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**BREAKING NEWS: FORMER PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP INDICTED FOR THE 4TH TIME**

Donald Trump's lawyers, Ga. GOP leaders among 19 defendants in election case

By Thomas Maresca  
UPI

Monday's indictment of former President Donald Trump by Georgia prosecutors claims that 19 defendants "joined a conspiracy to unlawfully change the outcome" of the 2020 election.

Alongside the former president are familiar names, including his former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and lawyers Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman.

All 19 defendants are being charged under Georgia's anti-racketeering law, and each of them faces at least one additional charge.

Here's a rundown of those charged:

**Rudy Giuliani:** The former federal prosecutor and mayor of New York City served as Trump's personal lawyer during the last days of his presidency and led the efforts in several states to challenge the 2020 election results.

See CASE, page 6



Hunter Biden lawyer asks to withdraw from case because he could be called as witness

By Adam Schrader  
UPI

Hunter Biden's lawyer asked to withdraw from the criminal case against his client, the son of President Joe Biden, over the possibility he might be called as a witness.

Christopher J. Clark, Hunter Biden's lawyer who has defended other big names such as Elon Musk, filed the brief motion on Tuesday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware.

"Mr. Biden will continue to be represented by other firms that have entered an appearance on behalf of Mr. Biden, and therefore

has ample counsel," reads the motion, obtained by UPI. "Mr. Clark's withdrawal is necessitated by recent developments in the matter."

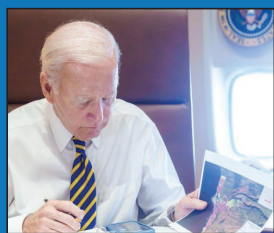
Clark noted that Delaware's rules of professional conduct state a lawyer cannot act as an advocate at a trial in which the lawyer is likely to be a witness.

"Based on recent developments, it appears that the negotiation and drafting of the plea agreement and diversion agreement will be contested, and Mr. Clark is a percipient witness to those issues," Clark wrote in the motion.

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# OPINION

## A Blueprint for Educational Excellence: Lessons from the Trailblazers

### Donald Trump charged with racketeering, a favorite tool for prosecutors

By Anthony Michael Kreis  
Georgia State University

An Atlanta grand jury indicted former President Donald Trump on Monday, charging him with racketeering and 12 other felonies related to his alleged attempts to overturn his 2020 election defeat in the state.

Eighteen of Trump's allies and associates, including attorney Rudolph Giuliani and former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows, were also indicted on racketeering and other felony charges for their alleged involvement in the scheme.

This marks Trump's fourth indictment in five months -- and the second to come from his efforts to undo the election results that awarded the presidency to Joe Biden. Fani Willis, the district attorney of Fulton County, Ga., started investigating Trump's involvement in this alleged scheme, as well as that of Trump's colleagues, in February 2021.

In January 2021, one month before the investigation started, Trump placed a phone call to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and pressed him to "find" enough votes to overturn Biden's win.

The Conversation U.S. spoke with Anthony Michael Kreis, a scholar of Georgia's election laws, to understand the significance of the charges laid out in the 98-page indictment. Here are five key points to understand about the precise nature of the charges and why racketeering is at the center of them.

#### 1. Racketeering is different from conspiracy charges

With a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, or RICO, charge, Willis presents a narrative that there were a large number of people involved in this case, but that they didn't necessarily sit down at some point and over cocktails and say, "We are going to engage in this criminal act," which would be a traditional conspiracy case. She is painting this picture of people winking and nodding and working toward this end goal of overthrowing the election, but without some kind of expressed agreement.

The Georgia RICO law allows her to rope in a lot of people who allegedly were involved with this kind of approach.

To be able to bring conspiracy charges, she would have to have an expressed agreement and a concrete act in furtherance of that conspiracy. And here there really wasn't quite a plan -- it is essentially a loose organization of people who are all up to no good.

#### 2. Georgia -- and Willis -- have used racketeering charges before

Traditionally in Georgia, RICO has been used to prosecute people engaged in very violent kinds of activity -- for street gangs and the Mafia, in particular. It has also been used in other contexts.

The most notable is the Atlanta public school cheating prosecution in 2015, when a number of educators were charged with manipulating student test scores. They wanted to make the public schools look better for various reasons. But they didn't all know exactly what the other people were doing.

Willis was the assistant district attorney prosecuting that racketeering case. It's a tool that she likes to use. And it is a tool that can be really hard for defendants to defend against. Eleven of the 12 defendants were convicted of racketeering in 2015 and received various sentences, including up to 20 years in prison.

#### 3. Georgia law poses particular risks to Trump

Georgia's RICO law is much more expansive than the federal version of the law. It allows for a lot more different kinds of conduct to be covered. That makes it very easy to sweep people into one criminal enterprise and it's a favorite tool for prosecutors.

In the vast tapestry of American education, certain states shine brighter, setting benchmarks that others can only aspire to reach. As we navigate the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, it's worth pausing and reflecting on what these trailblazing states are doing right. Their success stories aren't just individual achievements; they offer a collective roadmap for the nation.

Massachusetts, often dubbed the educational powerhouse, consistently tops national assessments. But what's their secret sauce? For starters, the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks don't just set standards; they aim for the stars. The state believes in challenging its students and pushing them to reach their zenith. But it's not just about the students. Massachusetts knows that behind every successful student is an empowered teacher. By investing heavily in professional development, they ensure that their educators are always equipped to guide their charges. And let's not forget the little ones. Massachusetts has been a vocal advocate for early childhood education, pouring resources into pre-K programs.

When we talk about

education, we cannot ignore equity, and Minnesota stands as a testament to this. The state has a clear strategy: Direct resources where they're needed the most. Schools with a higher concentration of underprivileged students aren't left in the lurch. But it's not just about funds. Minnesota celebrates

its diversity, enriching its curriculum with culturally relevant content. It's a state that believes in reflecting the diverse tapestry of its student population in its lessons.

New Jersey's vision for education is holistic. It's not just about academics; it's about creating well-rounded individuals. The state's funding model is a masterclass in fairness. Whether a school is in an affluent suburb or a challenging neighborhood, New Jersey ensures it has what it needs. And while academic achievements are celebrated, the state understands that emotional well-being is equally crucial. Robust mental health programs are a staple in New Jersey schools.



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

In the digital age, any discourse on education is incomplete without mentioning technology. Washington has been a front-runner in this domain. The state's curriculum is future-ready, designed for the tech-savvy student. But what about the teachers? Washington ensures they're not left behind. Comprehensive training programs ensure that educators aren't just familiar with the latest tech but can use it to enhance their teaching.

The achievements of these states are commendable, but they're more than just success stories. They're a clarion call to other states. The message is clear: Every child, no matter where they're from, deserves the best. Emulating these trailblazers can bridge educational disparities, drive economic progress and foster a more enlightened society.

It's essential to understand that the impact of a robust education system goes beyond the confines of the classroom. States that prioritize education witness a ripple effect, touching various facets of society. For instance, there's a direct correlation between quality education and reduced crime rates. When individuals are equipped with knowledge and skills, they are more likely to find gain-

ful employment and less likely to engage in unlawful activities. Moreover, education fosters critical thinking, creating a populace that's not just employable but also more informed, discerning, and resistant to misinformation. In an era where fake news is rampant, this cannot be understated.

In the global arena, the U.S. is not just competing with itself; it's up against countries that are heavily investing in education, understanding its long-term benefits. Nations like Finland and Singapore, with their innovative teaching methodologies and emphasis on holistic education, are setting global standards. For the U.S. to maintain its position as a global leader, it's imperative to look both inward, at states like Massachusetts and Washington, and outward, to learn from international best practices. The fusion of domestic success stories with global insights can create an education system that's not just best for America but also world-class.

In conclusion, the path has been charted. It's time for the rest of the nation to take note and embark on this journey toward educational excellence. After all, our children deserve nothing but the best.

## Divers work to save Florida's coral reef from devastating ocean heat

By Michael Childress Clemson University

Armed with scrub brushes, young scuba divers took to the waters of Florida's Alligator Reef in late July to try to help corals struggling to survive 2023's extraordinary marine heat wave.

They carefully scraped away harmful algae and predators impinging on staghorn fragments, under the supervision and training of interns from Islamorada Conservation and Restoration Education.

Normally, I.CARE's volunteer divers would be transplanting corals to waters off the Florida Keys this time of year, as part of a national effort to restore the Florida Reef. But this year, everything is going in reverse.

As water temperatures spiked in the Florida Keys, scientists from universities, coral reef restoration groups and government agencies launched a heroic effort to save the corals. Divers have been in the water every day, collecting thousands of corals from ocean nurseries along the Florida Keys reef tract and moving them to cooler water and into giant tanks on land.

Marine scientist Ken Nedimyer and his team at Reef Renewal USA began moving an entire coral tree nursery from shallow waters off Tavernier to an area 60 feet deep and 2 degrees Fahrenheit cooler. Even there, temperatures were running about 85 to 86 degrees F.

Their efforts are part of an emergency response on a scale never before seen in Florida.

The Florida Reef -- a nearly 350-mile arc along the Florida Keys that is crucial to fish habitat, coastal storm protection and the local economy -- began experiencing record-hot ocean temperatures in June, weeks earlier than expected. The continuing heat has triggered widespread coral bleaching.

While corals can recover from mass bleaching events like this, long periods of high heat can leave them

weak and vulnerable to disease that can ultimately kill them.

That's what scientists and volunteers have been scrambling to avoid.

#### Heartbeat of the reef

The Florida Reef has struggled for years under the pressure of overfishing, disease, storms and global warming that have decimated its live corals.

A massive coral restoration effort -- the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Mission: Iconic Reef -- has been underway since 2019 to restore the reef with transplanted corals, particularly those most resilient to the rising temperatures. But even the hardiest coral transplants are now at risk.

Reef-building corals are the foundation species of shallow tropical waters due to their unique symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae in their tissues.

During the day, these algae photosynthesize, producing both food and oxygen for the coral animal. At night, coral polyps feed on plankton, providing nutrients for their algae. The result of this symbiotic relationship is the coral's ability to build a calcium carbonate skeleton and reefs that support nearly 25% of all marine life.

Unfortunately, corals are very temperature sensitive, and the extreme ocean heat off South Florida, with some reef areas reaching temperatures in the 90s, has put them under extraordinary stress.

When corals get too hot, they expel their symbiotic algae. The corals appear white -- bleached -- because their carbonate skeleton shows through their clear tissue that lack any colorful algal cells.

Corals can recover new algal symbionts if water conditions return to normal within a few weeks. However, the increase in global temperatures due to the effects of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities is causing longer and more frequent periods of coral bleaching worldwide, leading to concerns for the future of

coral reefs.

#### MASH unit for corals

This year, the Florida Keys reached an alert level 2, indicating extreme risk of bleaching, about six weeks earlier than normal.

The early warnings and forecasts from NOAA's Coral Reef Watch Network gave scientists time to begin preparing labs and equipment, track the locations and intensity of the growing marine heat and, importantly, recruit volunteers.

At the Keys Marine Laboratory, scientists and trained volunteers have dropped off thousands of coral fragments collected from heat-threatened offshore nurseries. Director Cindy Lewis described the lab's giant tanks as looking like "a MASH unit for corals."

Volunteers there and at other labs across Florida will hand-feed the tiny creatures to keep them alive until the Florida waters cool again and they can be returned to the ocean and eventually transplanted onto the reef.

#### Protecting corals in ocean

I.CARE launched another type of emergency response.

I.CARE co-founder Kylie Smith, a coral reef ecologist and a former student of mine in marine sciences, discovered a few years ago that coral transplants with large amounts of fleshy algae around them were more likely to bleach during times of elevated temperature. Removing that algae may give corals a better chance of survival.

Smith's group typically works with local dive operators to train recreational divers to assist in transplanting and maintaining coral fragments in an effort to restore the reefs of Islamorada. In summer 2023, I.CARE has been training volunteers, like the young divers from Diving with a Purpose, to remove algae and coral predators, such as coral-eating snails and fireworms, to help boost the corals' chances of survival.



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# President Joe Biden, first lady Jill Biden set plans to visit Maui after wildfires

By Clyde Hughes  
UPI

President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden will travel to Maui on Monday to support residents after devastating wildfires on the Hawaiian island that have killed more than 100 people, according to the White House on Wednesday.

Biden and the first lady will meet with first responders, survivors, as well as federal, state, and local officials during their trip.

"The president and first lady will be welcomed by state and local leaders to see firsthand the impacts of the wildfires and the devastating loss of life and land that has occurred on the island, as well as discuss the next steps in the recovery effort," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement.

"The president continues to marshal a whole-of-government response to the deadly Maui



fires, and he has committed to delivering everything that the people of Hawaii need from the federal government as they recover from this disaster."

The Biden administration said it had been working closely with FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell, Hawaii's Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, and Gov. Josh Green, who kept him advised on search and recovery efforts.

Biden had said on Tuesday that he wanted to travel to Maui but first wanted to

make sure that any presidential visit would not slow recovery efforts.

"I don't want to get in the way -- I've been to too many disaster areas, but I want to go and make sure we got everything we need. I want to be sure we don't disrupt the ongoing recovery efforts," Biden added, pledging to Maui "every asset, every asset they need," Biden said on social media.

The death toll from the fire rose to 106 on Wednesday as recovery efforts continued.



## Biden

continued from page 1

U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika, who was appointed to the bench by former President Donald Trump, approved the motion, the court documents show.

Clark's brief remarks allude to a plea deal that fell through last month. Hunter Biden ultimately pleaded not guilty to federal tax charges amid a dispute over questions of immunity from

future charges.

At the time, Noreika questioned whether the younger Biden would still agree to the terms of the plea deal if there was a potential for additional charges.

Hunter Biden said he would not and Noreika ordered the proceedings to stop while calling for a "meeting of the minds" to help settle the issue.

Clark said then the deal was "null and void," increasing the probability the case will go to trial.

Last week, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland named Delaware U.S. Attorney David Weiss as special counsel in the investigation. Weiss was appointed by former President Donald Trump and began investigating Hunter Biden in 2019.

Garland said Weiss requested he be named special counsel to continue the probe because the investigation had reached a stage where it could not continue without the powers of a special counsel.

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# Special prosecutor may investigate Georgia Lt. Gov. Burt Jones following Trump indictment

By Sheri Walsh  
UPI

A special prosecutor could be appointed to investigate whether Georgia Lt. Gov. Burt Jones should face criminal charges in a scheme to overturn the 2020 presidential election in the state.

Jones is one of 30 people who was named, but not charged as co-conspirators, in the Fulton County indictment unsealed Monday.

Former President Donald Trump and 18 others, including his former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and Trump lawyers Rudy Giuliani and John Eastman, were named as defendants and accused of illegally trying to “change the outcome of the election in favor of Trump,” according to the 98-page indictment.

The executive director of the Prosecuting Attorneys Council of Georgia Pete Skandalakis said Tuesday he is planning to appoint

a special prosecutor to investigate Jones’ actions.

Jones, who was a state senator at the time of the 2020 election, is accused of pushing for a special legislative session to consider appointing Trump electors. He’s also accused of supporting lawsuits to void the results in Georgia.

Last year, a Fulton County judge barred District Attorney Fani Willis from investigating Jones after she held a fundraiser for his Democratic opponent during the election.

Jones, who was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2012, was elected lieutenant governor in November.

While Monday’s indictment did not name Jones, it referred to him as “unindicted co-conspirator Individual 8,” who urged Georgians to rally their support for overturning Biden’s victory.

“Call your state Senate & House Reps & ask them to sign the petition for a special session. We must have free & fair elections in GA &



this is our only path to ensuring every legal vote is counted,” Jones wrote in a social media post on Dec. 7, 2020.

Georgia Patriot Call to Action: today is the day we need you to call your state Senate & House Reps & ask them to sign the petition for a special session. We must have free & fair elections in GA & a this is our only path to ensuring every legal vote is counted.

Monday’s indictment claims Individual 8 was one of the fake Republican electors, while accusing Individual 8 of being part of a conspiracy to impersonate a public officer, forge fake Electoral College paperwork, make false statements and file false documents.

While Jones did not address the possible investigation into his actions Tuesday, he blasted Willis in a post on X.

“The Fulton County District Attorney has spent millions of taxpayer dollars and thousands of man hours over the past two and a half years orchestrating a constant media and PR campaign for the sole purpose of furthering her own political career,” Jones wrote, accusing the district attorney of ignoring “real criminals.”

“For the past two and a half years -- smash and grabs, homicides, shootings and break ins have continued to go unchecked in Atlanta,” Jones said. “How many criminals could have been locked up, how many break ins could have been prevented, how many lives could have been saved if the district attorney had simply been going after real criminals and protecting our streets?” Jones queried.

“While the Fulton County district attorney continues to pursue the political vendettas of the past -- I have and will continue to look forward, solving the most pressing issues facing our city and our state.”

## STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION RALEIGH

DOCKET NO. G-9, SUB 831

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of )  
Application of Piedmont Natural Gas ) PUBLIC NOTICE  
Company, Inc., for Annual Review of Gas )  
Costs Pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 62-133.4(c) )  
and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6) )

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the North Carolina Utilities Commission has scheduled a public hearing to conduct an annual review of the cost of natural gas supply, storage and transportation for Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Piedmont). The public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2023, at 9:00 a.m., in Commission Hearing Room 2115, Dobbs Building, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina. The hearing is being held pursuant to the provisions of N.C. Gen. Stat. § 62-133.4(c) and Commission Rule R1-17(k)(6) for the purpose of comparing Piedmont’s prudently-incurred gas costs with costs recovered from all of the utility’s customers served during the test period. Public witness testimony will be received in accordance with Commission Rule R1-21(g).

Piedmont filed testimony relating to the subject matter of this hearing on August 1, 2023. Further information may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Clerk, North Carolina Utilities Commission, 430 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, North Carolina, where a copy of Piedmont’s testimony is available for review by the public. Also, documents can be viewed on the Commission’s website at www.ncuc.gov.

The Public Staff is authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Correspondence regarding the annual review proceeding and the hearing thereon should be directed to the Public Staff and should include any information which the writer wishes to be considered by the Public Staff in its investigation of the matter. Such statements should be addressed to Mr. Christopher J. Ayers, Executive Director, Public Staff, 4326 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300.

The Attorney General is also authorized by statute to represent consumers in proceedings before the Commission. Statements to the Attorney General should be addressed to The Honorable Josh Stein, Attorney General, c/o Consumer Protection- Utilities, 9001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-9001. Written statements may be emailed to utilityAGO@ncdoj.gov.

Written statements are not evidence unless the writers appear at a public hearing and testify concerning the information contained in their written statements.

Persons desiring to intervene in this proceeding as formal parties should file a petition to intervene pursuant to Commission Rules R1-5 and R1-19 on or before Monday, September 18, 2023. Such petitions should be filed with the Chief Clerk of the North Carolina Utilities Commission, 4325 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4300. The direct testimony and exhibits of expert witnesses to be presented by intervenors should also be filed with the Commission on or before Monday, September 18, 2023.

This the 10th day of August, 2023.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

Tamika D. Conyers, Deputy Clerk

## Mortgage applications crater as lending rates hit the highest level since 2021

By Daniel J. Graeber  
UPI

With the rate on a 30-year, fixed-rate mortgage topping 7%, the number of applications for a loan toward a home purchase dropped nearly 1% week-on-week, the Mortgage Bankers Association reported Wednesday.

The 30-year fixed mortgage rate increased for the third straight week, reaching 7.16%, matching October 2022’s rate and the highest rate since 2001,” said Joel Kan, the MBA’s vice president and deputy chief economist.

The MBA found mortgage applications declined by 0.8% week-on-week. Meanwhile, the number of applicants searching for an adjustable-rate mortgage increased to its highest level since April as borrowers look for better terms.

Recent economic data, Kan added, shows a mixed future, which may create challenges for the Federal Reserve in its fight against inflation.

The Fed raised its lending rate by 25 basis points last month, but suggested

it would take a wait-and-see approach to future rate hikes based on economic momentum.

On Tuesday, the National Association of Home Builder said that market confidence for the construction of a new single-family home contracted in August, after seven consecutive months of optimism. The NAHB blamed the decline on elevated lending rates and “stubbornly” high levels for the shelter component of consumer inflation.

NAHB Chairman Alicia Huey added the higher construction costs, which come as a result of a lack of construction workers, and the lack of available lots were compounding the issue.

The shelter component of the Consumer Price Index, meanwhile, showed a 7.7% increase year-on-year to July, the second-largest increase after transportation services. The broader housing market is tight.

While some homeowners are looking for variable-rate mortgages for relief, others are staying put to capitalize on their lower lending rates, creating a supply-side issue for the housing market.

## GM invests in company developing lower-cost EV batteries

By Doug Cunningham  
UPI

General Motors said Wednesday it has completed \$40 million of a \$60 million investment in the start-up company Mitra Chem to develop and produce new iron-based EV battery technology.

Instead of using expensive minerals like cobalt and nickel, Mitra Chem’s new EV battery tech uses iron-based cathode active materials like lithium manganese iron phosphate to power more affordable EV batteries.

Adding manganese to the iron phosphate increases battery power density compared to using iron alone while still making the new tech much less expensive for consumers.

GM’s investment will help scale up Mitra Chem’s current R&D to speed up getting the new battery tech to market.

“GM’s investment in Mitra Chem will not only help us develop affordable battery chemistries for use

in GM vehicles but also will fuel our mission to develop, deploy and commercialize U.S. made, iron-based cathode materials that can power EVs, grid-scale electrified energy storage and beyond,” said Mitra Chem CEO and Co-Founder Vivas Kumar in a statement.

Mitra Chem’s iron-based cathode materials will be compatible with GM’s Ultium EV propulsion platform.

Swapping iron-based material for the cobalt and nickel will mean domestic manufacturing that’s not reliant on sourcing of those more expensive minerals through foreign supply chains.

“This is a strategic investment that will further help reinforce GM’s efforts in EV batteries, accelerate our work on affordable battery chemistries like LMFP and support our efforts to build a North America-focused battery supply chain,” said a statement from GM Vice-President of Technology Acceleration Commercialization Gil Golan.

He added that GM is ac-

celerating larger investments in battery technology and “Mitra Chem’s labs, tools and talent will fit well with our own R&D team’s work.”

Mitra Chem said it is positioned to disrupt the global production and supply chain of vital battery materials and revitalize the North American battery supply industry.

The Inflation Reduction Act, Mitra Chem said, has “supercharged demand for U.S. made battery materials” through consumer tax credits for domestically produced battery materials.

Mitra Chem said there are many other investors backing the company’s development and marketing efforts for the new EV battery material.

Investors include Social Capital, Fontinalis Partners, Earthshot Ventures, The Keffi Group, Boutique Venture Partner, and new investors like GS Futures, Bricks Capital Management, Zeon Ventures, Scribble VC, WovenEarth Ventures, Bonds Investment Group, and others.



# Man accused in stabbing death of CashApp founder Bob Lee pleads not guilty

By Patrick Hilsman  
UPI

The man accused in the stabbing death of CashApp founder Bob Lee pleaded not guilty to murder charges in a San Francisco courtroom Tuesday.

Nima Momeni's defense team waived his right to a speedy trial on their client's behalf.

Prosecutors say Lee, 43, and Momeni, 38, had a dispute about Momeni's sister, Khazar Momeni, while at a party at her apartment, in the early hours of April 4, and left together.



Lee

Witnesses said Lee and Momeni argued about whether or not Khazar Momeni "was

doing drugs or anything inappropriate."

Momeni was arrested in April.

Prosecutors say Momeni was captured on surveillance footage attacking Lee, but the defense tried to argue the footage was inconclusive and said other people, including a homeless person, may have been at the scene.

Momeni's previous attorney, Paula Canny, had tried to argue self-defense.

Prosecutors also say Momeni's DNA was found on the murder weapon, a 3.5-inch kitchen knife that was discovered near the scene of the killing and is believed to have come from Momeni's sister's apartment in San Francisco's Millennium Tower.

Momeni's white BMW Z4, which prosecutors say Momeni drove to and fled the scene with, will be released, according to Assistant District Attorney Omid Talai.

The vehicle had been previously seized as evidence and been examined by prosecutors.

Momeni's trial is scheduled to start Oct. 2.

## Mother of boy who shot Virginia teacher enters into plea agreement

By Clyde Hughes  
UPI

The mother of a 6-year-old boy who shot his teacher during class in Virginia Beach, Va. in January entered into a plea deal with prosecutors on Tuesday.

Prosecutors charged Deja Taylor, 26, with felony child neglect, and she could serve up to six months in state prison based on a recommendation by the Newport News commonwealth's attorney. A separate charge of a misdemeanor of recklessly leaving a loaded firearm so as to endanger a child will be dropped, allowing her to avoid a potential six-year prison sentence.

Local police responded to the shooting of a teacher at Richneck Elementary in Newport News, Va., on Jan. 6, during which they took into custody a boy, who is identified only by his initials, and 9 mm semi-automatic handgun.

James Ellenson, a lawyer for the family, said Taylor remains remorseful, although he believes no prison time will be the appropriate sentence.

"She feels very responsible, feels very bad," James Ellenson, Taylor's attorney said after the hearing. "It's just very emotional, the whole hearing. It's all just very upsetting to everybody."

The teacher, Abby Zwerner, survived and the incident made national headlines about the availability of guns and school safety.

## North Korea: Travis King confessed he defected over 'inhuman' treatment in U.S. Army

By Adam Schrader  
UPI

North Korea said Tuesday that Travis King, the private who bolted across the military demarcation line with South Korea in July, had confessed to defecting because of "inhuman" treatment in the U.S. Army.

King, 23, had accompanied tourists to the joint security area of Panmunjom on July 18 before he "illegally intruded" into North Korea, according to the Korean Central News Agency -- one of the propaganda arms of the isolated regime.

"Travis King admitted that he illegally intruded into the territory of the DPRK," the North Korean officials said, using the initialism for the official name of the country -- the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The North Korean officials said King confessed after an "investigation" by a "relevant organ" of the government.

"During the investigation, Travis King confessed that he had decided to come over to the DPRK as he harbored ill feeling against inhuman



maltreatment and racial discrimination within the U.S. Army," the North Korean officials said.

"He also expressed his willingness to seek refugee in the DPRK or a third country, saying that he was disillusioned at the unequal American society. The investigation continues."

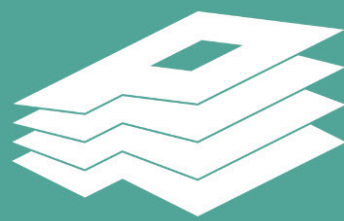
King was a Cavalry Scout who

enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 2021. He has no combat deployments, according to his official biography released to UPI. His awards include the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Service Medal and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Last month, the White House said it had reached out to North Korea to bring King home. The U.S.-led United Nations Command, which controls DMZ access and military demarcation line crossings, had contacted North Korea using established communication channels.

Before he defected, King had been held in South Korea on assault charges and was released on July 10 after he allegedly caused hundreds of dollars in damage to a police car and shouted profanities about South Koreans and the South Korean army.

He was being sent home to Fort Bliss in Texas, where he likely would have been discharged from service and faced additional military disciplinary actions. He had been dropped off at the airport and escorted as far as customs but ultimately left the airport instead of getting on his plane home.



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# Mark Meadows seeks to move Trump case from Georgia state court to federal court

By Adam Schrader  
UPI

Mark Meadows, the former chief of staff to Donald Trump, filed a motion Tuesday seeking to move the criminal case against him as a co-conspirator of the former president from a state court in Georgia to federal court.

Meadows was named along with Trump and 17 other defendants in a sweeping organized crime indictment handed up by a grand jury in Fulton County, Ga., on Monday. He is the highest government official other than Trump charged in any of the current four cases against the former president.

He was charged under the state's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations statute and

with soliciting an official to violate their oath of office because of his presence on the infamous "find" votes call between Trump and Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger.

Meadows has filed to move the case from the Fulton County Superior Court to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia, court records obtained by UPI show.

"Mr. Meadows has the right to remove this matter. The conduct giving rise to the charges in the indictment all occurred during his tenure and as part of his service as Chief of Staff," his filing reads.

Lawyers for Meadows cited the U.S. legal code that allows for criminal prosecution of an officer of a U.S. agency in a state court to



Mark Meadows

a federal court for acts carried out "under the color of such office."

In order for the motion to be granted, the judge will have to agree that Meadows was acting in his official capacity when he allegedly participated in Trump's attempts to overturn the results

of the 2020 presidential election.

"Nothing Mr. Meadows is alleged in the indictment to have done is criminal per se: arranging Oval Office meetings, contacting state officials on the president's behalf, visiting a state government building, and setting up a phone call for the president," the motion reads.

"One would expect a chief of staff to the president of the United States to do these sorts of things. And they have far less to do with the interests of state law than, for example, murder charges that have been successfully removed."

Lawyers for Meadows added that, if his bid to move the case out of state court is successful, he will then file a motion to dismiss

the indictment "as soon as feasible," claiming that he has federal immunity under the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution

"Mr. Meadows, in his role as chief of staff, arranged a phone call between the president and Georgia officials, including the Secretary of State and the Chief Investigator," his lawyers admit in the filing.

"These and the other acts that form the basis for the charges against Mr. Meadows all fall squarely within his conduct as chief of staff.

"Meadows was previously ordered by a federal judge to speak before a special grand jury impaneled to carry out an investigation by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis.

## Case

continued from page 1

He has been charged on 13 counts, more than any defendant other than Trump, related to false allegations of election fraud before state legislative committees in December 2020 as well as his role in a plan to send a slate of electors who supported Trump to Congress.

Like all of his co-defendants, Giuliani was charged under Georgia's Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act. As a U.S.

Attorney in New York in the 1980s, Giuliani rose to fame by pioneering the use of the RICO act to prosecute organized crime.

"This indictment is an affront to American Democracy and does permanent, irrevocable harm to our justice system," Giuliani wrote on Twitter hours after the indictment was unsealed. "It's just the next chapter in a book of lies with the purpose of framing President Donald Trump and anyone willing to take on the ruling regime."

Mark Meadows: The former White House chief of

staff, is the highest-ranking government official other than Trump charged. In addition to the RICO charge, he was hit with one count for his participation in Trump's Jan. 2, 2021, call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, during which the former president pressured Raffensperger to "find" enough votes so he could win.

Meadows was apparently not among the unindicted co-conspirators in the federal case made by special counsel Jack Smith against Trump in August.

Jeffrey Clark: The former Justice Department official was charged with trying to use a letter to influence Georgia election officials that included false claims the department had "identified significant concerns that may have impacted the outcome of the election in multiple states."

A spokeswoman for Clark, who has seen his stature rise in the Repub-



lican Party since the failed attempt to overturn the election, accused Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis of "exceeding her powers by inserting herself into the operations of the federal government." "It's clear Willis aspires to higher office and is using this witch hunt to climb the political ladder," spokeswoman Rachel Cauley of

the Center for Renewing America, a conservative think tank where Clark is a senior fellow, said. "Jeff Clark was simply doing his job in 2020 and he doesn't deserve to be subjected to this naked political lawfare."

Kenneth Chesebro and John Eastman: The attorneys were key architects of the plan to use fake Trump electors in several battleground states. Both face several counts relating to forgery and making false statements in the efforts to overturn the election in Georgia. Eastman, the former dean of Chapman University law school, also faces an additional charge for filing a federal court case in Georgia that falsely claimed thousands of people had voted illegally.

Both lawyers are believed to be among the unindicted co-conspirators in the federal indictment against Trump.

Sidney Powell: The Trump campaign lawyer was one of the most prominent figures pushing election fraud claims. She vowed to "release the Kraken," a sprawling lawsuit based on conspiracy theories that included voting machine rigging under former Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez. She is believed to be one of the unindicted co-conspirators in the federal indictment against Trump.

Jenna Ellis: The Trump campaign lawyer, who became a high-profile conservative media figure pushing election fraud claims, was charged on two counts. She was censured for misconduct by a Colorado Supreme Court judge in March for making public false statements.

Ray Smith III and Robert Cheeley: Both are Georgia attorneys. Smith worked for the Trump campaign. They are charged with several counts relating to their false assertions of voter fraud at a Georgia state Legislature hearing in December 2020.

David Shafer: The former chairman of the Georgia GOP was one of three fake electors charged in the in-

dictment. He presided over a December 2020 meeting where a group of 16 state Republicans signed a certificate falsely claiming that Trump had won the election and named themselves Georgia's "duly elected and qualified" electors.

Shawn Still: The finance chair of the Georgia GOP in 2020 served as secretary for the December 2020 meeting and certified himself one of the fake electors. He is currently a Georgia state senator.

Cathy Latham: The former head of the Republican Party in Georgia's rural Coffee County was one of the 16 fake Trump electors and is charged with assisting in the "unlawful breach of election equipment" at the county elections office in January 2021, where Trump supporters accessed voting machine software and data.

Misty Hampton: The former Coffee County election supervisor is also accused of helping Trump supporters access voting equipment.

Mike Roman: The campaign official who was Trump's director of Election Day operations was charged with involvement in efforts to organize slates of false electors from battleground states.

Trevian Kutti: The former publicist for Kanye West is accused of taking part in a plot to pressure Fulton County campaign worker Ruby Freeman to confess to voter fraud accusations. Freeman, 61, became the target of harassment by Trump supporters after a video spread on right-wing media that falsely purported to show her producing unlawful ballots.

Kutti presented herself as someone with connections who could offer Freeman protection but only if she confessed to the phony fraud charges.

Stephen Lee and Willie Lewis Floyd III: Lee, a Lutheran pastor from Illinois, and Floyd, a former mixed martial arts fighter and director of the group Black Voices for Trump, were also charged in connection with the effort to intimidate Freeman and her daughter.

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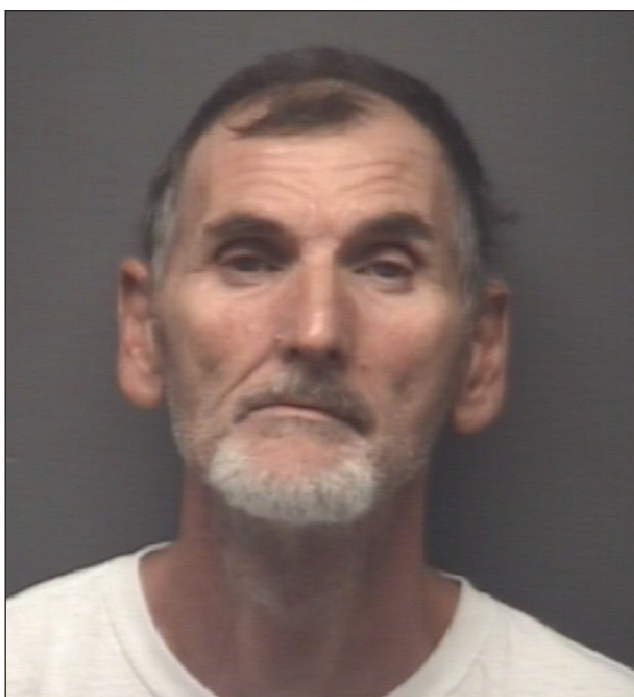
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## Dolphins defensive lineman Christian Wilkins sits out amid contract talks

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Miami Dolphins star defensive lineman Christian Wilkins is not participating in team activities because of ongoing negotiations for a contract extension, coach Mike McDaniel told reporters Wednesday in Houston.

McDaniel discussed Wilkins' status before the Dolphins' first day of joint practices with the Houston Texans on Wednesday at the Houston Methodist Training Center.

"Christian is such a good player and such an important person in the locker room, who has made it clear that he feels his play is deserving of a new contract," McDaniel told reporters. "We would agree, as the Miami Dolphins organization. Henceforth, we are in negotiations."

"As a result, he hasn't been participating with the team. When he next participates, that will be up to him."

Wilkins, who reported for the off-season program and training camp, but did not fully participate in practices or the Dolphins' preseason



opener, is set to play on the fifth-year option of his rookie contract.

Earlier this off-season, McDaniel said Wilkins "embodies" what he "expects" of Dolphins players. He also praised Wilkins for being coachable and called him an "im-

portant part of the team."

New Dolphins defensive coordinator Vic Fangio also praised Wilkins at training camp, calling the defensive lineman one of the "top players" in the NFL.

Wilkins rated as the NFL's No.

9 interior defender last season, according to Pro Football Focus. He was the fourth-best run defender.

"I'm comfortable with the situation as it stands," McDaniel said of Wilkins' status. "Christian and I are in constant communication."

This is part of the business that a lot of teams are dealing with."

Wilkins said earlier this month that he felt like he did "a lot to earn a new deal." He also said he is focused on giving his "all" to the organization, but hoped the Dolphins "give their all back" to him.

The Dolphins listed Wilkins as a defensive end on their first, unofficial depth chart. They listed Josiah Bronson and Randy Charlton as backup options. The Dolphins listed Raekwon Davis, Brandon Pili and Jaylen Twyman as their nose tackles.

Wilkins missed just two games through his first four seasons with the Dolphins. Both of those 2020 absences were because of his placement on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

The Dolphins will face the Texans in their second preseason game at 4 p.m. EDT Saturday in Houston. They will play the Jacksonville Jaguars in their preseason finale Aug. 26 in Jacksonville, Fla.

The Dolphins will meet the Los Angeles Chargers in their regular-season opener Sept. 10 in Los Angeles.

## Ex-NFL RB Alex Collins dies in motorcycle crash

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Former NFL running back Alex Collins died after he was involved in a motorcycle crash in Lauderdale Lakes, Fla., the Broward County Sheriff's Office announced in a news release. He was 28.

Officials said Monday that the incident occurred Sunday night. Traffic homicide unit detectives are investigating.

"The NFL family mourns the loss of Alex Collins and we extend our deepest condolences to his family, teammates and loved ones," the NFL said in a statement.

Investigators determined that the crash occurred at about 10:20 p.m. EDT Sunday. Collins was traveling eastbound on a 2004 Suzuki GSX-R600K when an adult female was traveling westbound in a 2002 Chevrolet Suburban SUV.

Investigators found that the Suburban was turning left when the motorcycle struck the passenger side from the eastbound lane. The motorcycle entered the rear passenger side window of the Suburban and came to a "final rest inside the car," the news release said.

The force of the collision caused the Suburban to rotate clockwise. Collins was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver of the Suburban remained on the scene and is cooperating with the investigation.

Collins, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native, attended South Plantation High School in Plantation, Fla. He went on to star at the University of Arkansas. Collins then joined the Seattle Seahawks as a fifth-round pick in the 2016 NFL Draft.

The Seahawks released Collins in 2017. He went on to play for the Baltimore Ravens in 2017 and 2018. Collins broke his leg in 2019 and did not play that season. The Seahawks re-signed Collins in 2020. He spent his final season with the team in 2021.

"Alex's infectious smile and classic river dance skills will forever be missed," Seahawks general manager John Schneider said in a statement. "Alex would light up a room and was beloved by our entire building. He enjoyed life and attacked it on the football field."

Collins totaled a career-high 1,160 yards from scrimmage in 2017 for the Ravens. He scored a career-high eight touchdowns in 2018. The five-year veteran logged 2,464 yards from scrimmage and 19 touchdowns over 50 career appearances.

Collins played for the USFL's Memphis Showboats earlier this year.

"Alex was a joy to be around and someone whose light shined brightly," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said of Collins. "I'll always remember him for being a great teammate who had an uplifting spirit that impacted everyone

## Burrow, Herbert, Mahomes lead 2023 fantasy football quarterback rankings

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Joe Burrow, Justin Herbert and Patrick Mahomes headline my Top 20 fantasy football quarterback rankings for the 2023 NFL campaign.

Justin Fields and Jalen Hurts are among my other Top 5 options at the position. Josh Allen, Lamar Jackson, Aaron Jones, Tua Tagovailoa and Trevor Lawrence are inside my Top 10.

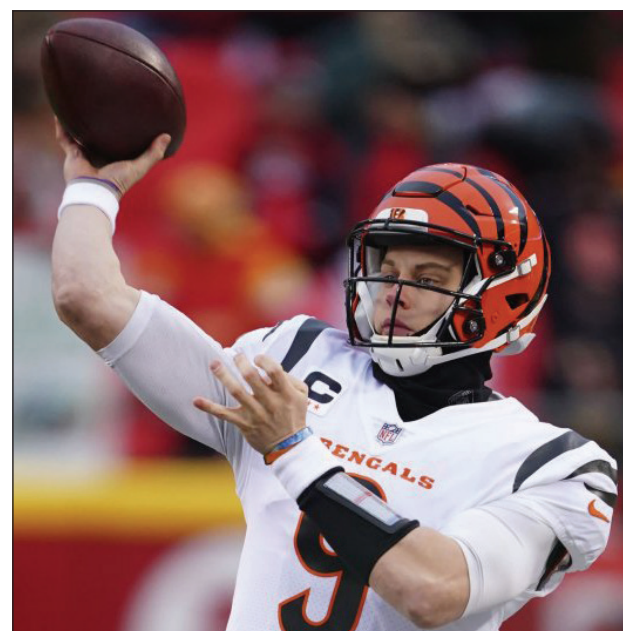
Mahomes and Allen most likely will be picked in the second or third round

of your fantasy draft, meaning they come with a much higher cost than many of my other options.

You should consider average draft position, injury history, expected and past production and strength of schedule when considering your team's passer.

I split my top targets into five tiers: Hall of Fame, All-Pro, Pro Bowl, Just Napping (early to mid-round targets) and Deep Sleepers (mid- to late-round sleepers). The full Top 20 rankings are below.

See HOF, page 9



## Struggling N.Y. Yankees drop to .500

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Aaron Judge bemoaned the New York Yankees' struggles, saying players aren't giving it their all, after being shut out by the Atlanta Braves. The Yankees are at .500, an unusually poor record for this late in the season.

"We're not showing up when we need to, especially down the stretch right now," Judge told reporters after the 5-0 loss Tuesday in Atlanta. "We've had every opportunity to keep ourselves in the race. We're not capitalizing on what we need to."

The Yankees (60-60) sit in last place in the American League East, 14 games behind the division-leading Baltimore Orioles (74-46). They started the season 3-1 and were 11 games over .500 (34-23) by June



4. They went 10-15 in July. They then lost five of their last six, including a current four-game skid.

The Yankees haven't been .500 this late in a season since they were 61-61 on Sept. 6, 1995. They finished that strike-shortened season 79-65-1 and managed to sneak into the playoffs after finishing second in the American League East.

The 2016 Yankees were 56-56 through Aug.

ers also have the fourth-worst ERA (4.69) in the American League. The Yankees lead MLB in relief pitcher ERA (3.22).

Braves starter Bryce Elder allowed just one hit over seven shutout innings to power Tuesday's triumph in Atlanta.

Yankees starter Luis Severino allowed five hits and five runs over four innings to drop to 2-8 this season. Braves designated hitter Marcell Ozuna and right fielder Ronald Acuna Jr. homered in the victory.

Ozuna and Acuna recorded two hits apiece for the Braves. First baseman D.J. LeMahieu was the only Yankees player to record a hit.

The Braves, with MLB's best record (77-42), will host the Yankees in the series finale at 7:20 p.m. EDT Wednesday in Atlanta.



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## HOF

continued from page 8

### Hall of Fame

1. Joe Burrow,
2. Justin Herbert
3. Patrick Mahomes

Burrow finished as the fourth-best fantasy quarterback last season, but I'm projecting a career-year for the Cincinnati Bengals star. The Bengals will return arguably the best wide receiver trio in the NFL, consisting of Ja'Marr Chase, Tee Higgins and Tyler Boyd.

They also made improvements to their offensive line for the second-consecutive off-season.

Burrow totaled a career-high 35 touchdown passes in 16 starts last season. Look for the Bengals playmaker to eclipse the 40-touchdown mark for the first time in 2023. I also can see Burrow totaling close to 5,000 passing yards.

Herbert is one of my favorite passers ahead of the 2023 fantasy football season. The Los Angeles Chargers quarterback totaled just 25 touchdown passes last season, but threw for more than 4,700 for the second-consecutive year.

The Chargers return a group of very talented offensive playmakers and have a fantasy football friendly schedule. I expect Herbert to throw more than 35 touchdown passes this season. He also should get close

to 5,000 passing yards.

All-Pro

4. Justin Fields, 5. Jalen Hurts, 6. Josh Allen, 7. Lamar Jackson

All four of my All-Pro options possess great arm talent, but also can dominate defenses while on the run. Fields is my No. 4 fantasy football quarterback this season. The Chicago Bears star threw just 17 touchdown passes, but ran for more 1,143 yards and eight scores in 2022.

The Bears have a fantasy football friendly schedule and should lean on Fields' playmaking ability again in 2023. They also improved their offensive arsenal, adding a legitimate WR1 in D.J. Moore through an off-season trade with the Carolina Panthers. They improved their offensive line through the 2023 NFL Draft and free agency.

Fields' playing style could lend itself to injury over a 17-game regular season, but he remains a stellar fantasy football play when he's on the field. He could be the No. 1 option at the position several times this season.

Like Burrow, Hurts is surrounded by fantastic playmakers. The Philadelphia Eagles passer leaned on wide receivers A.J. Brown and Devonta Smith for a very efficient campaign in 2022, throwing 22 touchdowns and six interceptions over 15 stars.

He also ran for 760 yards and 13 scores. I expect Hurts to again take advantage of the Eagles great offensive line and weapons, totaling close to 40 total touchdowns. He is my No. 5 option.

## 'This isn't normal,' NASA says in announcing July as hottest month on record

By Sheri Walsh  
 UPI

July was the hottest month on record in 143 years, as Americans felt "the effects of the climate crisis," scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York announced Monday.

According to NASA, July 2023 was on average 0.43 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than any other July on record. It was also 2.1 degrees warmer than the average July between 1951 and 1980, according to GISS which defines "normal" temperatures as lasting several decades, typically 30 years. The five hottest Julys since 1880 have all occurred in the past five years, NASA says.

"This July was not just warmer than any previous July -- it was the warm-

est month in our record, which goes back to 1880," NASA's GISS Director Gavin Schmidt said.

"The science is clear this isn't normal. Alarming warming around the world is driven primarily by human-caused greenhouse gas emissions. And that rise in average temperature is fueling dangerous extreme heat that people are experiencing here at home and worldwide," Schmidt added.

Some parts of the world were hotter than others and experienced temperatures around 7.2 degrees Fahrenheit above average. Tens of millions of people in parts of North America, South America, North Africa and the Antarctic Peninsula spent July under heat warnings, as hundreds suffered heat-related illnesses and deaths.

"Climate change is impacting people and ecosystems around the world, and we expect many of these impacts to escalate with continued warming," said Katherine Calvin, chief scientist and senior climate advisor at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Last week, the European Union's climate monitor also called July 2023 the hottest month around the globe with 29 of the warmest days ever recorded.

Copernicus, which tracks worldwide climate data for the EU, said daily surface air temperatures have risen drastically since 1940 with 2023 being the hottest summer on record.

NASA blames high sea surface temperatures and El Niño in the eastern tropical Pacific for contributing to July's record heat.

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# La Voz Latina

## Lionel Messi, Inter Miami beat Philadelphia Union, clinch spot in Leagues Cup final

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Lionel Messi scored his ninth goal in six games to help Inter Miami beat the Philadelphia Union and advance to the 2023 Leagues Cup final in Philadelphia.

Messi scored in the 20th minute of the 4-1 triumph Tuesday in Chester, Pa. Josef Martinez, Jordi Alba and David Ruiz also scored for the Herons.

"They are only going to get better," Union manager Jim Curtin told reporters. "That Miami team is going to go. Their ownership is going to spend like crazy and going to make them the best team in the league. ... That's coming and I don't think anything is stopping that."

The Herons, who remain the last place team in MLS, will take on Nashville SC in the Leagues Cup final Saturday in Nashville. They are undefeated (6-0) since Messi joined the team for the start of the Leagues Cup, which does not impact MLS standings.

Martinez started the scoring in the 3rd minute. Defender Serhiy Kryvtsov threaded a long pass



from behind midfield to start the play. Martinez ran into the box and used his first touch to fire a shot just inside the far post.

The Herons doubled the lead less than 16 minutes later. Martinez received the ball just be-

yond midfield to spark a play in transition. He then turned his dribble and found Messi to his left. Messi stopped the ball and dribbled about 15 yards before he unleashed a grounded shot from about 30 yards out. The laser

flashed by goalie Andre Blake and found the right side of the net.

Fellow Herons striker Robert Taylor assisted left back Jordi Alba for the Herons' third score in first-half stoppage time. Taylor dribbled between a crowd of defenders at

midfield to create space. He then slipped a long through ball ahead for Alba. The veteran defender blazed down the field with his dribble and finished the play with a shot into the far-post netting.

Midfielder Alejandro Bedoya finally put the Union on the scoreboard in the 73rd minute. That goal came after a corner kick was deflected. The ball bounced around the box before it landed about six yards away from the near post. Bedoya ran to the ball and smashed in a shot with the outside of his right boot.

Heron's midfielder David Ruiz scored the final goal of the game in the 84th minute. Right back Deandre Yedlin dribbled up the right flank before he dropped a pass in the box for Ruiz. The midfielder ran onto the ball and used his right boot to hit a shot into the far-post netting just before Blake could stop the attempt.

Inter Miami, who also claimed a 2024 Concacaf Champions Cup spot with the victory, will face Nashville SC at 9 p.m. EDT Saturday at Geodis Park. The game will air on Apple TV.



## Dominican authorities investigate Wander Franco amid MLB probe

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Wander Franco will be away from the Tampa Bay Rays, with no set date for return, amid investigations by MLB and Dominican Republic authorities into social media posts related to the short-stop, officials said.

The media office for the attorney general of the Dominican Republic confirmed an investigation Tuesday to UPI, but did not provide details. The social media posts, which surfaced Sunday, alleged that Franco was in an inappropriate relationship with a minor.

Franco, a Bani, D.R., native, denied the allegations in a now-deleted video he posted Sunday to Instagram Live.

"We cannot provide information on the subject at this time; authorities are in the middle of the investigation," the media

office for the attorney general of the Dominican Republic said in a statement.

The Rays announced Monday that MLB was investigating the infielder and that Franco would go on the restricted list. They said Franco will take leave for the duration of their current road trip, which started Monday and ends Sunday.

Franco was held out of the Rays' 9-2 loss to the Cleveland Guardians on Sunday in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"We support any steps taken by the league to better understand the situation," the Rays said in a statement. "Out of respect for all parties involved, we have no further comments at this time."

Players on MLB's restricted list are not eligible to participate in big-league or minor-league games.

The Rays will face the San Francisco Giants at 9:45 p.m. EDT Tuesday in San Francisco.

## ABC announces 'View' lineup for 2023-24



By Karen Butler  
UPI

ABC News has announced the lineup of panelists for its daytime chat show, The View, for the 2023-24 television season.

The show returns with fresh episodes after its summer hiatus on Sept. 5.

Returning for Season 27 will be moderator Whoopi Goldberg and co-hosts Joy Behar, Sunny Hostin, Sara Haines, Alyssa Farah Griffin and Ana Navarro.

The show premiered in 1997.

It was created and initially co-hosted by the late broadcasting legend Barbara Walters, who left the show in 2014 and died in

2022 at the age of 93.

Our new season kicks off LIVE Tuesday, Sept. 5!

What are the three words each co-host of #TheView shared to describe the new season? Watch 'til the end for a surprise behind the camera! pic.twitter.com/nYbZsdW9vs— The View (@TheView) August 16, 2023

## Jennifer Lopez voices love for Ben Affleck on his 51st birthday

By Annie Martin  
UPI

Jennifer Lopez is celebrating Ben Affleck's 51st birthday.

The 54-year-old singer and actress marked the occasion Tuesday by dedicating a post to Affleck on Instagram.

Lopez shared the tribute alongside a video of herself and Affleck singing along to Sam Cooke's "(What A) Wonderful World" in the car. She

voiced her love for Affleck in the caption.

"Dear Ben... Happy Birthday. I love you!" Lopez wrote.

In July, Affleck hosted a party for Lopez at their new home in honor of her 54th birthday.

"I felt so appreciated and acknowledged by my loved ones, and I'm extremely grateful to be where I am today at this point in my life's journey with so many beautiful, caring people to share it all with," Lopez said in her

newsletter.

The couple celebrated their first wedding anniversary earlier that month.

Lopez and Affleck married in Las Vegas in July 2022 and had a second wedding with family and friends that August.

Lopez has two children, twins Emme and Max, with her ex-husband Marc Anthony, while Affleck has three kids, Violet, Seraphina and Samuel, with his ex-wife, Jennifer Garner.

## Carmona leads Spain into first Women's World Cup final

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Spain and Sweden played 80 minutes of scoreless soccer before nearly 9 minutes of bedlam Tuesday in a Women's World Cup semifinal. Olga Carmona scored the clincher in the 89th minute, leading Spain to the finale.

Spain will meet England or host country Australia in the finale Sunday in Sydney.

The Spaniards will make their first appearance in a Women's World Cup final.

Salma Paralluelo also scored for Spain in the 2-1 triumph Tuesday in Auckland, New Zealand. Fellow striker Rebecka Blomqvist scored Sweden's lone goal.

"It was a very tough game," Paralluelo said on the Fox broadcast. "It could've been difficult to recover from their goal, but we've shown that his team

can deal with everything. We deserved this. We took this little step, and now we need that final push.

"Now it's the final. I think we have to do what we've done in every match. We've overcome every challenge and now we face the ultimate challenge, the big one."

Tuesday's game marked the first time in Women's World Cup history that a three-goal match didn't include an initial score within

the first 80 minutes.

"We got ahead on the scoreboard and they tied us again," Spain manager Jorge Vilda said. "The team overcame it, we scored the winning goal and now we have enormous happiness."

"In the first minutes of the second half, we had a bad time. They were getting very close, but the game changed and we had more bite. ... We are in the final

of a World Cup. My hair is standing on its ends."

Both sides attempted early chances, with Carmona missing just wide of the right post in the 14th minute on one of those initial opportunities.

Goalie Cata Coll denied a point-blank-range shot from Sweden forward Fridolina Rolfo in the 42nd minute.

Spain forward Alba Redondo nearly broke the

deadlock again in the 70th minute, but her shot from the ground went into the outside netting, just beyond the left post.

Paralluelo then sparked the scoring frenzy, beating Sweden goalie Zecira Musovic in the 81st minute.

Forward Jenni Hermoso curled in a cross from above the box to set up that score. The entry pass was deflected out, landing 10 yards from the net.