his group, composed of veterans and undrafted-players-turned-starters.

"If you ever felt that you were dismissed or felt that you were made to feel less than, we had a lot of people in our locker room that probably have had that," Spoelstra said. "There's probably a lot of people out there, you know, who felt that at some time or another."



Coach Erik Spoelstra (C) led the Miami Heat to the NBA Finals six times over the last 13 seasons. Photo by C.J. Gunther/EPA-EFE.

He added: The way the Heat handled setbacks and adversity helped players develop a "collective grit and perseverance."

The story started when the Heat opened the season with a 7-11 record. They later went 20-10 during a 30-game stretch from mid-December through mid-February and never again fell below .500.

The Heat then lost their first play-in game to the Atlanta Hawks and forced to face the Chicago Bulls in

an elimination game, with the winner gaining the final spot in the Eastern Conference playoff field.

They trailed 90-89 with 2:26 remaining in that contest, but went on to win 102-91, clinching a first-round matchup against the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks, who won an NBA-best 58 regular-season games.

The No. 8 Heat -- who weren't favored in any play-off series -- upset the Bucks in just five games, despite

losing guards Tyler Herro and Victor Oladipo to injuries.

They then beat the No. 5 New York Knicks in six games in the Eastern Conference semifinals. The Heat went on to upset the No. 2 Boston Celtics, who won the second-most games in the NBA, in seven games in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Heat, who joined the 1998-99 Knicks as the only No. 8 seed to reach the Finals, lost Game 1 in Denver. They then handed

the Nuggets their lone home loss this postseason. The Nuggets then closed out the Heat with three-consecutive victories, clinching the first title in the history of the 47-year-old franchise.

"I mentioned this before; hopefully these are lessons that will transcend this beautiful game; that hopefully these are lessons that we can pass along to our children; that even though it is sport, you can learn lessons of life from this game," Spoelstra said.

"You can persevere. You can handle what people may view as mini-failures along the way and become stronger from it and to be able to overcome things and find beautiful things on the other side of that."

Spoelstra, 52, started his Heat tenure in 1995 as a video coordinator. He worked his way up to an assistant coach and was named head coach in 2008. He posted a 704-492 record over his first 15 seasons, leading the Heat to two championships.

Spoelstra led the Heat to the NBA Finals six times of the last 13 seasons. His 704 wins rank 20th all-time among NBA coaches. He is the second-longest tenured coach (15 years), trailing only Gregg Popovich (27 years) of the San Antonio Spurs.

"We're all hard-wired to compete for the ultimate prize," Spoelstra said. "But you also want to develop lifelong memories and a brotherhood and a bond that you'll be able to carry on from years from now that we've been able to go through something that's memorable."

"I told each one of the guys, I love them. I love this team, and I'm just super grateful that we are able to go through all of the experiences, even the tough times during the year, to be able to have a season like this. This is one for the journal books."

## Denver Nuggets beat Miami Heat in chaotic Game 5 for first NBA title



"We believed in each other and the relationships we have."

Players repeatedly slid across the floor, wrestled for loose balls and struggled to find open looks at the rim throughout the contest.

Forward Bruce Brown jumped between defenders for a put-back layup to give the Nuggets their final advantage with 91 seconds remaining in the game. The basket halted a fierce rally that saw Jimmy Butler scoring the Heat's final 13 points.

Jokic totaled 16 rebounds and four assists, in addition to his point total, en route to NBA Finals MVP honors. Forward Michael Porter Jr. and guard Jamal Murray chipped in 16 and 14 points, respectively.

"We had the belief from the get-go," Murray said. "It's great to see it through."

Butler totaled 21 points for the Heat. Center Bam Adebayo scored 20 points, including 18 in the first half.

The Nuggets outshot the Heat 45.2% to 34.4%. The teams combined to make just 14 of 63 3-point attempts. The game featured nine lead changes and was tied six times. The Heat led by as many as 10 points in the loss.

"Those last three or four minutes felt like a scene out of a movie," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra told reporters. "Two teams in the center of the ring, throwing haymaker after haymaker. Guys were staggering around because both teams were competing so hard."

"There's no regrets on our end. Sometimes you get beat. Denver was the better basketball team in

this series."

The Heat scored the first five points of the game, but the Nuggets responded with a 16-3 run. The Heat, who went on a nearly five-minute scoring drought during the Nuggets surge, ended the quarter on a 10-4 run and carried a 24-22 edge into the second quarter.

Adebayo scored 14 points over the first 12 minutes, including the Heat's final 10 points of the quarter.

The Heat used a 9-2 run to push the lead to 10 points with 7:17 remaining in the first half. They led 51-44 at halftime.

The Heat shot just 38.8% through the first two quarters, but forced 10 Nuggets turnovers.

Jokic took over in the third, sparking a 13-5 run to help the Nuggets tie the score at 60-60. The Nuggets later took a brief lead before Heat guard Kyle Lowry made a 3-pointer for a 71-70 edge to end the quarter.

The Nuggets opened the fourth on a 13-5 run to take a seven-point edge. Butler responded with his clutch scoring outburst. Those points fueled a 13-5 run to give the lead back to the Heat with 1:58 remaining.

Murray tossed up a fade-away jumper 25 seconds later, which missed the target. Brown then out-hustled Heat players for an offensive rebound and made a put-back layup off the glass, putting the Nuggets up 90-89.

Butler missed a 3-pointer and logged a turnover on the Heat's final key possessions, sealing the loss.

Brown and guard Kentavious Caldwell Pope made four consecutive free throws in the final seconds to ice the victory.



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Veteran forward Bruce Brown (L) scored the go-ahead basket in the Denver Nuggets' win over the Miami Heat in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Monday in Denver. Photo by John G. Mabanglo/EPA-EFE.

By Alex Butler  
UPI

June 13 (UPI) -- Nikola Jokic totaled a game-high 28 points and dominated on the glass, leading the Denver Nuggets to a chaotic Game 5 win over the Miami Heat and clinching the franchise's first title in 47 years Monday in Denver.

"We were not winning for ourselves," Nuggets center Nikola Jokic said on the ABC broadcast after the 94-89 victory. "We were winning for the guys next to us. This is a great group of people and a great group of teammates."

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2020

# Giants RB Saquon Barkley uncertain about contract status, wants respect



New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley was offered the franchise tag, but hasn't signed the tender. File Photo by Hugo Philpott/UPI.

By Alex Butler  
UPI

June 12 (UPI) -- Saquon Barkley says he "doesn't know" how to describe the state of his long-term contract negotiations with the New York Giants and cited "respect," when asked about what he wants from the franchise.

Barkley made the comments during a session with reports at his AMPT football camp Sunday at Caven Point in Jersey City, N.J. The five-year veteran says he wants to be a "Giant for life" and he's not in a rush to complete talks.

"At the end of the day, it's all about respect," Barkley said. "That is really what it is."

Barkley, 26, a career-high 1,312 rushing yards and scored 10 times on 295 carries in 16 starts last season. The two-time Pro Bowl selection also logged 57 catches for 338 yards and finished third in Comeback

Player of the Year voting.

The No. 2 overall pick in the 2018 NFL Draft totaled 856 yards from scrimmage and four scores in 13 games in 2021. He missed 14 games in 2020 because of a torn ACL. He also missed three games in 2019 because of an ankle injury.

Barkley played the 2022 season for \$7.2 million, the fifth-year option value of his rookie contract. The Giants then offered him the franchise tag, worth about \$10.1 million, for the 2023 campaign. He has yet to sign agree.

TOUCHDOWN SAQUON BARKLEY! #TogetherBlue goes back in front.

(Via: @NFL)pic.twitter.com/MOeu3kJ4uy— Sunday Night Football on NBC (@SNFonNBC) September 27, 2022

The Giants and Barkley can negotiate for a new deal until 4 p.m. EDT July 17. Barkley said he would consider sitting out in 2023

if the sides can't agree on a new contract.

"I think they're open to talking. I'm open to talking," Barkley said of contract negotiations.

"I think at the end of the day, if you really break it down and look at it as a whole, there is no rush. There is still time on the table to get to July 17.

"July 17 is not tomorrow. It's not in a week. That is how I look at it. Maybe that is the naïve way to look at it. I could be completely wrong. ... I trust in the Giants that we could get something done."

Barkley can't participate in the Giants mandatory minicamp, scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday, because he hasn't signed his franchise tag tender. He said some reports about his purported requests in a new deal have been "misleading."

Several running backs agreed to new contracts this off-season, but none of those deals approach the annual value of Barkley's \$10.1 million. Spotrac.com estimates Barkley's market value calls for a four-year, \$49.2 million deal, with an average salary of \$12.3 million.

Barkley said he isn't "trying to reset the running back market."

@SAQUON BARKLEY ON 4TH DOWN.

: #NYGvsMIN on FOX: Stream on NFL+ https://t.co/AJ2krqfBrW pic.twitter.com/xdvbHwZ4xd— NFL (@NFL) December 24, 2022 "My mindset is that

everything is going to take care of itself," Barkley said. "I'm just going out there in Arizona, training, working and taking it day by day."

The Carolina Panthers signed free agent running back Miles Sanders to a four-year, \$25 million deal in March. Free agents David

Montgomery (\$18 million) of the Detroit Lions and Jamar Williams (\$12 million) of the New Orleans Saints agreed to three-year deals this off-season.

Arizona Cardinals running back James Conner signed a three-year, \$21 million pact in 2022.

Cleveland Browns run-

ning back Nick Chubb agreed to a three-year, \$36 million deal in 2021. The Green Bay Packers signed Aaron Jones to a four-year, \$48 million deal that same off-season.

Las Vegas Raiders running back Josh Jacobs, who led the NFL with 1,653 rushing yards in 2022.

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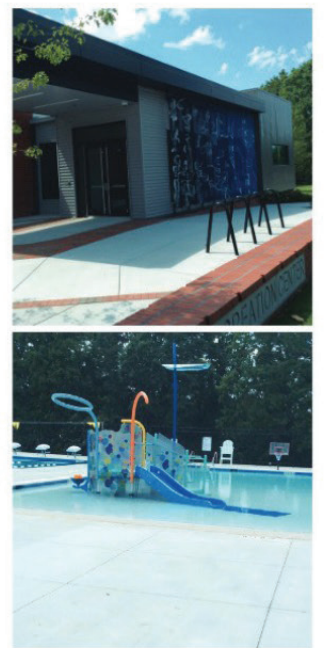


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# La Voz Latina

## Pep Guardiola to consider Manchester City exit in 2025

By Alex Butler  
UPI

June 12 (UPI) -- Manager Pep Guardiola, who led Manchester City to the 2022-23 Champions League title, will consider leaving the Sky Blues when his contract expires in 2025.

Sources told ESPN, the Guardian and The Times about the potential move. Guardiola's Sky Blues completed the treble -- winning Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League titles in the same year -- with a 1-0 Champions League



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has two years remaining on his contract. **Photo by Lindsey Parnaby/EPA-EFE.**

final triumph over Inter Milan on Saturday in Istanbul. The Sky Blues became the first England-based team to accomplish that feat since Manchester United in 1999.

Guardiola is also the only coach to win a treble with two different clubs. He led Barcelona to La Liga, Copa del Rey (Spanish Cup) and Champions League titles in 2008-09.

Guardiola, 52, started his managerial career at Barcelona in 2007. He took over the first team in 2008. He left Barcelona in 2012 to coach Bayern Munich of the German Bundesliga. Guardiola took over at Manchester City in 2016.

Guardiola led the Sky Blues to a third-place finish in the Premier League in

his first season. They lost in the semifinals of the FA Cup and Round of 16 at the 2016-17 Champions League. The Sky Blues won the Premier League and advanced to the Championship League quarterfinals in 2017-18.

The Sky Blues won Premier League and FA Cup titles, but lost in the Champions League quarterfinals the next season. They failed to win any of those titles in 2019-20, but reclaimed the Premier League title and finished second in the Champions League during their 2020-

21 campaign.

The Sky Blues won another Premier League title in 2021-22, but lost in the semifinals in the FA Cup and Champions League.

Guardiola signed a two-year contract extension in November.

"I can't say thank you enough to everyone at the club for trusting me," Guardiola said in a news release. "I am happy and comfortable here. I have everything I need to do my job as best as possible."

Manchester City will face Bayern Munich in a friendly July 26 in Tokyo.



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## U.S. sprinter Tori Bowie, three-time Olympic medalist, dies at 32

By Alex Butler  
UPI

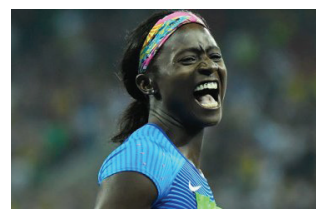
May 3 (UPI) -- American sprinter Tori Bowie, a three-time Olympic medalist, has died, her agency announced Wednesday. She was 32.

The cause of her death was not announced.

"We're devastated to share the very sad news that Tori Bowie has passed away," Icon Management Inc., tweeted Wednesday morning. "We've lost a client, dear friend, daughter and sister."

"Tori was a champion. A beacon of light that shined so bright! We're truly heartbroken and our prayers are with the family and friends."

USA Track and Field said



Tori Bowie of the United States medaled three times at the Olympics and three times at the World Championships. **File Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI.**

it was "deeply saddened" to hear of Bowie's death and said her "impact on the sport is immeasurable."

"My heart breaks for the family of Tori Bowie," Jamaican Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, an eight-time Olympic medalist, tweeted. "A great competitor

and source of light. Your energy and smile will always be with me. Rest in peace.

Bowie attended the University of Southern Mississippi and turned professional in 2013. She competed in the long jump, in addition to sprinting events.

The Sand Hill, Miss., native was part of a gold medal-winning 4x100-meter relay team at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. She claimed a silver and bronze medal at the same Olympics in respective 100- and 200-meter events.

Bowie went on to win gold in the 100-meter and 4x100-meter races at the 2017 World Championships. She finished third in the 100-meter race at the 2015 World Championships in Beijing.

### Proudly Saluting the 43rd Annual Eppes Weekend!



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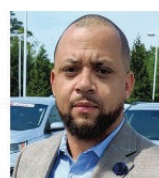
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