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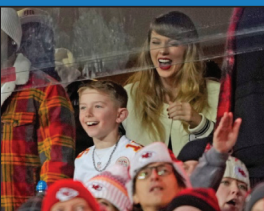
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Social media CEOs testify before Senate amid child safety concerns

By A.L. Lee
UPI

Social media executives appeared before the Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday during a hearing to address growing child safety issues on their platforms.

In a Tuesday speech on the Senate floor, Judiciary chairman Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., vowed to grill the witness panel -- including Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg, X CEO Linda Yaccarino, Snap CEO Evan Spiegel, TikTok CEO Shou Zi Chew, and Discord CEO Jason Citron -- "about the harms Big Tech is inflicting on our kids."

The hearing takes place amid the prevailing sentiment that the platforms have fallen short on adequate measures to prevent sex offenders from targeting children or engaging in the trade of child sexual abuse material.

Lawmakers have recently condemned the tech industry for failing to protect kids from a "plague of online child sexual exploitation" as the social media apps have gone viral among America's youth, Durbin said.

See HEARING, page 5



House Republicans approve impeachment articles against Mayorkas

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

The House Committee on Homeland Security Wednesday morning voted to advance articles of impeachment against Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, claiming he has "willfully" refused to enforce laws to protect the country's southern border.

Committee chair Rep. Mark Green, R-Tenn., said in a statement that the record influx of migrants at the U.S. southern border with Mexico is the fault of Mayorkas who has refused to apply the law there.

"The facts are indisputable," Green said. "For three years, Secretary Mayorkas has willfully and systematically refused to comply with the laws enacted by Congress, and he has breached the public trust. His actions created this unprecedented crisis, turning every state into a border state."

The two articles of impeachment now move to the full house for a vote.

The articles passed by the committee said Mayorkas committed "high crimes and misdemeanors" for violating his oath to support



and defend the Constitution by not carrying out laws to protect the border.

It said Mayorkas "repeatedly violated laws enacted by Congress regarding immigration," while carrying out his duties. He was also charged with making false statements to Congress.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., the ranking member of the Homeland Security Committee, blasted the Republicans for shutting down debate during a markup that began at 10 a.m. Tuesday and did not include until early Wednesday morning to satisfy the far-right wing of House Republicans.

"They were either uncomfortable being confronted by the facts or they lacked the stamina to entertain a fulsome debate of are solution the committee entertained to buy off Marjorie Taylor Greene and the extreme MAGA Republicans who have taken over the Republican Conference," Thompson wrote.

Rep. Yvette Clark, D-N.Y., went to X to call the impeachment effort "baseless" and called out Republicans for not allowing Democrats to offer amendments.

"This is ridiculous," Clark said.

Rep. Rob Menendez, D-N.J., criticized Republicans for rejecting an amendment to the articles that would reflect the hearing was based on "extremism and anti-immigrant rhetoric," saying the GOP cited two different organizations designated as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center throughout their investigation.

House Speaker Mike Johnson,

See MAYORKAS, page 6

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OPINION

Emerging from the Shadows: The Struggle and Progress in America's Fight Against Poverty



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

The United States is known for its economic and military prowess. Its diversity of cultures and ideas has made the U.S. a destination for people from all over the world in search of the American dream. Despite this fact, even the wealthiest country in the world deals with poverty.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 42.31 million people live in poverty as of 2020. While this number may seem staggering, it is roughly 12.75% of the total population, which currently stands at 331.9 million citizens. Economic self-sufficiency is a critical component of uplifting Americans out of poverty. While this hurdle is challenging for most, census data cited by the Aspen Institute "indicated that 3.5 million Americans lifted themselves out of poverty in 2015" and those numbers continue to rise, albeit not fast enough for those tasked with studying and creating ways to solve this problem.

While these numbers are staggering, they only tell part of the story. Poverty in the U.S. is a multifaceted is-

sue, impacted by a range of factors including economic policies, access to education and availability of health care. The numbers have improved since 2020. In fact, in 2022, the official poverty rate was 11.5%, translating to 37.9 million people living in poverty. This rate has remained relatively unchanged since 2021, indicating the persistence of poverty across the nation.

The Supplemental Poverty Measure for 2022 was 12.4%, marking an increase of 4.6 percentage points from 2021. This increase, the first of its kind since 2010, can be largely attributed to changes in federal tax policy. The expiration of temporary expansions to the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as the end of pandemic-era stimulus payments, have played a significant role in

this rise.

The economic landscape of the U.S. in 2022 showed a decline in real median household income by 2.3%, settling at \$74,580. This decline was influenced by a 7.8% increase in inflation -- the largest annual rise since 1981. The real median earnings of all workers also decreased by 2.2% between 2021 and 2022.

The distribution of poverty in the United States is uneven, with significant variations across age groups and geographical regions. The child poverty rate in 2022 was reported at 16.3%, higher than the overall rate. In contrast, the poverty rate for those aged 65 and over was lower, at 10.9%. The geographical distribution of poverty rates presents a diverse picture, with more than half of the states in the Southern region reporting child poverty rates exceeding 18%.

The persistence of poverty in the United States calls for a multifaceted approach to address the issue. Economic self-sufficiency is key to lifting Americans out of poverty. However, achieving this requires a

combination of robust economic policies, accessible education and comprehensive health care. The Aspen Institute has highlighted the progress made, citing that 3.5 million Americans lifted themselves out of poverty in 2015. Yet, the pace of this progress is not fast enough for those tasked with studying and creating solutions to this pervasive problem.

To combat poverty effectively, targeted strategies tailored to the unique needs of different demographics and regions are vital. Investment in education and job training, alongside policies supporting wage growth and affordable health care, are key factors in reducing poverty. Additionally, tackling systemic issues that contribute to income inequality and economic disparities is essential.

While the United States offers ample opportunities, it also faces the daunting challenge of poverty. A concerted effort from policymakers, community leaders and citizens is required to diminish poverty and ensure the American dream is achievable for all.

We don't need a Tonkin Gulf Resolution for the Red Sea

By Harlan Ullman
UPI

Aug. 7, 1964 was a dark day for the United States, when Congress passed -- with only two dissenting votes -- the Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

The measure was predicated on a nonexistent North Vietnamese PT boat attack on two American destroyers on patrol in the gulf. And it led to the Vietnam War we lost.

Is America repeating a similar blunder in responding to Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping and the latest Islamic military groups' drone strike that killed three American service personnel and wounded dozens more in Jordan? The critical difference was that these attacks, unlike in the Tonkin Gulf, took place.

Clearly, Islamic groups and the Houthis have plagiarized Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on Israel, diabolically designed to elicit an Israeli overreaction. Sadly, that attack succeeded perhaps far more than Hamas' leaders envisaged. Now, Houthis and Islamic militants are deliberately provoking the United States in the expectation that overreaction will lead to an escalation of the conflicts. And sentiment in Congress seems to be beating the war drums.

The consequences of the Gaza war have raised fears of further escalation. U.S. President Joe Biden is caught in an impossible dilemma of how to both help Israel and minimize Palestinian civilian casualties without losing domestic political support from advocates for Israel and Palestine. In this danger-laden process, Biden could antagonize both groups.

With the war in Ukraine also raging, comparisons of today's threats with the World War II Axis powers have been cited. But that is a false comparison. Nazi Germany was racist and never accepted Japan as an equal. Strategic coordination between the two erstwhile allies occurred and the wars in Europe and Asia were fought independently.

Italy was part of the Axis, only adding to the Nazi burden. Benito Mussolini had to be rescued from forays into Greece, Africa and from arrest in Italy in a daring rescue by Nazi special forces. In 1945, he was arrested in Northern Italy and, with his mistress, hanged.

Today, Russia, China and Iran are not natural allies. In fact, the tensions are not dissimilar to the old Axis. Historically, culturally and strategically, China and Russia have often been adversaries. China is the very senior partner with Russia. And Iran and Russia have not always been happy neighbors.

This then is a marriage of convenience among these three disparate partners. Not as ludicrous as George W. Bush's "axis of evil" that linked Iran, Iraq and North Korea, nonetheless, this partnership needs to be carefully studied so as not to exaggerate or ignore its actual dangers and threat.

The Biden administration has been absolutely clear that it does not want to escalate these attacks into a war with Iran. Surprisingly perhaps, the United States provided intelligence to Iran warning of a pending Islamic terrorist attack. Many Americans are angered that this effort to improve relations with Tehran was met by the Jordan attack.

The Biden administration is well advised not to take the bait. A new Tonkin Gulf Resolution is not needed. It is uncertain what Iran's role is. A surrogate war with the United States cannot be in its interests, as its navy and coastal oil infrastructure are very vulnerable to destruction.

Critically important is to understand Iran's actual interests and roles with its proxies. Hezbollah does not want to provoke Israel into a real war in which it would risk retaliation and destruction by overwhelming Israeli forces.

Mythology behind anti-Semitism drives disconnect over support for Palestinians

By Joshua Shanes,
College of Charleston

There has been a sharp increase in anti-Semitism around the world since the Oct. 7 massacre by Hamas and Israel's subsequent military attacks in the Gaza Strip.

The apparent connection of this spike to many countries' condemnation of Israel's response has brought renewed focus on the relationship between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. When does criticism of Israel "cross the line" to anti-Semitism, and when is it a legitimate political expression?

As a scholar of modern Jewish history, anti-Semitism and Zionism, I suggest that the key to understanding that relationship begins with understanding anti-Semitism itself.

History of anti-Semitism

Anti-Jewish animosity is certainly not new -- it dates to antiquity. The early Christian church attacked Jews for rejecting Christ and blamed them collectively for crucifying him.

The Gospel of John in the New Testament was particularly vitriolic, accusing Jews of being Satan's children. The fourth century church father John Chrysostom called them demons intent on sacrificing the souls of men.

Medieval Christians added other myths, such as the infamous blood libel -- the lie that Jews ritually murdered Christian children for their blood. Other myths accused them of poisoning wells, of desecrating the consecrated host of the Eucharist to re-enact the murder of Christ; some

even claimed that they had inhuman biology such as horns or that they suckled at the teats of pigs.

Such lies led to violent persecution of Jews over many centuries.

Modern anti-Semitism

In the 19th century, these myths were supplanted by the additional element of race -- the claim that Jewishness was immutable and could not be changed via conversion. Though this idea first appeared in 15th-century Spain, it was deeply connected to the rise of modern nationalism.

Nineteenth-century ethno-nationalists rejected the idea of a political nation united in a social contract with each other. They began imagining the nation as a biological community linked by common descent in which Jews might be tolerated but could never truly belong.

Finally, in 1879, the German journalist Wilhelm Marr coined the term "anti-Semitism" to reflect that his anti-Jewish ideology was based on race, not religion. He chose the term because he imagined the Jews as a foreign, "Semitic" race, referring to the language group that includes Hebrew. The term has since persisted to mean specifically anti-Jewish hostility or prejudice.

Myth of Jewish conspiracy

Modern anti-Semitism built on those premodern foundations, which never completely disappeared, but was fundamentally different. It emerged as part of the new politics of the democratic modern era.

Anti-Semitism became the core platform of new

political parties, which used it to unite otherwise opposing groups such as shopkeepers and farmers, anxious about the modernizing world. In other words, it was not merely prejudice -- it was a worldview that explained the entire world to its believers by blaming all of its faults on this scapegoat.

Unlike anti-Jewish hatred in the past, this was less about religion, that Jews rejected Christ, and more about political and social issues. Anti-Semites believed the conspiracy theory that Jews all over the world controlled the levers of government, media and banking, and that defeating them would solve society's problems.

Thus, one of the most important features of modern anti-Semitic mythology was the belief that Jews constituted a single, malevolent group, with one mind, organized for the purpose of conquering and destroying the world.

Negative traits attributed to Jews

Anti-Semitic books and cartoons often used claws or tentacles to symbolize the "international Jew," a shadowy figure they blamed for leading a global conspiracy, strangling and destroying society. Others depicted him as a puppet master running the world.

In the late 19th century, Edmond Rothschild, head of the most famous Jewish banking family, was villainized as the symbol of international Jewish wealth and nefarious power.

Today, it is typically the billionaire liberal philanthropist George Soros who is often portrayed in similar

ways. Caricatures of Soros portray him as a puppet master secretly controlling all levers of government, media, the economy and even foreign migration.

This myth that Jews constitute an international creature plotting to harm the nation has inspired massacres of Jews since the 19th century, beginning with the Russian pogroms of 1881 and leading up to the Holocaust.

More recently, in 2018, Robert Bowers murdered 11 Jews at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh because he was convinced that Jews, collectively under the guidance of Soros, were working to destroy America by facilitating the mass migration of non-White people into the country.

Modern anti-Semites ascribe many immutable negative traits to Jews, but two are particularly widespread. First, Jews are said to be ruthless misers who care more about their ill-gotten wealth than the interests of their countries. Second, Jews' loyalty to their countries is considered suspect because they are said to constitute a foreign element. Since Israel's establishment in 1948, this hatred has focused on the accusation that Jews' primary loyalty is to Israel, not the countries they live in.

Anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism

In recent years, the relationship between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism has taken on renewed importance. Zionism has many factions but roughly refers to the modern political movement that argues Jews constitute a nation and have a right to self-determination in that land.



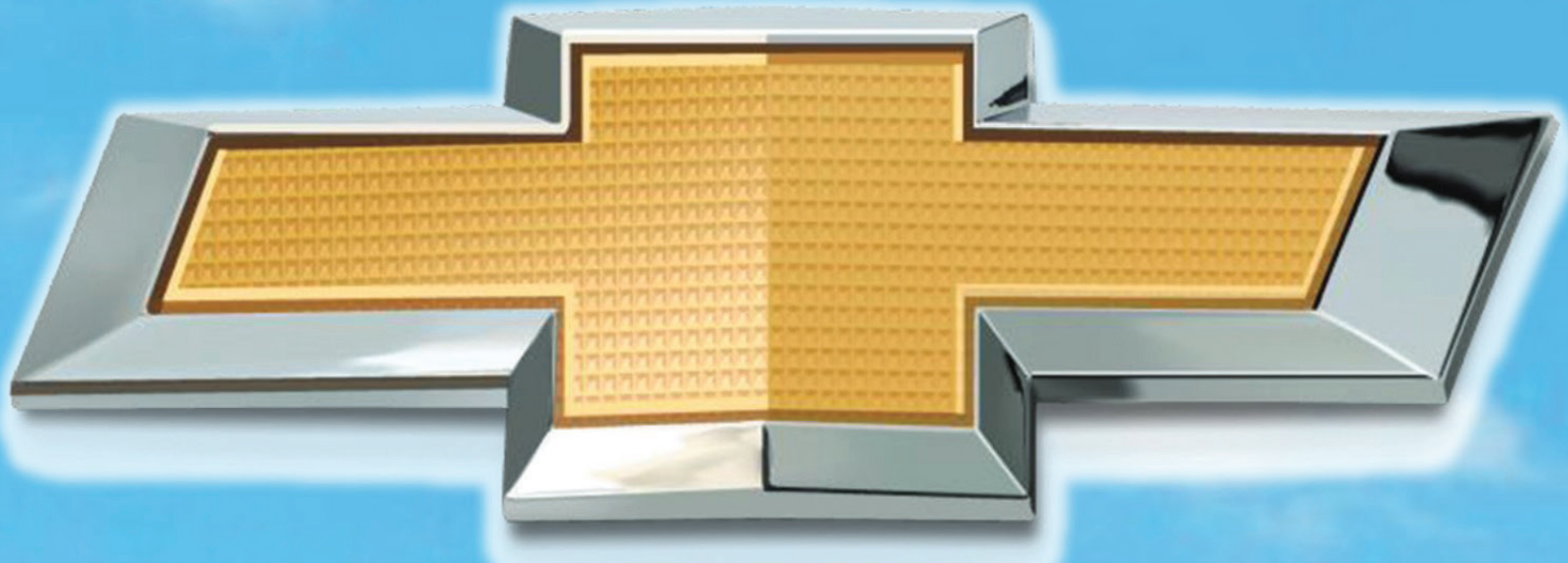
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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND PCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO PARTICIPATE

PITT COUNTY, N.C. – The Pitt County Board of Commissioners will attend a joint breakfast meeting with the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees on Thursday, February 22, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in the Chris Smith Multipurpose Room located on the first floor of the Ed-die & Jo Allison Smith Center for Student Advancement at 1935 Warren Drive, Winterville, N.C.

The purpose of the joint meeting is for the Pitt County Board of Commissioners

and Pitt Community College Board of Trustees to collaborate about each other's programs and provide updates to better assist the community.

For more information, contact the County Manager's office at 252-902-2950.

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Fed Chairman Jerome Powell to announce first interest rate policy decision of 2024

By A.L. Lee
UPI

The Federal Reserve Board will deliver its first policy decision on interest rates in 2024 amid weakening inflation and a strengthening economy, while Wall Street expected the central bank to leave the current rate unchanged.

Fed Chairman Jerome Powell will make his customary announcement at 2:30 p.m. EST following a two-day meeting of monetary policymakers on whether interest will be raised, lowered or maintained in the near term.

The interest rate decision comes amid improving inflation in the United States, reflected in a 0.2% rise in the personal consumption

expenditures price index since December, and a 2.9% increase over the past year -- the Fed's preferred gauge of inflation.

In remarks, Powell will provide details about the latest interest rate decision, as well as the central bank's outlook for the coming months.

Wall Street analysts expect the Fed to hold rates steady, between 5.25% and 5.5%, as it did during the last policy meeting in December, and to delay the first interest cut of the year until at least March, according to CBS News, citing financial data provider FactSet.

Many economists expected the Fed to wait even longer to cut rates, possibly until May, as the central

bank was wary about inflation regaining steam if it moved too hastily to lower interest.

As a result, the Fed was likely to avoid making any decisive move on interest during Wednesday's announcement.

"The Fed is being very cautious as it navigates the potential for future rate cuts," LendingTree economist Jacob Channel told CBS. "While it doesn't want to leave rates high forever, it also doesn't want to cut them prematurely and risk inflation spiking again."

The Fed issued 11 consecutive benchmark rate increases with the goal of bringing inflation down to 2%.

See **RATES**, page 6

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Trillium Hosting Second SUMMIT Event

PROGRAM ON FEBRUARY 20 WILL EDUCATE ABOUT HEALTH ISSUES UNFAIRLY AFFECTING AFRICAN AMERICANS

NEW BERN, NC: Trillium Health Resources will host our second SUMMIT event on February 20 in New Bern. Speakers will share about heart disease, mental health service disparities, and maternal mortality rates. African American populations experience an increase of prevalence for all of these conditions due to lack of access and health disparities that can be prevented.

The event will take place at the New Bern Convention Center and will last from 1 - 5:45 p.m. Registration is free and will include snacks, giveaways, and printed health information.

Speakers will include: Taskeen Midgette, AG-

NP-C, with Coastal Carolina Health Care Heart and Vascular Specialists

Dr. LaDonna Battle, Care Management Population Health Officer with Trillium

Chelsea Rivenbark, FNP-C with ECU Health Pediatric Hematology/Oncology

Debra Farrington, Chief Health Equity Officer with North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

"Trillium views health equity as one of our most important responsibilities," shared Luz Terry, Vice President of Enterprise Training & Staff Development. "Through activities like these SUMMIT events, we will educate, empower, and assist our communities

with the steps they need to take to improve their health."

We will schedule events throughout the year and in various locations to meet as many of our providers, members and community stakeholders as possible. The tentative SUMMIT calendar includes events that focus on intellectual/developmental disabilities, substance use and recovery, and more.

Visit our website to learn more and register for the event. We will post future event registrations on our calendar. Our Health Equity Summary covers the efforts that Trillium has completed dedicated to improving access to health care for everyone from 2012-2022.

ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 28 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by providing them with ready access to quality care. We take a person-centered approach to health and wellbeing, coordinating care across multiple systems to achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care and efficient use of resources. Trillium is investing in innovation to meet the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve, and

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Hearing

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The committee hearing is pivotal in shaping upcoming legislation that aims to regulate the social media platforms, while focusing on new measures to safeguard children.

In November, the Judiciary Committee issued subpoenas to Yaccarino, Spiegel and Citron to testify at the hearing.

Durbin used the floor speech to make the case for passing the Strengthening Transparency and Obligations to Protect Children Suffering from Abuse and Mistreatment Act of 2023, which aims to support child victims and increase accountability and transparency across all social media platforms.

Durbin also called for Congress to update a landscape of antiquated laws amid a flood of technological innovations.

"For the first time, the CEOs of five Big Tech companies will testify about the crisis of online child sexual

exploitation," Durbin said, while emphasizing a mission to continue fighting the dangers children face online.

"I look forward to hearing from these companies about what they're doing to make their platforms inaccessible to child sex offenders," Durbin declared.

He also noted that some of the companies recently launched new child safety measures "that are long overdue."

"Because these changes are half measures at best, I welcome the opportunity to question them about what more needs to be done," Durbin said.

A year ago, the Judiciary Committee held a similar hearing, which included powerful testimony from those working to increase children's privacy and safety online, however, no new laws have emerged yet amid escalating calls for regulation.

Last October, a bipartisan coalition of 33 attorneys general filed a joint federal lawsuit against Meta, asserting the tech giant incorporated addictive features into its apps, adversely impacting

children's mental health and contributing to issues such as cyberbullying, body image concerns and teen suicide.

In an op-ed published Wednesday in The Hill, Sens. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn, and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., called attention to suicides by three teenagers who faced online bullying, cyberstalking and peer pressure to perform dangerous online challenges.

"There are countless more heartbreaking stories just like these, of kids who have died or been severely harmed on social media," the lawmakers wrote. "We have heard the immeasurable grief from their families and the resounding frustration about the dark and addictive rabbit holes these young people were pulled down."

Blumenthal and Blackburn cited "empty promises" by the social media companies to act on their own to fix the problems, claiming they "rushed to announce new safety features" in the days before the congressional hearing.

"Our legislation has one goal: to ensure an online

environment for kids that is safe by default," the lawmakers wrote. "We accomplish that by creating a Duty of Care for those sites that know they are catering to young users."

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Marian Anderson


Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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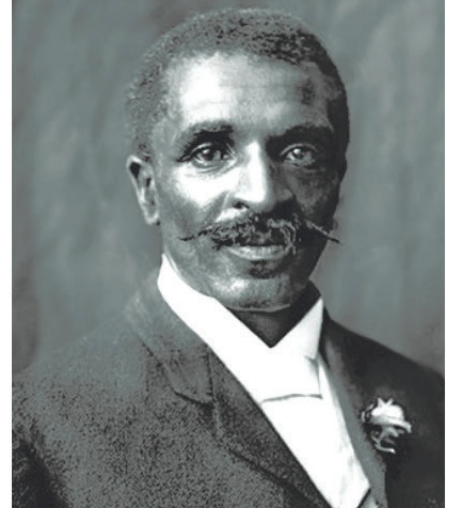
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Rates

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But in the latter half of 2023, the nation's central bank began keeping interest rates unchanged to sustain the economy's upward trajectory. At the last policy meeting, the Fed indicated that it might start slashing interest rates again after the new year as inflation had dipped to about 3.7% toward the end of 2023.

However, Powell said it was too soon to say when the reductions might occur, warning that any speculation about the timing of interest rate cuts was premature.

"It would be premature to conclude with confidence that we have achieved a sufficiently restrictive stance, or to speculate on when policy might ease," Powell said on Dec. 1.

"We have made considerable progress in reducing high inflation while maintaining a strong labor market," he continued. "The Federal Open Market Committee is strongly committed to bringing inflation down to 2% over time, and to keeping policy restrictive until we are confident that inflation is on a path to that objective."

Economists are now hopeful for the first interest rate cut in more than two years, while some predict the Fed could potentially issue five reductions throughout 2024 -- bringing relief to borrowers who have struggled to pay off high-interest mortgages, auto loans and credit cards.

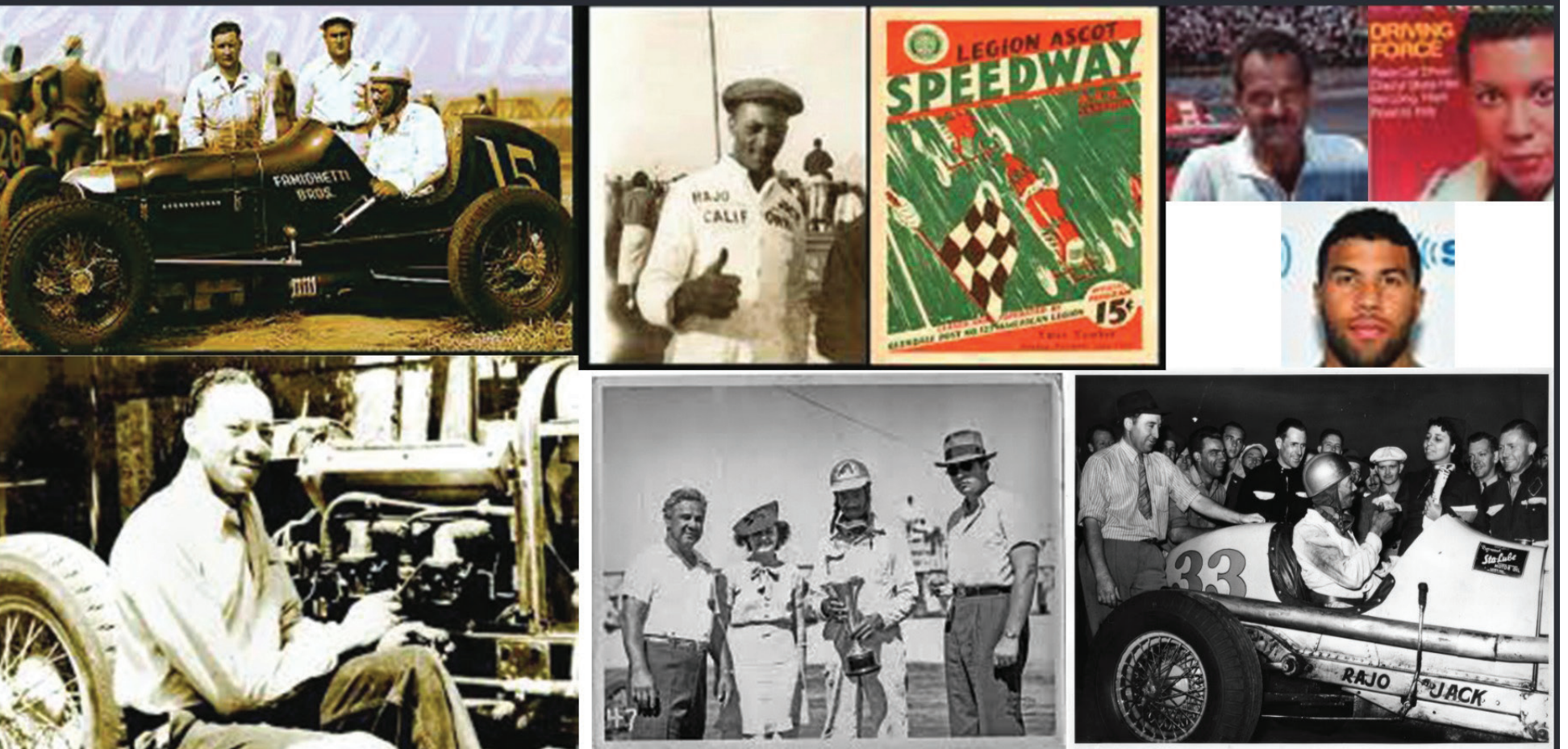
Mayorkas

continued from page 1

R-La., has promised to bring the impeachment articles to a full House vote as soon as possible.

If the measure passes the chamber, Mayorkas would be only the second cabinet member in history to be impeached following William Belknap, who was impeached while working as secretary of war to President Ulysses S. Grant in 1876.

Mayorkas, however, would likely meet the same result as Belknap who was acquitted in a trial in the Senate, which is currently narrowly controlled by Democrats.



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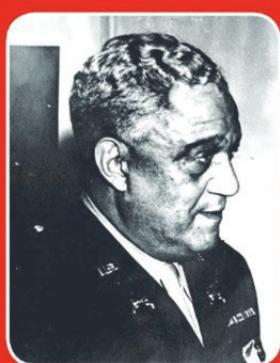
"I'm glad that we pause during Black History Month to pay tribute to generations who made important contributions to the world. I'm also proud that Food Lion celebrates Black history every day."

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NBA fines Timberwolves star Anthony Edwards \$40K for referee slight



By Alex Butler
UPI

The NBA fined Minnesota Timberwolves star guard Anthony Edwards \$40,000 for “repeatedly publicly criticizing” officials after a

recent win over the Oklahoma City Thunder, the league announced Wednesday. Edwards made the comments during an interview with Bally Sports North after the victory Monday at Paycom Center in Oklahoma City.

Edwards scored 27 points in the win. He immediately called out officials, when a reporter asked about how the Timberwolves won the game.

“I don’t know,” Edwards said. “I’m going to take the fine. The refs did not give us no calls.

“We had to play through every bump and every grab. I don’t know how we won tonight. Big shout out to my team. Big shout out to my coaches.”

Edwards is averaging a career-high 25.9 points, 5.3 assists and 5.2 rebounds per game this season. The Timberwolves (33-14) own the best record in the Western Conference.

They will host the Dallas Mavericks (28-21) at 8 p.m. EST Wednesday in Minneapolis.

Lions had ‘heart ripped out,’ but don’t regret decisions in NFC finale, coach says

By Alex Butler
UPI

Coach Dan Campbell said the Detroit Lions had their “hearts ripped out,” but he doesn’t regret controversial fourth-down decisions he made during a loss to the San Francisco 49ers in the NFC Championship game.

Campbell spoke about the crushing loss Sunday night at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif. The Lions literally ran over the 49ers in the first half, with 148 rushing yards over the first two quarters to propel a 24-7 advantage.

The 49ers smothered that attack in the second half, becoming the first team in NFL history to overcome a halftime deficit of at least 17 points in a conference title game.

“It’s hard when you lose that way,” Campbell told reporters. “You feel like you get your heart ripped out, but I’m proud of that group and I’ll go anywhere with that group. You wish you could keep it [the roster] all together, but that’s not the reality.”

The Lions and 49ers each went 6 for 12 on third-down conversions. The Lions went 1 for 3 on fourth-down conversions. They faced just two fourth downs in the first half, punting on the first and making a field goal on the second. In the second-half, failed fourth-down conversion attempts -- paired with turnovers and mental errors -- led to their demise.

“I just felt really good about us converting and getting our momentum and not letting them play long-ball,” Campbell said of his aggression against the 49ers. “They were bleeding the clock out. That’s what they do. I wanted to get the upper hand back. It’s easy, in hindsight, I get that.

“But I don’t regret those decisions. It’s hard because we didn’t come through and it wasn’t able to work out. I understand the scrutiny I’ll get. That’s part of the gig, but it just didn’t work out.”

The 49ers cut the deficit to 24-10 on the first drive of the second half. The Lions marched to the San Fran-



cisco 28-yard line on the next drive, setting up a 4th-and-2. Campbell opted to go for a first down, instead of attempting a 45-yard field goal. That kick could have given the Lions a 27-10, three-possession edge.

Instead, quarterback Jared Goff threw a short pass to Josh Reynolds, who let the ball hit off his hands for a drop and failed conversion attempt.

Five plays later, 49ers quarterback Brock Purdy threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Brandon Aiyuk, cutting the deficit to one score.

Lions running back Jahmyr Gibbs fumbled on the first play of the next drive. Running back Christian McCaffrey then helped the 49ers tie the game with a short rushing touchdown.

The 49ers needed less than four minutes to erase their deficit after the Lions’ failed conversion. Another failed Lions conversion helped them build a 10-point edge.

Jake Moody made a field goal with 9:56 remaining for the 49ers’ first lead. The Lions again attempted a fourth-down conversion on the drive after that kick. That play came on a 4th-and-3 from the San Francisco 30, where they could have attempted a 47-yard field goal and tied the score.

Instead, Goff threw an incompleteness while targeting wide receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown. Running back Elijah Mitchell scored a 3-yard rushing touchdown about 3:30 later to give the

49ers a two-possession lead.

Goff and the Lions converted their final fourth-down attempt, which came with 56 seconds remaining. The quarterback connected with wide receiver Jameson Williams for a 3-yard touchdown on that play, but the Lions ran out of game time in their attempt at a comeback.

“It’s very uncharacteristic of us,” Campbell said of the Lions struggles. “We’ve always been able to get our momentum back. It’s hard to say. I honestly, right now, can’t put my finger on it. That’s not like us.

“We had plays to be made, but we just didn’t make them like we normally do.”

The Lions ranked second in the NFL in fourth-down conversions (21) and attempts (40), converting at a 52.5% clip during the regular season.

“He believes in us,” Goff said of Campbell’s reputation for being aggressive on fourth downs. “I don’t know what the numbers are, but we had a lot of big-time conversions this year that changed games. ... It can change a game if you convert them and we didn’t. It’s part of the reason why we lost.”

In 2022 under Campbell, the Lions ranked third in fourth-down attempts. They set a record for the most fourth-down conversion attempts (41) in NFL history in 2021, Campbell’s first season with the franchise.

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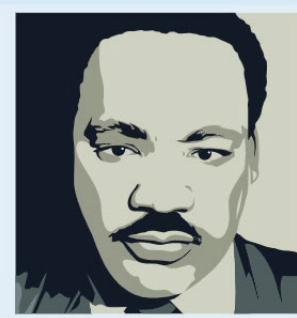
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La Voz Latina

Wife of 49ers star, who created Taylor Swift jacket, gets NFL licensing deal

By Alex Butler
UPI

The NFL agreed to a licensing deal with Kristin Juszczyk, the wife of San Francisco 49ers fullback Kyle Juszczyk, who hand-made trendy clothing for Taylor Swift and other celebrities, a league source told UPI on Tuesday.

No financial terms were disclosed, but the deal clears Juszczyk to use NFL logos on men's and women's apparel. That OK comes less than two weeks before the 49ers face the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LVIII.

Celebrities wearing the custom apparel has gone viral in recent weeks, with Swift, actor Taylor Lautner and Simone Biles recently sporting the garb during games.

Juszczyk also has used her social media accounts to show behind-the-scenes footage of herself making the outfits. She started to create the game-day clothing five



years ago. "I try to take silhouettes and shapes of things I would wear in my everyday life," Juszczyk told KRON-Ch. 4 earlier this month. "Like if I were going out to friends or going out to dinner. I think how can I mimic this shape into sportswear." Juszczyk's made her first

game-day creation by using her husband's old football shirts. She has crafted outfits out of other fabric, jerseys and even footballs.

Swift sported a Juszczyk-made puffer jacket, with Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce's jersey numbers and name patched to the front and sides, during a wild-card playoff

game against the Miami Dolphins on Jan. 13 in Kansas City, Mo.

The next day, Lautner wore a similar Detroit Lions-themed puffer jacket during their first-round game against the Los Angeles Rams.

Juszczyk also made a Patrick Mahomes-patched puffer jacket for his wife, Brittany.

Biles sported a Green Bay Packers-themed puffer vest, with husband Jonathan Owens' jersey numbers patched on the front and back earlier this season.

Juszczyk also created a puffer vest last weekend for 49ers wide receiver Deebo Samuel, who sported quarterback Brock Purdy's jersey patches on the unique outfit he wore during the regular season.

Kyle Juszczyk, an eight-time All-Pro and 11-year NFL veteran has supported his wife's work. He used his Twitter account earlier this month to respond to many

users, telling them who created the trending outfits.

"It's pure joy to see her get that recognition," Juszczyk told reporters earlier this month. "She has been grinding for years now. She has been working so hard. So happy to see her get her stuff out there, everybody see it and for people to recognize it was hers."

"Some of those jackets, she probably put 20 hours alone into a single jacket. At times, I wake up at 3 or 4 in the morning and she is still working. She really has been grinding and I'm happy to see it pay off."

Juszczyk said many companies reached out to his wife about the apparel and "every option was on the table" amid negotiations.

The star fullback and the 49ers will face the Chiefs in Super Bowl LVIII at 6:30 p.m. EST Feb. 11 in Las Vegas. The game will air on CBS.

Liverpool Football Club docuseries to follow Jurgen Klopp's final season

By Annie Martin
UPI

Filming is underway on a new docuseries about Liverpool Football Club.

The British soccer club said in a press release Wednesday that the documentary will air after the end of the 2023-2024 season.

The docuseries will explore LFC's history, its connection with its supporters, and give insights into the club's success on and off the pitch.

In addition, the show will follow manager Jürgen Klopp and his team throughout his final season with the club.

"All of this will be alongside an exploration of the club's journey to the present day and the telling of human stories against the epic backdrop of Liverpool Football Club," an official description reads.

The documentary will be filmed, directed and produced by Lorton Entertainment (Diego Maradona, Make Us Dream).

"With this being my final season I thought we should provide a rare opportunity for viewers to have more of an inside look at what makes this club



so special: its people, from our fans to our players and those who work so hard behind the scenes, constantly in pursuit of success for Liverpool Football Club," Klopp said.

"Thanks to this new documentary series, viewers will be able to see what I see every day at this great club, and understand those amazing people more," he added.

Klopp, 56, announced Friday that he will resign at the end of the season because he is "running out of energy."



'Grey's Anatomy': Meredith, Nick return to Grey Sloan in Season 20 teaser

By Annie Martin
UPI

ABC is teasing Grey's Anatomy Season 20.

The network shared a teaser trailer for the upcoming season Wednesday.

Grey's Anatomy is a medical drama created by Shonda Rhimes. The show follows the staff at the fictional Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital in Seattle.

Ellen Pompeo, who has played Meredith Grey since the show's premiere in 2005, appears as a guest star in Season 20 after announcing in 2022 that she would be reducing her role beginning in Season 19.

The trailer shows Meredith (Pompeo) and Nick Marsh (Scott Speedman) return to Grey Sloan after professing their feelings for each other in

Boston in the Season 19 finale.

In addition, Jo (Camilla Luddington) and Link (Chris Carmack) couple up, while Teddy (Kim Raver) is left in "critical condition" after collapsing in Season 19.

Chandra Wilson, James Pickens Jr., Kevin McKidd, Caterina Scorsone and Jake Borelli also star.

Grey's Anatomy Season 20 premieres March 14 on ABC.

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