



80°/67°
Thunderstorms

EYES WIDE OPEN

In a remote village in Romania, volunteers give children their first vision test ever.
INTERNATIONAL, 4



Southwest Journalist

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Judge upholds Lubbock abortion ban

BY SHANNON
NAJMABADI
The Texas Tribune

A federal district judge dismissed on Tuesday a lawsuit to block a voter-approved abortion ban from taking effect in Lubbock, saying Planned Parenthood did not have standing to sue the city.

The decision comes just weeks after Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit to stop the Lubbock ordinance, which outlaws abortions and empowers “the unborn child’s mother, father, grandparents, siblings and half-siblings” to sue someone for damages if

they help others access an abortion.

In May, voters passed the “sanctuary city for the unborn” after it was shot down by City Council members who said it conflicted with state law and could be costly to defend. It took effect June 1.

Abortion rights advocates typically sue to prevent government officials from enforcing an unconstitutional abortion restriction. But the Lubbock ordinance is enforced solely by private citizens, not state or local actors. That enforcement structure has not been extensively tested in the courts, but the judge

said his rulings could not prevent private parties from filing civil lawsuits in state court.

“Because the ability to remedy a plaintiff’s injury through a favorable decision is a prerequisite to a plaintiff’s standing to sue — an ability absent here — the Court dismisses the case for lack of jurisdiction,” Judge James Wesley Hendrix wrote.

Almost 30 cities have sought to ban abortions by declaring themselves so-called sanctuaries for the unborn. Lubbock, with a population of about 259,000, is the largest city to do so and the first to have an abortion provider

within its city limits. Planned Parenthood opened a clinic to offer birth control and other services in Lubbock last year and began providing abortions this spring.

Ken Lambrecht, president of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, said the Lubbock clinic remains open for sexual and reproductive health care services.

He said the abortion ban “violates patients’ constitutional rights.”

“We will continue to stand up for (them) with all of our resources,” he said.

The city of Lubbock said in a news release it would con-

tinue to “vigorously defend the ordinance” if additional litigation is filed.

The ruling is a window into how courts may receive lawsuits about a newly passed state law that bans abortions as early as six weeks. It follows the same blueprint as the Lubbock ordinance by barring state officials from enforcing the law. But the state law is far broader, allowing anyone to sue those who assist with an abortion after a fetal heartbeat has been detected, such as by driving someone to a clinic or paying for the procedure.

■ ABORTION, Page 2

100+ LGBTQ MEXICANS RUN FOR OFFICE



FERNANDO LLANO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roshell Terranova sings during her campaign event for a seat on the national Congress in Mexico City on Saturday. Terranova will be one of more than 100 members of Mexico’s LGBTQ community participating in Sunday’s midterm elections that will fill the 500 seats of the lower chamber of the Congress, as well as state and local posts across the country.

Marven, a transgender woman from the state of Oaxaca, launches colorful smoke flares during her campaign event for a seat on Mexico City’s Congress, outside a restaurant in Mexico City on Saturday.

■ See MEXICAN ELECTIONS, Page 4

Duke’s Coach K to retire

BY AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

Duke’s Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski will coach his final season with the Blue Devils in 2021-22, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The source said former Duke player and associate head coach Jon Scheyer will take over as Krzyzewski’s successor for the 2022-23 season.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the school has not commented publicly on the decision.

The sports news website Stadium first reported news of 74-year-old Krzyzewski’s final season with Duke. He has led the school to five national championships, most recently in 2015. With 1,170 victories, he is the winningest coach in men’s college basketball history, with 1,097 of them coming during his 41 years with the Blue Devils.

Krzyzewski led the Blue Devils to 12 Final Four appearances and a record 15 Atlantic Conference Tournament championships, while his teams spent a record 126 weeks ranked No. 1 in the AP men’s college basketball poll.

Hired at Duke in May 1980, “Coach K” won national championships in 1991, 1992, 2001, 2010 and 2015, while setting the men’s career coaching victories record in November 2011.

He has tailored his approach to adapt to the times and his personnel. He won the 2010 title with a senior-laden roster, then claimed the 2015 one after pivoting to more “one-and-



GERRY BROOME / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Head coach Mike Krzyzewski joined the Duke coaching staff in May 1980. After leading the school to five national championships, he will reportedly retire next year.

done” talent that headed to the NBA after a lone college season playing in Duke’s famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium.

His image became synonymous both with the elite private university in Durham, North Carolina, and the sport as a whole.

Along the way, he also took over the U.S. men’s national team — with NBA All-Star rosters featuring players such as LeBron James and the late Kobe Bryant — and led it to Olympic gold in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Duke missed the NCAA Tournament this past season for the first

time since 1995, but the Blue Devils will welcome one of the nation’s top recruiting classes for the upcoming season.

Scheyer played for Krzyzewski from 2006 to 2010, with his last season delivering his mentor’s fourth NCAA title. Scheyer joined the Duke staff for the 2013-14 season and rose to his current role following the 2017-18 season.

Scheyer served as interim coach last year for Duke when Krzyzewski was sidelined for a January win against Boston College due to COVID-19 protocols. Scheyer has never been a college head coach.

Netanyahu faces removal as Israel’s PM

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s opponents announced they have reached a deal to form a new governing coalition, paving the way for the ouster of the long-time Israeli leader.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid and his main coalition partner, Naftali Bennett, made the announcement moments before a midnight Wednesday deadline. The deal prevented the country from plunging into its fifth election in just over two years.

“This government will work for all the citizens of Israel, those that voted for it and those that didn’t. It will do everything to unite Israeli society,” Lapid said.

Netanyahu, desperate to remain in office while he fights corruption charges, is expected to do everything possible in the coming days to prevent the new coalition from taking power. If he fails, he will be pushed out.

The deal comes at a tumultuous time for Israel, which fought an 11-day war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip last month while also experiencing mob violence between Jews and Arabs in cities across the country. The country also is emerging from a coronavirus crisis that caused deep economic damage and exposed tensions between the secular majority and the ultra-Orthodox minority.

Under the agreement, Lapid and Bennett will split the job of prime

minister in a rotation. Bennett will serve the first two years, while Lapid will serve the final two years — though it is far from certain their fragile coalition will last that long.

The historic deal also includes a small Islamist party, the United Arab List, which would make it the first Arab party to be part of a governing coalition in Israel.

In the coming days, Netanyahu is expected to continue to put pressure on hard-liners in the emerging coalition to defect and join his religious and nationalist allies. Knesset Speaker

This government will work for all the citizens of Israel, those that voted for it and those that didn’t.

OPPOSITION LEADER
YAIR LAPID

Yariv Levin, a member of Netanyahu’s Likud party, may also use his influence to delay the required parliamentary vote.

Each of the past four elections was seen as a referendum on Netanyahu’s fitness to rule. And each

ended in deadlock, with both Netanyahu’s supporters as well as his secular, Arab and dovish opponents falling short of a majority.

The new deal required a reshuffling of the Israeli political constellation. Three of the parties are led by hard-line former Netanyahu allies who had personal feuds with him, while the United Arab List made history as a kingmaker, using its leverage to seek benefits for the country’s Arab minority.

■ ISRAEL, Page 2

BY THE NUMBERS

1,170
total victories

41
years with the Blue Devils

126
weeks his teams ranked No. 1

15
Atlantic Conference Tournament championships

SOURCE: Associated Press

George P. Bush running for Texas AG



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush arrives for a kickoff rally Wednesday in Austin with his wife, Amanda, to announce he will run for Texas attorney general.

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — George P. Bush on Wednesday launched his next political move: a run for Texas attorney general in 2022 that pits the scion of a Republican dynasty against a GOP incumbent shadowed by securities fraud charges and an FBI investigation.

Bush, who has served as the Texas land commissioner since 2015, is the son of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the nephew and grandson of two former presidents. He is the last of the Bush family still in public office — and was the first to break with them over supporting former President Donald Trump, who has mocked the family that was once the face of the Republican Party.

Now he is launching the first major challenge against embattled Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has spent six years in office under felony indictment over accusations of defrauding investors, and more recently was accused of bribery by his own former top aides.

“Here in Texas, we have a scandal that is plaguing one of our highest offices. And I believe conservatives should have a choice,” Bush said at a campaign kickoff rally in Austin.

His bid to move up Texas’ political ladder sets

up a potentially bruising primary that will test GOP voters’ appetite for the Bush name against the durability of a two-term attorney general who is embroiled in legal trouble.

On Tuesday, Trump endorsed Republican Gov. Greg Abbott for a third term but has not weighed in on the Texas attorney general race, which Bush had signaled for months he would enter.

Hours ahead of Bush’s announcement, Paxton’s office publicized a court brief that denies claims of impropriety leveled by top-level deputies who were fired after taking part in an extraordinary revolt against Paxton last fall.

Paxton called the accusations an “unsubstantiated smear campaign” and has separately pleaded not guilty in his securities fraud case that has languished since 2015.

Bush, meanwhile, enters the race at a moment of intense scrutiny and bipartisan outrage in Houston over his General Land Office announcing the city wouldn’t get a cent of the initial \$1 billion in federal funding that was promised to Texas following Hurricane Harvey.

The race is pivotal for Bush’s political future in Texas, where he has aligned himself with Trump, unlike his famous relatives.

Far-right groups cut ties after Jan. 6

Dozens of Proud Boys, Oath Keepers charged

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN AND
ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump’s lies about a stolen 2020 election united right-wing supporters, conspiracy theorists and militants on Jan. 6, but the aftermath of the insurrection is roiling two of the far-right extremist groups most prominent at the U.S. Capitol that day.

More than three dozen members and associates of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers have been charged with crimes, including more than two dozen Proud Boys leaders, members or associates.

The Proud Boys, a group of self-described “Western chauvinists,” emerged from far-right fringes during the Trump administration to mainstream GOP circles, with allies like longtime Trump backer Roger Stone.

Some local chapters have cut ties with national leadership in the weeks after the deadly siege. The Proud Boys’ chairman called for a pause in the rallies that have led to clashes with anti-fascist activists.

Meanwhile, 16 members and associates of the Oath Keepers — a militia group founded in 2009 that recruits current and former military, police and first responders — have been charged with conspiring to block the certification of the vote.

An Oath Keepers member was the first defendant to plead guilty in the

riot. Jon Ryan Schaffer has also agreed to cooperate with the government’s investigation. The Justice Department has promised to consider putting him in the witness security program, suggesting it sees him as a valuable cooperator in the Jan. 6 probe.

Some extremism experts see parallels between the fallout from the Capitol riot and the schisms that divided far-right figures and groups after their violent clashes with counter-protesters at the “Unite the Right” white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017. The white supremacist “alt-right” movement fractured and ultimately faded from public view after violence erupted that weekend.

“I think something kind of like that is happening right now in the broader far-right movement, where the cohesive tissue that brought them all together — being the 2020 election — it’s kind of dissolved,” said Jared Holt, a resident fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab.

“Like ‘Unite the Right,’ there is a huge disaster, a PR disaster, and now they’ve got the attention of the feds. And it’s even more intense now because they have the national security apparatus breathing down their necks,” he said.

But others believe President Joe Biden’s victory and the Jan. 6 investigation, the largest federal prosecution in history, might animate the militia movement — fueled by an anti-gov-



NOAH BERGER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proud Boys chairman Enrique Tarrio rallies in Portland, Oregon, in 2019. Chapters have split with national leadership after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

ernment anger.

“We’re already seeing a lot of this rhetoric being spewed in an effort to pull in people,” said Freddy Cruz, a Southern Poverty Law Center research analyst who studies anti-government groups. “It’s very possible that people will become energized and try to coordinate more activity given that we have a Democratic president in office.”

The insurrectionists who descended on the nation’s capital briefly disrupted the certification of Biden’s presidential win.

The crowd marched to the Capitol and broke through police barricades

and overwhelmed officers, shoving their way into the building to chants of “Hang Mike Pence” and “Stop the Steal.” Some came prepared with pepper spray, baseball bats and other weapons.

Members of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers make up just a small fraction of the more than 400 people charged so far. Prosecutors have narrowed in on the two extremist groups as they try to determine how much planning went into the attack, but authorities have said they’re intent on arresting anyone involved in the riot.



ODED BALILTY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid listens during a May 6 news conference.



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli left-wing protesters chant in Ramat Gan during a demonstration for forming a new government.



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli right-wing protesters chant in Ramat Gan during a demonstration against forming a new government.

Israel coalition moves to take control

Continued from Page 1

“This is the first time an Arab party is a partner in the formation of a government,” said the party’s leader, Mansour Abbas. “This agreement has a lot of things for the benefit of Arab society, and Israeli society in general.”

Among the concessions secured by Abbas were agreements for legal recognition of Bedouin villages in southern Israel, an economic plan for investing \$9.2 billion in Arab towns and cities, and a five-year plan for combating violent crime in Arab communities, according to Army Radio.

Lapid, 57, entered parliament in 2013 after a successful career as a newspaper columnist, TV anchor and author. His new Yesh Atid party ran a successful rookie campaign and Lapid won the powerful post of finance minister.

But he and Netanyahu did not get along, and the coalition quickly crumbled.

Bennett, 49, is a former top aide to Netanyahu whose small Yamina party caters to religious and nationalist hard-liners. Bennett was a successful high-tech entrepreneur and leader of the West Bank settler movement before entering politics.

In order to secure the required parliamentary majority, Lapid had to bring together eight parties that had little in common.

Their partners include a pair of left-wing parties that support Palestinian independence and three hard-line parties that oppose major concessions to the Palestinians and support West Bank settlements. Lapid’s Yesh Atid and Blue and White, a centrist party headed by Defense Minister Benny Gantz, and the United Arab List are the remaining members.

The coalition members hope their shared animosity toward Netanyahu will provide enough incentive to find some common ground.

“Today, we succeeded. We made history,” said Merav Michaeli, leader of the Labor Party.

To form a government, a party leader must secure

the support of a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat parliament. Because no single party controls a majority, coalitions are usually built with smaller partners. Thirteen parties of various sizes are in the current parliament.

As leader of the largest party, Netanyahu was given the first opportunity by the country’s figurehead president to form a coalition. He was unable to secure a majority with his traditional religious and nationalist allies.

After Netanyahu’s failure to form a government, Lapid was then given four weeks to cobble together a coalition.

Lapid already faced a difficult challenge bringing together such a disparate group of partners. Then war broke out with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip on May 10. The fighting, along with the eruption of Arab-Jewish mob violence in Israeli cities during the war, put the coalition talks on hold.

After a cease-fire was reached May 21, negotiations resumed, and Lapid raced to sew up a deal. He reached a breakthrough Sunday when Bennett agreed to join the opposition coalition.

State seeks 30 years for Chauvin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Prosecutors are seeking a 30-year sentence for the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of murder in George Floyd’s death.

Chauvin is scheduled to be sentenced June 25 following his conviction on murder and manslaughter charges. Judge Peter Cahill previously ruled there were aggravating factors in Floyd’s death.

“No sentence can undo Mr. Floyd’s death, and no sentence can undo the trauma Defendant’s actions have inflicted. But the sentence the Court imposes must show that no one is above the law, and no one is below it,” prosecutors wrote.

“Defendant’s sentence must hold him fully accountable for his reprehensible conduct.”

According to court documents filed Wednesday, defense attorney Eric Nelson cited Chauvin’s age, lack of a criminal record, and the support from family and friends when he requested a sentence of probation and time served.

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BRIEFS

Feds: Thieves stole thousands in stimulus money

MIAMI — Federal authorities say a ring of thieves from Venezuela living in South Florida and Mexico stole hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. government stimulus checks from people who were struggling financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jesus Felipe Linares Andrade, 34, was charged with identity theft and conspiring to steal government money, the Miami Herald reported.

Federal prosecutors said as many as four co-conspirators may be added to an indictment.

The indictment said Linares and the unnamed co-conspirators are accused of stealing stimulus checks and cashing them using fraudulent identification documents.

Linares, who was arrested in May and pleaded not guilty, is being held without bond. Defense attorney David Scott Markus declined to comment Tuesday.

In January, an FBI informant met in a mall parking lot near Miami with one of the four co-conspirators to discuss cashing about 30 Treasury checks totaling \$36,000, the indictment said. The checks were addressed to different U.S. taxpayers with addresses in Mexico.

In April, Linares met with the two FBI informants at another Miami area mall to discuss picking up a UPS package at a post office in Deerfield Beach, the newspaper reported. The package contained 416 checks worth about \$249,000.

Ex-officer pleads guilty in connection with drug raid

HOUSTON — A former Houston police officer pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with a 2019 drug raid that killed both homeowners.

Steven Bryant admitted in his guilty plea Tuesday that he lied and obstructed the resulting investigation in the raid, the Houston Chronicle reported. His plea was the first time a law enforcement officer connected to the raid has pleaded guilty or been convicted. Bryant was charged in August with tampering with a government record. Police accused him of providing false information in a report after the raid that supported the story of his partner, Gerald Goines, about a confidential informant. Goines also was charged with two counts of felony murder after police accused him of lying in a search warrant about having a confidential informant buying heroin at the home. He later acknowledged there was no informant and that he bought the drugs himself, authorities said. The fabricated drug deal was part of the justification for the raid, which ended in gunfire that killed Dennis Tuttle and Rhogena Nicholas and injured five police officers.

Child found dead believed to be missing Houston boy

JASPER — A child found dead in a Texas motel room is likely a boy reported missing in Houston, police said Wednesday.

Authorities had been searching for Samuel Olson, who was first reported missing May 27. On Tuesday night, police recovered a child's body from a motel room in Jasper, about 135 miles northeast of Houston. A suspect has been arrested, police said.

Investigators believe the body is Olson but are awaiting official confirmation from a medical examiner who will also determine how and when the child died, Assistant Police Chief Heather Morris said.

The boy would have turned 6 over the weekend, family members said.

Theresa Balboa, the father's girlfriend, reported the boy missing and told officers that Samuel's mother and a police officer took the boy from the home, Morris said. On Tuesday, police in Jasper received an anonymous tip and searched the motel room, where they discovered the body.

Balboa was also at the motel and was taken into custody, Morris said. Prosecutors in Houston have authorized a charge of tampering with evidence against Balboa, but Morris said more charges are possible once an autopsy is complete.

Ex-CEO pleads guilty to Make-A-Wish theft

DES MOINES, Iowa — The former CEO of Make-A-Wish Iowa has pled guilty to charges of embezzling tens of thousands of dollars from the charity that supports sick children and their families.

Jennifer Woodley admitted in a written guilty plea last week that she made unauthorized charges on a foundation credit card, gave herself unapproved pay increases and made false entries into foundation records related to those expenses.

Woodley, 40, pled guilty to two counts of first-degree theft and one count of fraudulent practices, all felonies. Under a plea agreement, prosecutors will recommend a sentence of five years' probation, along with fines and restitution.

A charging document alleges that Woodley's embezzlement totaled nearly \$41,000, but restitution has not yet been set.

A sentencing hearing is set for July 20.

The theft began shortly after Woodley became the group's president and CEO in 2019 and continued until the group discovered financial irregularities last summer. That's when the organization fired Woodley and sought a criminal investigation.

Woodley turned herself in to face the charges in January and has been free on bond.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Ripley, 72, a Washington resident, holds up his free beer after receiving the J & J COVID-19 vaccine, at The REACH at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in May 6. Free beer is the latest White House-backed

incentive for Americans to get vaccinated for COVID-19. President Joe Biden announced a "month of action" on Wednesday to get more shots into arms before the July 4 holiday.

I'LL DRINK TO THAT

Biden tries gimmicks to get shots in arms

BY ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

Dangling everything from sports tickets to a free beer, President Joe Biden is looking for anything that will get people to roll up their sleeves for COVID-19 shots. Biden announced a "month of action" to urge Americans to get vaccinated before the July 4 holiday, including an early summer sprint of incentives and a slew of new steps to ease barriers and make getting shots more appealing to those who haven't received them. He is closing in on his goal, 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated by Independence Day.

"The more people we get vaccinated, the more success we're going to have in the fight against this virus," Biden said from the White House. He predicted that with more vaccinations, America will soon experience "a summer of freedom, a summer of joy, a summer of get togethers and celebrations. An All-American summer."

The Biden administration views June as "a critical month in our path to normal," Courtney Rowe, the director of strategic communi-

cations and engagement for the White House COVID-19 response team, told the AP.

Biden's plan will continue to use public and private-sector partnerships, mirroring the "whole of government" effort he deployed to make vaccines more available after he took office. The president said he was "pulling out all the stops" to drive up the vaccination rate.

Among those efforts is a promotional giveaway announced Wednesday by Anheuser-Busch, saying it will "buy Americans 21+ a round of beer" once Biden's 70% goal is met.

"Get a shot and have a beer," Biden said, advertising the promotion even though he himself refrains from drinking alcohol.

Additionally, the White House is partnering with early childhood centers such as KinderCare, Learning Care Group, Bright Horizons and more than 500 YMCAs to provide free childcare coverage for Americans seeking shots or assistance while recovering from side effects.

The administration is also launching a new partnership to bring vaccine education and even doses to more than a thousand Black-owned barbershops and beauty salons, build-

ing on a successful pilot program in Maryland.

They're the latest vaccine sweeteners, building on other incentives like cash giveaways, sports tickets and paid leave to keep up the pace of vaccinations.

"The fact remains that despite all the progress, those who are unvaccinated still remain at risk of getting seriously ill or dying or spreading the disease to others," Rowe said.

Aiming to make injections more convenient, Biden is announcing that many pharmacies are extending their hours this month — and thousands will remain open overnight on Fridays. The White House is also stepping up its efforts to help employers run on-site vaccination clinics.

Biden will also announce that he is assigning Vice President Kamala Harris to lead a "We Can Do This" vaccination tour to encourage shots. It will include first lady Jill Biden, second gentleman Doug Emhoff and Cabinet officials. Harris' travel will focus on the South, where vaccination rates are among the lowest in the country, while other officials will travel to areas of the Midwest with below-average rates.

CORONAVIRUS AROUND THE WORLD

NEW YORK

Pfizer and Moderna officials said people might need yearly shots. The companies plan to have some candidates ready this fall. Each country's health officials would decide when boosters get used.

LONDON

British health officials say three-quarters of the U.K.'s adult population has received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said reaching the milestone in less than six months was "an incredible step forward."

NICOSIA, Cyprus

Cyprus has confirmed two samples of the Indian COVID-19 variant in its population. The Ministry said the possibility of new variants entering the country remains high, despite the strict measures at Cyprus' two international airports.

BANGKOK, Thailand

AstraZeneca's partner in Thailand started its first deliveries of vaccines. Siam Bioscience said the first locally produced doses were delivered Wednesday to Thailand's Ministry of Health before the start of the country's official mass vaccination program.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

Officials in the Norwegian capital of Oslo decided to temporarily suspend the traditional celebrations for high school seniors who drive around in buses and drink, after a coronavirus outbreak tied to the festivities.



ADOLPHE PIERRE-LOUIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melanie Stansbury addresses supporters at the Hotel Albuquerque, Tuesday, after winning the election in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District race to fill former U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland's seat. Haaland resigned to become U.S. secretary of the interior.

Democrat wins NM House seat

BY MORGAN LEE AND SUSAN MONTOKA BRYAN
Associated Press

SANTA FE, New Mexico — The Albuquerque area delivered a resounding victory to a Democratic congressional candidate who embraced the Biden administration's economic recovery plans, as voters rebuffed Republican overtures across its heavily suburban and Latino political landscape.

Tuesday's special election vaulted 42-year-old Democrat Melanie Stansbury, a second-term state representative, into the congressional seat held previously by secretary of the interior Deb Haaland.

The election is a precursor to a handful of races to fill vacancies in Congress ahead of the 2022 midterm elections. Democrats held a 219-211 majority in Congress going into Tuesday's vote in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District. Stansbury won roughly 60% of the vote in a four-way race, defeating three-term Republican state Sen. Mark Moores.

Uncertified election results on Wednesday showed a victory margin of 24.5 percentage points for Stansbury — far greater than Haaland's 16-point win in 2020. That even edged past Biden's 23-point win in New Mexico last year.

Stansbury highlighted a working-class, public school upbringing in Albuquerque, and she embraced top-line Democratic initiatives on pandemic relief, infrastructure spending and interventions to slow climate change.

State Democratic Party officials said they used the election to rebuild advocacy infrastructure and return to in-person political events.

'Meme stock' skyrockets

AMC launches Investor Connect program

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN AND STAN CHOE
AP Business Writers

After its movie theaters were shut and its stock nearly left for dead because of the pandemic, AMC Entertainment is embracing the horde of investors who shocked its shares back to life as part of this year's "meme stock" buying spree.

The company said Wednesday it's launching a program called AMC Investor Connect to stay in direct contact with those 3.2 million investors.

Many bought AMC stock early this year, even as professional investors ran away, and helped lift it from less than \$2 a share on Jan. 5 to as high as \$72 on Wednesday.

AMC called them an "extraordinary base of enthusiastic and passionate individual shareholders," but investors are more likely to call themselves supporters who are taking the stock price "to the moon" and shaking up Wall Street along the way.

"After all, these people are the owners of AMC, and I work for them," AMC CEO Adam Aron said in a statement.

These smaller-fry buyers are known in the industry as "retail investors," to separate them from the pension funds, mutual funds and other institutional investors that typically dominate a company's ownership. At AMC, retail investors made up more than 80% as of mid-March.

Retail investors have become a much more powerful force across the market as easy-to-use trading apps and zero trading commissions have drawn in a new generation of traders.

Social media has amplified their power, with threads on Reddit, Twitter and elsewhere quickly building momentum for some stocks. The investors' power was most apparent early this year

when AMC, GameStop and a handful of other beaten-down stocks suddenly surged.

AMC soared 525.5% in January alone, after plunging nearly 71% the prior year. GameStop had an even more breathtaking move, vaulting 1,625%. In some cases, the quick gains short-circuited heavy bets made by hedge funds that the stocks would fall, which ultimately escalated the upward move.

Besides sharp swings, the increased weight of retail investors has also heightened critics' warnings that prices for investments across markets have inflated into dangerous bubbles, such as in the volatile world of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.

Bitcoin climbed above \$60,000 early this year, only to fall back toward \$38,000, according to CoinDesk. Dogecoin, which is trying to shed its image as a joke cryptocurrency, has soared more than 8,000% in 2021.

At AMC, much of professional Wall Street said the stock has also climbed too high. Some analysts peg its value closer to \$5 than its closing price of \$62.55 on Wednesday.

Instead of focusing on such analysts, though, AMC Investors Connect will send communications from its CEO directly to retail investors. It will also offer special screenings, discounts and other promotions to shareholders.

Other meme stocks were also big movers Wednesday, with GameStop rising 13.3%, in sharp contrast to the rest of the listless stock market. The S&P 500 inched up by 0.1%.

AMC's announcement came a day after it said it was raising \$230.5 million through a sale of 8.5 million shares of stock, cashing in on the frenzy that has sent its stock price up 2,850% this year.



MOVIES TO WATCH THIS SUMMER

June 4 — The Conjuring (R) ■ June 10 — In The Heights (PG-13) ■ June 11 and 18 — 12 Mighty Orphans (PG-13) ■ June 16 — Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard (R) ■ June 25 — F9 (PG-13) | June 30 — Zola (R) ■ July 9 — Black Widow (PG-13) ■ July 30 — The Green Knight (R) ■ Aug. 6 — The Suicide Squad (R) ■ Aug. 13 — CODA (PG-13) ■ Aug. 27 — Candyman (R)

VISIT THE SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST ONLINE FOR MORE

Record of LGBTQ Mexicans campaign

BY FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — For years, transgender activist Roshell Terranova protested in the streets and knocked on the doors of Mexico's Congress to make the demands of the country's LGBTQ community known. Now, thanks to her efforts and an electoral rule change, Terranova is running for Congress — a first for Mexico.

Terranova will be one of more than 100 members of Mexico's LGBTQ community participating in Sunday's midterm elections that will fill the 500 seats of the lower chamber of the Congress, as well as state and local posts across the country. This election will have the largest number of LGBTQ candidates in Mexico's history, according to Carla Humphrey, an official with the National Electoral Institute.

The likelihood of success of the candidates for some of the more than 20,000 posts remains unknown, but activists, analysts and members of the LGBTQ community say the sheer number of candidates signals a departure from a history of hiding sexual identity to pursue a political career.

The surge in LGBTQ participation follows an order from electoral authorities for political parties to include those candidates on their slates as part of their "affirmative action" efforts, which seek "to generate and open spaces to vulnerable groups," Hum-



FERNANDO LLANO/AP

Marven launches colorful smoke flares during her campaign event for a seat on Mexico City's Congress outside a restaurant in Mexico City, May 29.

phrey said.

"They must be made visible and have a voice and be able to influence," Humphrey said.

Electoral authorities plan to track their progress as they do with other groups that have faced discrimination and benefited from actions to promote their participation. Such groups include women, Indigenous groups, Afro-Mexicans, people with disabilities and Mexicans who live abroad, she said.

Patria Jiménez, another activist and candidate to become a local lawmaker,

was in 1997 the first openly gay federal congresswoman. She said the high level of participation this year is the result of a "social evolution" that LGBTQ activists won by protesting in the streets.

Minority political parties such as Citizen Movement, Progressive Social Networks and the Democratic Revolution Party registered dozens of LGBTQ candidates, exceeding the quotas set by electoral authorities. The largest parties just met the requirements.

Marven, a transgender woman from the state of Oaxaca, is running for a seat in Mexico City's legislative

body as a candidate for the small party Elige.

"We have marched for many years to be taken into account," she said.

If she wins, Terranova said she will fight to bring same-sex marriage to the whole country.

"Before, you couldn't come out of the closet because you were condemned to a life of physical, mental, social workplace torture and you were excluded everywhere," Terranova said.

Mexico's Supreme Court has ruled that bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional, but some states still have not passed legislation allowing it. In those cases, couples have been able to go to court to be allowed to marry. Terranova also plans to push legal reforms to allow the civil registration of transgender youth and require medical attention "without discrimination."

Ana Labambarri, an analyst at the Mexican Institute for Competition, expressed doubt about the influence winning LGBTQ candidates could have. Based on the institute's study of women who have won seats in local legislative bodies, they still have not been able to access positions that allow them to make important decisions because of structural problems associated with a patriarchal system. She said LGBTQ lawmakers would likely face similar obstacles.

BRIEFS

French writer wins Booker Prize with WWI story

LONDON — A harrowing but poetic tale of comradeship, colonialism and the horrors of war won the International Booker Prize for fiction Wednesday.

"At Night All Blood is Black" by French writer David Diop beat five other finalists to take the \$70,000 prize, which is open to fiction in any language that has been translated into English. The prize money will be split between the author and his translator, Anna Moschovakis.

Diop is the first French author to win the prize, a counterpart to the prestigious Booker Prize for English-language fiction.

British author Lucy Hughes-Hallett, who chaired the judging panel, said the "hypnotically compelling" book was both "appalling" and poetic.

Diop's novel was chosen by five judges over contenders including "In Memory of Memory" by Russian writer Maria Stepanova and the short story collection "The Dangers of Smoking in Bed" by Argentina's Mariana Enriquez.

Diop's novel, which was published in French in 2018, resonates with present-day debates about racism and colonialism.

Hughes-Hallett said the judges favored the book not "because it speaks to the current conversation about racial politics" but because "it spoke to us with the most power."

Lufthansa gets green light to resume flights to Russia

BERLIN — German airline Lufthansa said late Wednesday that it has received the green light from Russia to resume flights there, after being briefly denied permission, which resulted in a reciprocal blocking of flights by Germany.

In a statement, Lufthansa said Russian authorities approved its flights from Frankfurt to Moscow and St. Petersburg in June.

Lufthansa had been forced to cancel two flights Tuesday and Wednesday after failing to get approval from Russia's Federal Agency for Air Transport.

"Due to the underlying reciprocal practice, the German Federal Aviation Authority also did not issue any further permits for flights of the Russian carriers as long as the permits were pending on the Russian side," Germany's Transport Ministry said in a statement.

The move affected connections operated from Russia by Aeroflot and budget carrier S7.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the green light for Lufthansa would prompt German authorities to issue approval for Russian airlines to resume flights to Germany.

The ministry said "as soon as the FATA approvals for Lufthansa flights are granted by the Russian side, the flights of Russian companies will also be approved."

Paralympic swimmer wins Spanish prize

MADRID — Paralympic champion swimmer Teresa Perales won Spain's annual Princess of Asturias award for sports Wednesday.

When announcing the prize, the judges said the Spanish athlete had become "an example for millions of disabled people of how to overcome difficulties and an icon of international Paralympics."

Perales, 45, lost the use of her legs at age 19 because of neuropathy and switched from karate to swimming. She has won numerous medals at the Paralympic Games over the past two decades. She is also a motivational speaker and physiotherapist.

The \$60,900 award is one of eight Asturias prizes handed out each year by the foundation. Other categories include art, social sciences and scientific research.

Former winners include American Alpine skier Lindsey Vonn and Formula One racing driver Michael Schumacher.

The awards are among the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world. An awards ceremony typically takes place in October in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo.

Largest meat producer online after cyberattack

CANBERRA, Australia — The world's largest meat processing company has resumed most production after a weekend cyberattack, but experts say the vulnerabilities exposed by this attack and others are far from resolved.

JBS told the federal government the ransom demand came from the ransomware gang REvil, which is believed to operate in Russia, according to a person familiar with the situation who is not authorized to discuss it publicly.

JBS said late Tuesday that it had made "significant progress" in dealing with the cyberattack and expected the "vast majority" of its plants to be operating Wednesday. The attack affected servers supporting JBS' operations in North America and Australia. Backup servers weren't affected and the company said it was not aware of any customer, supplier or employee data being compromised.

"Our systems are coming back online, and we are not sparing any resources to fight this threat," Andre Nogueira, CEO of JBS USA, said in a statement.

Ransomware expert Allan Liska of the cybersecurity firm Recorded Future said the attack on JBS was the largest yet on a food manufacturer. The attack was the second in a month on critical U.S. infrastructure.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



VADIM GHIRDA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A little girl adjusts testing glasses during an eyesight examination performed by volunteer ophthalmologists working with the humanitarian organization Casa Buna, or Good House, in Nucsoara, Romania, May 29. Dozens of disadvantaged young Romanian children got a chance to get their eyesight examined for the first time in a remote village in the southern Carpathian Mountains.

Dozens of children in Romania examined for poor eyesight

BY STEPHEN MCGRATH
AND ANDREEA ALEXANDRU
Associated Press

NUCSOARA, Romania — Dozens of Romanian children had their eyes examined for the first time in a remote area of the southern Carpathian Mountains.

The humanitarian organization Casa Buna, or Good House, arranged the eye tests in Nucsoara.

Many children in the impoverished rural community had never been screened by an ophthalmologist.

"Given that out of 30 children tested, 20 needed glasses, I think such ophthalmic caravans are needed in as many villages in the country as possible," said Mioara Marinescu, the ophthalmologist at Saturday's event.

"Unfortunately in our country, children do not receive education or health equally," the eye doctor said.

Valeriu Nicolae, who founded Casa Buna in 2007, said poor eyesight can have a serious negative impact on children's educational outcomes.

"Teachers think the kids hate to read, but in fact, they hate to read because they cannot read because their eyesight is poor," Nicolae said. "Kids who cannot read because their eyes are really bad are useless in the educational process. They get fed up and they drop out."

The volunteer organization supports more than 300 children and families and emphasizes education.

Casa Buna arrived in Nucsoara more than a year ago. Volunteers visit

every two weeks to bring aid to 94 children and their families.

Dozens of volunteers participated in the eye-screening event and organized activities and games to entice as many children as possible. Casa Buna also brought youngsters gifts for International Children's Day, which Romania observes on June 1.

"We'll do [eye testing] this year in nine villages. We hope to make anywhere between 600 to 1,000 pairs of glasses," Nicolae said.

Child poverty is most prevalent in the country's rural communities, where one in two children lives in poverty. Romania has the highest percentage of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the entire 27-nation European Union.



ROMANIA
Population 19 million
35.8% of children at risk of poverty

AMBLYOPIA is known as "lazy eye."
20 out of 30 children needed glasses.

Canada PM Trudeau asks for apology from pope

BY ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada's Indigenous services minister said Wednesday that Pope Francis needs to formally apologize for the role the Catholic Church played in Canada's residential school system, days after the remains of 215 children were located at what was once the country's largest such school.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government also pledged again to support efforts to find more unmarked graves at former residential schools — institutions that held Indigenous children taken from families across the nation.

Rosanne Casimir, chief of the Tkemlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia, said the remains were confirmed last month at the school in Kamloops, British Columbia, with the help of ground-penetrating radar. So far none has been excavated.

The Kamloops Indian Residential School was Canada's largest such facility. The Roman Catholic Church operated the school between 1890 and 1969 before the federal government took it over as a day school until 1978, when it was closed.

A papal apology was one of the 94

recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was set up as part of a government apology and settlement over the schools. Trudeau personally asked the pope to consider such a gesture during a visit to the Vatican in 2017.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced in 2018 that the pope could not personally apologize for residential schools, even though he has not shied away from recognizing injustices Indigenous people around the world faced.

"I think it is shameful that it hasn't been done to date," Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said. "There is a responsibility that lies squarely on the shoulders of the Catholic bishops of Canada."

Carolyn Bennett, the Indigenous Relations Minister, said an apology by the pope would help those who suffered heal.

"They want to hear the pope apologize," she said.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment for the latest call for a formal public apology by the pope.

Former Pope Benedict met with a group of former students and victims



SEAN KILPATRICK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flowers, children's shoes and other items rest at a memorial at the Eternal flame on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on June 1, in recognition of discovery of children's remains at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

in 2009 and told them of his "personal anguish" over their suffering, Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said at the time.

Until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into Canadian society. They

were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

The Canadian government apologized in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant.