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Jesus Ferreira nets historic hat trick, leads USA past Trinidad at Gold Cup  
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**Teamsters, UPS end negotiations as strike looms**

By Doug Cunningham  
UPI

UPS and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters were at odds over contract negotiations Wednesday after agreeing to avert a strike heading into the weekend.

The Teamsters said Wednesday that UPS has walked away from the bargaining table after presenting an unacceptable labor contract offer to the union that did not address members' needs, while UPS urged acceptance of its Friday offer.

The union said UPS also refused to give a last, best and final offer but instead told the Teamsters the company had nothing more to give.

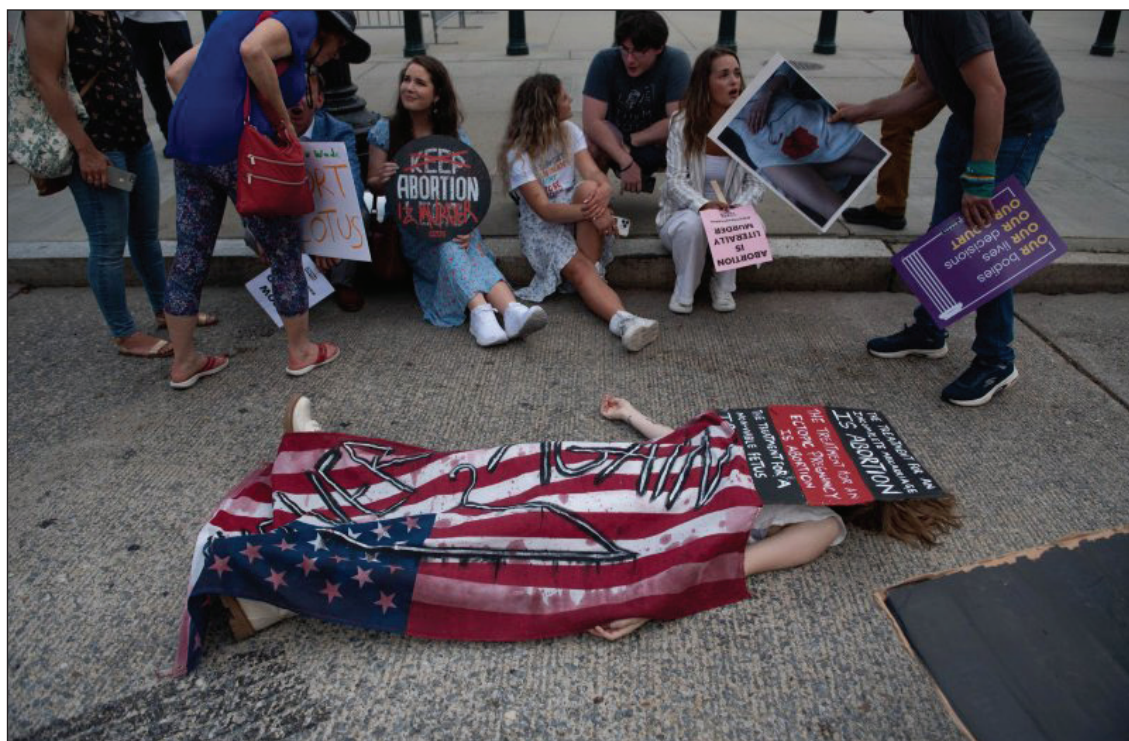
"This multibillion-dollar corporation has plenty to give American workers -- they just don't want to," said Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien in a statement. "UPS had a choice to make, and they have clearly chosen to go down the wrong road."

UPS issued its own statement, placing the responsibility on the union.

"The Teamsters have stopped negotiating despite UPS's historic offer that builds on our industry-leading pay. We have nearly a month left to negotiate. We have not walked away, and the union has

See **STRIKE**, page 5

**STATE BALLOT INITIATIVES ON ABORTION COULD DRIVE 2024 TURNOUT**



By Joe Fisher  
UPI

When the U.S. Supreme Court last summer struck down the federal right to abortion established in Roe vs. Wade, the justices effectively sent the issue back to the states.

A year later, many are moving to enshrine either protections or bans into state law via the ballot box -- a move that will surely drive voter turnout this fall and in next year's presidential election.

Gregory Koger, a professor of political science at the University of Miami, said Democrats had more success than expected in the 2022 midterms, largely because they emphasized their pro-choice stance. He expects

them to do the same in 2024, while Republicans will face pressure to campaign on a national abortion ban.

"I would then expect to see a reprise of abortion being a central issue, and having it on the ballot will motivate more voters on the Democratic side," he told UPI in an interview.

A study by the Kaiser Family Foundation published in November found that the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe vs. Wade motivated Democratic voters, young voters, first-time voters and women under 50 most. Nearly 40% of all voters said the Supreme Court decision had a "major impact" on their decision to vote.

About 62% of respondents

to a recent survey from the Pew Research Center said abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Democrats responded more strongly in favor of abortion being legal, affirming at 84% compared to 40% by Republicans.

On 2024 ballot

Voters in Maryland and New York will determine whether to enshrine a constitutional right to reproductive freedom on Nov. 5, 2024, on the ballot along with the presidential race.

The Maryland state legislature passed Senate Bill 0798, the Right to Reproductive Freedom, signed by Gov. Wes Moore on May 5.

See **ELECTION**, page 4

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# OPINION

## Experts weigh in on how affirmative action ban will affect the U.S.

By Kristine Bowman, Michigan State University & Kimberly Robinson, University of Virginia & Vinay Harpalani, University of New Mexico

In a 6-3 ruling on Thursday, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the use of race in college admissions at Harvard and the University of North Carolina, outlawing the use of race in college admissions in general. The Conversation reached out to three legal scholars to explain what the decision means for students, colleges and universities, and ultimately the nation's future.

Kimberly Robinson, professor of law at the University of Virginia

Writing for the majority in a case that bans affirmative action in college admissions, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote that such programs "unavoidably employ race in a negative manner" that goes against the Constitution.

The research, however, shows that the ban could potentially harm many college students and ultimately the United States. The reason this can be said with certainty is because in states where affirmative action has been banned, such as California and Michigan, many selective state colleges and universities have struggled to maintain the student body diversity that existed before affirmative action was banned.

Robust research shows how students who engage with students from different racial backgrounds experience educational benefits, such as cognitive growth and development and creating new ideas. For those reasons, a substantial decline in enrollment for underrepresented minority students carries many repercussions.

It means, for instance, that many students at selective colleges will have far fewer opportunities to learn from and interact with students from different racial backgrounds.

The nation's elite colleges, such as Harvard and the University of North Carolina, educate a disproportionately high share of America's leaders. Those who don't attend these selective schools are dramatically less likely to complete a graduate or professional program. This is because these selective schools carry certain advantages. For instance, students who attend them are statistically more likely to graduate and be admitted to professional and graduate programs.

That means for students from underrepresented groups who don't get into selective colleges, the chances of getting an advanced degree -- which often paves the way to leadership positions -- will be even lower.

The decision may also affect the workplace. Research shows that in states that eliminated affirmative action, meaningful drops in workplace diversity took place. Asian and African American women and Hispanic men experienced the most significant declines.

These shifts in elite college enrollment, leadership and workplaces will weaken long-standing efforts to dismantle the nation's segregationist past and the privilege that this segregationist past affords to wealth and whiteness.

To help mitigate these potential harms, selective colleges will have to devote their attention to limiting what I believe are the decision's harmful impacts and reaffirming their commitment to diverse student bodies through all lawful means.

Kristine Bowman, professor of law and education policy, Michigan State University

In striking down race-conscious admissions practices, the Supreme Court overturns the court's 1978 decision that held that race-conscious admissions were constitutional.



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## A Tale of Two Boats

ATHENS, GREECE — In the course of a single week, two tragedies unfolded, both exposing the stark, divergent responses by our media and governments based on the affected demographics and the narratives they spin. Intriguingly, both tragedies involved the ocean and rescue attempts, starkly underlining our inconsistent approaches to different crises. One tragedy revolved around the implosion and subsequent deaths of five individuals who had invested \$250,000 each for an underwater journey to explore the Titanic's ruins. The other was a catastrophe at sea off the coast of Greece, resulting in the tragic assumed loss of nearly 700 migrants in pursuit of better lives overseas. Now, take a guess, which incident garnered more media attention? If your instinct was to go for the event that claimed up to 700 lives, you would be dead wrong.



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

On June 13, a distress signal from a migrant vessel carrying up to 750 individuals was first brought to light by Italian activist Nawal Soufi, prompting a range of rescue efforts from different parties throughout the day. Nonetheless, differing narratives surfaced concerning the vessel's readiness to receive aid and its overall condition. Despite obtaining supplies from the Maltese-flagged tanker Lucky Sailor and from Greek authorities, the boat's occupants reportedly declined any further assistance, staying their course. Adding to the confusion, Soufi and Greek parliament member Kriton Arsenis alleged that the Greek coast guard attempted to tug the boat toward Italian waters, a claim vehemently denied by Greek officials. Ultimately, the boat succumbed and capsized during the early hours of June 14, with further conflicting stories on whether it was a result of overcrowding and engine malfunction, or if it was because they were being tugged by a Greek coast guard. Tragically, of the estimated 750 souls onboard, 104 have survived.

On June 18, an underwater submersible designed by OceanGate to plunge nearly 13,000 feet below sea level failed to reemerge as planned. According to the U.S. Coast Guard, barring any immediate catastrophic incident that would have already claimed the lives of the passengers, the vessel had approximately 96 hours of oxygen remaining. The ensuing rescue operation was nothing short of colossal, featuring multiple aircraft conducting continuous radar sweeps of the surface and complex remote vehicles tasked with scouring the Titanic's wreckage. The world was on edge, watching and waiting in anticipation, fervently hoping for the survival of the submersible's passengers. Regrettably, their hopes were in vain. The rescue efforts yielded no positive results. As it turns out, the reason why it never surfaced was because the submersible underwent a devastating implosion that, quicker than the passengers' brains could register the event, killed all five people onboard. On June 24, I arrived in Greece to venture to its various islands on a vessel with many close colleagues and friends on board. Witnessing what transpired over the past weeks has made everyone here wonder: What would have transpired if those migrants on the capsized boat had been a handful of Americans enjoying a yachting expedition instead? What if they were us?

So, why the disparity in media coverage and rescue attempts? To answer that, we must first understand what we value in a story. Do we look for a compelling, easily digestible narrative, or a complex web of differing accounts and foregone conclusions? Unquestionably, the OceanGate incident provides an enthralling and absorbing tale. It creates a sense of urgency, akin to a countdown in a show like "24," reminding us that the story and the fate of those involved is unfolding in real time, as we carry on with our daily routines. Moreover, it's a simple story -- uncluttered and easily

digestible. Five people are trapped in a submersible at the bottom of the ocean with just 96 hours of oxygen remaining. It's as straightforward as that. In contrast, the migrant story is considerably more intricate, teeming with conflicting accounts of the events, critical policy considerations, numerous parties involved, a story that is already at its end, and overall, a narrative that requires a significant investment of time to truly comprehend. Despite the relative captivation of the OceanGate story compared to the migrant incident, we must still question why the actual rescue responses were so dramatically different. Yes, different government entities were involved, yet I fervently believe that authorities would have acted differently had the occupants of the vessel been different. Reading the account of what happened when Greek authorities initially made contact with the migrant boat, it remains baffling that, given the apparent overcrowding of the vessel, and the Greek authorities' own admission that they believed the boat was on the verge of capsizing due to overcrowding, they still allowed it to continue on its perilous journey.

I have witnessed a consistent sentiment of outrage echoed from its people over the media and Greek coast guard's handling of the tragedy. There is an outpouring of anger, a clamor for answers.

## Joe Biden vs. Donald Trump shows how destructive government has become

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist

America celebrated the Fourth of July on Tuesday and honored the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson's great creation.

Some 247 years later, how well is the United States doing in carrying out its noble intent and aspirations? Rereading the first few lines provides context for this assessment. And perhaps the most meaningful line in the entire document is underscored in bold.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness...That whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government."

Over the past few years, government has become "destructive of these ends." That so many institutions across society are held in contempt and disrespect is symptomatic. It is difficult to name any institution that is held in some regard (I can only think of Washington's fire and rescue service that is superb).

Further, consider the two most likely candidates

to win their party's nomination for president in 2024: President Joe Biden and Donald Trump. Both are in serious trouble that could be very destructive to government and governing.

For the moment, Trump is more exposed, having twice been indicted and losing a civil suit for sexual harassment. Conceivably, the current indictment over classified materials could be expanded. Anyone who has read the indictment presented by Special Counsel Jack Smith would be stunned by the alleged criminal charges. And two other investigations are still pending in Georgia and on Jan. 6.

An August trial date has been set. It may be deferred. But whether Trump is found guilty or acquitted, almost certainly massive protests and even riots can be expected. Trump's apparent total disregard of the law and handling of classified material would have been inconceivable to the Founding Fathers.

Yes, Jefferson had his vice president, Aaron Burr, tried for treason. Burr was acquitted. However, since then, only Watergate forced a president to resign before he would be impeached and convicted of high crimes and misdemeanors.

Biden is also in extremis or close to it. He faces three potential political existential threats to winning the nomination and a second

term. The first is age.

Biden looks and acts like an old man. Whether 80 is the new 40 or 50 or not, Biden is plagued by his age and visual image. Much of his party believes he is too old to run.

Second is Kamala Harris. People here and abroad genuinely fear that she could become president if Biden is incapacitated. At 82 if elected, Biden's mortality and ability to serve in arguably one of the most stressful jobs on the planet is by no means assured.

And then there is Hunter Biden. No parent should be afflicted with a son whose past conduct was so disgraceful. Given the president's prior tragedies, including the loss of a wife and child in a car crash and then his son Beau dying of cancer, Biden can be excused for supporting Hunter Biden. However, the recent revelations about the plea deal that Hunter Biden received over failure to pay income tax and falsifying an application for a gun permit raise profound questions that the president must answer.

Two IRS whistleblowers have come forth questioning why Hunter Biden received what appeared to be preferential treatment. The possible contradiction between what Attorney General Merrick Garland said giving the prosecutor "all the authority" he needed to conduct the

investigation into Hunter Biden's taxes and David Weiss, who asserted he did not have that scope, must be resolved.

That he was paid \$85,000 a month by Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company for unknown services, as well as from Chinese and Romanian entities, is at least suspicious.

Then there is the truly destructive nature of American politics -- revenge. Make no mistake. Republicans are out for blood to avenge Democrats' twice impeachment of Trump. The House is on the warpath. While no one knows, Joe Biden could be impeached, even though the chances of being convicted by the Senate must be zero.

The upshot is that the 2024 election could be between a former president convicted of serious crimes and another who may well have been impeached and otherwise highly discredited by his age, vice president and son. This might make the Burr trial trivial by comparison.

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

# Bryan Wardell Named Pitt County Attorney

PITT COUNTY GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 7, 2023

PITT COUNTY, N.C. – The Board of County Commissioners appointed Bryan Wardell to serve as the Pitt County Attorney during their June 26, 2023 meeting. The appointment is effective

August 7, 2023. He succeeds Jordan Smith, who was recently named New Hanover County Attorney.

Mr. Wardell has been employed by Durham County since 2011 serving as Senior Assistant County Attorney. There, he provided advice, counsel and representation to the Health Director and Board of Health, the Tax Administrator, Planning Department, Criminal Justice Resource Center, General Services Department, the Sheriff and the Engineering Department. During his tenure in Durham County, he was lead counsel on complex litigation across a broad spectrum of practice areas.

Mr. Wardell received his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University in Ithaca New York in 1987. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he was in the dual JD/MPH program and received his Juris Doctor and Master of Public Health degrees from the University's School of Law and School of Public Health respectively in 1993.

"I look forward to welcoming Bryan to the County's Senior Leadership Team. Bryan's strong educational background and relevant legal experience provide him with the knowledge and expertise to be an outstanding County Attorney for Pitt," says Janis Gallagher,

**Mr. Wardell received his Bachelor of Science degree from Cornell University in Ithaca New York in 1987. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.**

County Manager. The Pitt County Attorney serves as the chief counsel on all legal matters affecting Pitt County Government.

The Pitt County Attorney provides legal counsel and representation for all County departments and agencies, anticipates legal problems or risks for all matters involving the County and makes recommendations to County Manager and Board


of County Commissioners regarding legal policies, procedures and actions.

When asked about his appointment, Mr. Wardell states, "I would like to thank the Board for their faith and confidence in me to continue the good and sound work of the County. I look forward to a long, fruitful and collaborative relationship."

Mr. Wardell is admit-

ted to practice before all Courts in North Carolina, New York, the United States Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit and the United States District Courts, Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of North Carolina, and has authored manuscript material and lectured for continuing legal education seminars for members of the North Carolina and South Carolina bar associations as well as the U.N.C. School of Government. Mr. Wardell is married to Erika Wardell and has three children.

For more information, please contact the Public Information Office at 252-902-2955.

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NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

# Election

continued from page 1

The state had codified the right to an abortion with a vote in 1992. That vote revised the state's abortion law to prohibit state interference with a woman's decision to end a pregnancy before the fetus is viable, or with certain exceptions.

The new amendment goes further, stating, "Every person -- has the fundamental right to reproductive freedom; and prohibiting the state from, directly or indirectly, denying, burdening or abridging the right unless justified by a compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

"This moment of Roe falling really galvanized legislators and people alike to learn more about this issue," Priya Hay-Chattopadhyay, vice chair of Pro Choice Maryland Action, told UPI.

Maryland has long been at the forefront of codifying and expanding access to abortion and has continually had strong support from lawmakers to do so.

In 2022, the legislature passed the Abortion Care Access Act to establish a training program for healthcare professionals. Its Reproductive Health Protection Act shields providers, patients and logistical supporters from legal repercussions from other states if someone comes to Maryland for abortion services.

The requirements for states to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot vary by state, but in general a referendum must pass the legislature. In some cases, this must be done in two consecutive

sessions. It then must be approved by a majority of voters. Some states, like Florida, require 60% approval from voters.

In New York, the path to placing a constitutional amendment on the ballot began last July, within weeks of the Supreme Court's historic decision. The legislature passed the Equal Rights Amendment, which bans discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and pregnancy.

It also affirms the right to access an abortion and contraception in the state Constitution.

New York is one of the states that requires such an amendment to pass through a two-year legislative session, then pass again through a newly elected legislature before being placed on the ballot.

"With the federal constitutional right to abortion granted by Roe vs. Wade 50 years ago stolen from us last June, New York has taken critical steps to create a state Constitution worthy of the 21st century that protects us all," Georgana Hanson, interim president and CEO of the New York ACLU, said in a statement.

### Ohio deadline

Ohio may be voting Nov. 7 to amend its state constitution to secure abortion access, but there are a pair of crucial prerequisites.

Up first, proponents must turn in more than 400,000 signatures from at least 50% of the state's 88 counties by Wednesday. Elaina Ramsey, executive director of Faith Choice Ohio, said they are on track to do so.

"We've had overwhelming support and we look forward to getting it on the ballot in November," she told UPI. "Now we are contending with an August special election -- seeking to undermine that effort."

That Aug. 8 special election would toughen the requirement to pass a constitutional amendment through an election. As it stands, the amendment needs a simple majority to pass. Issue 1, the lone issue on the August ballot, would require that any proposed amendment receive approval from at least 60% of voters.

"Ohio's Constitution has been easily influenced by well-funded, out-of-state special interests seeking to alter our Constitution for their own benefit," Republican Sen. Rob McColley, a supporter of Issue 1, said in a statement.

"Time after time, we've seen special interests buy their way onto the statewide ballot and spend millions of dollars in ads while seeking to make permanent policy changes to our state Constitution that would be better suited as laws."

Ramsey called the move by Republicans in Columbus a power grab.

"Honestly, they're scared. This gerrymandered legislature made sure they had this August special election so they can do this by the cover of night," she said.

There was an attempt by Republican lawmakers to split the ballot measure into two separate issues -- abortion access and reproductive healthcare -- but the Ohio Supreme Court ruled in favor of a comprehensive ballot measure.

A petition is circulating in South Dakota to

put abortion rights on the ballot in 2024. It requires signatures equal to 10% of the number of votes cast for governor in the last gubernatorial election and it must be filed at least a year before the next general election.

The state of Washington's Referendum 106 would exempt certain shelters, organizations and programs from requirements to notify parents if a minor is seeking gender-affirming care or reproductive health services. It must gather 162,258 signatures within 90 days of the legislative session adjourning.

### Florida amendment

Florida requires 60% approval to amend its constitution. Abortion access proponents are collecting signatures to put abortion rights on the ballot in 2024.

The Florida Prohibit Laws Restricting Abortion Initiative requires nearly 900,000 signatures, equal to 8% of votes cast in the 2020 presidential election. At least 25% of the signatures must be collected by Dec. 15 for the ballot measure to be reviewed by the state Supreme Court. All signatures must be verified by Feb. 1.

The amendment states, "No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider."

Debbie Deland, president of Florida NOW, told UPI the 25% mark has been surpassed with nearly 300,000 signatures collected. She is confident abortion access will be on the ballot in 2024.

Florida has one of the strictest abortion bans in the

country. The state passed a 15-week ban in 2022, then a six-week ban this year. This is viewed as a near total ban on the procedure, as it is difficult to detect pregnancy before three weeks, and even harder to schedule doctors appointments within another three weeks.

The 15-week ban is still in effect and does not have exceptions for rape victims. The six-week ban will not take effect until the state Supreme Court rules on a lawsuit by Planned Parenthood and other advocacy organizations challenging the 15-week ban. The challenge argues that the state constitution's privacy clause makes the abortion ban unconstitutional.

The privacy clause, passed in 1980, states, "Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life, except as otherwise provided herein." It was interpreted by Florida Supreme Court Justice Leander Shaw in 1989 to "clearly implicate" a woman's right to decide whether to continue a pregnancy.

A Supreme Court ruling to uphold the 15-week ban would challenge that interpretation and set the six-week ban to be enacted 30 days later.

"With the very conservative, Ron DeSantis-supported Supreme Court, the likelihood is they will change the understanding of that privacy clause and vote to support the 15-week ban," Deland said of the Florida governor, who is also seeking the GOP nomination for president in 2024.

The amendment to the constitution would supersede the legislative bans.

"The ban does not reflect at all what the people in Florida want," Deland said.

Fetal Heartbeat Bill that would ban abortions after six weeks of pregnancy. Meanwhile, a constitutional amendment that would declare that there is no constitutional right to an abortion remains on the table. It passed in the 2021-22 legislative session and must pass again in the next session to appear on the ballot in 2024.

The Iowa Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders is focused on passing the Fetal Heartbeat Bill again, and a "life at conception" bill that bans all abortions.

"We have gathered many signatures and taken petitions to different locations. We have the support from Iowans," Kristi Judkins, executive director for Iowa Right to Life, told UPI. "We have wonderful pro-life legislators. Also a governor who is steadfast in her beliefs."

The state Supreme Court split 3-3 on Gov. Kim Reynolds' attempt to reinstate the six-week abortion ban, with one judge unable to reach a decision. With that, abortion remains legal up to 20 weeks.

"We are reviewing our options in preparation for continuing the fight," Reynolds said in a statement.

### Presidential race

Among the issues that mobilize and divide voters, abortion is among the strongest.

In the 2022 midterm election, voters in Michigan, California and Vermont enshrined the right to an abortion in their constitutions. Montana and Kentucky denied greater restrictions on abortion access. Kansas voted in favor of keeping the procedure legal in the state's first popular vote on abortion rights in nearly 50 years.

President Joe Biden has backed a several policies to protect access to abortion, including the approval of medication abortion drugs like mifepristone. Biden supported Attorney General Merrick Garland's statements that women who live in states with bans must be allowed to access care in other states where it is legal.

On the Republican side, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, the only woman seeking the GOP nomination, broke from the party line to call for a "consensus" on abortion. During a campaign speech in Virginia in April, Haley spoke in favor of a more moderate approach.

"Abortion is a deeply personal topic for both women and men. I understand why," Haley said. "Someone's body and someone else's life are not things to be taken lightly, and they should not be politicized. The issue should be addressed with sensitivity and respect, not judgment and hate."

Former Vice President Mike Pence has taken former President Donald Trump to task over abortion while on the campaign trail. Pence said Trump has abandoned his anti-abortion position because he does not believe it is a winning stance.

"When Donald Trump ran for president in 2016, he promised to govern as a conservative, and together we did just that," Pence said at a campaign event in Iowa in June. "Today, he makes no such promise. Even blaming election losses in 2022 on overturning Roe vs. Wade"

Trump had previously endorsed an abortion ban after 20 weeks while he was in office.

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# Climate scientists: July 4 was hottest ever for average global temperature

By A.L. Lee  
UPI

Climate scientists at the University of Maine have recorded the hottest day ever for the world's average temperature, which eclipsed 62 degrees twice during the long July Fourth holiday.

The Climate Change Institute's Climate Reanalyzer, which scientists have used since 1979 to analyze world temperatures, showed the average worldwide temperature rose to a record 62.92 degrees on Tuesday after a record had been set just a

See CLIMATE, page 7



## Strike

continued from page 1

a responsibility to remain at the table," the company said.

The current UPS Teamsters contract for 340,000 workers ends July 31. The Teamsters are clear about striking if no new contract agreement is in place by then.

On Friday the Teamsters said they would continue negotiations after UPS offered a revised counterproposal with significant movement on wages, but the union said it wasn't enough for an agreement.

According to UPS's reported numbers, domestic profits were over \$2.4 billion in the 4th quarter of 2022 with international operations yielding another \$1.091 billion. For the first quarter of 2023 UPS made \$2.6 billion in consolidated operating profit.

UPS 2022 revenue was \$100.3 billion. The Teamsters called a strike against UPS in 1997 that shut down operations for 15 days, and cost UPS hundreds of millions of dollars. A drop in shipments back then in anticipation of the strike cost UPS \$5

million a day.

The Teamsters are seeking higher wages, an end to a two-tier wage system that pays some UPS Teamsters members less than others, and an increase in full-time jobs.

After the last UPS offer Friday, Los Angeles Teamsters part-time worker Cesar Castro said in a statement that workers were prepared to strike by Wednesday.

"We break our backs working for this company. UPS needs to recognize our sacrifices not just with empty words, calling us 'essential workers,' but by putting the pay, benefits, and protections we deserve into a contract. Every UPS Teamster expects this by July 5 or we will be ready to strike," said Castro.

UPS statement Wednesday urged the union to continue negotiations.

"Refusing to negotiate, especially when the finish line is in sight, creates significant unease among employees and customers and threatens to disrupt the U.S. economy," the company said. "Only our non-union competitors benefit from the Teamsters' actions. We're proud of our offer. It delivers wins for our people. The Teamsters should return to the table to finalize this deal."

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# U.S. says it prevented Iran from seizing 2 oil tankers in international waters

By Patrick Hilsman  
UPI

The U.S. Navy says it prevented the Iranian navy from seizing two tankers in international waters Wednesday.

"On July 5, U.S. forces prevented two attempted commercial tanker seizures by the Iranian navy after the Iranians had opened fire in one of the incidents near the coast of Oman. Both of these incidents occurred in international waters," U.S. Naval Forces Central Command U.S. 5th Fleet tweeted Wednesday.

At around 1 a.m. local time, an Iranian vessel approached the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker TRF Moss in international waters as it transited out of the Strait of Hormuz towards the Arabian Sea.

On July 5, U.S. forces prevented two attempted commercial tanker seizures by the Iranian Navy after the Iranians had opened fire in one of the incidents near the coast of Oman. Both of these incidents occurred in international waters. Read more <https://t.co/HJNTzKtsXv> pic.twitter.com/rvzDcATCQq— U.S. Naval Forces Central

Command/U.S. 5th Fleet (@US5thFleet) July 5, 2023

The U.S. Navy diverted the guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul to the area and the Iranian vessel broke off.

About three hours later the U.S. Navy received a distress call from the Bahamian-flagged tanker Richmond Voyager that an Iranian naval vessel was approaching and hailing the vessel to stop.

The U.S. Navy once again diverted the USS McFaul, which headed to the area at full speed to chase off the attackers. Footage from a U.S. drone shows the

Iranian vessel firing towards the civilian vessel.

The Iranian vessel fired several bursts of gunfire at the vessel's crew area before the U.S. Navy was able to chase the Iranians off. No injuries were reported.

"I couldn't be prouder of the entire team, especially the exceptional effort by the McFaul crew, for immediately responding and preventing another seizure," said U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. 5th Fleet and Combined Maritime Forces Commander, Vice Admiral Brad Cooper.



## Secret Service confirms substance found at White House was cocaine

By Matt Bernardini  
UPI

The Secret Service said Wednesday that a powdery white substance that was found in the West Wing of the White House on Sunday is cocaine.

The discovery of the substance led to a temporary evacuation of the building on Sunday. The substance was found near an entrance where visitors taking tours are directed to leave their phones, CBS News reported.

The Secret Service is still investigating the "cause and manner of how it entered the White House," it said, according to The Hill.

On Sunday, the substance was discovered by Uniformed Division Officers. A hazmat unit and the fire department were among the first responders.

The amount of the substance found was described as small.

President Joe Biden was not in the White House at the time of the incident. He was at Camp David in Maryland for the weekend.

## Georgia deputy shot, killed before suspect arrested fleeing in patrol car

By Doug Cunningham  
UPI

A Crisp County, Ga., sheriff's deputy was shot and killed early Wednesday morning while investigating a stolen vehicle during a traffic stop. The assailant took the deputy's patrol car and fled but was captured after a pursuit through several counties.

In a social media statement, the Crisp County Sheriff's Office said, "It is with deep regret the Crisp County Sheriff's Office announces the passing of an active-duty Sheriff's Deputy. In the midst of tragedy, our agency has been graced with overwhelming support."

The Sheriff's Office statement describing how the deputy was killed said, "On Wednesday, July 5, 2023, around 3:40 a.m., a Crisp County Sheriff's Deputy [came across] a vehicle in the middle of the roadway in ... Cordele, Ga. The vehicle came back stolen. After getting out with the vehicle, a Crisp County Sheriff's Deputy was shot and critically injured. The suspect took the deputy's patrol car and fled the scene."

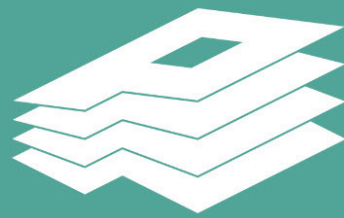


Crisp County EMS transported the deputy to Crisp Regional Hospital, where he died from his injuries.

The suspect led law enforcement on a pursuit through multiple Georgia counties. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office arrested the suspect on I-475. They also recovered the stolen patrol car.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is investigating.

Gov. Brian Kemp tweeted, "Marty, the girls, and I are heartbroken by the loss of this Crisp County Sheriff's Deputy and are thankful the killer is in custody where he will face justice. Please join us in praying for the deputy's family and the entire law enforcement community as we mourn this terrible loss."



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# Seoul: North Korea's failed spy satellite had 'no military utility'

By Thomas Maresca  
UPI

North Korea's first reconnaissance satellite had "no military utility," the South Korean military concluded on Wednesday after analyzing wreckage recovered from a failed launch.

Pyongyang attempted to place the satellite into orbit on May 31, but the Chollima-1 rocket carrying the payload splashed into the Yellow Sea due to a second-stage engine failure.

South Korea conducted extensive salvage operations, involving navy rescue ships, minesweepers and dozens of deep-sea divers, which it wrapped up on Wednesday after 36 days, Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a message to reporters.

"Through this operation, major parts of North Korea's space



launch vehicles and satellites were salvaged, and as a result of careful analysis by South Korean and U.S. experts, it was evaluated as having no military utility as a reconnaissance satellite," the JCS said.

The JCS message did not offer any specifics on how the deter-

mination was made. Low-quality aerial photos taken during a North Korean missile launch in December have led analysts to question whether the regime has the technology to capture high-resolution satellite images.

Washington and Seoul have

condemned Pyongyang's attempt to launch a satellite, saying it involves technology directly related to North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile program and violates U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Pyongyang claims a spy satellite is necessary to monitor what it calls hostile activities by U.S. and South Korean military forces.

At a plenary meeting of the ruling Workers' Party last month, North Korea's leadership called the failed launch the "most serious" shortcoming of the regime's weapons development progress.

A report "bitterly criticized the officials who irresponsibly conducted the preparations for satellite launch," according to state-run Korean Central News Agency.

"The development of military

reconnaissance satellite is of very great significance in prospect of the development of the armed forces of the DPRK and in making full preparations for combat," the report said, according to KCNA.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the official name of North Korea.

South Korea and the United States have expanded their joint military exercises over the past year amid the North's continued weapons buildup.

On Friday, the allies conducted a joint air drill involving at least one U.S. B-52H strategic bomber, Seoul's Defense Ministry said.

A nuclear-powered guided-missile submarine, the USS Michigan, made a port call in Busan last month, the first visit of its kind in six years.

# U.N. watchdog: No evidence of explosives at Ukraine nuclear plant

By Patrick Hilsman  
UPI

The United Nations nuclear watchdog on Wednesday said it did not find evidence of mines or other explosives planted at the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant as Russia and Ukraine accused each other of planning to sabotage the facility.

In a statement, the International Atomic Energy Agency said it found "no visible indications of mines or explosives" at the nuclear power plant -- the largest in Europe -- after inspecting sections of the perimeter and the large cooling pond, as well as conducting "regular walk-downs" at the site.

IAEA Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi, however, said the agency's experts have requested additional access to areas including the rooftops of reactor units 3 and 4, as well as parts of the turbine halls and the cooling system at the plant to confirm no explosives have been planted.

"With military tension and activities increasing in the region where this major nuclear power plant is located, our experts must be able to verify the facts on the ground," Grossi said. "Their independent and objective reporting would help clarify the current situation at the site, which is crucial at a time like this, with unconfirmed allegations and counter allegations."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of placing "objects resembling explosives" on parts of the plant's structure.

"The whole world must now realize that common security depends entirely on global attention to the actions of the occupiers at the plant. Russia must clearly realize that the world sees what scenarios terrorists are preparing for, and the world is ready to respond," Zelensky said in an address Tuesday.

Zelensky implied that allied governments were also aware of the situation he described at the plant

via their own intelligence services.

"Radiation is a threat to everyone in the world, and the nuclear power plant must be fully protected from any radiation incidents. Today is exactly 16 months since the Russian troops have been in full control of the territory and facilities of the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Different countries have their own intelligence and other capacities to know exactly what is going on and what is to blame," Zelensky said.

"Now we have information from our intelligence that the Russian troops have placed objects resembling explosives on the roof of several power units of the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Perhaps to simulate an attack on the plant. Perhaps they have some other scenario. But in any case, the world sees

-- can't but see -- that the only source of danger to the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant is Russia and no one else," he said.

Zelensky invoked the destruction of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam, which Ukraine has blamed on Russia.

"Unfortunately, there was no timely large-scale response to the terrorist attack on the Kakhovka hydroelectric power plant. And this may incite the Kremlin to commit new evil," he said.

The Ukrainian Health Ministry issued an advisory for citizens in the case of a radioactive event.

"Tightly wrap your suitcase or backpack with food wrap or tape. This will greatly facilitate their deactivation process at sanitary posts. RESPECT! If you are in a radiation emergency zone, you can only

leave buildings following proper instructions from authorities. Local authorities will post the location of evacuation points and safest travel routes if you evacuate with your own vehicle. Follow the instructions and remain calm," the Health Ministry said in a statement posted to Facebook on Tuesday.

The Russian-backed nuclear power company Rosenergoatom in turn accused Ukraine of preparing an attack on the facility.

"Under cover of darkness overnight on July 5, the Ukrainian military will try to attack the Zaporizhzhia station using long-range precision equipment and kamikaze attack drones," said Rosenergoatom adviser Renat Karchaa, according to local Russian media.

Russian officials also accused the Ukrainian government of threatening to

"sabotage" the facility.

"The situation is quite tense because there is indeed a great threat of sabotage by the Kyiv regime, which would be catastrophic in its consequences," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. "The Kyiv regime has repeatedly demonstrated its willingness to do anything. Therefore, all measures are being taken to counter such a threat."

Meanwhile, Ukrainian officials have cast doubt on claims from the Russian government that they have placed nuclear weapons in Belarus.

"It is necessary to create special conditions for the storage of nuclear munitions, to deploy a base for their maintenance. This is a very complex technological process," said Ukrainian General Staff Deputy Chief Oleksii Hromov, according to the Kyiv Independent.

## Climate

continued from page 5

day earlier at 62.62 degrees on Monday.

"Monday, July 3 was the hottest day ever recorded on Planet Earth. A record that lasted until ... Tuesday, July 4," Bill McGuire, a climate professor at University College London, wrote on Twitter. "Totally unprecedented and terrifying."

The previous record for the average global temperature was 62.46 degrees in 2016, which remains the warmest year on record, researchers said.

While the average temperature seemed relatively balmy, extreme temperatures were felt worldwide, including in the United States, where tens of millions in Texas and other Southern states have faced a sweltering heatwave in recent days.

Extreme heat advisories also remained in effect Wednesday across the Pacific Northwest and Southwest, with temperatures expected to reach "peak intensity," according to the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

Meteorologists have warned that an El Nino event was likely to prolong extreme temperatures into the coming months, raising the potential for even more heat records.

The climate data comes as multiple nations continue to grapple with repeated environmental emergencies fueled by the climate crisis.

Efforts to curtail global warming have gained steam worldwide, with numerous climate summits and U.S. President Joe Biden laying out a national strategy to confront climate change, including billions of dollars in government investments to help the cause.

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## Swiatek, Djokovic advance, Sakkari upset on Wimbledon's Day 3

By Alex Butler  
 UPI

Iga Swiatek and Novak Djokovic each won their second-round matches in straight sets, while No. 8 Maria Sakkari was upset on Day 3 of Wimbledon 2023 on Wednesday in London.

Swiatek needed just 70 minutes in her 6-2, 6-0 victory over No. 84 Sara Sorribes Tormo of Spain. The Polish star totaled 27 winners and converted 4 of 6 break points.

The No. 1 player in the WTA Tour rankings will face No. 29 Petra Martic of Croatia or No. 96 of France in the third round.

"I was able to kind of do everything tactically as I wanted to, as my coach wanted me to do, in the first and second round," Swiatek told reporters. "I feel confident. I'm going to try to kind of keep it going."

No. 10 Daria Kasatkina of Russia, No. 11 Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic, No. 13 Beatriz Haddad Maia of Brazil, No. 17 Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia, No. 21 Donna Vekic of Croatia, No. 22 Ekaterina Alexandrova of Russia and No. 23 Anastasia Potapova of Russia were among the other top women's players to advance on Day 3.

No. 36 Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine upset No. 8 Maria Sakkari of Greece 0-6, 7-5, 6-2. Sakkari converted 5 of 12 break points

and fired 19 winners, but totaled 48 unforced errors.

Kostyuk logged 16 winners and converted 5 of 16 break points. She totaled 32 unforced errors.

No. 225 Natalija Stevanovic of Serbia also needed just 65 minutes to upset No. 19 Karolina Pliskova of Czech Republic in straight sets.

On the men's side, Djokovic edged No. 70 Jordan Thompson of Australia in a 2-hour, 28-minute match. The No. 2 seeded Serbian totaled eight aces 40 winners and 13 unforced errors. He converted 2 of 5 break points.

Thompson totaled 21 aces and 43 winners, but committed 20 unforced errors and did not earn a break point opportunity.

Djokovic will face No. 32 Tomas Martin Etcheverry of Argentina or No. 88 Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland in the third round.

No. 3 Daniil Medvedev of Russia, No. 6 Holger Rune of Denmark, No. 14 Borna Coric of Croatia, No. 19 Francisco Cerundolo of Argentina and No. 23 Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain were among the other top men to advance in the singles circuit.

No. 9 Taylor Fritz, No. 10 Frances Tiafoe and No. 15 Tommy Paul were the top American men to win on Day 3.

**Wimbledon schedule**  
 All times EDT



Thursday  
 Second round from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on ESPN

Friday  
 Third round from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. on ESPN

Saturday  
 Third round from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on ESPN and 1 to 4 p.m. on ABC

Sunday

Fourth round from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on ESPN and 1 to 4 p.m. on ABC

Monday  
 Fourth round from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. on ESPN2 and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on ESPN

Tuesday  
 Quarterfinals from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on ESPN and ESPN2

July 12  
 Quarterfinals from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on ESPN and ESPN2

July 13  
 Women's semifinals from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on ESPN

July 14  
 Men's semifinals from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on ESPN

July 15  
 Women's final at 9 a.m. on ESPN

July 16  
 Men's final at 9 a.m. on ESPN

## Tucker, Franco, Rodriguez among MLB All-Star Game replacements

By Alex Butler  
 UPI

Kyle Tucker, Wander Franco and Julio Rodriguez were among five players added to the All-Star Game rosters as replacement players for injured baseball stars, MLB announced.

MLB named the replacement players Tuesday night. The annual Midsummer Classic will be held next Tuesday in Seattle.

"I'm really excited," Rodriguez told reporters. "Stepping on the field in front of the Mariners' fans on our home field in Seattle will definitely be a dream for me."



The Seattle Mariners star will replace designated hitter-outfielder Yordan Alvarez on the American League roster. Rodriguez is hitting .248 with 13 home runs, 47 RBIs and 20 stolen bases this season.

Alvarez hasn't played since June 8 because of an oblique strain. He hit .277 with 17 home runs and 55 RBIs through 57 games for the Houston Astros.

Franco will replace New York Yankees slugger Aar-

on Judge in the American League lineup.

Judge, who was elected as a starter, sustained a toe injury June 3. The reigning American League MVP and home run champion hit .291 with 19 home runs and 40 RBIs through 49 games so far this season.

Franco was a notable snub when All-Star rosters were announced Sunday night. The third-year shortstop hit .286 with 10 home runs, 43 RBIs and 27 stolen bases through 81 games this season for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Tucker will replace Los Angeles Angels outfielder Mike Trout, who broke his

wrist Monday and was put on the injured list Tuesday. He is expected to miss at least four weeks.

Trout hit .263 with 18 home runs and 44 RBIs through his first 81 games. Tucker hit .293 with 13 home runs, 55 RBIs and 14 stolen bases through 84 games for the Astros.

Pittsburgh Pirates relief pitcher David Bednar will replace Los Angeles Dodgers starter Clayton Kershaw on the National League roster. Bednar is 3-0 with a 1.36 ERA and 16 saves over 32 appearances in 2023.

Kershaw is dealing with shoulder soreness. The three-time Cy Young Award

winner is 10-4 with a 2.55 ERA through 16 starts.

Mariners pitcher George Kirby will replace Rays starter George McClanahan on the American League roster. Kirby is 7-7 with a 3.21 ERA through seven starts this season.

McClanahan was placed on the injured list Saturday with a back injury.

The left-handed pitcher has an MLB-best 11-1 record and logged a 2.53 ERA through his first 17 starts this season.

The 2023 MLB All-Star Game will air at 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday on Fox. The Home Run Derby will air at 8 p.m. Monday on ESPN.

## Foster Moreau in full remission from Hodgkin's lymphoma

By Joe Fisher  
 UPI

Saints tight end Foster Moreau announced on Monday that he is in remission from Hodgkin's lymphoma after being diagnosed about three months ago.

Moreau shared the update on Twitter Monday afternoon.

"After a few tumultuous months, I've been blessed with the news that I am in full remission from Hodgkin lymphoma!" Moreau wrote. "I'm so grateful to everyone who reached out to offer their love and support."

The 26-year-old inked a

three-year, \$12 million deal with the New Orleans Saints in May after four seasons with the Raiders. He is coming off a career-high 420 yard season. He tallied 33 catches and two touchdowns for Las Vegas last season.

Moreau temporarily put football on hold in March when he announced he would seek cancer treatment. It was the Saints medical team that discovered that he had Hodgkin's lymphoma during a "routine physical" in the offseason.

The tight end expects to play for his hometown Saints when the season kicks off in just a couple months. New Orleans

fell on the outside of the playoff picture after going 7-10, matching the Panthers and Falcons in the NFC South.

Training camp begins on July 25 for the Saints veterans. Moreau reportedly participated in organized team activities in June.

Moreau will have the opportunity to vie for his spot on the depth chart when the team kicks off its preseason against the visiting Kansas City Chiefs on Aug. 13. He is currently listed behind Juwan Johnson on the depth chart.

The regular season kicks off at home against the Tennessee Titans on Sunday, Sept. 10.





# Joey Chestnut wins record 16th Nathan's hot dog eating contest after weather delay

By Joe Fisher  
UPI

Competitive eating phenom Joey Chestnut continued his winning tradition on Tuesday, celebrating the Fourth of July by winning Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest in Coney Island for the 16th time.

Weather put Tuesday's annual eating contest in Brooklyn, N.Y., on hold for about two hours. When it came time to compete, Chestnut threw back 62 hot dogs in 10 minutes, outpacing his closest competitor Geoffrey Esper who finished 49.

Miki Sudo won the women's competition for the ninth



time in a row, eating 39.5 hot dogs. The women's competition took place before the weather delay. She set the women's record in 2020 with 48.5 hot dogs eaten.

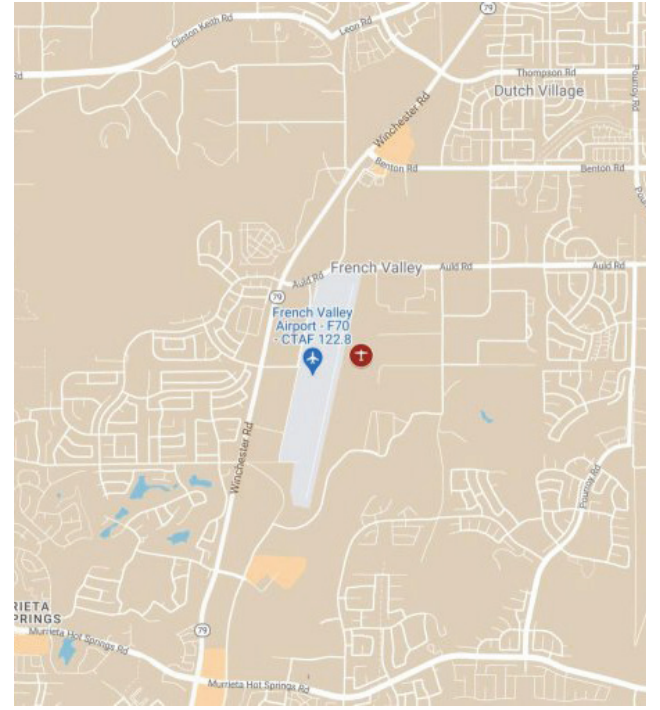
Chestnut's 16 times hoisting the Mustard Belt is

a record and Tuesday's win was his eighth straight win at this event. Matt Stonie broke Chestnut's previous eight-year winning streak in 2015 when he ate 62 hot dogs, two more than Chestnut. He did not compete on

Tuesday.

Many of the men's records at the Nathan's hot dog eating contest belong to Chestnut, ESPN reports. His 76 hot dogs eaten in 2021 stands as the highest total in a single contest. Each of the 10 biggest performances belong to him.

"I know that after this time I'm not going to feel great," he said. "It's going to take about four days to feel really normal, and the first 12 hours after the contest I'm going to feel like garbage. I go in knowing that and I'm willing to go through that because it's an amazing contest, it's the Fourth of July, and I'm going to do what it takes to get number 16."



# 1 dead, 3 injured in California plane crash

By Darryl Coote  
UPI

A small single-engine plane crashed Tuesday in the California city of Murrieta, killing one person and injuring three others, authorities said.

Fire officials in California said in a statement that the plane crashed at about 2 p.m. in the 37000 block of Industry Way, near the French Valley Airport, which is located about 85 miles south of Los Angeles.

The Riverside County Fire Department said four people were aboard the plane when it crashed, resulting in one person pronounced dead at the scene and three others being transported by ambulance to local hospitals. Of the injured, one sustained minor injuries, another had moderate injuries and a third incurred serious injuries, it said.

Officials had said that at least some of those on board had been trapped in the aircraft following the crash.

The identity of the deceased has not been released to the public.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which is investigating the crash along with the Federal Aviation Administration, identified the involved plane as a Cessna 172, which is a four-seat, single-engine aircraft.

NTSB investigating the July 4 crash of a Cessna 172 airplane in Murrieta, California.— NTSB Newsroom (@NTSB\_Newsroom) July 4, 2023

# Moderna seeks regulatory approval of RSV vaccine for people 60 and older

By Doug Cunningham  
UPI

Moderna has submitted its RSV vaccine for people 60 and older regulatory approval in the United States and elsewhere in the world, the company said.

"We are proud to announce these filings for the use of our RSV vaccine candidate, mRNA-1345, in the European Union, Switzerland, Australia, and the U.S.," Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel said in a statement.

"RSV is a major cause of lower respiratory tract infections in older adults and can cause a significant burden to health systems through

hospitalizations and emergency care admissions,"

Moderna said the regulatory applications come after positive data from a study of approximately 37,000 adults 60 or older in 22 countries. Its vaccine to protect from respiratory syncytial virus was found in these trials to be 83.7% effective as defined by two or more symptoms.

According to the company, the vaccine was well-tolerated, with a favorable safety profile.

"Most solicited adverse reactions were mild or moderate, and the most commonly reported solicited adverse reactions in the mRNA-1345 group were injection site pain, fatigue,

headache, myalgia and arthralgia," Moderna's statement said.

The U.S. CDC recommended Pfizer and GSK RSV vaccines for adults 60 and older in June. Those vaccines will be available starting this fall.

Moderna said its mRNA-1345 is "an investigational RSV vaccine that consists of a single mRNA sequence encoding for a stabilized prefusion F glycoprotein. The vaccine uses the same lipid nanoparticles as in the Moderna COVID-19 vaccines."

The company has more vaccines in the pipeline, including Phase 3 trials to protect against the flu and a next-generation COVID-19 vaccine candidate.

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# La Voz Latina

## Paris Saint-Germain hires ex-Spanish soccer coach Luis Enrique

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Paris Saint-Germain officially hired Luis Enrique as its new manager, replacing fired coach Christophe Galtier, the French Ligue 1 soccer franchise announced Wednesday.

"I'm delighted to be joining Paris in order to enjoy a new experience," Enrique said in a news release.

"It's so exciting to meet new people, to live in this city, to learn a new language and, above all, to manage PSG."

Enrique, who was fired by Spain in 2022, signed a 2-year contract with PSG. The 53-year-old started his tenure as Spanish national team coach in 2018.

He coached Spanish La Liga power Barcelona from 2014 through 2017. He also



coached at La Liga club Celta Vigo and Italian Serie A club AS Roma and for Barcelona's B team.

PSG totaled 27 wins, seven losses and four draws over 38 Ligue 1 contests in 2022-23. The French

league champions lost to Bayern Munich in March in the Round of 16 of the Champions League.



## Jesus Ferreira nets historic hat trick, leads USA past Trinidad at Gold Cup

UPI

Jesus Ferreira scored three first-half goals for his second-consecutive hat trick, leading the United States Men's National Team to a 6-0 blowout of Trinidad and Tobago and clinching Group A at the 2023 Gold Cup.

Ferreira, who also logged a hat trick Wednesday, scored in the 14th and 38th minutes before completing the feat again in first-half stoppage time Sunday at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, N.C.

He is the first player in U.S. men's soccer history to log consecutive hat tricks against international competition.

"I think the intensity we are going out with is helping me get into the box and helping the team score goals," Ferreira said on the Fox broadcast.

Cade Cowell, Gianluca Busio and Brandon Vazquez also scored.

The Americans will face the second-place team from Group D in the Gold Cup quarterfinals Sunday in Cincinnati.

Ferreira drew first blood for the Americans in the group stage finale.

Left back DeJuan Jones raced into left side of the box to gain control of the ball to spark that score. The defender then fired a pass about 10 yards in front of the net for Ferreira.

The sizzling striker stopped the pass with his right boot before smacking a shot inside the right post, beating goalie Marvin Phillip.

Ferreira doubled the advantage about 24 minutes later. Midfielder Djordje Mihailovic slipped a through ball between several defenders and up to forward Alejandro Zendejas to set up that score. Zedejas then crossed left-to-right feed, but the ball was deflected by Phillip.

Ferreira got a touch on the ball, settling it in front of the net. Phillip then attempted to snag the attempt, but was unable to gain full control. Ferreira tapped the loose ball away from the goalie before turning around and kicking a shot off defender Sheldon Bateau and into the net.

He completed his hat trick by scoring on Phillip with a penalty kick in the third minute of first-half stoppage time.

Cowell gave the Americans a 4-0 lead with his goal in the 65th minute. Busio pushed the advantage to five goals in the 79th minute. Vazquez found the net in the fourth minute of stoppage time for the final goal.

The U.S. men will meet Guadeloupe, Guatemala or Canada at 8 p.m. EDT Sunday at TQL Stadium. The Gold Cup quarterfinal will air on Fox.

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