

IMPACT



Impact Leadership & Educational Center

"Empowering Communities Through Education"

Academic Support, leadership center and afterschool learning program.

Engaging today's youth to develop teamwork and communication skills.

Parent Impact program

Summer explorations to develop critical thinking skills.

www.impactmonarchs.com • ilec@impactmonarchs.com



Martin Community College is Building Better Futures for Everyone!

www.martincc.edu 252-792-1521 admissions@martincc.edu Spring Semester Starts Jan. 8

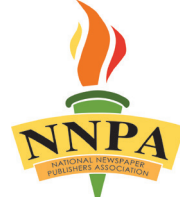


November 16 - 29, 2023

TDD The Daily Drum

READ ONLINE

www.dailydrummedia.com



@thedailydrum

www.dailydrummedia.com

252-933-5406

mobile

Quality is Our Standard, Integrity is Our Tradition.

A Biweekly Newspaper

Serving Down East North Carolina

BREAKING NEWS: HOUSE PASSES SPEAKERS BILL TO AVOID SHUTDOWN

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

N.Y. Rep. George Santos' former fundraiser pleads guilty to wire fraud

By Sheri Walsh
UPI

Sam Miele, the second person charged alongside embattled Rep. George Santos, R-N.Y., pleaded guilty Tuesday to one count of wire fraud while admitting he impersonated an aide to former House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

Miele, 27, appeared before a federal judge in Central Islip, N.Y., and admitted to the fund-raising scheme in the fall of 2021 that involved impersonating an unidentified aide in order to solicit funds for Santos.

"Between August and December 2021, I pretended I was chief of staff

to the then leader of the House of Representatives," Miele said. "I did that to raise funds for the campaign I was working on."

According to prosecutors, Miele claimed to be a "high ranking aide to a member of the House with leadership responsibilities," in emails and phone calls. Miele admitted he committed access device fraud by charging credit cards without authorization and was paid 15% for whatever he brought in.

"The defendant used fraud and deceit to steal more than \$100,000 from his victims, funneling this money into the campaign commit-

See **SANTOS**, page 4



During Senate hearing, GOP lawmaker threatens to fight organized labor leader

By Joe Fisher
UPI

We can finish it here," Mullin said. "That's fine. Perfect," O'Brien responded.

"Do you want to do it right now," Mullin asked.

"I'd love to do it right now," O'Brien replied.

"Well stand your butt up then," Mullin said.

"You stand your butt up, big guy," O'Brien said.

Mullin then stood briefly as Chairman Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., called on him to sit down. He pounded the gavel several times as Mullin and O'Brien continued to exchange barbs.

"You're a United States senator. Sit down," Sanders said to Mullin.

See **THREAT**, page 3

Thrown elbows and threats of a fistfight marked a tense day on Capitol Hill with a potential government shutdown looming.

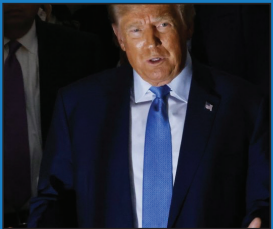
During a hearing on labor unions by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Oklahoma Republican Markwayne Mullin stood up and challenged Teamsters President Sean O'Brien to a fight.

Mullin read some social media posts O'Brien had tweeted following a previous Senate hearing before getting into a back-and-forth with him.

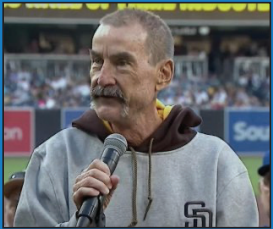
"If you want to run your mouth, we can be two consenting adults.



Protective order sought after witness footage leaked in Donald Trump election trial
Page 4



Donald Trump moves for mistrial in N.Y. civil fraud case, alleges bias
Page 6



San Diego Padres owner Peter Seidler dies at 63
Page 8



British police arrest man in death of hockey player Adam Johnson
Page 9

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT EDGECOMBE-MARTIN COUNTY EMC



Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



www.dailydrummedia.com

OPINION

The next year will determine if Donald Trump is another Teflon Don

Donald J. Trump is trapped in a maze of criminal and civil trials. With a total of 91 indictments against him, Trump is in extreme legal and political jeopardy that could land him in prison.

If he runs for president, these cases could cost him the 2024 election. Of course, Americans are innocent until proven guilty. And juries are unpredictable.

But will he avoid convictions? Trump lost a civil suit in May filed by E. Jean Carroll costing him \$5 million. Carroll has him back in court on Jan. 15, the day of the Iowa Caucuses. The Trump Organization was found guilty in December of tax fraud, grand larceny and falsifying records.

But the two federal and two state trials must worry Trump and his lawyers most. In Georgia, Trump was indicted for racketeering and violating the RICO statute (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Practices Act) by attempting to overthrow the 2020 Georgia elections. Three of his attorneys have obtained plea agreements. Reportedly, more are forthcoming. This can only be damning for Trump.

On March 4, the day before Super Tuesday, Trump faces federal charges of attempting to overthrow the 2020 presidential election by creating a false slate of electors. The state trial, scheduled for March 25, is about falsifying records in paying \$130,000 to porn actress Stormy Daniels as "hush money." And what seems to be the most likely case leading to conviction is illegal possession and handling of classified documents and obstruction of justice. No trial date has been set yet.

In this last case, evidence of guilt came from the president's own mouth. He volunteered that he did possess classified material; asserted he still had declassification authority, even though he did not; and wrongly argued that he had authority from the Presidential Records Act to keep classified material.

Trump has been a Teflon Don in avoiding criminal and most civil prosecutions since his earliest days in business with his father. His current defenses range from pleading immunity to delay. He has tried to intimidate judges and potential jurors. In the New York fraud trial, Judge Arthur Engoron fined Trump \$15,000 for violating gag orders.

If Trump is re-elected president, he could self-pardon any federal convictions. Georgia is more problematic. For anyone convicted and sentenced to jail, Georgia statutes require serving a minimum of five years before pardon or commutation can be granted. The governor has no power to pardon. Because it is state law, neither does the president.

The New Yorker of Trump's generation who combined celebrity status with an avalanche of trials was another Don -- the Teflon Don and crime boss John Gotti. Some readers will find the comparisons offensive. But the similarities are striking. If convicted of attempting to subvert an election, as well as failing to safeguard the nation's secrets, are these charges any less serious than those leveled against Gotti?

Former FBI Director James Comey wrote in his autobiography that Trump operated in ways reminiscent of the mob. Loyalty was paramount. And Trump often operated according to his own rules, often of doubtful legality.

Trump has been Teflon-like in winning. And he is as flamboyant in disregarding court instructions. Like Gotti, if convicted in the classified material trial, Trump will have admitted his own guilt.

Gotti became notorious after Gambino crime boss Paul Castellano was gunned down outside the New York steakhouse Sparks before Christmas in 1985. Gotti ordered the hit and became New York's leading crime boss.

Arrested numerous times and convicted of manslaughter in 1980, Gotti gained an early release. Then followed numerous trials that were media spectacles in which the Teflon Don wore \$2,000 suits. Unlike other criminals, he craved media attention. Gotti eluded conviction, despite overwhelming evidence against him. And he was no less a New York celebrity than Trump.

A Path Forward for Trump: Rising Above the Fray

In these tumultuous times, our beloved United States finds itself at a crossroads of division, rife with political strife, cultural clashes and social discord. It's a challenging moment in history, one that begs for leadership that transcends the partisan bickering and personal animosities that have marred our recent political landscape. Former President Donald J. Trump, a polarizing figure for many, stands at a unique crossroads himself. The question is not whether he should seek revenge, but whether he can rise above and adopt a more presidential and unifying posture. The future of our nation depends on his choices, and the path he takes from hereon.

roles in the world, demands a level of decorum and restraint. It necessitates a focus on the welfare of the nation as a whole, rather than the settling of personal scores. To truly become presidential, Trump must rise above the urge for revenge and name-calling. The United States deserves leaders who can prioritize the greater good over personal vendettas, and Trump needs to rise above and be the type of leader his detractors don't think he's capable of being.



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

It is undeniable that Trump has his legions of supporters who revere him for his plain-spoken approach and his commitment to shaking up the political establishment. Yet, it is equally undeniable that he has his detractors, who decry his divisive rhetoric, name-calling and past prolific use of Twitter to air grievances and settle scores. To chart a path back to the presidency, Trump must reckon with these realities and work to become a different person, one who seeks unity rather than division.

First and foremost, Trump should embrace the wisdom that comes from experience. The presidency, one of the most challenging

his base and providing a direct line of communication to the American people, while also exacerbating divisions with inflammatory tweets. In his quest to become presidential, Trump must adopt a more disciplined approach to communication, one that prioritizes thoughtful discourse over impulsivity. Instead of reacting to every slight and provocation, he should engage in measured, substantive discussions, and avoid the kind of social media warfare that exacerbates our already fragile national unity.

Trump should reach across the aisle, bridging the divide that separates Republicans from Democrats and conservatives from liberals. It is not an easy task, but it is a necessary one. The political polarization that plagues our country has become a major impediment to progress. Trump can show true leadership by working with Democrats on issues of common concern, such as infrastructure, health care and immigration reform. It's by embracing a spirit of cooperation that he can help mend the fractured political landscape.

On the cultural and social front, Trump must also strive to be a unifying force. Our nation is marked by its diversity, and a president must be a leader for all Americans, regardless of their race, religion or background. Trump has an opportunity to be the kind

of leader who respects and values the differences that make our country strong. He can set a tone that encourages respectful dialogue and fosters a climate where differing opinions are considered and appreciated rather than vilified.

One key aspect of becoming presidential is a commitment to moral and ethical leadership. Our nation has been sorely tested in this regard, with scandals and controversies that have eroded trust in government institutions. Trump can help restore that trust by adhering to the highest ethical standards and by promoting transparency in government. He should surround himself with advisers who share this commitment and work tirelessly to root out corruption and impropriety in all levels of government.

The United States stands at a critical juncture, with political, cultural and social divides threatening to undermine the very fabric of our nation. To once again seek the presidency, Donald Trump must rise above the urge for revenge and divisiveness. He can choose to be a different person, one who embodies the ideals of unity, decorum and moral leadership that our great nation deserves. It's a path that requires strength, humility and a commitment to the greater good. Only then can we hope for a more harmonious and prosperous future for our beloved United States.

U.N. review shows the world is falling short of climate goals, signs of progress

When this year's United Nations Climate Change Conference begins in late November 2023, it will be a moment for course correction. Seven years ago, nearly every country worldwide signed onto the Paris climate agreement. They agreed to goals of limiting global warming -- including key targets to be met by 2030, seven years from now.

A primary aim of this year's conference, known as COP28, is to evaluate countries' progress halfway to the 2030 deadlines.

Reports show that the world isn't on track. At the same time, energy security concerns and disputes over how to compensate countries for loss and damage from climate change are making agreements on cutting emissions tougher to reach.

But as energy and environmental policy researchers, we also see signs of progress.

Global stocktake raises alarms

A cornerstone of COP28 is the conclusion of the global stocktake, a review underway of the world's efforts to address climate change. It is designed to pinpoint deficiencies and help countries recalibrate their climate strategies.

A report on the stocktake so far stressed that while the Paris Agreement has spurred action on climate change around the globe, current policies and promises to cut greenhouse

gas emissions still leave the world on a trajectory that falls far short of the agreement's aim to limit warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) compared with preindustrial temperatures.

Governments worldwide plan to produce twice as much fossil fuel in 2030 than would be allowed under a 1.5 C warming pathway, another U.N.-led report released in early November found.

Limiting global warming to 1.5 C rather than 2 C (3.6 F), may appear to be a minor improvement, but the accumulated global benefits of doing so could exceed US\$20 trillion.

Escalating greenhouse gas emissions are the primary factor driving the rise in global temperatures. And fossil fuels account for over three-quarters of those emissions.

To avoid overshooting 1.5 C of warming, global greenhouse gas emissions will have to fall by about 45% by 2030, compared with 2010 levels, and reach net zero around 2050, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

But emissions aren't falling. They rose in 2022, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. The global average temperature briefly breached the 1.5 C warming limit in March and June 2023.

The global stocktake unambiguously states that, to meet the Paris targets, countries must collectively be more ambitious in cutting

greenhouse gas emissions. That includes rapidly reducing carbon emissions from all economic sectors. It means accelerating adoption of renewable energy such as solar and wind power, implementing more stringent measures to stop and reverse deforestation, and deploying clean technologies such as heat pumps and electric vehicles on a wide scale.

The significance of phasing out fossil fuels

The report underscores one point repeatedly: the pressing need to "phase out all unabated fossil fuels."

Fossil fuels currently make up 80% of the world's total energy consumption. Their use in 2022 resulted in an all-time high of 36.8 gigatons of CO2 from both energy combustion and industrial activities.

Despite the risks of climate change, countries still provide huge subsidies to the oil, coal and gas industries. In all, they provided about US \$1.3 trillion in explicit subsidies for fossil fuels in 2022, according to the International Monetary Fund's calculations. China, the U.S., Russia, the European Union and India are the largest subsidizers, and these subsidies sharply increased after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 disrupted energy markets.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres has stressed the importance of transitioning away from fossil fuels, criticizing the extensive profits made by "entrenched interests" in

the fossil fuel sector.

African countries also made their view of subsidies clear in the "Nairobi Declaration" at the first Africa Climate Summit in 2023, where leaders called for the elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and endorsed the idea of a global carbon tax on fossil fuel trade.

The global stocktake highlights the significance of eradicating fossil fuel subsidies to eliminate economic roadblocks that hinder the shift to greener energy sources. However, it's important to note that the report uses the phrase "unabated fossil fuels." The word "unabated" has been contentious. It allows room for continued use of fossil fuels, as long as technologies such as carbon capture and storage prevent emissions from entering the atmosphere. But those technologies aren't yet operating on a wide scale.

Solutions for an equitable transition

Several initiatives have been launched recently to expedite the move away from fossil fuels.

In July 2023, Canada unveiled a strategy to terminate inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, becoming the first G20 nation to pledge a halt to government support for oil and natural gas, with some exceptions.

The European Union is broadening its carbon market to include emissions from buildings and transport, targeting decarbonization across more sectors.



Daily Drum Media Group
PO Box 965
Greenville, NC 27835
www.dailydrummedia.com
tdd@dailydrummediagroup.com

Roger Johnson.....Publisher
Ben Johnson.....CFO
Alishia Albrooks.....Sales Consultant
George Ayino.....Sales Consultant
Ben Ayino.....Sales Consultant
Data Group.....Web Host
Jasmine Smith.....Accounting Consultant
Restoration NewsMedia.....Graphic Design & Layout

THE DAILY DRUM IS PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY FOR \$25.00 (PLUS TAX) PER YEAR BY THE DAILY DRUM MEDIA GROUP, P.O. BOX 965, GREENVILLE, NC 27835. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GREENVILLE, NC.

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE DAILY DRUM, P.O. BOX 965, GREENVILLE, NC 27835.

Jamboree dates

The next Jamboree will be held at The Redmen's Lodge, On December 2, 2023 starting at 5:00 to 7:30. (Moved to The First Saturday of December). We will celebrate Christmas with Mr. and MS. Santa Claus and Helpers to hand out gifts.

All area mentally/-physically-challenged residents and all volunteers are invited. For more information or to volunteer or to make donations, please call Jamboree Secretary Tine Woolard 252-833-0059 and leave a message, or Vice president Michael Cutler.

Threat

continued from page 1

"This is a hearing. God knows the American people have enough contempt for Congress. Let's not make it worse."

After Mullin returned to his seat and order was restored, Mullin and O'Brien debated over who had issued a challenge to the other. O'Brien said Mullin "challenged me to a cage match, acting like a schoolyard bully."

Sanders again intervened and called on Mullin and O'Brien to focus on economic issues and other relevant topics, and not discuss "physical abuse."

"This is a hearing to discuss economic issues," Sanders reminded the committee.

Mullin then recalled O'Brien being suspended by the Teamsters over making threats to its members. O'Brien was accused of organizing harassment and intimidation efforts against members.

Mullin then attempted to challenge O'Brien to fight him at a charity event in Tulsa, Okla., on April 30, but Sanders again intervened.

"Accept my challenge, tough guy," Mullin said as O'Brien began to respond to the his previous statements.

"You're -- what should be one of the most influential people in this country, making changes" O'Brien said. "You're focused on debate that's not even relevant."

According to Mullin's website he is a former mixed martial arts fighter with a record of 5-0 and was inducted into the Oklahoma Wrestling Hall of Fame.

Elsewhere in the Capitol Building, Rep. Tim Burchett, R-Tenn., accused Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., of elbowing him in the kidneys. Rep. Matt Gaetz has called for an Ethics Committee investigation.

Lawmakers have until Friday at midnight to pass an appropriations bill and avert a government shut-down.

Sanders again intervened and called on Mullin and O'Brien to focus on economic issues and other relevant topics, and not discuss "physical abuse."

Thanksgiving Meals for 50 Pitt County Families

LOCAL RESTAURANT PARTNERS WITH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

PITT COUNTY, N.C. – Sheriff Paula Dance and the Pitt County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) recently partnered with The Rickhouse restaurant located at 710 Red Banks Road, Greenville, to provide Thanksgiving meals to 50 Pitt County families. Sheriff Dance then worked with the Department of Social Services (DSS) to ensure that our community's families could be served in the most efficient ways possible.

"I am deeply grateful when businesses in the community choose to partner with my office with their generous donations for those who are most in need. Acts of kindness and compassion such as this will make a meaningful difference in the lives of many. We

are truly thankful for their support this Thanksgiving. Together, we are spreading warmth, love, and hope during this special season of giving," says Pitt County Sheriff Paula Dance.

The Rickhouse will provide meals to feed 50 families of 4-6 people identified by the Agency's In-Home program in collaboration with the Sheriff's Office.

"In the spirit of the season, The Rickhouse, PCSO and the Pitt County Department of Social Services are making a difference in the lives of Pitt County families by providing them with a Thanksgiving dinner," says Sharon Rochelle, Director, Department of Social Services.

DSS In-Home Program's role is

to provide support to families to safely maintain children in their home. This is achieved by engaging the family, provision of supports and referrals to other service providers.

The donated reheat and serve meals of turkey/ham, stuffing, corn, green beans, potato salad, mac and cheese, and rolls will be delivered by DSS staff during the week of Thanksgiving following National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week (November 13-21, 2023).

For more information, contact Sgt. Lee Darnell at (252) 902-2724 or lee.darnell@pittcountync.gov.

The Mission of Pitt County Government is to enhance the health, safety, and well-being of our community by advocating for and providing quality services in a friendly and cost-effective manner. Learn more: www.PittCountyNC.

Pre-Employment Transition Services
Ages 14-21 With A Disability

FREE AFTERSCHOOL

OPEN REGISTRATION

- Job Exploration & Counseling
- Work Readiness Training
- Training Skills Provided
- Work-Based Learning-Paid Employment
- Transportation Provided

In Partnership With:
Pitt County Schools & Department of Vocational Rehabilitation

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
McCloud & Associates, Inc.
Valerie McCloud
2423 Mill Street
Winterville, NC 28590
252-355-6272

Early detection improves your odds.

We have to improve the odds.

Lung cancer remains the second most common form of cancer in North Carolina. Each year, 9,000 residents are diagnosed with it and more than 5,000 die because lung cancer symptoms oftentimes don't appear until it's too late. But it doesn't have to be that way. There is a screening that can detect lung cancer early - before you have symptoms. And when lung cancer is caught early, survival rates can increase up to 90 percent.



To learn more about who should be screened, visit ECUHealth.org/breathe

Martin Community College builds better futures!

1161 Kehukee Park Road, Williamston, NC



MCC offers 32 degree programs as well as several certificates and continuing Education classes that qualify for Career in a Year tuition funding. Registration is now underway! Spring semester begins January 8!



Nurse Aide I and II, Phlebotomy, and Activity Director



Cosmetology



Electrical Systems Technology



College Transfer

Did you know?

MCC has the highest college transfer success rate in Eastern NC and second highest of all 58 community colleges in NC! This means that a high percentage (91.3%) of MCC's students (Associate Degree completers and those who have completed 30 or more of transfer credits), transferring to a four-year university or college during the fall semester, have remained enrolled or graduated by the next fall semester.

Learn more at admissions@martincc.edu or call 252-789-0293.

Martin Community College is committed to an environment that embraces diversity, respects the rights of all individuals, is open and accessible, and is free of harassment and discrimination.



Hunter Biden seeks to subpoena Donald Trump, Bill Barr in federal gun case

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

Hunter Biden, the president's son who is facing federal gun charges, asked his judge on Wednesday for permission to subpoena former President Donald Trump and former Attorney General William Barr in his defense.

Republicans long have argued that the dragnet investigation into Biden has been influenced by political pressure to go lenient on him after it was started under the Trump administration.

The filing appears to turn the table on the question of political influence back to the former Republican president and his ex-attorney general. The younger Biden saw his plea deal on three

federal weapons charges fall apart in July.

The move is a continued counteroffensive by Biden's legal team since the president's son entered not-guilty pleas to the charges after the plea deal ended.

Last month, Biden sued Trump's former attorney Rudy Giuliani over the release of private materials found on his laptop, the Internal Revenue Service for allegedly releasing his confidential information, and former White House aide Garrett Ziegler in the matter.

"Mr. Biden seeks specific information from three former DOJ officials and the former President that goes to the heart of his defense that this is, possibly, a vindictive or selective prosecution arising

from an unrelenting pressure campaign beginning in the last administration, in violation of Mr. Biden's Fifth Amendment rights under the Constitution," Biden lawyer Abbe Lowell wrote to U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika.

Hunter Biden's attorney also wants subpoenas for former acting U.S. Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen and Richard Donoghue, Rosen's deputy attorney general.

"Public reporting reveals certain instances that appear to suggest incessant, improper, and partisan pressure applied by then President Trump to Messrs. Rosen, Donoghue, and Barr in relation to an investigation of Mr. Biden," the court documents said.

Protective order sought after witness footage leaked in Donald Trump election trial

By Patrick Hilsman
UPI

Prosecutors in former President Donald Trump's election interference trial have asked for an emergency protective order after footage of conversations between witnesses and prosecutors was leaked to the public.

Trump faces charges of racketeering and conspiracy related to attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

So-called proffer videos of Trump's co-defendants speaking to prosecutors were published Monday by several news media outlets. Proffer recordings from former Trump associates Kenneth Chesbro, Jenna Ellis and Sidney Powell were leaked.

Footage of bail bondsman Scott Hall, who pleaded guilty to charges related to subverting the election in September, making proffer



statements also was leaked.

A proffer agreement is one in which a defendant agrees to provide information to prosecutors in a case. Typically, defendants' statements are given to prosecutors with the understanding that the information they provide can't be used against them in court.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis made the emergency request in a filing to the Superior Court of Fulton County on Tuesday. "The State of Georgia, by

and through Fulton County District Attorney Fani T. Willis, and on an EMERGENCY BASIS renews its prior request that this court enter a protective order over all discovery materials produced by the state to any defendant in this matter," Willis wrote in her filing.

"The release of these confidential videos was clearly intended to intimidate witnesses in this case, subjugating them to harassment and threats prior to trial," Willis wrote.

Santos

continued from page 1

tees of candidates for the House and into his own pockets," U.S. Attorney Breon Peace said Tuesday.

Santos has said he was not aware of Miele's fundraising scheme and fired Miele shortly after learning about it from Republican leadership.

In August, Miele was charged with four counts of wire fraud, as well as aggravated identity theft.

While it remains unclear whether Miele's guilty plea Tuesday is part of a deal to testify against Santos, Miele agreed to pay \$109,171 in restitution, \$69,136 in forfeiture and a payment of \$470,000 to a

contributor. He faces a mandatory minimum sentence of two years in prison when he is sentenced April 30.

Miele is the second person alongside Santos to plead guilty. Nancy Marks, Santos' campaign treasurer, pleaded guilty last month.

Santos pleaded not guilty last month to a 23-count federal indictment, accusing him of unlawful monetary transactions, identity theft, donor credit card theft and a false \$500,000 campaign loan report.

Two weeks ago, Santos survived the U.S. House of Representatives' second attempt to oust him, as most Republicans voted to save the beleaguered congressman amid concerns his expulsion before a criminal proceeding would set a dangerous precedent.

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE STREET SUMMIT JOB FAIR 2023



Now Boarding...
American Airlines

PGV
PITT-GREENVILLE AIRPORT

www.flypgv.com

400 AIRPORT RD., GREENVILLE, NC 27834 • 252-902-2025



Artificial Intelligence Could Impact Black Voting During 2024 Elections

BLACK LEADERS CALL FOR SAFEGUARDS AGAINST IT

By Barrington M. Salmon

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - For much of the last century, segregationists and their anti-Black racist allies who were intent on ensuring that African-Americans couldn't exercise the right to vote, erected an assortment of barriers to that end.

Segregationists used the courts, local and state laws, literacy tests, poll taxes, fraud, brute force, violence and intimidation by the Ku Klux Klan to impede and prevent Black people from exercising their constitutional right.

In the 21st century, voter suppression has gone high-tech with the same characters still plotting to control who votes, when and how. They are employing an assortment of methods including Artificial Intelligence (AI). Concerns about misuse of AI in the electoral ecosystem is what brought Melanie Campbell and Damon T. Hewitt to testify before the U. S. Congress.

Campbell, President & CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation (NCBCP) and Convener of the Black Women's Roundtable (BWR), spoke of the urgency around creating safeguards and federal legislation to protect against the technology's misuse as it relates to elections, democracy, and voter education, while fighting back against the increasing threats surrounding targeted misinformation and disinformation.

"AI has the potential to be a significant threat because of how rapidly it's moving," Campbell said. There was Russian targeting of Black men with misinformation in 2020 to encourage them not to vote. It started in 2016."

Both civil rights leaders warned that misinformation driven by artificial intelligence may worsen considerably for African-American voters leading up to the 2024 presidential election.

"What we have seen though our work demonstrates how racial justice, voting rights, and technology are inextricably linked," said Hewitt, president and executive director of The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law during his testimony. "Voters of color already face disproportionate barriers to the ballot box that make it more difficult and more costly for them to vote without factoring in the large and growing cost of targeted mis- and disinformation on our communities."

Hewitt said AI technologies could be used to refine and test data to generate targeted lists of voters based on the patterns, interests, and behaviors of specific individuals.

"Forget using zip codes as a proxy for race; the targeted lists of tomorrow will weaponize sophisticated machine learning technologies, using individual identities or behaviors to target Black voters with surgical precision, all in order to mislead and harm them," he warned.

Campbell and Hewitt said that during recent election cycles, African Americans have been specifically targeted by disinformation campaigns.

"AI technology threatens to turn already fragile conditions for our democracy into a perfect storm," Hewitt said. "The spread of misinformation and disinformation online to influence elections and disenfranchise voters, often specifically Black voters, is already commonplace. Communities of color who already sacrifice so much to cast a ballot and make our democracy work are increasingly subjected to new downsides of technological innovation without reaping the rewards."

The pair referred to a lawsuit, NCBCP vs. Wohl, filed by the Lawyers' Committee and involving NCBCP which was a plaintiff two men who targeted Black voters in New



York, Pennsylvania and Ohio disinformation via robocalls in an effort to sway the outcome of the 2020 Elections.

"In the weeks before the 2020 Election, the Election Protection hotline received complaints from voters about robocalls using deceptive information to discourage people from voting. After investigating, we found that two individuals, Jack Burkman and Jacob Wohl, had sent 85,000 robocalls largely to Black Americans," Hewitt said.

The goal was to discourage African Americans from voting by mail, lying that their personal information would be added to a public database used by law enforcement to execute warrants; to collect credit card debts; and by public health entities to force people to take mandatory vaccinations.

"These threats played upon systemic inequities likely to resonate with and intimidate Black Americans," Hewitt said. "We filed a lawsuit, National Coalition on Black Civic Participation v. Wohl, in which a federal court issued a restraining order to stop the robocalls and later ruled that this conspiracy to silence Black voters was intimidating, threatening, and coercive in violation of the Voting Rights Act and Ku Klux Klan Act. The methods used for those deceptive robocalls in 2020 look primitive by 2023 standards. But they hold three important lessons for democracy when surveying the AI technology of today and tomorrow."

Campbell concurred. She said AI would allow this type of weaponization to be more significant using texts, video and audio.

"AI increases the ability to do that in larger formats. We are trying to address this. Elections and democracy is really, really important," she said. "So many places that can go. So much you can do online now. You have open source where just about anyone who wants to can use AI for nefarious means. There is a lot of angst with those doing voting rights and elections work.

You don't know how bad it can be until you know how bad it's been."

Campbell and Hewitt agree that the exploding capabilities of AI technology can drastically multiply the amount of harm to American democracy. Campbell adds that Google, Microsoft and Meta are the front line companies who activists hope will step up and put guardrails in place because the 2024 elections is overwhelmed by AI-driven misinformation and disinformation.

"In malicious hands and absent strong regulation, AI can clone voices so that calls sound like trusted public figures, election officials, or even possibly friends and relatives," said Hewitt. "In malicious hands and absent strong regulation, AI can clone voices so that calls sound like trusted public figures, election officials, or even possibly friends and relatives. The technology could reach targeted individuals across platforms, following up the AI call with targeted online advertisements, fake bot accounts seeking to follow them on social media, customized emails or WhatsApp messages, and carefully tailored memes."

Hewitt said the technology could send messages reaching targeted individuals across several platforms. Then the messages would be followed up with AI calls, targeted online advertisements, fake bot accounts seeking to follow these people on social media, customized emails or WhatsApp messages, and carefully tailored memes.

During his testimony, Hewitt detailed five principals that should guide AI regulation and legislation to protect US democracy, including regulation of AI to protect



AI should be evaluated and assessed, both before and after deployment, for discrimination and bias; developers and those deploying AI should "have a duty of care" indicating that their products are safe and effective. And if not, they should be held liable.

AI regulation should include transparency and "explainability" requirements so people are made aware of when, how, and why AI is being used; using data protection requirements, to ensure that AI is not used to grab data from those who have not given their consent; and voter information should not be tied to private information to target voters without safeguards.

The effort being led by the Lawyers' Committee and the NCBCP comes against the backdrop of similar alarm from the Biden administration, some lawmakers and AI experts who fear that AI will be weaponized to spread disinformation to heighten the distrust that significant numbers of Americans have towards the government and politicians.

Americans' civil rights, by including an anti-discrimination provision directed at online contexts and algorithms;

President Joe Biden recently signed what's described as "a sweeping executive order." The order focuses on algorithmic bias, preserving privacy and regulation on the safety of frontier AI models. The executive order also encourages open development of AI technologies, innovations in AI security and building tools to improve security, according to the Snyk Blog.

Vice President Kamala Harris echoed others concerned about this issue who fear that malevolent actors misusing AI could upend democratic institutions and cause American's confidence in democracy to plunge precipitously. In her remarks, Harris cited the need for a more expansive definition of AI safety to encompass the "full spectrum" of threats, embracing the spread of disinformation, discrimination and bias.

"When people around the world cannot discern fact from fiction because of a flood of AI-enabled disinformation and misinformation. I ask, 'is that not existential?'" Harris said in speech at a Nov 1 press conference at the 2023 AI Safety Summit in London, England. "For democracies, AI has to be in service of the public interest. We see the ways AI poses a threat to Americans every day, certainly in politics and we are laying the foundation for an international framework to regulate AI.

Harris concluded, "We're going to do everything we can. This is one of the biggest concerns most people have."

Get Ready for
The Black Excellence Achievement Award Banquet

Honoring
Dr. Ben Chavis
of the Wilmington Ten

Greenville Country Club
Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024
3:00 until 8:00 p.m.

For all VIP Ticket information contact
Ben Johnson at 252-258-6827

Extra added guest to be announced.



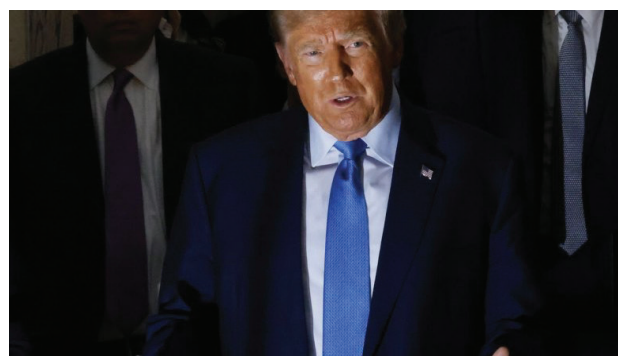
"CHOOSE PUGH'S"
www.choosepughs.com



First Price...Right Price GUARANTEED

BRIDGESTONE Firestone MICHELIN GOODYEAR

GREENVILLE MALL 252-355-6162	DICKINSON 252-758-7044	WILLIAMSTON 252-508-4691	MEMORIAL DRIVE 252-756-7844	WASHINGTON 252-940-1446
--	----------------------------------	------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------



Donald Trump moves for mistrial in N.Y. civil fraud case, alleges bias

By Joe Fisher
UPI

Former President Donald Trump filed a motion Wednesday to have his civil fraud case in New York thrown out, alleging that the judge and his clerk are biased.

In a 30-page filing, Trump's attorneys allege that Judge Arthur Engoron and clerk Allison Greenfield have "tainted" the proceedings, The Daily Beast reported. They said a mistrial is the only way to "salvage what is left of the rule of law."

"This appearance of bias threatens both defendants' rights and the integrity of the judiciary as an institution," the filing said. "Greenfield's unprecedented role in the trial and extensive, public partisan activities, would cause even a casual observer to question the court's partiality."

New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought the case against the Trump Organization, rebuked Trump's effort to move for a mistrial. She said he is "trying to dismiss the truth and the facts."

"Donald Trump is now being held accountable for the years of fraud he committed," a spokesperson for the attorney general said. "He can keep trying to distract from his fraud, but the truth always comes out."

Trump has often been at odds with Engoron and increasingly directed his ire toward Greenfield. Earlier this month, Engoron issued a gag order against Trump and his legal team, barring them from making comments about confidential communications between the judge and his staff. The gag order was later expanded to include Trump's sons Eric and Don Jr.

Engoron issued the order, citing threats that have flooded his office since the trial began. Trump has been fined more than once for violating the order.

"Personal attacks on members of my court staff are unacceptable, inappropriate and I will not tolerate them under any circumstances," Engoron said.

On the witness stand, Trump made several comments alleging Engoron had a bias against him. He became defensive shortly after being sworn in last week, saying the prosecutors, district attorneys and others were all "Trump haters."

"The judge will rule against me because he will always rule against me," Trump went on to say.

The Trump Organization has been charged with committing criminal tax fraud by inflating the values of its properties. It faces up to \$250 million in damages.

Thousands attend 'March for Israel' rally on National Mall amid tight security



By Sheri Walsh
UPI

Thousands of protesters from across the country attended a pro-Israel demonstration Tuesday on the National Mall in Washington, amid the tightest of security, to condemn anti-Semitism and demand the release of hostages being held since last month's Hamas attack on Israel.

The demonstration, billed as "Americans March for Israel, March to Free Hostages, March Against Anti-Semitism," got underway at 1 p.m. EST. The large crowd, carrying signs of support, heard speeches and musical performances from a stage adorned with the flags of Israel and the United States.

Among the speakers was Israeli President Isaac Herzog, who spoke remotely from Jerusalem and urged unity "to march for the babies, the boys and girls, women and men viciously held hostage by Hamas; to march for the right of every Jew to live proudly and safely in America, in Israel and all around the world."

Other speakers included relatives of the hostages

being held by Hamas, as well as politicians including House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

"Today, we stood together at the March for Israel on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., to say 'America stands for the people of Israel,'" Schumer wrote in a post on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter.

Tuesday's march prompted a "Level 1" security event, which is the highest level possible, from the Department of Homeland Security. The National Guard assisted local police with explosive detection, venue screening and shutting down streets around the National Mall and the U.S. Capitol.

"There has never been a First Amendment event in D.C., that has been designated as a ... Level 1 event," Donnell Harvin, a former D.C., chief of homeland security and intelligence, told CNN. "Those designations are reserved for high-profile events such as the Super Bowl and World Series."

According to U.S. Capitol Police, there were no counterdemonstrations or threats as of Tuesday after-

noon.

"On Oct. 7, merciless Hamas terrorists launched the deadliest attack on Israel in its 75-year history, brutally murdering the most Jewish people in a single day since the Holocaust," said Eric Fingerhut, president and chief executive officer of the Jewish Federations of North America, which helped organize Tuesday's "March for Israel."

"Israel must eliminate the terrorist threat on its border and restore safety and security to its people," Fingerhut added.

In last month's attack, Hamas -- which is based in Gaza -- killed 1,200 Israelis and took about 240 people hostage. Israel has since launched an air and ground offensive in Gaza, killing more than 11,000 people.

On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told CNN that Israel is "doing everything we can around the clock" to free the hostages.

Tuesday's demonstration in Washington follows other marches around the world to protest anti-Semitism. On Sunday, more than 100,000 people marched through the streets of Paris

following a surge of prejudice in France during Israel's war with Hamas.

While there were no threats before Tuesday's event in Washington, Metropolitan and Capitol Police worked together to ensure a safe event as officers planned for possible counter demonstrations.

"MPD has asked for mutual assistance and support from the National Guard. The National Guard will be supporting some traffic safety points," D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser said Monday.

MPD is "working closely with our local, state and federal partners to ensure safety and security surrounding First Amendment activities planned for Tuesday," said Paris Lewbel, a representative of the Metropolitan Police Department.

William McFarland, the House sergeant at arms, wrote in a memo to Congress that access to the Capitol Square would be restricted Tuesday, adding that the House had arranged bipartisan member transportation to and from the demonstration on a "first-come, first-served basis."

Judge Carolyn J. Thompson honored at investiture ceremony

Raleigh, NC – On Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., an investiture ceremony was held to install Carolyn J. Thompson into the Office of Judge on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. This solemn occasion was attended by Judge Thompson's family, friends, elected officials, members of the Court, and members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. An overflow crowd watched the proceedings at the First Baptist Church in Raleigh.

Chief Judge Donna Stroud presided and delivered historical context for the

setting of the Courtroom and the NC Court of Appeals Building. The Court of Appeals is located in a building directly across the street from the State Capitol in downtown Raleigh. The Court building was constructed in 1913, and over the years, the building housed the State Library, the Supreme Court, and the Utilities Commission. The Court of Appeals first moved into part of the building in 1967 and now occupies all four floors.

Former NC Supreme Court Justice Michael R. Morgan introduced Judge

Thompson to the Court as he provided details of her biography, educational background, and judicial experience, which has brought her to this moment of profound significance in her life and career.

NC Attorney General Josh Stein was present to bestow the official public certification. Former NC Supreme Court Justice and Dean of the NC Central University School of Law Patricia Timmons-Goodson administered the Oath of Office.

A reception followed the investiture.


Premier Taxes
We do sales and use taxes monthly!



Open 8:30 until 7:00 p.m.
Individual and Business tax returns
Refund Anticipation Loans
Easy Advanced Loan


Contact
Hazel Green at 252-7412-1473

THE LAW OFFICE OF JOSEPH (JAY) DUPREE
A POWERFUL LEGAL ADVOCATE



PERSONAL INJURY • LICENSE RESTORATION • CRIMINAL DEFENSE
 DWI • TRAFFIC TICKETS • BUSINESS LITIGATION • FAMILY LAW

123 W. THIRD STREET
 GREENVILLE,
 NC 27834
 252-329-0993
 WWW.JDUPREELAW.COM



Local detainees

Sponsored by Inner-City Return Service



QUINTEL DAVORL ANDERSON

FTA-HABITUAL FELON – FELONY
 FTA-FAILURE TO APPEAR ON FELONY – FELONY
 FTA-POSSESS METHAMPHETAMINE – FELONY
 FTA-FELONY POSSESSION SCH II CS – FELONY



STEVEN JAMES BLACK

DISCHARGE WEAPON OCCUPIED PROPERTY – FELONY
 POSSESSION FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY



ROBERTO REYES CERVANTES

TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE – FELONY
 CONSPIRE TO TRAFFIC IN COCAINE – FELONY



JESSIE OCTAVIUS EDWARDS

ATTEMPTED FIRST DEGREE MURDER – FELONY
 POSSESSION FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY
 BREAK/ENTER TERRORIZE/INJURE – FELONY
 ASSAULT ON A FEMALE – MISDEMEANOR



BRIAN EARL GILLIAM

TRAFFICKING OPIUM OR HEROIN – FELONY
 MAINTN VEH/DWELL/PLACE CS – FELONY
 TRAFFICK IN METHAMPHETAMINE – FELONY
 POSSESSION FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY



FREDERICK RAY GIVENS JR

POSSESSION FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY
 POSSESS STOLEN FIREARM – FELONY
 POSSESSION OF A SKIMMING DEVICE – FELONY
 UNLAWFUL PURCHASE OF FIREARM – FELONY



LATOYA ROCHELLE HARRIS-MARSHALL

ATTEMPTED FIRST DEGREE MURDER – FELONY
 AWDWIKISI – FELONY
 ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON – MISDEMEANOR
 INJURY TO REAL PROPERTY – MISDEMEANOR



MERRI MELODI LOVE

OBTAIN PROPERTY FALSE PRETENSE – FELONY
 PAROLE VIOLATION – FELONY



LOBELIA SHAZ-NEEKA WILLIAMS

TRAFFICK IN METHAMPHETAMINE – FELONY
 MAINTN VEH/DWELL/PLACE CS – FELONY
 TRAFFICKING OPIUM OR HEROIN – FELONY
 MAINTN VEH/DWELL/PLACE CS – FELONY



Join us as we celebrate Thanksgiving

144 THIRD ST., AYDEN, NC
2407-D NORTH HERITAGE ST., KINSTON, NC

Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson to undergo season-ending shoulder surgery

By Alex Butler
UPI

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson will undergo surgery on his right throwing shoulder and miss the remainder of the 2023-24 NFL season, the team announced Wednesday.

The Browns said Watson had an MRI on his left ankle and shoulder Monday after a win over the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday in Baltimore.

"Obviously, we are very disappointed and devastated for Deshaun, especially given all that he has battled and gone through medically this season and in light of how well he has played since his most recent injury," Browns general manager Andrew Berry told reporters at a news conference.

Imaging revealed a high-ankle sprain, an injury he sustained previously, and a displaced fracture in Watson's glenoid, a joint within his shoulder. The Browns said Watson notified the medi-

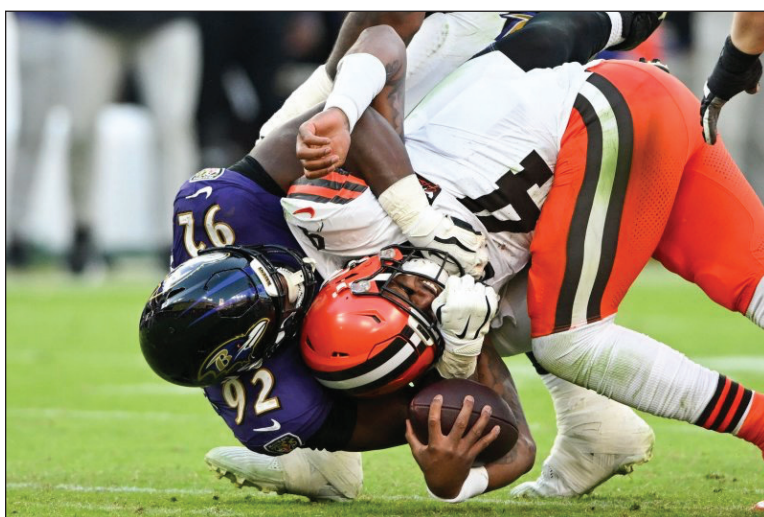
cal staff about discomfort in his shoulder after he was hit in the first half of their Week 10 win.

Watson completed 20 of 34 passes for 213 yards, one score and an interception in the victory. He started slow in the first half, but completed 14 of 14 pass attempts in the second to spark the comeback win.

"Despite performing at a high level and finishing the game, after consultation with Browns' head physician James Voos, and industry-leading shoulder specialist Neal ElAttrache, it has been determined that this injury will require immediate surgical repair to avoid further structural damage," the Browns said.

"Deshaun will be placed on season-ending injured reserve and a full recovery is expected for the start of the 2024 season."

Watson, who was suspended for 11 games and fined \$5 million in 2022 for violating the NFL's personal conduct policy in relation to a massage therapist scandal,



signed a fully guaranteed \$230 million contract with the Browns the same year.

He completed 59.8% of his passes for 2,217 yards, 14 touchdowns and nine interceptions through his first seasons with the Browns. He went 8-4 as a starter. Watson, who missed 11 games in 2022, will now miss 22 regular-season contests over his brief tenure with the AFC North

franchise.

Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said Wednesday that Dorian Thompson-Robinson will start at quarterback in Week 11. Thompson-Robinson completed 54.1% of his throws for 130 yards and three interceptions in three games this season.

P.J. Walker is the only other quarterback on the Browns roster. He completed 49% of his throws

for 618 yards, one score and five interceptions through five games this season.

Berry said Wednesday that the Browns "have a ton of faith" in Walker and Thompson-Robinson. He also said the team will sign another quarterback in the near future.

Watson is the latest key player from the Browns offense to sustain a season-ending injury. Running back Nick Chubb tore the ACL in his left knee in Week 2. He had surgery Tuesday and is expected to return during the 2024 season.

Tackle Jack Conklin sustained a season-ending ACL tear in Week 1. Fellow tackle Jedrick Willis also sustained a knee injury and remains on injured reserve.

The Browns (6-3) will host the Pittsburgh Steelers (6-3) at 1 p.m. EST Sunday in Cleveland. They sit in third place in the AFC North, behind the Ravens (7-3) and Steelers. The Browns have the No. 6 seed in the AFC playoff picture

U.S. Soccer names Emma Hayes new women's national coach

By Mark Moran
UPI

The U.S. Soccer Federation has appointed Emma Hayes to coach the women's national team, replacing Vlatko Andonovski, who resigned after a disappointing loss to Sweden in this year's FIFA Women's World Cup.

Hayes is expected to be paid an annual salary of about \$1.6 million, making her the highest paid women's coach in the world, the federation said.

"This is a huge honor to be given the opportunity to coach the most incredible team in world football history," Hayes said.

"The feelings and connection I have for this team and for this country run deep," she continued. "I've dreamed about coaching the USA for a long time so to get this opportunity is a dream come true. I know there is work to do to achieve our goals of winning consistently at the highest levels. To get there, it will require dedication, devotion and collaboration from the players, staff and everyone at the U.S. Soccer Federation."



Hayes, 47, grew up in London and went to university in Liverpool. But taking the helm of the U.S. women's national team marks a professional homecoming for Hayes, who came to the USA in 2001 and started at the very beginning stages of the game, coaching youth as young as 8 and under. She worked her way up through the ranks, coaching club teams on Long Island and in New York's Olympic Development Program.

Her current club, Chelsea, announced that Hayes

would be leaving the team at the end "to pursue a new opportunity outside the Women's Super League (WSL) and club football."

Hayes will have just two months and four matches - two in June and two in July - to prepare the players to take the pitch in the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

"Emma is a fantastic leader and world class coach who sets high standards for herself and for everyone around her," U.S. Soccer president Cindy Parlow Cone said. "She has tremendous energy and an

insatiable will to win.

"Her experience in the USA, her understanding of our soccer landscape and her appreciation of what it means to coach this team makes her a natural fit for this role and we could not be more pleased to have her leading our Women's National Team forward," Cone continued. Hayes has won six WSL titles while coaching Chelsea for the last 11 seasons. She was named The Best FIFA Women's Coach of the Year for 2021 and is a finalist for the award in 2023.



San Diego Padres owner Peter Seidler dies at 63

By Alex Butler
UPI

San Diego Padres owner Peter Seidler, a two-time cancer survivor, has died, the team announced. He was 63.

The Padres announced Seidler's death Tuesday. They did not disclose his cause of death.

"The Padres organization mourns the passing of our beloved chairman and owner, Peter Seidler," Padres CEO Erik Greupner said in a statement.

"Today, our love and prayers encircle Peter's family as they grieve the loss of an extraordinary husband, father,

son, brother, uncle, and friend."

Seidler was part of an investment group that bought the Padres in 2012. He assumed the role of chairman in 2020. The Padres have made the playoffs just twice since 2012, but posted winning records in each of the last three seasons.

"I am deeply saddened by the news of Peter's passing," MLB commissioner Rob Manfred said. "Peter grew up in a baseball family, and his love of the game was evident throughout his life."

"He was passionate about owning the Padres and bringing the fans of San Diego a team in which they could always take pride."

Call Morgan Printers Inc. for all of your printing needs!

Business Cards • Letterhead Envelopes • Signs
Banners • Vehicles Wraps • Books • Magazines
Apparel • Name Badges • Promotional Items
and More!

"If you can put ink on it, Call Us First!"



252-355-5588 www.morganprinters.com

www.dailydrummedia.com

British police arrest man in death of hockey player Adam Johnson

FORMER NHL PLAYER SUFFERED CUT TO NECK FROM ANOTHER PLAYER'S SKATE IN OCTOBER

By Jonna Lorenz
UPI

Police in Britain arrested a man Tuesday in connection with the death of ice hockey player Adam Johnson.

Johnson, a former NHL player who was playing with the Nottingham Panthers, died after a "freak accident" during a game against the Sheffield Steelers on Oct. 28. Johnson sustained a cut on his neck caused by another player's skate. He was 29.

South Yorkshire Police announced Tuesday the arrest of an unnamed man on suspicion of manslaughter. He remains in custody.

"We have been speaking to highly specialized experts in their field to assist in our enquiries and continue to work closely with the health and safety department at Sheffield City Council, which is supporting our ongoing investigation," Becs Horsfall, detective chief superintendent with the South Yorkshire Police said in a statement.

"Adam's death has sent shockwaves through many commu-

nities, from our local residents here in Sheffield to ice hockey fans across the world," Horsfall continued. "We know these communities will expect us to handle this investigation with the same professionalism, fairness and sensitivity as any other and request that members of the public refrain from comment and speculation, which could hinder this process."

Tanya Rawden, senior coroner for South Yorkshire, said Johnson was taken by ambulance to Northern General Hospital in Sheffield, where he died as a result of "an incised wound to the neck caused by the skate of another player."

"During the course of the investigation, my inquiries revealed matters giving rise to concern," Rawden said in a Nov. 3 report. "In due course the inquest will consider whether the use of a neck guard or protector could have prevented Mr. Johnson's death. At this stage of my investigation however, I am sufficiently concerned that deaths may occur in the future if neck guards or protectors are not worn."

The English Ice Hockey Association announced Oct. 30 that neck guards or protectors will be



made mandatory equipment for all players starting next year. The rule does not apply to the Elite Ice Hockey League in which Johnson played.

Johnson was born in Hibbing, Minn. He previously played 13 games for the NHL's Pittsburgh

Penguins after starting his career in the American Hockey League, where he played with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, Ontario Reign and Lehigh Valley Phantoms. He also played with the Malmo Redhawks in Sweden and the Augsburg Panthers in Ger-

many, according to his obituary.

"Adam's family is being supported through this investigation by our officers," South Yorkshire Police said in a statement. "They have asked for their privacy to be respected at this incredibly difficult time."

Draymond Green puts Rudy Gobert in headlock

By Alex Butler
UPI

Veteran forward Draymond Green put center Rudy Gobert in a headlock amid an on-court brawl during a Golden State Warriors loss to the Minnesota Timberwolves and could face league discipline.

The fracas occurred less than 2 minutes into the

Timberwolves' 104-101 victory in the NBA in-season tournament game Tuesday in San Francisco.

"It kinda put the game on edge from the jump," Timberwolves coach Chris Finch told reporters. "I think the teams played like that for most of the game."

"It felt super chippy and physical. It was not a very pretty game, but it was good

to win it."

Green grabbed a rebound at the start of the sequence and tossed the ball to guard Chris Paul. Paul dribbled near half court, with guard Klay Thompson running ahead in transition.

Thompson and Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels then got tangled up, grabbing each other's jerseys and exchanging pushes.

Several other Warriors and Timberwolves players then joined in, including Green.

Gobert got between McDaniels and Thompson, grabbing Thompson before Green ran into the skirmish.

The Warriors forward jumped behind Gobert, placing his right arm around his neck and pulling him backwards. Referees,

coaches and players eventually resolved the matter and resumed the game.

McDaniels, Thompson and Green were ejected for their roles in the incident.

"He kinda grabbed me by my collar," McDaniels said of Thompson. "I was just trying to defend myself and get him off me. The rest is what it is."

Green and Thompson

did not talk to reporters after the game, but Gobert called Green a clown for his role in the fight.

"It was clown behavior, and I'm proud of myself for being the bigger man again and again," Gobert told reporters, according to the Star Tribune. "And yeah, [Green] doesn't even deserve me putting my hands on him."

Got Kids? Pregnant? Breastfeeding?

Lenoir County WIC Program

WIC Can Help You And Your Family

Start Healthy
Stay Healthy
Be Healthy



WIC Provides:

***Healthy Foods *Nutrition Information
*Breastfeeding Support *Health Referrals**

Applicants must live in North Carolina, meet income guidelines and have an identified nutritional/medical risk factor.

For more information about WIC Contact: Lenoir County WIC Office, 201 North McLewean Street, Kinston, NC; 252-526-4300

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



www.dailydrummedia.com

La Voz Latina

Ghanaian soccer star Raphael Dwamena dies on field during match

By Mark Moran
UPI

Ghana soccer star Raphael Dwamena has died after an on-field collapse during a match Saturday. He was 28.

"Raphael represented Ghana wholeheartedly and paid his dues to the country until his unfortunate passing. We will forever miss him for his dedication to the National Coarse. Rest In Peace Raphael," the club said in a statement.

Dwamena, who was the leading scorer in the Albanian league with nine goals this season, was a striker for Egnatia, which was

playing against Partizani when he collapsed on the field, the BBC and CNN reported.

There have been no official details, but video shows Dwamena collapsing in the 24th minute of Saturday's match when players rushed to his side. An ambulance came on the field as Dwamena was attended to by medical personnel.

Players from both sides rushed to his side and medical personnel tended to Dwamena on the field, but were not able to resuscitate him.

"Despite the immediate intervention of specialist doctors he unfortunately passed away,"

a statement from the Albanian Football Federation (AFL) said.

Dwamena was the leading scorer in the Albanian league this season with nine goals. The federation canceled Saturday's match and postponed all games that were scheduled to be played in Albania this week.

"The AFL expresses its deepest condolences to the Dwamena family and the Egnatia club for this great loss that has shocked the entire Albanian football community," the federation added.

The Ghana Football Association (GFA) expressed its "deepest condolences to his family at this

difficult moment" in a statement.

"He served his country well and showed class any time he represented Ghana," GFA president Kurt Edwin Simeon Okraku said.

This was not the first on-field medical emergency the young star experienced.

Dwamena collapsed during a 2021 cup match in Austria but recovered and continued his playing career after a recovery that included a heart operation and had an automatic defibrillator implanted.

He would have been traded to Brighton in a deal worth more than \$14 million but failed a med-

ical examination.

He went on to play for clubs in Spain, Switzerland, Austria and Denmark throughout his short career.

"Our thoughts are with his family and his loved ones in these difficult moments," Levante, where Dwamena also played, said in a social media post. "His legacy in our club will last forever."

Zaragoza also paid tribute. "We are devastated by the sad news of the passing of our former player Raphael Dwamena," the club said in a statement. "You will always be in the memory of Zaragoza's fans. Rest in peace."



North Carolina Courage forward Kerolin named women's soccer league MVP

By Alex Butler
UPI

A South American claimed top individual honors for the first time in National Women's Soccer League history Friday, with Brazilian Kerolin earning MVP honors, the league announced.

The North Carolina Courage striker scored a career-high 10 goals and registered three assists in 19 regular-season games. Kerolin also helped the Courage post a 9-7-6 record and earn the No. 3 seed in the postseason.

The 23-year-old joined the Courage in 2022. She registered seven goals and three assists last

season, helping the Courage win the NWSL Challenge Cup. She helped the Courage capture a second Challenge Cup title in September.

Kerolin, known as one of the fastest players in the league, led the NWSL in dribbles completed (67). She scored a league-high nine goals inside the box.

No. 6 seed Gotham FC upset the Courage in the NWSL semifinals. They will take on OL Reign in the title game at 8 p.m. EST Saturday in San Diego. That match, featuring former United States Women's National Team teammates Megan Rapinoe, Rose Lavelle and Ali Krieger, will air on CBS.

Nicotine pouches don't curb cravings, study shows

By Dennis Thompson
HealthDay News

Oral nicotine pouches might be marketed as an alternative to cigarettes, but they do little to curb smokers' nicotine cravings, a new study finds.

The pouches -- which contain nicotine powder and other flavorings, but no tobacco leaf -- take too long to provide the nicotine "spike" that eases cravings, researchers report in Wednesday's issue of journal *Addiction*.

Current smokers still get a much greater nicotine spike and much sharper relief from craving symptoms when they take a puff

than when they use either low- or high-dose nicotine pouches, the results showed.

The spike of nicotine from smoking occurs within about five minutes, said lead researcher Brittney Keller-Hamilton, of Ohio State University's Cancer Control Program.

By comparison, nicotine pouches take 30 minutes to an hour to hit peak effectiveness, researchers said.

It's reasonable to see how the instant gratification from cigarette smoking would be more appealing than oral nicotine pouches for smokers deep in the need for a nicotine fix,

Keller-Hamilton said.

At the same time, researchers are concerned that the pouches could appeal to young people, increasing nicotine addiction in a younger population while doing nothing to stem cancer risk among smokers.

"Our challenge is to approach regulation of nicotine pouches to limit their appeal among young people while making them more appealing to adult smokers who would see health benefits by switching from cigarettes -- which have the most severe health impacts with long-term use - to nicotine pouches," Keller-Hamilton said in a university news release.

Saudi Arabia expected to host 2034 World Cup

By Alex Butler
UPI

Saudi Arabia is expected to host the 2034 FIFA Men's World Cup after Australia, the only other confirmed contender for the upcoming edition of the men's soccer tournament, dropped out.

Football Australia announced Tuesday that the country no longer was interested in hosting the tournament.

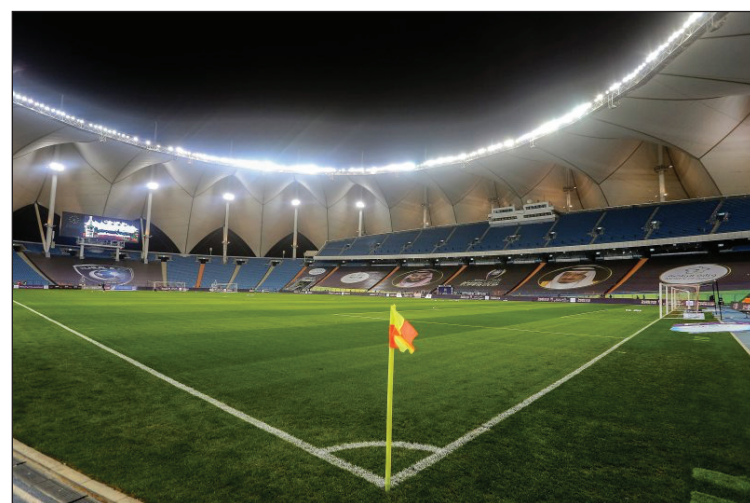
"We have explored the opportunity to bid to host the FIFA World Cup and -- having taken all factors into consideration -- we have reached the conclusion not to do so for the 2034 competition," Football Australia said in a news release.

Football Australia said the country -- which hosted the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup with New Zealand -- is in a "strong position to host" the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2026 and the 2029 FIFA Club World Cup.

FIFA set an Oct. 31 deadline for submissions from potential hosts, welcoming bids from Asia and Oceania. Saudi Arabia, which announced its bid Oct. 9, is the only known country to publicly announce its intention to host the tournament.

"We are extremely committed to presenting the most competitive bid possible that will also help unite the world through football," Saudi Arabian Football Federation president Yasser Al Muehail said.

The Saudi Arabian Football Federation said it received public support from more than 70 FIFA



member associations in its effort to become the host.

Earlier this month, Asian Football Confederation president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa expressed support for Saudi Arabia's bid to host the 2034 World Cup. The Asian Football Confederation includes Saudi Arabia and countries in Oceania, including Australia.

FIFA still needs to officially approve Saudi Arabia's bid, with a decision expected in 2024.

Saudi Arabia's attempt to host the World Cup is among major efforts the country, which has faced criticism for its human rights record -- including links to the hijackers in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 -- has made to increase its footprint in soccer and the sports world.

Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund leads those efforts. The fund's real estate division sponsors the Saudi Pro League. Several teams in that league, which are owned by the \$700

billion fund, have succeeded in luring notable soccer stars, including Cristiano Ronaldo and Neymar Jr., to continue their playing careers in the Middle East.

Fellow soccer stars Lionel Messi and Kylian Mbappe have rebuffed offers from Saudi clubs.

The fund also continues to operate LIV Golf, a rival of the PGA Tour, which now wants to join with the U.S.-based league. That potential deal remains subject to investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice.

King Fahd International Stadium, situated in Riyadh, is the largest stadium in Saudi Arabia. The facility is the home stadium for Al-Hilal, a Saudi Pro League club owned by the Public Investment Fund.

Looking ahead, the 2026 men's tournament will be held in Canada, Mexico and the United States. The 2030 tournament will be contested in Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.

Possible meteor causes flash of light, loud boom in Minnesota

By Ben Hooper
UPI

A bright light followed by a loud boom in a Minnesota city is believed to have been the result of

a meteor, officials said.

Beltrami County Emergency Management said numerous reports came in from Bemidji and the surrounding area about 6:30 p.m. Monday of a bright flash of

light and a loud boom that rattled the windows and walls of homes.

The Beltrami County Sheriff's Office checked local power stations and transformers for any sign of an explosion, but

everything seemed to be working normally.

A video provided by a resident shows what appears to be a meteor streaking through the sky.

"It is obvious there was some-

thing of significance that passed over the skies of Beltrami County, but we can only speculate it was a meteor at this time," county spokesman Christopher Muller told WCCO-TV.