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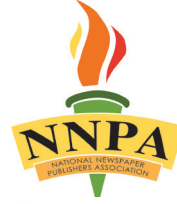


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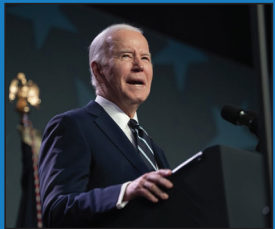
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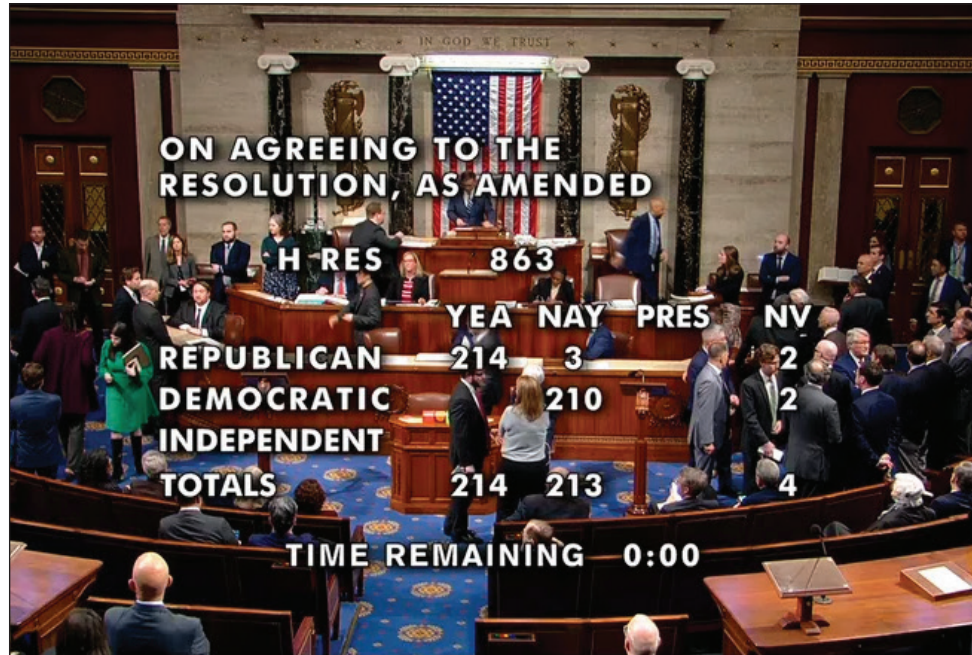


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House GOP set to try again in effort to impeach Alejandro Mayorkas



ON AGREEING TO THE RESOLUTION, AS AMENDED

H RES 863

	YEA	NAY	PRES	NV
REPUBLICAN	214	3		2
DEMOCRATIC				2
INDEPENDENT				
TOTALS	214	213		4

TIME REMAINING 0:00

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

The House is expected to hold second vote to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas on Tuesday with House Majority Leader Steve Scalise returning to his seat.

Scalise, who missed last week's vote while being treated for blood cancer, could provide the decisive vote to impeach Mayorkas as the GOP suffered an embarrassing defeat last week.

The vote failed 216-214 in the first attempt to impeach Mayorkas. Republicans Ken Buck, of Colorado, Tom McClintock, of California, and Mike Gallagher, of Wis-



consin, joined all Democrats against impeachment.

If Republicans delay the vote, they could face an increased challenge if former Rep. Tom Suozzi, D-N.Y., reclaims his old House seat in a special election on Tuesday that was previously held by George Santos, R-N.Y., before he was expelled.

Buck has said while he

disagrees with Mayorkas and the Biden administration's policies at the border, his work as Homeland Security secretary does not rise to the "high crimes and misdemeanor" standards set by the Constitution.

McClintock said he plans to repeat his vote against

See **IMPEACHED**, page 6

Tom Suozzi poised to win special election to fill George Santos' seat

By Clyde Hughes & Darryl Coote
UPI

Former Rep. Tom Suozzi was poised Tuesday night to win a special election in New York to fill the U.S. House seat left vacant after former GOP Rep. George Santos was expelled from Congress.

Suozzi, a Democrat who held the same seat representing the state's 3rd congressional district for three terms, bested Republican Mazi Melesa Pilip, who serves as a Nassau County lawmaker.

Unofficial results from the state show that as of late Tuesday, Suozzi had secured more than 91,000 votes, representing nearly 54% of all votes cast, to Pilip's roughly 68,800 votes for 46%.

"Despite all the attacks, despite all the lies about Tom Suozzi and the squad, about Tom Suozzi being the godfather of the migrant crisis, about sanctuary Suozzi, despite the dirty tricks, despite the vaunted Nassau County Republican machine, we won!" he told supporters late Tuesday.

"This race was fought amidst a closely divided electorate, much like our whole country. This race was centered on immigration and the economy, much like the issues all across our country. We won this race ... because we addressed the issues and we found a way to bind our divisions."

Suozzi regained the U.S. House seat for a region that has transformed into more of a swing district. President Joe Biden won the district in 2020, but independents have leaned more conservative in 2022 with the influx of immigrants into the Long Island area of Nassau County.

Suozzi, a former Nassau County executive, was part of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus when he served in the House from 2016 to 2022, and he had hoped those moderate credentials would serve him well in the purple district.

Pilip, a registered Democrat, was elected by Republicans for her strong support for Israel and on the strength of winning local Nassau County elections in 2021 and last year.

See **ELECTION**, page 4

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OPINION

Dueling Cowboys at Eagle Pass

There's a standoff in Texas, and it's not between cowboys this time. It's between the Texas National Guard and federal border agents. All of this is occurring in the wake of a Supreme Court decision requiring the Texas National Guard to grant access to federal border agents deployed by the Biden administration in order to take down razor wire erected by Texas along the border to prevent the influx of undocumented migrants.

Recent events have caused widespread anger regarding the deployment of razor wire along the border, specifically in areas on the water. People expressed concern that migrants who encounter difficulties while crossing the water could drown in the absence of assistance from border agents. On Jan. 12, these concerns all came to a head when a mother and her two children perished while attempting to traverse the Rio Grande River. The drowning fatalities occurred in the vicinity of Eagle Pass, the site of the ongoing confrontation.

The United States has seen a mass influx of migrants over the past year, with nearly 2.5 million total encounters at the U.S.-Mexico border. Undoubtedly, the issue buried deep within this is the fact that the vast majority of these unau-

thorized border crossings transpire in Texas, a state that is presently grappling with the challenge of supporting its estimated 1.7 million illegal immigrant inhabitants. States such as New York, to which Florida and Texas have bussed migrants, and which are sanctuary states despite frequently bemoaning their inability to assist the migrants due to a lack of resources, are vastly outnumbered by this figure.

Eagle Pass, in particular, is a hotbed for migrant inflows. Eagle Pass is a small city of 28,130 people as of the 2020 census and has become known as a border town. Eagle Pass has a rich history, beginning as a garrison town named after the abundance of Mexican eagles that circled the area, then evolving into a customs point for the cotton and munitions trade between Mexico and the Confederacy after the soldiers withdrew.

At this moment, Eagle Pass is the focal point of the immigration debate in the United States due to the ongoing stalemate between the state of Texas and the

border agents. After the Supreme Court ruled that the Texas National Guard could not prevent the entry of border agents to cut down the razor wire, video surfaced online showing Texas officers further erecting even more razor wire. Further, video captured Texas officers impeding the entry of Border Patrol agent Humvees into the border region. However, reports have indicated that there have been no hostilities thus far. After all, Texans don't want to harm Texans.

But what does this all mean? This situation is turning out to be the perfect analogy for the border crisis that the Biden administration has provoked: a standoff between the federal government and the state that bears the brunt of the Biden administration's policies. It's no wonder that 25 Republican governors have signed on to a letter stating that they stand in solidarity with Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas National Guard.

At the heart of this entire situation is the question of whether the states will allow themselves to be trampled by the federal government. The tragic aspect of this situation is that the federal government is attempting to compel Texas to accept and process migrants that they don't want, and then

Texas is told they can't send them anywhere else.

The fact of the matter is that the end result of this crisis is that Texas has to take care of migrants, not the federal government. Many Americans, and Texans in particular, are not oblivious to the blatant injustice of the situation; they are the ones who daily contend with the problems that illegal immigration produces. The decision of Abbott to begin transporting migrants to other states by bus is unsurprising, given that these states have contributed significantly to the migrant crisis Texas is currently experiencing at the border due to their elected officials and influence in Congress.

There is more to the current standoff in Texas than merely a disagreement over razor wire and border control restrictions. It is a prime example of a more extensive and intricate dispute concerning the sovereignty of states, the authority of the federal government and the handling of immigration in the United States.

This standoff in Texas will be remembered in history as the moment the states fought back -- even if there is no bloodshed.

I pray that no hostilities transpire, and I pray that there is a favorable outcome.

Saving the Planet Matters Enough to Measure Honestly



BEN JEALOUS

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - There's a phrase you hear from business schools to board rooms that comes from John Doerr, a legendary investor who backed Google, Amazon, and Intuit: Measure what matters.

Those words certainly jumped to mind this summer as leaders from Washington to London sent signals that protecting a safe, livable planet hardly matters because it's not worth

accounting for accurately and honestly.

On Capitol Hill, the House committee that oversees financial markets held a hearing on "how mandates like ESG distort markets and drive up costs." ESG is an abbreviation for environmental, social, and corporate governance. The idea that performance on those factors should be part of investment decisions has been gaining momentum for more than 15 years. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission is asking companies to report more about ESG, which prompted the hearing.

The event had an Alice in Wonderland feel as it happened as homeowners in places like Florida, California, and Louisiana were learning of insurers raising already high rates or leaving the states altogether because of climate-driven risks. The financial implications of climate change couldn't have been clearer.

The House Republicans who called the hearing made no mention of studies by consulting firms like PWC and McKinsey that have found huge majorities want to do business with and work at companies that lead on ESG, or that consumer products tied to those factors are outgrowing those that don't.

Across the Atlantic, the Reuters news service reported that global bankers want to divorce themselves from accountability for two thirds of the carbon pollution that comes from the stock and bond sales their banks underwrite. Those who profit from dirty fuels rely on those stocks and bond sales to expand. Almost half of the financing from top U.S. banks to fossil fuel companies since 2016 came from those kinds of sales and not direct loans, for example. Without those investments, carbon emissions would decline as fossil fuel production and processing was starved of that money.

This kind of shortsightedness isn't new. Our economy always has been built on ignoring people and places deemed disposable.

Measure what matters -- people in frontline communities flooded by more intense storms, choked by industrial pollution, and scorched by wildfires have no choice. Their property loss and health problems are the metrics we use. They must take that measure all the time, and they always come out on the short end.

For his part, John Doerr has placed his bets. He's been investing in zero carbon technologies since 2006. Last year, he and his wife gave Stanford University more than \$1 billion to launch a sustainability school.

Doerr's most recent book calls itself "an action plan to solve the climate crisis." He notes that the Greek root for the word crisis means "to choose." The good news is we've never had more opportunity to make the right choices. From less costly renewable energy to the availability of affordable electric vehicles, we have options to end our addiction to fossil fuels.

Making the right choices means making informed choices. We can't permit the powerful to withhold what we need to decide what's best for us and for the planet.

Ben Jealous is executive director of the Sierra Club, the nation's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. He is a professor of practice at the University of Pennsylvania and author of "Never Forget Our People Were Always Free," published in January.



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KEITH MAGEE

(TriceEdneyWire.com) - Historically Black fraternities and sororities -- often referred to as Black Greek-letter organizations, or BGLOs -- have been making a difference in the lives of Black Americans for more than

a hundred years. Members of these organizations have historically been at the forefront of the struggle for racial equality and have been change-makers in every professional sphere.

BGLOs regularly band together to fight principalities, dark powers and wickedness in high places and to promote social justice, voting rights, and anti-poverty measures. And yet, over recent years, some Christians have denounced their BGLOs, publicly attacking them for being "idolatrous" in their use of symbolic Greek letters and for causing members to put loyalty to their organization above loyalty to their faith.

I know the most fundamentally important aspect of my identity is my love for Jesus as Lord. I trust the Holy Spirit as my lead and guide into all truth, and I constantly seek to live the life that is required of me as a believer. I am convinced that through the story of Jesus' life, death, burial, resurrection, ascension and soon-to-come return, the message He is sending us, in His wisdom, is one of love. I try to embody that message in everything I do.

I am also a proud member of two Black fraternities, Kappa Alpha Psi (one of the Divine Nine collegiate BGLOs) and Sigma Pi Phi (for professionals). Kappa was founded by 10 principled Christian men. With Kappa, I was younger when I crossed and not quite as knowledgeable as I am now about my faith. Nevertheless, at no point in my life have I ever entered into an unorthodox, uninformed, or ungodly alliance with a Greek deity. Nor have I ever sworn an oath that would in any way hinder, absolve, or negate my Christian beliefs.

The Divine Nine were established, mainly in the first decades of the 20th century, as peer-support mechanisms for Black college students. These young people experienced routine racial discrimination, not just in predominantly white institutions and in wider society, but also in the majority white fraternities and sororities already established on campuses. For many Black students, joining BGLOs helped them survive and thrive. Membership allowed them to bond, build lasting networks of brother- or sisterhood, and empower one another and the whole Black community, both at university and then beyond.

It would be impossible to list here the names of all the illustrious leaders from our community who were or are affiliated to BGLOs -- there are simply too many to mention. But notable examples include Rev. Samuel DeWitt Proctor (Kappa Alpha Psi); Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Alpha Phi Alpha); and Rev. Jesse Jackson (Omega Psi Phi).

Bishop Vashti McKenzie, the first female bishop of the AME Church, is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, the sorority of which her grandmother, Vashti Turley Murphy, was one of the founders. My own mother, Rev. Dr. Barbara Reynolds, is a Delta too. One of my peers, Rev. Teraleen Campbell, is the International Chaplain of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. And let's not forget, some of our current political heavyweights are also pledged to Greek letter organizations, including Vice-President Kamala Harris (Alpha Kappa Alpha), Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives Hakeem Jeffries (Kappa Alpha Psi), and U.S. Senator Rev. Raphael Warnock (Alpha Phi Alpha).

From their foundation, both Black and white fraternities and sororities chose to associate their organizations with letters of the Greek alphabet as a nod to the intellectual innovators who flourished in the rich cultural arena of ancient Greece. The enduring contributions made by sages like Plato, Aristotle, Heraclitus, and Pythagoras to fields such as philosophy, science,

and mathematics meant aspirational college-educated men and women naturally wanted to be connected to such a tradition.

To this day, when the initiates of BGLOs swear oaths of loyalty, they are pledging to participate in the ongoing quest to unlock the secrets of great knowledge for the good of humanity as well as committing to uphold the ideals of their fraternity or sorority for life. Why anyone would see that as being somehow in conflict with Christian values is utterly baffling to me.

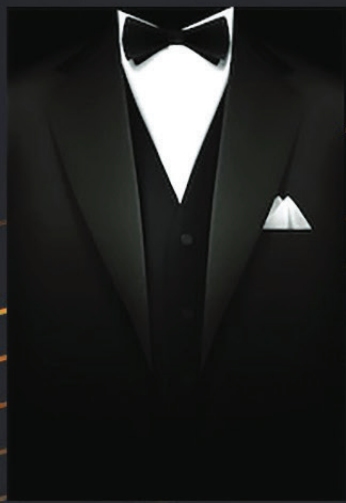
I am in no way opposed to an individual deciding to renounce their affiliation to a BGLO because of their personal beliefs, any more than I would take issue with someone choosing to no longer eat shellfish, wear wool, or straighten their hair. However, when I hear a person denouncing BGLOs in general, insinuating that they are somehow "demonic," and inciting all other members to follow their personal example, that causes me pause. Even if you experience what you believe to be a revelation that must guide your own choices, how can you then deem that to be the truth, rather than your truth?

One person's shortcomings in life, or the way an individual lives in a particular state of sin doesn't necessarily apply to everyone. Rather than rail against BGLOs, I wish more believers would be concerned about the ungodly alliances or oaths some of us make to certain churches, other organizations, and leaders who really do act or live in a perpetual reprobate state. In contrast, I would ask that we all extend a measure of grace to any group or institution -- including Black BGLOs -- whose members are exhorted to spend a lifetime making a positive impact on their communities and exemplifying the kindness Jesus teaches us.

In the case of both my fraternities, I can unequivocally and wholeheartedly serve Jesus as Lord, while fulfilling our collective purposes and aims in

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The Black Excellence Achievement Award-Banquet



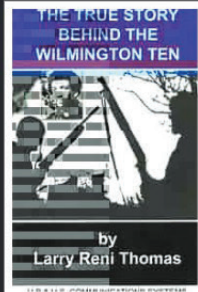
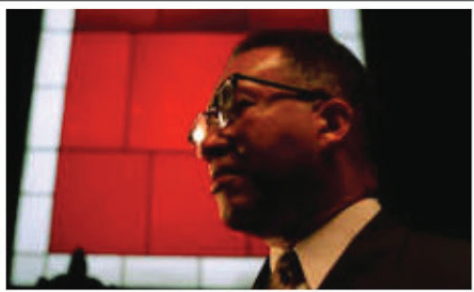
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Election

continued from page 1

A native of Ethiopia, Pilip served in the Israel Defense Forces after her family moved to Israel and before eventually migrating to the United States. She has focused on fighting crime and anti-Semitism while serving as a Nassau County legislator.

The race drew national attention with the GOP holding a razor-thin edge in the House, currently standing at 219 Re-

publicans and 212 Democrats. On Tuesday night, former President Donald Trump, who is running for re-election, chastised Pilip after her election loss.

"Republicans just don't learn," he said in a statement on his Truth Social platform, while calling her a "very foolish woman." He blamed her election defeat on not courting his extreme-right supporters.

"MAGA, which is most of the Republican Party, stayed home -- and it always will, un-

less it is treated with the respect that it deserves."

What is not known is how long Santos' shadow will be in the election. Santos flipped the seat red for Republicans in 2022 but was hit immediately with charges that he lied extensively about this background and resume.

He was eventually driven out of Congress in connection with a highly critical House ethics report and investigations into his campaign financing, which became an embarrassment for Republicans.

FDA approves first severe frostbite medication to prevent amputations

By Doug Cunningham
UPI

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved the first medication injection to treat severe frostbite.

Aurlumyn, which has the active ingredient iloprost, reduces the risk of finger or toe amputation, the FDA said.

"This approval provides patients with the first-ever treatment option for severe frostbite," the FDA's Dr. Norman Stockbridge said in a statement. "Having this new option provides physicians with a tool that will help prevent the life-changing amputation of one's frostbitten fingers or toes."

The FDA said the new medication is a vasodilator that opens blood vessels and prevents blood from clotting.

A random trial of 47 adults with severe frostbite who were given Aurlumyn injections had bone scans for determining abnormalities predicting the need for amputation.

"The presence of the bone scan abnormality was significantly lower

in the two groups receiving iloprost," the FDA statement said. "Most patients had follow-up information on whether they subsequently underwent at least one finger or toe amputation. The need for amputation was consistent with the bone scan findings."

Of 16 patients getting the Aurlumyn/iloprost shots alone, none were found to need amputation. That compared with 19% needing amputation in a second group and 60% of patients in a third trial group, according to the FDA.

The FDA said frostbite happens in several stages from mild -- which doesn't require medical intervention -- to severe, in which tissue is actually frozen, halting blood flow and sometimes leading to amputation.

Side effects of the new frostbite treatment include headache, flushing, heart palpitations, fast heart rate, nausea, vomiting, dizziness and hypotension.

The iloprost active ingredient got previous FDA approval in 2004 for pulmonary arterial hypertension treatment.

OPINION

The Dirty Truth about Utility Companies' Clean Energy Efforts



BEN JEALOUS

ing done over 12 months, then asking for a raise.

That's essentially the story of the 77 utility companies still most heavily invested in fossil fuel-fired electric plants, according to a report last week by the Sierra Club and Bloomberg Philanthropies. The utilities plan to replace only 30 percent of that coal and gas with clean energy by 2030, and more than half of them have made no progress since last year.

For example, We Energies announced in 2020 that it would retire the mainly coal-fired Oak Creek power plant in Milwaukee. Two years later, it extended the timeline by 18 months. In August, on a call with investors, corporate officials wouldn't commit to that schedule.

Nonetheless, the company is asking the state public service for a 3 percent rate increase, which would follow an 11 percent rate increase last year.

"We Energies is asking for an additional increase saying they need it to move toward green energy and lower greenhouse gas emis-

sions," said Keviea Guiden of Citizen Action Wisconsin. "They should be doing that more quickly, but they shouldn't be doing that on the backs of their poorest customers."

The homes that those customers live in typically are 100 or more years old; they aren't well insulated or weatherized, Guiden noted. "We're pulling more gas for heating and more electricity for cooling."

At the same time, those same residents face exposure to gas and particulate pollution from Oak Creek every month that the transition is delayed, she said.

Wisconsin's minimum wage still stands at \$7.25 an hour. "If you're a family making \$18-20,000 a year, 10 percent of that income would go to those electric and gas bills," said Guiden, who organized 24 residents to oppose the rate increase at a state hearing last week.

We Energies isn't struggling. It reported increased revenue of more than \$1 billion last year. Wisconsin allows the public utility to earn a profit of almost 10 percent.

The fact is there's never been a more opportune moment for We Energies and other utility companies to make the switch to clean energy. The cost of solar power, which We Energies said would replace more than half of the coal-fired plant's generated electricity, has fallen nearly 100 percent in

the last decade. In its plans, the company acknowledged it would save \$50 million in lower fuel and maintenance costs alone at Oak Creek.

Yet the company only has plans to build enough clean energy capacity to replace 8 percent of the energy it makes with dirty fuels and plans to add 66 megawatts of natural gas-fired power -- which like coal is more expensive than solar power -- by 2030.

More significantly, the historic clean energy and jobs package President Biden and Congress approved last year offers corporate tax credits that can lower the cost of solar, wind, and battery storage projects by more than 30 percent (50 percent if they are built with domestic materials and in the most impacted communities). The oil, gas, and coal industries have benefited for decades from subsidies for everything from exploration to depletion of their reserves in the ground, giving them among the lowest effective corporate tax rates and ballooning their profit margins.

In addition, utilities can apply for \$30 billion in grants and loans to increase their clean energy capacity.

So utilities can spend less than ever to generate electricity without dirty fuels that will lead to lower energy costs for Americans.

It's past time for utilities to stop making excuses and to take seriously our national target of 100 percent clean energy by 2035. It's time for the rest of us to be like Guiden and her neighbors and stop accepting those excuses.

Life in America is becoming a continuous nightmare

By Harlan Ullman
UPI

One advantage of a nightmare is waking up. In America, life is becoming one continuous nightmare. And waking up does not seem to be an option.

The forthcoming presidential election is one nightmare. Some three-quarters of Americans do not want either Donald Trump or Joe Biden as president. Last week was indeed a nightmare for both.

At both the National Rifle Association meeting in Indiana and then in a South Carolina rally, Trump spoke for two hours, with many of his comments unaffected by truth or fact. Among his stunning revelations, one stood out that provoked outrage and shock here and in Europe. As president, Trump recalled this statement about NATO.

Speaking to one leader, Trump vented: "You didn't pay? You're delinquent? Yes, let's say that happened. No, I would not protect you. In fact, I would encourage them [Russia] to do whatever the hell they want. You gotta pay."

Whether if elected Trump would leave NATO is arguable. Congress has passed a resolution preventing such a withdrawal without its approval. Yet, given how compliant Republicans in Congress have been to Trump's whims, uncertainties abound. Ironically, do not be surprised if Trump reverses course.

Trump could cynically use that threat as a means to compel greater NATO spending on its defense. Many of his followers would regard that as a shrewd move. And that could encourage others to disregard his most outrageous statements in terms of promising to end the war in Ukraine in 24 hours or to exact retribution on those who oppose him.

But compared to Biden, Trump may have enjoyed a walk in the park. The devastating report of special counsel Robert Hur on Biden's handling of classified material recommended that no charges were warranted.

However, the rationale that Biden was "elderly" and had memory loss. The report described the 81-year-old Democrat's memory as "hazy," "fuzzy," "faulty," "poor"

and having "significant limitations." And it cited that Biden could not recall when his son Beau died, causing a fiery reaction from the White House and first lady, as well as the president.

Put another way, Biden's main problem is that politics is visual and visceral, not rational. Biden looks and acts old. Memory loss is not always a loss in intellect or judgment. Age can bring wisdom. Henry Kissinger looked old. No one questioned his intellect. Biden is not Kissinger. But, he is not Trump. Yet, this report was very damaging, although November is a long way away.

Internationally, the Israeli offensive in Gaza has now started on the Rafah Gate, where a reported 1.4 million Palestinian refugees have fled -- a nightmare. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to accept a cease-fire or relent on the aim to destroy Hamas. He has also said that safe passage zones have been opened for Palestinians to move north. But where would these refugees find shelter, food, water and medical facilities, most of which have been destroyed?

A cleavage between Washington and Jerusalem is widening. If the Rafah offensive leads to substantial civilian casualties and more destruction, will the United States be forced to put greater pressure on Israel for a cease-fire, or to modify its offensive? And if so, would a serious rift arise?

Likewise, the war in Ukraine is not going well for Kyiv. Despite its extraordinary and courageous defense, Russia's overwhelming advantages in size, population and military power have taken their toll. The Ukrainian Army is suffering from attrition and lack of ammunition and other military equipment. While Europe and the United States are increasing production facilities, it will take time to replace.

President Volodymyr Zelensky has fired his commander, Valery Zaluzhny, presumably over the general's request for mobilizing more troops and possibly raising the draft age. Currently, Ukraine drafts men from 26 to 60 such that the average age of its soldiers is 40. And Zelensky seems reluctant to lower it substantially.

Frat

continued from page 2

the certain knowledge that Jesus gets the glory out of my being a member. Why? Because when I'm present with my brothers, the Holy Spirit is there abiding in me. I can, likewise, say that in every formal fraternity

setting, overt reverence is always paid to what I believe. In fact, I often either attend or serve as the celebrant for the weekly online services that are currently held by one of Kappa's alumni chapters.

Therefore, I am not tethered by being a fraternity brother -- far from it. Nothing about my membership

of these illustrious organizations restricts me in my faith. I'm entirely free in Him who set me free.

Keith Magee is a theologian, political adviser and social justice scholar. He is chair and professor of practice in social justice at Newcastle University (United Kingdom). He is senior

fellows and visiting professor in cultural justice at University College London Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose, where he leads the Black Britain and Beyond think tank, and is also a fellow at its Centre on US Politics. He is the author of "Prophetic Justice: Essays and Reflections on Race, Religion and Politics."

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National EMS Week May 21-27, 2023: Where Emergency Care Begins

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PITT COUNTY, N.C. – National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week is Sunday, May 21 through Saturday, May 27, 2023. The Board of County Commissioners celebrated and recognized Pitt County EMS professionals at the Monday, May 15 meeting. This year's national theme is EMS: Where Emergency Care Begins. Access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury. In 2022, Pitt County EMS units responded to over 15,000 calls for service. 57% of EMS call volume resulted in EMS treatment or transportation to the Emergency Department. The EMS Division of

Pitt County Emergency Management (PCEM) has served residents of Pitt County since 2002. Pitt County EMS directly operates four ambulance stations and two Quick Response Vehicles (QRV). "The Pitt County EMS system is comprised of multiple agencies that span from 911 operators and first responders to Paramedics and EMT's. EMS Week is an opportunity to recognize the contributions of all of the men and women who serve their communities in these positions. EMS professionals excel in austere environments and perform multiple roles within the healthcare and emergency response systems," says Jim McArthur,

Deputy Director/EMS Coordinator. Pitt County EMS has 30 full time and 8 part time paramedics as well as four senior paramedics who serve as assistant supervisors. There are four shift supervisors that directly supervise Pitt County EMS employees and oversee daily operations of the entire EMS system. Pitt County EMS has an award-winning Community Paramedic Program designed to expand EMS services by providing in-home healthcare to underserved Pitt County residents who lack access to medical care. The program provides healthcare to citizens of Pitt County at a reduced cost and decreases non-emergency 911 calls.

"I am very proud of our EMS professionals for their excellent service to our community. Join me in recognizing them for a job well done," says Randy Gentry, Director, Pitt County Emergency Management. The Pitt County Website, Pitt County Facebook page, and the PCEM Facebook page, will feature special graphics and daily posts honoring National EMS Week. 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.gov

Pitt County 9-1-1 Communications Phone Service Interrupted

PITT COUNTY, N.C. – Pitt County Emergency Management notifies the public that incoming calls to the County's 9-1-1 Communications telephone system are being rerouted to Wilson County 9-1-1 for initial processing. The rerouting is due to an interruption of phone service by the provider Brightspeed. The provider is working to restore the service outage. Wilson County 9-1-1 will continue the initial processing of calls and transferring cases to Pitt County 9-1-1 until service is restored. "It's important that residents know the County is aware of the service outage

and to not be alarmed if their 9-1-1 calls are answered by Wilson County," says Randy Gentry, Director, Pitt County Emergency Management. "Pitt County emergency services responses to incidents will not be affected by this temporary phone service outage." A separate notice will be issued when service is restored. 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.gov

White House outlines federal government efforts on equity

By Clyde Hughes UPI

The Biden administration on Wednesday highlighted the efforts it has taken in the federal government to advance racial equity and justice for the underserved. The White House announcement was a mixture of things the administration was already doing to improve equity in banking, health and housing, among other areas, along with new initiatives. "Since day one of our administration, President Biden and I have fully committed to ensuring that every person in America has equitable access to opportunity and the ability to thrive," said Vice President Kamala Harris. "As we mark the one-year anniversary of the second equity executive order, we celebrate the hundreds of government-wide equity accomplishments and recommit to addressing the barriers that remain." The White House said the Labor Department will implement "Good Job Principles" to help improve wages in female-dominated sectors and to address childcare and other issues affecting inequality in the workplace for women. To combat discrimination in home appraisals, the Department of Housing and Urban Development started an initiative to work with the National Association of Real Estate Brokers to weed out bias in the field. The Department of Transportation will implement a \$4 billion grant program that will address decades of disinvestment in low-income and blighted communities after the building of the country's freeway system through urban areas. Health and Human Services will begin an effort to address gaps in insurance coverage that disproportionately affect women of color in maternal health outcomes, including the expansion of postpartum coverage through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The White House said the Treasury Department has also invested \$9 billion to help financial institutions that serve low and moderate-income communities provide grants, loans and other services. Other programs will go to combat child food insecurity, environmental concerns such as pollution and wastewater infrastructure in minority communities, reforming the government's disaster assistance program, assisting disadvantaged farmers and small businesses through tailored relief programs, expanding mental health services for students and veterans, fostering community development in tribal and rural communities and using rental payment history to advance home ownership.

Paramount Global lays off 800 employees days after broadcasting record-breaking Super Bowl

By Darryl Coote UPI

Days after CBS' Super Bowl LVII broke viewership records, its partner company Paramount Global said it was laying off 800 employees as it seeks to cut costs and streamline its operations. The company's CEO Bob Bakish made the announcement Tuesday in an internal memo to employees. "These adjustments will help enable us to build on our momentum and execute our strategic vision for the year ahead," Bakish said, "and I firmly believe we have much to be excited about." The announcement comes weeks after Bakish had told employees on Jan. 25 that there would be layoffs, though did not disclose how many jobs would be cut. He defended the move last month by saying they



aim "to operate as a leaner company" while spending less, specifically on international content. "Our priority is to drive earnings growth," Bakish said in the January memo. "And we'll get there by growing our revenue while closely managing costs -- a balance that will require every team, division and brand to be aligned."

Paramount Global, which owns several media and entertainment companies, including CBS and streaming service Paramount+, saw its shares drop 4% Tuesday morning. The announcement of layoffs comes on the heels of CBS broadcasting Sunday's record-breaking Super Bowl LVII, which garnered 123.4 million

average viewers across all platforms, making it the most-watched telecast in history. However, the announcement also makes it one of several tech and media companies to announce cuts to staff this year, including eBay, Sports Illustrated, Prime Video, MGM Studios and Twitch, to name a few.

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Impeached

continued from page 1

impeachment on Tuesday.

“Well, the Constitution hasn’t changed since last week, so my vote is not going to change,” McClintock told The Hill. “These are the same reasons I vigorously opposed the sham impeachment of Donald Trump.

“It dumbs down the standard for impeachment and assurance is going to become a constant fixture in our national life whenever the White House is held by one party and in the Congress by other.”

Mayorkas, in turn, blamed Congress on Sunday for the U.S. struggles to stop southern border crossing.

“It certainly is a crisis [at the border] and we don’t bear responsibility for a broken system,” Mayorkas told NBC News. “We’re dealing a tremendous amount within that broken system but fundamentally Congress is the only one who can fix it.”

Even if Republicans muster enough votes to impeach Mayorkas, there would be little chance of him being removed with the Democratic control of the Senate where a trial would need to be held and a two-thirds vote for removal.

Iowa, Arizona Republicans move to protect Donald Trump’s ballot eligibility

By Joe Fisher
UPI

Republican legislators in Arizona and Iowa are considering bills that would keep former President Donald Trump on the ballot, regardless of any criminal convictions or 14th Amendment challenges.

The bills come in response to the legal challenges Trump is facing on multiple fronts as he campaigns for a second term. He faces 91 felony charges in four criminal cases. Trump has pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Supreme Court is weighing whether a state can disqualify Trump under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which cites engaging insurrection as grounds. Trump’s role in the Capitol attack of Jan. 6, 2021, is the focus of one of the federal criminal cases against him.

IOWA FELONS

Iowa Republicans are advancing a bill that would allow felons to appear on the ballot, signaling support for Trump.

Two Democrats walked out of a House subcommittee meeting Tuesday as the panel advanced House Study Bill 697. The bill



would make several changes to Iowa elections. Most notably, it would allow Trump to appear on the general election ballot even with a felony conviction.

The bill also passed a senate subcommittee.

Under the current language of the bill, federal candidates convicted of felonies can appear on the ballot.

It would also require absentee ballots to be submitted to the county auditor’s office the day before an election, rather than when polls close on Election Day. Ballot drop boxes and ranked-choice voting would also be banned, though the Secretary of State’s office notes that ranked-choice voting is already banned.

Many of the public comments submitted on the bill concerned the ban of ranked-choice voting, on both sides of the issue.

Rep. Bobby Kaufmann, the Republican who chairs the subcommittee meeting, also served as an adviser to Trump’s campaign in Iowa. Ranking member Rep. Amy Nielsen, D-North Liberty, left the meeting after saying Kaufmann interrupted her while she was speaking. Rep. Adam Zabner, D-Iowa City, also left.

“It was made pretty clear that what I had to say was not well received, did not want to be heard,” Nielsen said outside of the meeting. The Gazette in Cedar Rapids reported. “If I can’t be heard, why am I here?”

Kaufmann said during the meeting that the decision on who should appear on the ballot should be left to voters.

“It takes quite a lot of nerve to call a bill an election integrity bill, when the point of the bill is to let felons run for office, and particularly someone like Donald Trump, who has so little integrity,” Zabner told reporters.

ARIZONA MEASURES

Republicans in the Arizona legislature have introduced three bills that would either keep Trump on the ballot, disqualify President Joe Biden or give lawmakers the power to overrule voters.

First is Senate Bill 1158, which states that a candidate for president cannot be removed from the ballot on the basis of a “claimed violation of the 14th Amendment.” This would apply to the official Republican or Democratic nominees and qualified independent and write-in candidates.

The Senate bill has been introduced and assigned to committees for review. The committee on elections advanced the bill in January with five votes in favor, two against and one member not voting.

Earlier this month, Rep. Cory

See **BALLOT**, page 9

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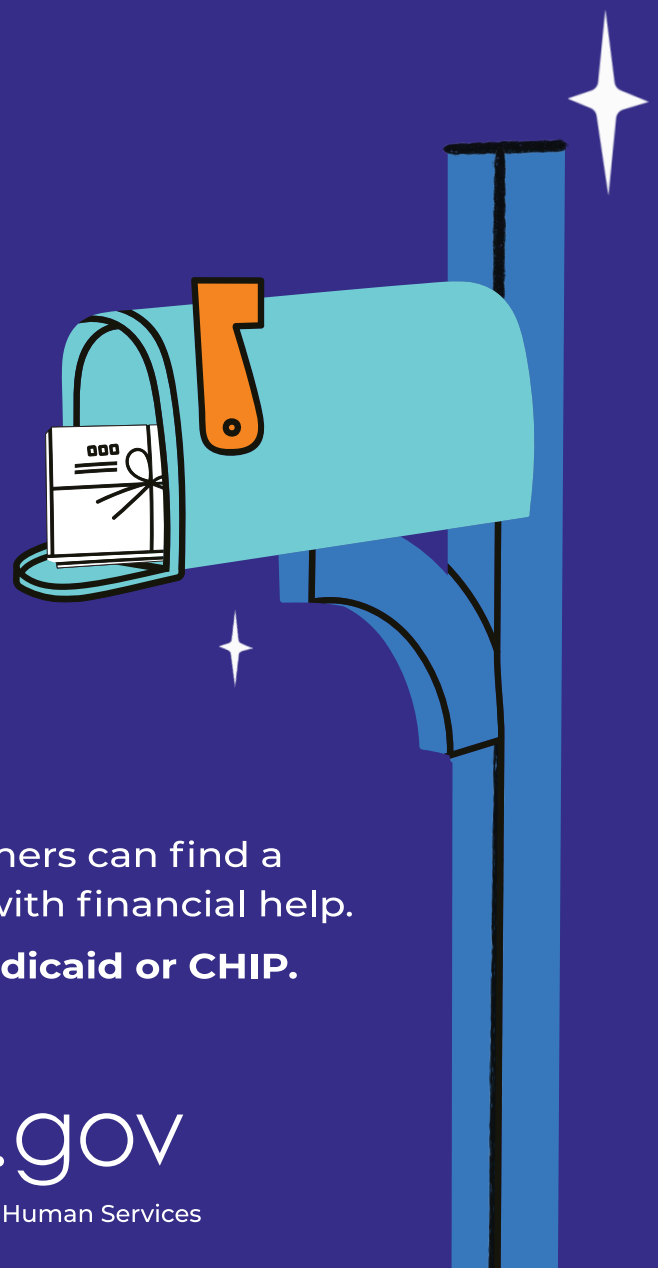
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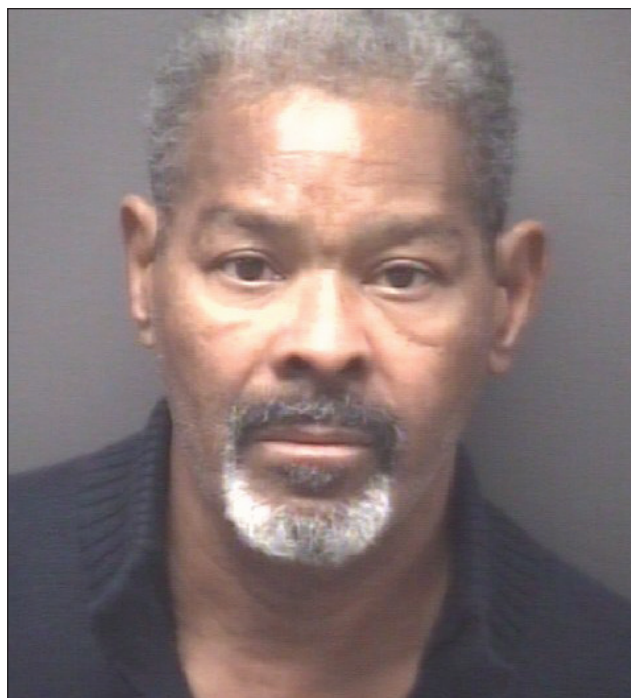
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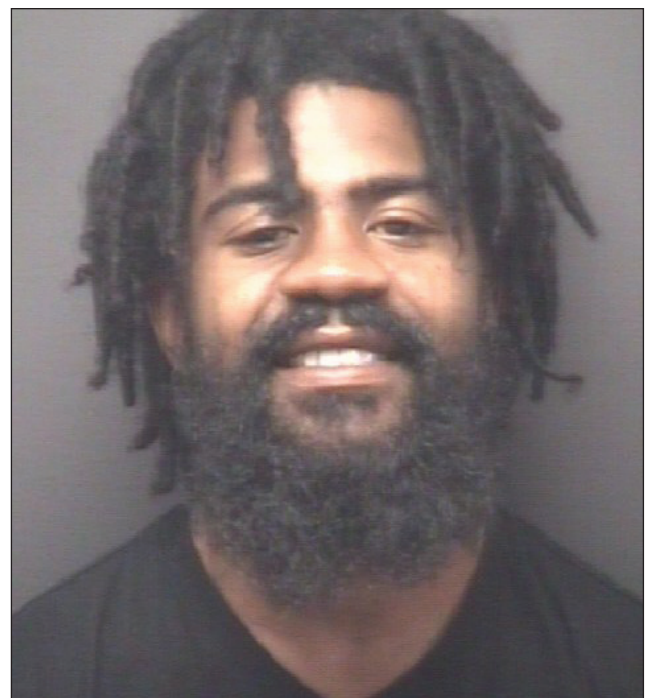
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 FTA-VIOLATION OF COURT ORDER – MISDEMEANOR



LYNWOOD EUGENE HARRIS JR

PROBATION VIOLATION – FELONY
 FAIL REPRT NEW ADDRESS-SEX OFF – FELONY



JUSTIN ARTIS WAYNE JOHNSON

FTA-FAILURE TO APPEAR ON FELONY – FELONY
 FTA-FAIL DISCLOSE ORIGIN RECORDING – FELONY
 FTA-TRAFFICKING IN COCAINE – FELONY
 FTA-POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY



JAVIER EDUARDO LOPEZ

FUGITIVE – FELONY
 MISD CRIME OF DOM VIOLENCE – MISDEMEANOR
 VIOLATION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE – MISDEMEANOR



COREY NATHANIEL MCCRARY

FELONY PROBATION VIOLATION – FELONY
 INTERFERE ELECT MONITOR DEV – FELONY
 RESISTING PUBLIC OFFICER – MISDEMEANOR
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MARCUS ROMARO MOORE

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Chiefs' Travis Kelce calls Super Bowl bump of coach Andy Reid 'unacceptable'



Alex Butler

Feb. 14 (UPI) -- Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce admitted on his podcast that his bump of Andy Reid, which nearly knocked over the 65-year-old coach during the Super Bowl, was "unacceptable."

Kelce commented on the run-in Wednesday on "New Heights." The All-Pro showed his frustration by running up and screaming at the coach in the second quarter of the 25-22 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII on Sunday in Las Vegas.

"It's definitely unacceptable," Kelce said. "I immediately wished I could have taken it back."

Kelce caught the Chiefs' first pass attempt of the game and gained one yard in the first quarter. That was his only target and reception of the first half. He went on to see 10 targets and recorded nine catches for 92 yards in the second half and overtime.

But before that surge, Kelce ripped off his helmet, turned and bumped Reid as he screamed in frustration. Reid, who wasn't expecting the collision, nearly fell over before he regained his balance. Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon then wrapped his arms

around Kelce, trying to get him to settle down.

"I can't get that fired up to the point where I'm bumping coach and it's getting him off balance and stuff," Kelce said. "When he stumbled, I was like: 'Aw, [expletive]; in my head.'"

Reid joked about the run-in during the CBS postgame show, saying that Kelce keeps him "young." He later told reporters that Kelce told him to put him in the game so he could score a touchdown.

Kelce also joked with reporters, saying he was just telling Reid how much he "loves him." He told his brother, Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce, on Wednesday's podcast that he agreed that he crossed the line with his interaction with the longtime NFL coach.

"I'm a passionate guy," Kelce said. "I love coach Reid. Coach Reid knows how much I love to play for him and how much I love to be a product of his coaching career."

Kelce said he spoke to coach Reid about the incident and the two "chuckled about it."

Kelce also said he will not play for another coach in his NFL career, claiming he would retire if Reid chose to retire after winning his

third Super Bowl.

"If he calls it quits this year, I'm right there with him," Kelce said.

Reid said Monday that he has no plans to retire.

"I couldn't be more proud of being his product on the field and I couldn't be more proud of where we've come as a team since I got here in 2013," Kelce said. "I just love playing for the guy."

"Unfortunately, sometimes my passion comes out where it looks like it's negatively, but I'm grateful that he knows it's because I want to win this thing with him more than anything."

Kelce said Reid came up to him after the collision and "didn't have harsh words," but told him "to be better." He said Reid also told him he loved his passion, but reminded the tight end about the amount of cameras filming the Chiefs sideline.

Kelce totaled game-highs with nine catches and 93 yards in the victory. He logged 32 catches for 355 yards and three touchdowns this postseason.

The nine-time Pro Bowl selection and four-time All-Pro totaled 31 catches for 350 yards and two scores in his four Super Bowl appearances.

MLB: Rays, Mets among 9 teams to wear 2024 City Connect uniforms



Alex Butler

Feb. 14 (UPI) -- The Tampa Bay Rays and New York Mets will be among nine teams that will wear City Connect alternate uniforms during the 2024 season, the league and Nike said.

MLB and the sports apparel company announced Tuesday night that the Cleveland Guardians, Detroit Tigers, Minnesota Twins, Philadelphia Phillies, St. Louis Cardinals and Toronto Blue Jays also will don the jersey kit combinations.

The league did not give the exact dates the teams will wear the uniforms, but the games will occur between opening day and the All-Star break.

The alternate jerseys -- which feature different color schemes and references

to each city's history and culture -- will be sold at the MLB shop, Fanatics and Nike. The City Connect uniforms debuted in 2021. A total of 20 teams, including the Dodgers, wore the uniforms over the last three seasons.

MLB pitchers and catchers started reporting Friday and will continue to arrive through Thursday at respective spring training sites in Arizona and Florida. Position players, starting with the Dodgers, will arrive from Wednesday through Tuesday.

The Dodgers and San Diego Padres will face off in the first game of the regular season March 20 in Seoul. All 30 MLB teams will take the field March 28 for a league-wide opening day.

Bulls' DeMar DeRozan to launch mental health YouTube series

Alex Butler

Feb. 14 (UPI) -- Chicago Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan will launch a YouTube series Tuesday, discussing mental health with past and present NBA stars and influencers, he announced Wednesday.

DeRozan posted a "first look" preview of the "Dinners with DeMar" series Wednesday morning on his YouTube channel.

"For me, growing up in an urban community, we never talked about the effects of mental health or what you see every single day on a daily basis," DeRozan said in the video.

Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green, Milwaukee Bucks guard Damian Lillard and Miami Heat legend Dwyane Wade were shown conversing with DeRozan in the preview.

Podium Pictures first announced "Dinners with DeMar" on May 16, as part of several "mental health documentary

projects." The media company plans to produce a six-part mental health series.

DeRozan, 34, revealed in 2018 on Twitter -- now X -- that he was fighting depression and anxiety. He expanded on that battle in an interview with the Toronto Star.

"It's one of them things that, no matter how indestructible we look like we are, we're all human at the end of the day," DeRozan told the Star.

A month after DeRozan detailed his journey, Cleveland Cavaliers star Kevin Love opened up about his mental health in an essay for The Players Tribune. Several other athletes, including Simone Biles, Naomi Osaka, Dak Prescott, Serena Williams and Michael Phelps, also opened up about their mental health in recent years.

Phelps detailed his battle in the HBO Sports documentary "the Weight of Gold," which was also created by Podium Pictures creator and executive producer



Brett Rapkin

DeRozan, a six-time All-Star and three-time All-NBA selec-

tion, is averaging 22.7 points, 5.2 assists and 4.1 rebounds per game through 52 starts this season for

the Bulls. He logged a league-high 37.6 minutes per game so far this season.



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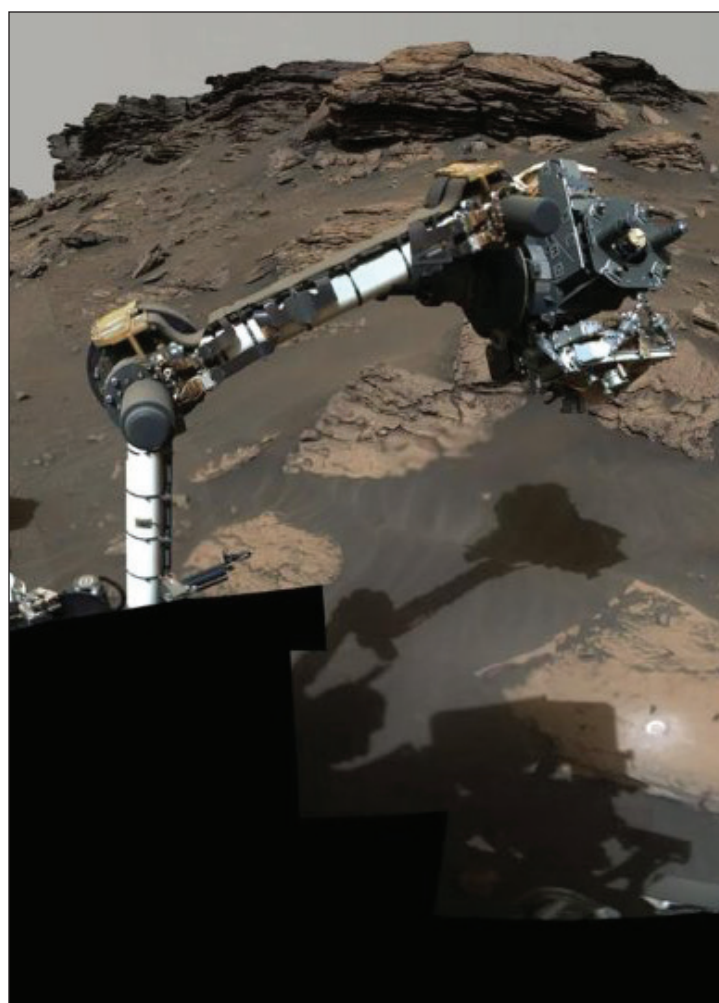
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NASA engineers trying to fix stuck dust cover on Perseverance Mars rover camera

By Sheri Walsh
UPI

NASA engineers are working to close one of two dust covers, stuck open on a camera aboard NASA's Perseverance Mars rover, to help scientists resume collecting crucial data on the Red Planet, the space agency announced Tuesday.

The cover prevents dust from accumulating on the optics of the Scanning Habitable Environments with Raman and Luminescence for Organics and Chemicals, or SHERLOC instrument, which is mounted on rover's robotic arm.

With the cover stuck in the open position, the camera cannot use its laser on rock targets and cannot collect spectroscopy data. It can, however, still use WATSON -- or the Wide Angle Topographic Sensor for Operations and Engineering -- a color camera on SHERLOC, which is used to take close-up images of rock grains and surface textures.

Since the problem was discovered on Jan. 6, engineers have been working to determine the cause and possible solutions, including sending commands to the instrument to alter the amount of power being fed to it.

While SHERLOC is NASA's main data-collecting instrument on Perseverance, there is some overlap with six other instruments. PIXL, or Planetary Instrument for X-ray

Lithochemistry, and SuperCam can also perform spectroscopy.

Perseverance has been searching for signs of past microbial life since it landed on Mars nearly three years ago, on Feb. 18, 2021. SHERLOC has scanned and provided data on 34 rock targets and created 261 hyperspectral maps.

Last month, Perseverance verified lake sediments on the floor of the Jezero Crater which scientists believe was filled with water in an ancient lake.

The Mars 2020 Perseverance mission is also part of NASA's Moon to Mars exploration, which includes Artemis missions to the Moon that will prepare crews for human exploration of the Red Planet.

Perseverance data collection has had help from NASA's Ingenuity helicopter which took its final flight on Mars last month. Ingenuity's mission lasted for almost 1,000 Martian days, or nearly three years, covering nearly 11 miles of ground in 72 flights before the 4 lb. helicopter suffered rotor blade damage and communication issues during its last outing.

"The sols won't be the same without the Mars Helicopter," NASA's Perseverance Mars rover wrote Jan. 25, in a post on X, with photo of Ingenuity and an image of Perseverance's robot arm.

"Thanks Ingenuity, for being my partner in exploration from the very beginning."

Kansas House passes bill making killing police animals a felony



By Doug Cunningham
UPI

The Kansas Legislature on Wednesday passed a bill criminalizing the killing of police dogs and horses.

The vote was 107-4 for the so-called Bane's Law. It now heads to the state Senate.

Kansas House Bill 2583 elevates the killing of a police dog to a felony with a minimum of 90 days incarceration and a fine of \$10,000. It also requires restitution that includes covering the cost of training a new law enforcement dog, paying for burial expenses

and any veterinary treatment costs.

"When I learned the penalties for harming or killing a police dog were so minimal, I knew we needed to do better for these heroic animals," Kansas House Speaker Dan Hawkins said. "Police service dogs, like K-9 Bane, are members of the police department and truly serve as a partner to their officer/handler. I'm proud to have been a part of making this important law a reality to protect the law enforcement animals who serve Kansans every day."

The bill was prompted by the death of Bane, a Sedgwick Coun-

ty police dog, that was beaten to death after chasing an armed suspect into a storm drain.

The Kansas House debate Tuesday had overwhelming support but was questioned by Rep. Ford Carr of Wichita.

"I don't think (the suspect) could've reasoned with the animal," Carr said during debate. "No one called the animal off. I just think that this is, you know, a bit harsh."

During his comments on the House floor, Carr mentioned the historical use of police dogs against African American communities during peaceful protests.

Pop-Tarts inventor William 'Bill' Post dead at 96

By Clyde Hughes
UPI

William "Bill" Post, the retired Keebler Co. executive who is acknowledged as the inventor of the Pop-Tart, has died at 96.

Post was a plant manager for the Hekman Biscuit Co., which later became Keebler, and was approached by breakfast foods leader Kellogg's about developing an idea for a new breakfast pastry that could be used in the toaster.

He died February 10.

Post, who had worked in all parts of the business by age 21, took the rough idea turned it into a product and had it on shelves in less than six months. Pop-Tarts were an instant hit in 1964 and remain a top-selling breakfast item today.

"To be accurate, however, Bill would say, 'I assembled an amazing team that developed Kellogg's concept of a shelf-stable-toaster pastry into a fine product that we could bring to market in the span of just four months,'" Post's



obituary said.

The creation of Pop-Tarts was one of the driving forces that led Kellogg's to eventually purchase Keebler and make it one of its enduring subsidiaries.

Post washed trucks at Hekman in Michigan out of high school and when he returned from World War II from serving in the Army Air Corp., the forerunner of the

Air Force, he started climbing the corporate ladder.

Post would eventually move to Illinois to work in Keebler's corporate headquarters until he retired as senior vice president at 56. He developed a personal relationship with Kellogg's executive William LaMothe and went on to serve as a consultant for the cereal leader for 20 years after retirement.

Ballot

continued from page 6

McGarr, R-Tucson, introduced House Bill 2786. Under this bill, if a presidential candidate from one of the two major parties is disqualified in any state for any reason, the nominee from the other party

cannot be printed on Arizona's ballots. If they are printed on the ballot, any votes for that candidate will not be counted.

If this bill were to pass and the Supreme Court upheld Colorado's decision on Trump's ballot eligibility, Arizona could remove Biden from the ballot in retaliation. The bill has been read twice in the Senate and assigned to committees.

Republican Sen. Anthony Kern, an alleged "fake elector" for Trump following the 2020 election, filed a bill called Senate Continuing Resolution 1014 this session. This bill would give the state legislature the exclusive authority to select presidential electors.

Kern is under investigation by Arizona's Attorney General Kris Mayes for allegedly attempting to

falsely certify the state's Electoral College votes in favor of Trump rather than Biden. He also pushed conspiracy theories on social media that the election was stolen and promoted the "stop the steal" movement that precipitated the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol.

"It is the responsibility of the Arizona Secretary of State to certify elections, including elections for

President of the United States, but the sole authority to appoint presidential electors is granted to the Legislature," the bill's text reads.

Under the U.S. Constitution, state political parties are responsible for choosing potential electors. Voters then select which party's electors are appointed when they vote for the presidential candidate of their choice.

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La Voz Latina

Joe Biden's aim for more 'humane' immigration faces court, legislative snags

By Joe Fisher
UPI

President Joe Biden's record on immigration reform and border security has critics from Republicans and Democrats as Congress mulls a path forward. It's a challenge many of his predecessors have also grappled with.

There is agreement across the board politically, and among migrant advocates, that changes must be made. Yet for nearly 30 years, Congress has punted on significant immigration reform.

The president campaigned in 2020 on bringing about a more humane approach to immigration policy. Though he signaled that he would undo many of the more controversial policies enacted by former President Donald Trump, some of those key policies remain.

"One of the similarities between the two are that for both administrations they've faced this kind of really odd scenario where Congress hasn't really passed any meaningful legislation on immigration for many years," Colleen Putzel-Kavanaugh, associate policy analyst for the Migration Policy Institute, told UPI. "They've had to move to using executive decisions, which makes them vulnerable to litigation."

'MIRED UP' IN COURT

On the campaign trail in October 2020, Biden vowed to deliver a bill to Congress that would give immigrants a route to citizenship. He also called for a review of temporary protected status for vulnerable populations, particularly those fleeing violence in their home countries.

"Within 100 days, I'm going to send to the United States Congress a pathway to citizenship for over 11 million undocumented people," said Biden, who is running for a second term this November, as is Trump.

Within hours of being sworn in on Jan. 20, 2021, Biden unveiled a number of policies and executive actions aimed at achieving what he called a "comprehensive and humane immigration system that operates consistently with our nation's values."

Among those actions was an executive order to revise the U.S. Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Priorities. The order would revoke Trump's executive

order that called for the removal of all undocumented immigrants and stoppage of all federal funding to sanctuary cities. This portion of Biden's executive order was enacted.

The order's call for a 100-day pause on removals was not. A federal judge challenged the moratorium days after it was issued. It would later be blocked indefinitely by a Texas judge.

"With President Biden, we've seen lots of different changes, but the same problems persist," Putzel-Kavanaugh said. "Things get mired up in the court system."

The president sent his first bill to Congress as well. The immigration bill sought to make several reforms to immigration policy. Among the most notable was its "roadmap to citizenship" that would put undocumented immigrants on an eight-year plan toward legal status. They would be allowed to apply for temporary legal status and apply for a green card after five years if they paid their taxes and passed a background check.

The immigration bill has remained dormant in Congress since being introduced. It has been referred to 12 committees but no other action has taken place.

The Department of Homeland Security was directed to suspend the Trump-era Migrant Protection Protocols, also referred to as the "Remain in Mexico" policy. The policy directed migrants from Mexico to remain there awaiting their appearance in court.

The suspension of the Migrant Protection Protocols was challenged in court and reinstated. It was challenged again and ultimately ended in October 2022.

DACA

Among the Trump administration's most controversial policies was his attempt to greatly limit the Obama administration's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Biden pushed back on these restrictions while campaigning for the presidency.

"All of those so-called dreamers, those DACA kids, they're going to be immediately certified again to be able to stay in this country and put on a path to citizenship," Biden said in October 2020.

Biden's stagnant day-one immigration reform bill included

language to make dreamers, individuals with TPS and immigrant farmworkers immediately eligible to apply for green cards. But it was not the only approach the president has taken to provide protections and rights to immigrants.

Also on day one, Biden released the memorandum Preserving and Fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

The DACA program provides protection from deportation and work permits for nearly 600,000 people. More than 800,000 young immigrants have been part of the program since its inception under the Obama administration in 2012.

In September, a federal judge in Texas ruled that Biden's actions to strengthen the program are illegal. He added that the issues with the program can only be fixed through legislative action.

"While sympathetic to the predicament of DACA recipients and their families, this court has expressed its concerns about the legality of the program for some time," U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen said in his ruling. "The solution for these deficiencies lies with the legislature, not the executive or judicial branches."

Hanen stopped short of saying the federal government must take any actions on immigration, such as carrying out deportations.

Trump had attempted to terminate the program outright, ordering DHS to stop processing DACA applications when he took office. This was ruled unlawful in 2020.

Family separations were another crisis that Biden focused on when he took office. On Feb. 2, 2021, he issued an executive order to create a task force focused on the reunification of families.

The Department of Health and Human Services found more than 3,000 cases of children being separated from their parents during the Trump administration. This followed the Trump administration's zero-tolerance border policy that used separations as a deterrent.

According to a November report by the human services department, 3,147 children separated from their families under the Trump administration have been reunited. This includes 775 children reunited with their parents by the task force.

Refugees, asylum seekers Political opponents of Trump

long challenged his executive order that restricted travel and visas from a number of countries in Africa and South America. Biden almost immediately pulled back on these bans, starting with the Proclamation on Ending Discriminatory Bans of Entry to the United States.

The proclamation lifted many restrictions on visas for nationals of Burma, Eritrea, Iran, Venezuela, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania and Yemen.

Biden has extended restrictions that Trump placed on North Korea following the killing of 22-year-old American college student Otto Warmbier.

An executive order by Biden revoked more Trump-era policies at the same time, including the policies that blocked asylum seekers from work authorization and ruled immigrants who entered the United States illegally are ineligible for asylum.

The COVID-19 slowed the number of refugees admitted into the United States through the end of 2020 and into Biden's presidency. Biden said he would increase the cap on refugees and he did so in 2022.

After limiting the number of refugees accepted in 2021 to 62,500 -- less than 12,000 were actually admitted -- the cap increased to 125,000 in fiscal year 2022.

In the spring of 2023 however, Biden rolled out the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways, a proposed rule that would presume migrants are ineligible for asylum if they enter the country unlawfully. It also required asylum seekers to use a phone app to apply for protections.

The proposal was one of several Biden rolled out as Title 42 was set to expire. Title 42 was used by the Trump administration to slow immigration during the pandemic in relation to the public health crisis.

The Biden administration credited a steep drop in illegal crossings to his new policy, but it was quickly challenged in court. Immigration advocates largely opposed the rule as well, referring to it as an asylum ban. About 300 organizations penned a letter to Biden ahead of the policy being enacted, asking him not to move forward with it.

The policy was struck down in court in July 2023, when a federal judge ruled it was "arbitrary" and "capricious."

BORDER WALL

Biden's stance on Trump's border wall came into conflict with his actions in the fall when his administration waived 26 federal laws, including environmental protections and land seizure laws to clear the way for more construction.

In a 2020 interview with the National Association of Black Journalists and National Association of Hispanic Journalists, Biden said he would not build "another foot" of Trump's border wall during his administration.

When Biden took office, he issued a proclamation to end the national emergency at the southern border and redirect funds from wall construction. The work stopped, but Congress did not redirect the funds appropriated to the wall.

Through three years in office, Biden has been called to take action on border security by Republican and Democratic leaders, including governors. Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and New York Mayor Eric Adams are among the prominent Democrats who have requested aid and reform as Chicago and New York have taken in an influx of migrants.

Meanwhile, Republican Govs. Greg Abbott of Texas and Ron DeSantis of Florida have taken to sending migrants from their states to Democrat-led cities while deriding the president's immigration policies.

Immigration advocates raised the alarm after a document from Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas revealed plans to continue construction of "physical barriers" at the southern border in October. The Immigrant Legal Resource Center called his apparent reversal on the wall and other policy reversals a "betrayal."

Biden stated he did not have the legal authority to stop construction of the wall as the funding had been authorized by Congress. He also said the wall is "not serious policy."

Carlos Guevara, director of policy at The Immigration Hub, told UPI Biden's change of direction is not so simple to understand.

"Some of that money had been committed already and had to be moved forward on. Folks on the advocacy side were more frustrated there wasn't more pushback to pursue alternative paths," Guevara said.



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