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BREAKING NEWS: Ex-Dallas cop Amber Guyger sentenced

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EX-DALLAS COP AMBER GUYGER GUILTY OF MURDER



By Nicholas Sakelaris
UPI

Former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger was found guilty of murder Tuesday for the fatal shooting of an unarmed man in his apartment a year ago.

Guyger shot and killed 26-year-old Botham Jean in his apartment on Sept. 6, 2018. She said she mistook Jean's apartment for her own and thought he was a burglar. Guyger lived one floor directly below Jean.

Cheers broke out in the hallway immediately following the verdict Tuesday.

"Nothing will bring Botham back, but today his family has found some measure of justice," said civil attorney Ben Crump.

"The jury's thoughtful verdict sets a powerful precedent for future cases, telling law enforcement officers that they cannot hide behind the badge but instead will face justice for their wrongful action."

Jean's mother, Allison, said "God is good. Trust Him."

See **GUYGER**, page 3

Pompeo resists House attempts to depose State officials in impeachment inquiry



By Nicholas Sakelaris
UPI

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday accused House Democrats of attempting to bully and intimidate current and former State Department officials the lawmakers seek to depose as part of an

See **POMPEO**, page 3



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OPINION

More frequent tropical storms mean less recovery time for coastlines

By Hans Paerl, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill UPI

Tropical cyclones -- storms that bring strong, rotating winds and rain, and which can intensify into hurricanes or typhoons -- affect coastal regions around the world. Our research team, centered at the University of North Carolina's Institute of Marine Sciences, has analyzed a 120-year record of tropical cyclones affecting coastal North Carolina, and found that six of the seven wettest storms over this time period occurred in the past two decades.

That trend appeared to continue with Hurricane Dorian, which delivered up to 10 inches of rain within 24 hours as it grazed the North and South Carolina coasts in early September. This additional rain is a combined result of a warmer ocean and slower moving or stalled cyclones approaching the coast.

More frequent and intense tropical storms have far-reaching ecological impacts on coastlines that last for months or years after storms pass. They affect estuaries, bays and marshes that are crucial nurseries for major ocean fisheries.

Researchers don't yet know how multiple events like this affect the long-term stability, resiliency and recovery of these valuable ecosystems. I believe it is critical to understand what these impacts could mean for vitally important water quality and fisheries habitat, recreational value and livability for local residents and visitors.

Coastal storms have caused widespread damage in recent years. Record rainfalls have been associated with recent cyclones striking the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean, eastern China, Korea and Japan, and the southeastern coast of Africa. These storms cause large-scale property damage, human suffering and economic hardship. Their increasing frequency also has profound effects on estuaries and coastal waters that drain their upstream flood-affected watersheds.

As rainfall from large tropical storms flows from elevated inland regions toward coastal plains, it carries immense quantities of nutrients, dissolved organic matter, sediments and urban, industrial and agricultural pollutants. This puts a heavy burden on watersheds and downstream coastal ecosystems that receive these discharges. Many of these coastal areas are already influenced by human activities under normal hydrologic conditions.

When excess nitrogen and phosphorus build up in rivers and bays, they can cause recurring algal blooms with cascading impacts, including oxygen depletion, fish and shellfish kills and food chain disruptions. There are harmful aesthetic and economic impacts as well, including accumulation of smelly decomposing algae and loss of recreational and fishing habitats. These conditions inconvenience residents and may drive away tourists, harming the local economy.

Lasting impacts
My colleagues and I have been measuring nutrients discharged to coastal systems for decades, gathering evidence from large storms like Hurricane Floyd, which flooded much of North Carolina's coastal plain in 1999. We found that a single storm can discharge as much nitrogen to coastal waters as they would receive during an entire hurricane-free year. Nitrogen in runoff from Floyd led to an outbreak of algal blooms that lasted well over a year in Albemarle-Pamlico Sound, a large, semi-enclosed lagoon that lies between the Outer Banks and North Carolina's mainland. Albemarle-Pamlico Sound, which covers some 3,000 square miles of open water and drains six rivers, is the second-largest U.S. estuary after the Chesapeake Bay. It supports up to 80 percent of near-shore and offshore recreational and commercial fisheries in the southeastern United States and brings in more than \$4 billion in annual tourism revenues and residential income.

There are just four outlets from Albemarle-Pamlico Sound to the Atlantic through the Outer Banks, so it has only limited exchange with the ocean.



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

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

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ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

but it is increasingly apparent that those halcyon days have faded from view. Instead, we are muddling through a time in which cutthroat political moves are the norm and not the exception.

So, what should be the punishment for this nameless, faceless, spineless individual who has needlessly sparked a furor? What kind of accountability will he or she be forced to accept as consequence for these shortsighted and traitorous actions? That is what we'll need to see moving forward.

But I suspect the answer will be nothing -- or a mere slap on the wrist, far less punishment than is warranted.

The Democrats were quick to seize upon this nonissue and attempt to score political points. Appearing on Sunday television talk shows, Rep. Adam Schiff, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said the president will be investigated "come hell or high water" and vowed that impeachment may be the "only remedy."

How many times has the I-word been raised by the Democratic leadership and the members of their caucus? Whether or not it's warranted appears to be wholly immaterial and utterly secondary to the

primary goal of tarnishing the legitimacy of President Trump. The Democrats want a lasting asterisk next to his name for generations to come as a way of undermining and calling into question the legitimacy of his presidency.

Successful leaders know that having a team of competent and capable people around them is the key to success.

No matter how intelligent or talented any single individual may be, that's not enough to win the day. What any man or woman can achieve alone pales in comparison to the exponential results of a group aligned behind a common vision.

The antithesis of such a scenario is one in which infighting and backstabbing prevent forward progress. For the sake of all Americans, we cannot abide a situation whereby people turn to political machinations to advance the agendas to which they subscribe.

I worry the precedents that are being set by Democrats in order to assassinate Trump's character will redefine our political landscape. Open debate is American. Having your own opinion is fine.

However, debasing our system of checks and balances by pursuing any and all means to distract the public and embarrass and attack our president are patently un-American.

President Abraham Lincoln famously warned, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

It's a sentiment and concept that speaks directly to today. The job of president is hard enough on its own merits, but when political motivations spark endless cycles of accusation and acrimony, the biggest loser is every one of us.

Lincoln uttered those poignant and cautionary words at a time when the fate of the Union was far from certain and America faced the very real possibility of being forever splintered into two warring entities.

In the end, the Union was preserved, and the country found a way forward together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope.

We are at an inflection point once again, and it is my sincere wish that the very people who are supposed to be serving the public find a way to finally set aside their blind devotion to attacking Trump and instead dedicate their energy to doing their duty.

To find out more about Armstrong Williams and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate website at www.creators.com.

Armstrong Williams is manager and sole owner of Howard Stirk Holdings I & II Broadcast Television Stations and Executive Editor of American Current See online magazine. Watch our Right Side Forum every Saturday on NewsChannel 8 TV 28, 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., with repeats at 6:30 p.m. EST.

What can possibly go wrong in impeachment.... everything

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist UPI

For the fourth time in American history, impeachment proceedings have been launched against a sitting president. In 1868, 11 articles of impeachment were levied against Andrew Johnson for violating the Tenure of Office Act by firing Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. Johnson had vetoed that law; it was overridden; and later declared unconstitutional. Johnson was acquitted in the Senate by a single vote.

Richard Nixon was destroyed by Watergate. While the House did not formally impeach, Nixon knew he would be convicted by the Senate and resigned in August 1974. Nixon was the first and only president to do so. His replacement Gerald Ford was not re-elected in 1976.

Bill Clinton was charged with lying under oath and obstructing justice in 1999 over an affair with a White House intern. The vote to acquit was not even close. And Clinton's popularity soared.

Enter Donald Trump. The trajectory of American politics has been tumbling in the wrong direction where polarization and division are endemic. Trump is loved or hated. The in-between region is largely unpopulated. The now infamous July 25 phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky is the

cause celebre for Democrats who believe it is a smoking howitzer proving Trump abused power by threatening to withhold military aid in order to solicit foreign assistance in uncovering damaging information on former Vice President Joe Biden.

Republicans, so far, strongly disagree, leaping on the absence of a specific "quid pro quo" and arguing that the president was referring to information on interference in the 2016 U.S. election. The House Intelligence Committee, led by Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., has been assigned the lead in beginning this impeachment inquiry. Later this week, a number of witnesses will testify and at some stage so will the "whistle-blower."

What can possibly go wrong? Along with every major newspaper in the country that has chastised the Trump presidency for its failings on one issue or another, I have been highly critical. The foreign policy decisions to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord; the Transpacific Partnership; the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; to start a tariff war with China; and the general disregard of allies in favor of autocrats have been disastrous for this nation and for global security. America is far less safe and secure than it was three years ago.

Unfortunately, incompetence or blunders do not constitute "high crimes and misdemeanors." If they did, George W. Bush surely would have been dismissed over Iraq and Lyn-

don Johnson charged over Vietnam. Instead, Bush was re-elected and Johnson declined to run.

Schiff is hyper-partisan. Rest assured, his investigation will likely uncover evidence of presidential wrongdoing. It may well be that Trump's Watergate could prove to be his civilian attorney Rudy Giuliani, whose interference in Ukraine on behalf of his client may have broken the law much as former Trump campaign adviser Paul Manafort did in different circumstances. Or the "whistle-blower's" well-referenced complaint may be the grounds for abuse or obstruction. The question is whether any of these charges rise to the level of "treason, bribery or high crimes and misdemeanors."

Regardless of Schiff's findings and assuming the House votes to impeach, which it may not, will the Senate convict? The record is 0 for 2. Or will the charges be so compelling that Trump, like Nixon, is forced to resign? Those who know the president think not.

The House, meaning Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., may decide that rather than impeachment, censuring will have greater impact in the 2020 election to discredit the president. But as with the Mueller report that brought no charges, Trump will declare a victory if the House fails to impeach.

Suppose, however, that the inquiry proves beyond any reasonable doubt presidential wrongdoing and

misconduct and that for some reason, no matter how unlikely, the Senate convicts. Trump is removed from office and Mike Pence replaces him. Would that prevent Trump from running again in 2020? Who knows? A nation divided against itself cannot stand. One hundred and sixty years ago, Abraham Lincoln correctly predicted civil war. Fortunately, America is not as divided today as it was in 1861. But the partisanship and outright hatred displayed by both parties toward the other, intensified by a president who believes he can determine and interpret the law to fit his needs, suggest that as with Brexit in the United Kingdom, no good outcome from the inquiry is possible.

Tough cases reportedly make for bad law. How these impeachment hearings evolve is unpredictable, possibly in the extreme. But if anything can go wrong, bet on that happening.

Harlan Ullman is UPI's Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist and a senior adviser at the Atlantic Council. His latest book is "Anatomy of Failure: Why America Has Lost Every War It Starts." Follow him @harlankullman.

It may well be time to end the war in Afghanistan. But doing so should allow us to see that Central Asia is not a region from which to flee but rather a promising field of opportunity for Western involvement. Given those circumstances, to repudiate this opportunity



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23rd - National Museum of African American History & Culture



Pompeo
continued from page 1

impeachment investigation. He sent a letter to House foreign affairs committee Chairman Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., resisting the plans to interview the five officials and questioning the law-

makers' authority to do so. "I am concerned with aspects of your request that can be understood only as an attempt to intimidate, bully and treat improperly the distinguished professionals of the Department of State, including several career Foreign Service Officers," Pompeo wrote.

Engel, along with House intelligence committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and House oversight and reform committee Chairman Elijah Cummings, D-Md., sent a letter to Pompeo last week scheduling depositions for five current and former State Department officials

Guyger
continued from page 1


The trial had three possible outcomes -- manslaughter, murder or acquittal. During closing arguments, Dallas County prosecutor Jason Hermus rejected the argument that it's unreasonable for a Dallas police officer with five years experience to shoot an unarmed man in the chest.

Defense attorney Toby Shook argued Jean's death was a tragic mistake and said prosecutors must rule out every possible reasonable doubt for the jury. When asked on the stand whether she intended to kill Jean, Guyger said she did, saying she feared for her life. The jury reached their decision the day after closing arguments.

During deliberations, the jury asked for clarifications on the definition of manslaughter and the castle doctrine. Guyger's conviction can result in a sentence of up to life in prison.

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related to the committees' investigations into reports President Donald Trump pressed Ukraine to investigate his 2020 political rival, former Vice President Joe Biden.

Their letter also subpoenaed Pompeo seeking documents related to the probe.

The committees scheduled depositions this and next week for former Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch; former Ambassador Kurt Volker, who resigned as envoy to Ukraine on Friday; George Kent, deputy assistant secretary of state for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs; counselor T. Ulrich Brechbuhl; and Ambassador to the European Union Gordon Sondland.



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With a growing number of children shot each year, this group fights the normalization of violence

By Barbara Reynolds
Trice Edney Wire

On average, about 19 children are shot daily in America and about 1,300 youths under age 18 die yearly from firearms with about 6,000 going to the hospital for non-fatal gun injuries, says the 2017 Journal of Pediatrics.

In one bloody weekend in Chicago this year, 60 people were shot, seven murdered, in all 1,998 people shot and 393 dead from firearms so far this year. In DC, home of the Pentagon that safeguards the world, 98 people were murdered this year with six of the victims younger than 18; one, bludgeoned to death, was only 2 years old.

To some, these are just numbers, statistics, nothing exceptional or out of the ordinary - if their significance can be judged by the time spent on these tragedies in presidential debates, news coverage or from the pulpits.

Such tragedies falling beneath the care line, are what keeps Stephanie Myers trying to shine the spotlight and national attention on violence, an urgent matter of life or death.

It is why, as co-founder of Black Women for Positive Change, she is co-hosting a town hall meeting on October 19 seeking solutions. The panel is called Violence is Not Normal—which raises the quick question of why it

has become so normal, so accepting, that the idea that it is normal has to be refuted.

Looking deeper into the statistics, it is easy to see why Myers and others might wonder is race the reason for the apathetic response?

The same Journal of Pediatrics' Study shows that black children suffer the most from gun violence overall, making up 35 percent of its child victims in the United States, even though only about 13 percent of Americans are black. "About 400 black children under the age of 18 are thought to be killed in firearm homicides each year.

In fact, black children are about 10 times more likely to die in gun murders as their white and Asian-American counterparts."

Despite these heart-breaking facts, what pulls black murders out of the no-news file are when they serve a larger politicized issue, such as a white cop shooting an unarmed black person, but when its black on black homicide, the tears and hurts are hidden behind a wall of apathy, shame, fear or frustration.

Stephanie Myers is trying to break through this wall by making "violence is not normal, "a household word that becomes the mantra of teens, law enforcement, faith institutions, schools and all parts of society. Myers, along

with Daun S. Hester, are co-chairs of Black Women for Positive change and the Positive Change Foundation. Their Town Hall will meet from 2:30 – 5:00 pm/ EST on the D.C. campus of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, 1100 Alabama Avenue, S.E.

Myers is hoping that her national group of partners can help create a platform that each murder will be treated with the sensitivity that the fallen could be our own mothers, our daughters or sons, "While some of us have not suffered personally from the tragedies, we do not want this to get to our homes before we take it personally enough to act," she says.

Susan Bro is one of the panelists. Her daughter Heather Heyer was murdered when a member of the Klan-Nazi hate group ran an automobile into the crowd of peaceful protesters in 2017 in Charlottesville, Virginia .

Other speakers include: Dr. Bahiyyah Muhammad, Howard University Professor. Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Attorney Donald M. Temple, Kent Alford, director of Prince Georges Capital Region University Medical Systems and Care and Queen Afi, mental health/Domestic Violence consultant.

Youth will also participate from the Jim Vance Media Program at Archbishop Carroll High



Two-year-old Ivory West Jr. was shot and killed and his father was wounded in an apparent robbery at their Harris County, Texas home in July. Trice Edney Wire

School, Luke Seymour Academy and the Purpose Program.

The town hall meeting is one of many events Myers and Hester, along with Good Brothers, such as Frank Malone head of 100 fathers, have led in an effort to Change the Culture of Violence nationally and globally. This year they will be holding their eighth annual Week of Non-Violence, which has chapters in eleven states as well as the UK.

Over the years the group has produced three films,

On Second Thought, the Red Flags of Domestic

violence and The Drop, stressing the importance of youth getting an education, was viewed in 52 schools in 18 states. Their work shops, media events, Congressional meetings, film screenings and essay contests all seek ways to de-escalate violence, control anger, eliminate racism and to respond to implicit bias.

Nationwide, the public is invited to participate in the free annual Week of Positive Change, nonviolence and Opportunities, October 12-20, 2019. Honorary Chair is former U.S. Atty. Gen. Eric Holder;

Vice Chair is Rep. Gwen Moore (WI); and Honorary Co-Chairs are MSNBC reporter Michelle Bernard, Esq., Social Justice Activist Kemba Smith, and Dr. Charles, Steele, President/CEO of SCLC.

The week's activities in cities around the nation, will provide opportunities for individuals, organizations, youth, millennials, faith institutions, business leaders, athletes and educators to organize large and small events, around the United States and the world that promote non-violence, de-escalation, peace and getting along.

Homelessness is a national crisis, research finds

By Charlene Crowell
Trice Edney Wire

For more than a decade, economists, lawmakers, and others have heralded the nation's economy. Often citing how unemployment has declined as new jobs have been created, or Wall Street trading and major bank profits rising, some might be led to believe that all is well in America.

But as Sportin' Life in the folk opera Porgy and Bess sang, "It ain't necessarily so." On September 16, California Governor Gavin Newsom joined by state officials representing cities and counties wrote a letter that urged President Donald Trump to recognize homelessness as a "national crisis decades in the making that demands action at every level of government".

"Mr. President – shelter solves sleep," wrote the California officials, "but only housing solves homelessness."

Governor Newsom and company were absolutely correct. State and local officials across the country also reckon with limited resources to house the nation's half million homeless and its accompanying persistent poverty. Whether eastward from Washington, DC to Baltimore, New York, and Boston, or westward from Los Angeles, to San Francisco, and Seattle, or even other locales -

America's homeless are a visible presence that not everyone has been a part of an economic recovery.

In 2018, 67 percent of America's homeless people were individuals. The remaining 33 percent were families with dependent children, according to a report by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

Further, according to a new 2019 report by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, "Our nation is currently in the midst of a long period of economic expansion. Yet stagnant wages, rising housing costs and inaccessible job opportunities keep many children and families trapped in impoverished communities. And despite economic growth, we have not seen significant reduction in poverty."

The Casey Foundation report also found that between 2013-2017, Black and Native American children were the most likely to live in concentrated poverty. For example, half of Michigan's Black children live in high poverty. Other states where child poverty runs the risk of homelessness are Mississippi (43%), Ohio, (43%), Pennsylvania (42%) and Wisconsin (44%).

Yet despite the availability of homeless and poverty research, HUD Secretary Ben Carson sent Governor Newsom a stark rejection of California's appeal for federal financial assistance

to alleviate California's homeless.

Secretary Carson's September 18 reply said in part, "California cannot spend its way out of this problem using Federal funds... More vouchers are clearly not the solution the State needs. To address this crisis, California must reduce its regulatory burdens on housing."

Advocates for homeless and low-income people strongly disagreed with Secretary Carson's assessment.

"We know that the number one cause of homelessness is the lack of affordable housing," said Megan Hustings, managing director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

"Consumers are already struggling with crushing debt from student loans and medical expenses, or facing triple-digit interest rates when they attempt to access small dollar loans," noted Marisabel Torres, Director of California Policy with the Center for Responsible Lending, "When they also have to pay some of the highest housing costs in the nation, it is unfortunately unsurprising that there are such large numbers of homeless people in many of California's large cities."

"California's homeless may be the largest by state," continued Torres, "but the problem is a national one that deserves to be recognized and acted upon."



Homeless woman on the sidewalk only blocks from the U. S. Capitol in Washington, DC. / Trice Edney Wire



The visibility of America's homeless proves that the crisis deserves attention from every level of American government. / Trice Edney Wire

In 1987 there was an expression of national will to respond to America's homeless through enact-

ment of the McKinney Homeless Act. That statute created the U.S. Interagency Council on Homeless-

ness dedicating the ongoing support of 19 federal agencies to prevent and end homelessness.

Missouri executes inmate for 1997 murder

By Danielle Haynes
UPI

Missouri executed a convicted murderer Tuesday evening for a 1997 slaying, his lawyers said.

Russell Bucklew, 51, died by lethal injection of pentobarbital after receiving a last meal of a gyro sandwich, a smoked brisket sandwich, french fries, soda and a banana split.

His execution came hours after Missouri Gov. Mike Parson declined to grant the man clemency despite receiving multiple reprieves in recent years because of a rare illness his lawyers warned could cause him pain during lethal injection. Bucklew's lawyers argued their client should be spared the death

penalty because he had a rare condition, cavernous hemangioma, which causes weakened and malformed blood vessels and creates tumors in the nose and throat. Medical experts said lethal injection drugs could have caused blood-filled tumors in his head to burst, causing him to choke on his own blood during the execution. The American Civil Liberties Union warned Bucklew's medical condition could cause his execution to be "one of the most gruesome in U.S. history." Defense lawyer Laurence Komp said he told Bucklew of Parson's decision not to give clemency.

"We conveyed the information and told him that we supported him," Komp told the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"That was it. It's a hard thing when you strip away all hope."

In April, the Supreme Court ruled against Bucklew's request that Missouri use lethal gas to execute him instead of lethal injection. Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that the Constitution "does not demand the avoidance of all risk of pain" in executions.

"The people of Missouri, the surviving victims of Mr. Bucklew's crimes, and others like them deserve better," he continued. Bucklew was convicted of murdering Michael Sanders, Bucklew's ex-girlfriend's presumed new boyfriend. Bucklew also kidnapped and raped his ex-girlfriend before getting into a gunfight with police.



Russell Bucklew received the death penalty for killing his ex-girlfriend's presumed new boyfriend in 1997. File Photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Corrections/UPI

Johnson & Johnson reaches \$20.4M settlement over opioid crisis

By Darryl Coote
UPI

Johnson & Johnson reached a \$20.4 million settlement agreement with two Ohio counties on Tuesday, preventing the healthcare behemoth from going to trial over its alleged role in fueling the ongoing opioid crisis.

Under the settlement, Johnson & Johnson would pay Cuyahoga and Summit counties a combined \$10 million while reimbursing them the \$5 million they

paid in legal and other expenses in the preparation for trial.

The company will also give \$5.4 million from its charitable contributions to nonprofits with opioid-related programs in the counties. Johnson & Johnson does not have to admit any wrongdoing under the deal while recognizing the "the opioid crisis is a complex public health challenge," it said in a statement.

The company said the settlement avoids "the resource demands and un-

certainty of a trial as it continues to seek meaningful progress in addressing the nation's opioid crisis."

Johnson & Johnson produces opioids including fentanyl under its subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceutical and has said in court documents that it is responsible for less than 1 percent of prescription opioids in the two counties, which accused Janssen of using false and misleading advertising to push its highly addictive products.

The settlement removes

Johnson & Johnson from the upcoming landmark federal trial on Oct. 21 against manufacturers of prescription opioids for alleged gross misrepresentation of the long-term risks of its drugs.

In the consolidated court case, six of the original two dozen opioid manufacturers remain, including McKesson Corp., Cardinal Health, AmerisourceBergen, Walgreens, Teva Pharmaceuticals and Henry Schein.

In August, an Oklahoma judge ordered Johnson &

Johnson to pay the state \$573 million for its role in the opioid crisis.

Last month, Purdue Pharma filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy as part of its agreement to settle lawsuits from 24 state attorneys general and some 2,000 local governments, forfeiting some \$10 billion to a trust "for the benefit of claimants and the American people," it said.

BID REQUEST

RPC Contracting is requesting bids from any interested NCDOT Certified DBE firms for Contract C204370 - US 17 Pavement Rehabilitation in Pasquotank Co. bidding on 10/15/19. There will be a pre-bid conference at 3:00 PM on Monday 10/7/19 at the office of RPC Contracting, 934 W. Kitty Hawk Road, Kitty Hawk, NC. Plans and specifications are available for review at the same location or may be downloaded from NCDOT's Project Letting website at <https://connect.ncdot.gov/letting/Pages/Central.aspx>. For more information, please call 252-261-3336, ask for Jay. RPC Contracting is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Federal judge blocks GA 's abortion law

By Darryl Coote
UPI

A federal judge in Georgia ruled Tuesday to block the state's so-called "heartbeat" abortion law from taking effect.

District Judge Steve Jones ruled to prevent House Bill 481 from taking effect Jan. 1, 2020, to allow legal challenges against the law to resolve, stating that the U.S. Supreme Court has "repeatedly and

unequivocally" held that a state may not ban abortion prior to viability, which is established as between 24 weeks and 26 weeks of pregnancy in Roe vs. Wade. "Under no circumstances whatsoever may a state prohibit or ban abortions at any point prior to viability, no matter what interests the state asserts to support it," Jones wrote.

The law, which was signed by Gov. Brian Kemp in May, made it so

that abortions could not be performed after a fetal heartbeat can be heard, barring abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy.

Jones added that the law prevents a woman from making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy at a point before viability and that the law's language was too vague.

"HB 481 changes the definition of a natural person in Georgia, but defendants have been unable to

point to any guidance for law enforcement or the judiciary on how to implement that change throughout code," he wrote.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in June seeking to block the law on the grounds that it violates a woman's right to an abortion as established under Roe vs. Wade.

"We just blocked Georgia's abortion ban," the ACLU wrote on Twitter after Tuesday's ruling.

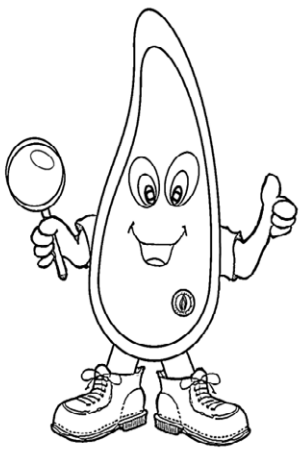
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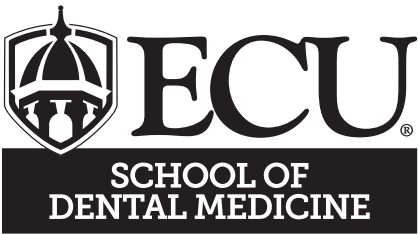
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Former Rep. Chris Collins pleads guilty to insider trading

By Danielle Haynes
UPI
Former Rep. Chris Collins pleaded guilty in an insider trading case Tuesday, one day after the New Yorker resigned his seat in Congress.

The Republican pleaded guilty to two counts -- conspiring to commit securities fraud and making false statements -- after initially facing an 11-count indictment. Federal prosecutors accused Chris Collins of encouraging his son, Cameron Collins, and Stephen Zarsky -- Cameron Collins' prospective father-in-law -- to sell their shares in Australian biotech firm Innate Immunotherapeutics using insider information.

The former congressman said that when he told his son that the company's clinical trial failed, he was intending for the young-

er Collins to avoid stock losses. Prosecutors said the three men collectively avoided losing \$768,000.

"When I did these things, I knew they were illegal and improper," Chris Collins said. "I'm sorry for the pain I have caused."

"I don't think 'regret' is the proper word for it. I let them down." He apologized to his son, Zarsky and his constituents in New York's 27th Congressional District, which comprises rural Buffalo and Rochester.

Chris Collins faces up to four years in prison during his sentencing in January. Cameron Collins and Zarsky also were indicted in the scheme and both were expected to plead guilty to charges Thursday.

Police arrested Chris Collins in August 2018 on



Former Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., faces up to four years in prison at his January sentencing. File Photo by Pat Benic/UPI | License Photo

the insider trading charges, to which he immediately pleaded not guilty. He initially suspended his re-election bid but stayed on the ballot and secured his seat for a fourth term. He maintained his innocence in the case until Monday when he resigned his seat in Congress. Chris Collins was the first member of Congress to publicly endorse Donald Trump in his presidential election in February 2016.

UPS receives FAA approval to operate drone delivery fleet

By Daniel Uriah
UPI

UPS announced Tuesday that it has received federal approval to set up

a fleet of drones to make deliveries. The U.S. Federal Aviation



Administration awarded the company's Flight Forward subsidiary a Part 135 Standard certification to operate a drone airline, which it will use to deliver medical supplies within hospital campuses before eventually expanding to general package deliveries.

No other company has attained the certification, which will allow UPS to fly an unlimited number of drones with an unlimited number of remote operators in command. It also allows drones to fly at night and exceed 55 pounds including cargo and the aircraft itself.

UPS said Flight Forward immediately launched the first drone delivery beyond the visual line of sight at WakeMed's hospital campus in Raleigh, N.C. "This is a big step forward in safely integrating unmanned aircraft systems into our airspace, expanding access to healthcare in North Carolina and building on the success of the national UAS integration pilot program to maintain American leadership in unmanned aviation," U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao said.

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PWISD COCAINE - FELONY
PWISD COCAINE - FELONY



JAVAUGHN SHAKUR SWINDELL

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ALTER/STEAL/DEST/CRIMINAL EVID - FELONY
MAINTAIN DWELLING/PLACE FOR SALE OF CONTROL SUBSTANCE - FELONY
MAINTAIN DWELLING/PLACE FOR SALE OF CONTROL SUBSTANCE - FELONY
FELONY POSSESSION OF COCAINE - FELONY
POSS W/INT/S/D COCAINE - FELONY
POSS W/INT/S/D COCAINE - FELONY
POSSESS HEROIN - FELONY
POSS OF CS ON PREMISE OF PRISION OR LOCAL JAIL - FELONY
POSS OF CS ON PREMISE OF PRISION OR LOCAL JAIL - FELONY



ANDRE COTTEN

ATTEMPT FIRST DEGREE MURDER - FELONY
COMMUNICATING THREATS - MISDEMEANOR
ASSAULT BY STANGULATION - FELONY
ASSAULT ON A FEMALE - MISDEMEANOR
ASSAULT ON A FEMALE - MISDEMEANOR
SIMPLE ASSAULT - MISDEMEANOR
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE - MISDEMEANOR
UNAUTHORIZED USE OF MOTOR VEHICLE - MISDEMEANOR
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RESIST - MISDEMEANOR
BURGLARY, SECOND DEGREE - FELONY
CONSP. BREAKING OR ENTERING BUILDING - FELONY
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LARCENY AFTER B AND E - FELONY
LARCENY OF FIREARM - FELONY



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FTA-RECKLESS DRIVING TO ENDANGER - MISDEMEANOR



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PWIMSD SCH II CS - FELONY
FELONY POSSESSION OF COCAINE - FELONY
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TRAFFICKING OPIUM OR HEROIN - FELONY



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TRESPASSING - 2ND DEGREE - MISDEMEANOR
RESISTING PUBLIC OFFICER - MISDEMEANOR
COMMUNICATING THREATS - MISDEMEANOR
CHILD SUPPORT - MISDEMEANOR
ASSAULT GOVT OFFICIAL/EMPLY - MISDEMEANOR
FTA CARRYING CONCEALED GUN - MISDEMEANOR
FTA DISCHARGE WEAPON WITHIN CITY LIMITS - MISDEMEANOR
FTA POSSESS MARIJ PARAPHERNALIA - MISDEMEANOR
FAILURE TO APPEAR - FELONY - FELONY

Ex-Dallas cop Amber Guyger sentenced to 10 years in prison

By Daniel Uria
UPI

Former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger was sentenced to 10 years in prison Wednesday for the fatal shooting of an unarmed man in his apartment last year. The sentence was less than half of the 28-year prison term prosecutors had suggested for Guyger after she was convicted of murder for shooting and killing 26-year-old Botham Jean in his apartment on Sept. 6, 2018, after saying she mistook Jean's apartment

for her own and thought he was a burglar.

"Over 37 years, I have seen so many cases, I have long stopped trying to guess what a jury would do and I have learned to accept their judgment," District Attorney John Creuzot said, adding he expected a longer sentence. After the sentencing Jean's brother Brandt Jean hugged Guyger and forgave her, saying he didn't want her to go to prison. "I think giving your life to Christ would be the best thing that Botham would want for you," he

said.

"I love you as a person and I don't wish anything bad on you."

Jean's mother Allison Jean said the trial exposed corruption within the Dallas police department, stating it has "a lot of laundry to do" and adding she believes Guyger was either trained poorly or applied her training improperly. "That should never, ever happen again," she said.

"If Amber Guyger was trained not to shoot in the heart, my son would be standing here today."



Former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Wednesday for shooting a man in the wrong apartment last year. Photo courtesy Kaufman County Jail/ UPI

Houston Texans sign veteran safety Mike Adams

By Connor Grot
UPI

The Houston Texans signed veteran safety Mike Adams, who recently worked out for the team, to a contract, the club announced Tuesday.

The Texans waived tight end Jerrell Adams in a corresponding roster move, according to the team.

Houston also signed safety Jonathan Owens to the practice squad and released offensive tackle Christian DiLauro and safety Austin Exford from the practice squad.

Adams, who turned 38 in March, started all 32 regular-season games for the Carolina Panthers across the last two seasons after joining the franchise in 2017.

Adams, a two-time Pro Bowl selection with the Indianapolis Colts, entered

the league with the San Francisco 49ers in 2004 as an undrafted free agent out of Delaware.

The veteran defensive back started 10 contests during his second season and has garnered 149 starts across 15 NFL seasons.

Adams recorded 75 total tackles, three interceptions and six passes defensed with the Panthers last season. He has 30 interceptions and 83 passes defensed in his career.

Before adding Adams, the Texans had four safeties on their roster: starters Justin Reid and Tashaun Gipson and backups Jahleel Addae and A.J. Moore.

Reid, the Texans' third-round pick in the 2018 NFL Draft, has been dealing with a shoulder injury this season, but played every defensive snap in Sunday's loss to the Panthers.



Former Carolina Panthers safety Mike Adams (29) started all 32 regular-season games for the Panthers in the last two seasons. File Photo by AJ Sisco/UPI | License Photo

Damian Lillard responds to Shaquille O'Neal's diss track

By Connor Grot
UPI

Portland Trail Blazers star point guard Damian Lillard responded to a rap song by Pro Basketball Hall of Fame big man Shaquille O'Neal with one of his own diss tracks Tuesday. In the song, Lillard raps that the former Los Angeles Lakers star won multiple NBA championships because of his teammates throughout his career.

The musical feud started last week when Lillard said on The Joe Budden Podcast that he believes he is a better rapper than Shaq. Lillard's remarks on the podcast sparked a rebuttal from O'Neal in the form of a diss track released last week. O'Neal rapped that Lillard wasn't among the NBA's elite

guards and said he wasn't an MVP-caliber player.

Lillard answered by releasing "Reign Reign Go Away" on his SoundCloud account.

O'Neal won four NBA championships in his career -- three with the Los Angeles Lakers while playing alongside Kobe Bryant and one with Dwyane Wade and the Miami Heat. In his diss track, Lillard disputes how those teams won titles: "We both could be working at Kinkos and Kobe won you them rings, though" and "Even in Miami, won that on the strength of Flash."

Lillard also boasted about his \$250 million supermax contract and said he "can't recall you getting that when I was cruising on a 10-speed." The All-Star guard finished the song with a final shot at O'Neal



Portland Trail Blazers guard Damian Lillard (pictured) dropped a diss track Tuesday that aimed at Shaquille O'Neal and his championships. File Photo by Steve Dipaola/EPA-EFE/UPI

and said "All the money in the world but traded you for Penny," referencing an uneasy relationship between the center and Penny Hardaway while both played for the Orlando Magic. Lillard also exchanged freestyle raps with Sacramento Kings forward Marvin Bagley III earlier this summer.

Mattress salesman bets \$3.5M on Astros to win World Series

A Houston mattress salesman bet \$3.5 million that the Houston Astros will win the 2019 World Series.

Jim "Mattress Mack"

McIngvale placed the big bet Tuesday at Scarlet Pearl Casino in Biloxi, Miss. He arrived with a briefcase full of cash before placing the wager with the DraftKings

sportsbook. McIngvale sported an Alex Bregman Astros jersey while placing the bet. "I'm just amazed how much DraftKings and Scarlet Pearl took, and they didn't blink an eye," McIngvale told ESPN. "That's pretty rare in the sports betting business in the United States for someone to take \$3.5 million." McIngvale, 68, placed the bet at +220 odds, meaning he would win \$7.7 million if the Astros can pull it off.

The Astros begin their quest for a World Series title with an American League division series game against the Tampa Bay Rays or Oakland Athletics Friday in Houston.

McIngvale has additional bets on the Astros with other bookmakers and plans to make more wagers.

"I had a lot more mar-

kets to shop around to," McIngvale told The Action Network. "It's the biggest bet of my life and I'm thrilled DraftKings and the Scarlet Pearl was willing to take it."

"Mattress Mack" is the owner of Gallery Furniture in Houston. He is running a promotion at the stores, promising a rebate to customers who have purchased \$3,000 worth of furniture if the Astros win the World Series. McIngvale said his liability for the rebate has surpassed \$15 million. He said Gallery Furniture has between \$150 million and \$200 million in annual revenue.

Gallery Furniture said it refunded more than \$12 million during the promotion in 2017, when the Astros beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in the World Series.

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Will Smith to play crime boss Nicky Barnes in Netflix film

By Annie Martin
UPI

Will Smith will play crime boss Nicky Barnes in an upcoming Netflix film. The streaming service announced in a tweet Tuesday that Smith, 50, will star in and produce The Council, a new movie about Barnes and his Harlem-based crime syndicate. “Will Smith is set to produce and star as Nicky Barnes in ‘THE COUNCIL’ - the never-before-told story of the Harlem-based crime syndicate that set out to create Black equity and self-sufficiency during the

1970s and early 80s,” the post reads. Barnes formed The Council, a seven-man African-American crime syndicate, in 1972. The Council controlled a large part of the heroin trade in New York, and later partnered with the Italian-American mafia on an international drug trafficking ring. Barnes, dubbed “Mr. Untouchable” by the New York Times, was ultimately arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1978. He eventually became a federal informant, leading to The Council’s disband-

ment, and died in 2012. Deadline said The Council will center on the tension between Barnes and the other members of the operation as one unlikely protégé emerges. Peter Landesman, who directed Smith in Concussion, wrote the screenplay and will direct The Council. Landesman will also serve as executive producer with Joanne Lee and David Lee. Smith most recently played Genie in Disney’s live-action Aladdin. He will star in Ang Lee’s new film Gemini Man, which opens in theaters Oct. 11.



Russell Bucklew received the death penalty for killing his ex-girlfriend’s presumed new boyfriend in 1997. File Photo courtesy of the Missouri Department of Corrections/UPI

Marchant Davis says ‘Day Shall Come’ character ‘doesn’t know failure’

By Annie Martin
UPI

In The Day Shall Come, the FBI tries to turn a viral street preacher into a wanted terrorist so agents can arrest him. Márchant Davis plays Moses Al Shabaz in the film, in theaters Friday. Writer/director Chris Morris’s follow-up to his jihad satire Four Lions is inspired by the Liberty City Seven in Miami. The Seven were convicted of conspiring to bomb the Sears Tower for Al Qaeda. One was acquitted and one found innocent at trial. The defense argued that an FBI informant offered them \$50,000 for their services, a case of entrapment.

“Chris says it’s based on 100 true stories and I think that’s pretty accurate,” Davis said. “I think Chris saw something in the news and just ran with it.” Moses makes videos in which he rants against the U.S. government, but he’s just trying to make money to provide for his family. FBI agent Kendra Gluck (Anna Kendrick) pursues Moses to impress her boss, Andy Mudd (Denis O’Hare), but soon realizes she’s gotten an innocent showman on the terrorist watch list. For his part, Moses believes he can manage the FBI. “Moses is a character that doesn’t know failure,” Davis said. “He loves his family and he will do anything for them. I love my family. I mean, who doesn’t? For me, I thought about the people that I love and what lengths would I go to defend the people that I love.” Confronted with any situation, Moses has a philosophical answer at the tip of his tongue. Presented with the opportunity to buy



Márchant Davis as Moses Al Shabaz in “The Day Shall Come,” in theaters Friday. Screenshot/IFC Films/UPI

weapons, he decides to buy guns to build a fence with them because a gun without bullets is just a stick. “If it can’t fire anything, it does nobody no harm,” Davis said. “Back in the ‘60s and ‘70s, the Black Panther Party would have guns without bullets in them.” Morris gave Davis some homework. Together, Davis said they watched documentaries like Let The Fire Burn and (T)ERROR. The books Morris assigned helped Davis understand Morris’s perspective. “He gave me this book called How White Folks Got to Be So Rich,” Davis said. “It was very informative. I think when he gave me that, I was like, ‘Oh, this is what you’re reading in order to come up with this stuff. All right, I think we’re going to be on the same page here.’” The idea for Moses to ride a horse up to the FBI’s Miami headquarters came after Davis already had signed up for the film.

“I remember when Chris first decided to put that in there, he looked at me and said as he was sipping his tea, ‘Uh, I had this idea that Moses rides in on a horse. What do you think?’” Davis said. “I was like, ‘Lucky for you, I rode horses for eight years.’” Those eight years of horseback riding lessons came over a period of eight summers Davis spent at camp. He got back on the horse for The Day Shall Come. “I like to be 100 percent prepared and ready for anything so they let me ride every day when I was down there with the animal wrangler,” Davis said. “It came pretty quickly. It’s like muscle memory.” The Day Shall Come is Davis’ first movie. Filmed in 2017, it took less than a year since his 2016 New York University Graduate Acting School. Davis said he may have had 100 auditions before landing The Day Shall Come.

“You know the life of an actor,” Davis said. “You get told 100 ‘no’s’ just to get one ‘yes.’” One-hundred no’s were fine with Davis, though, because he believes he was meant to play Moses Al Shabaz. “What’s meant for you is meant for you,” Davis said. “When it’s yours, it’s undeniably yours because no one else has it. So those things were theirs and what’s meant for me will come to me as it comes.” Before NYU, Davis studied acting as a Boston Conservatory undergraduate. “In undergrad, I learned a lot of life lessons, especially being one of the only students of color there,” Davis said. “In grad school, one of the things that always sticks with me is tools, not rules. You do all these things, and if it serves you, then great. If it doesn’t, throw it away. So tools, not rules.” Davis has been acting on stage since he graduated

from high school. He was on stage earlier this year in Ain’t No Mo, and is in previews for The Great Society, which opens Oct. 1. Tuesday at the Vivian Beaumont Theater in New York. “I got my Equity card when I was 17 or 18 doing summer stock and things like that,” Davis said. “Theater sharpens your tools. I think I have a long way to go in this career, and I know that it’s a marathon and not a sprint. I want to keep learning and I think theater is a great way to do that.” Davis may be in the Actors’ Equity Union for theater, but The Day Shall Come did not get him a Screen Actors Guild card. “I don’t know how that happened,” Davis said. “Maybe because it’s a British production company. I’ve done a few films now and I do not have my SAG card. I’m not mad about it, though. Like I say, it’ll happen when it happens.” The Great Society is

Robert Schenkkan’s follow-up to All the Way, which depicted Lyndon B. Johnson’s year in office following President John F. Kennedy’s assassination. Bryan Cranston played Johnson in an HBO film adaptation. The Great Society depicts Johnson’s four-year second term in office. Brian Cox plays Johnson, and Davis has the role of civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael. Davis once again did his homework for the role. “I’m going to do anything I can to help me get in the world of the piece, whether that be watch a documentary [or] read a book,” Davis said. “It’s very different when you’re doing a piece based on the actual truth. Moses is a fictional character based loosely off other characters, but Stokely Carmichael was a living, breathing human being who was pretty well-known.” The Day Shall Come is in theaters Friday.

Oprah Winfrey gives Jaden Jefferson advice in new interview

By Annie Martin
UPI

Oprah Winfrey gave Jaden Jefferson advice in the kid reporter’s latest interview. Jefferson, 11, asked Winfrey, 65, about her regrets and suggestions for young journalists during Tuesday’s episode of The Ellen DeGeneres Show. When asked to name one thing she would do differently, Winfrey said she would have ended her talk show before launching OWN, her TV network. “I probably would have ended my show and then

tried to start a network, because what I did was try to do both at the same time,” Winfrey said. “So if I had it to do over, I would end that show, take a break, figure out what the next move is, and then move on.” Later on, Jefferson and Winfrey agreed education is an “essential” part of success. Winfrey also advised Jefferson to remain true to himself. “I really am just so excited that you are content being authentically yourself. I can see from watching you that you are 100 percent, fully, always just yourself,” Winfrey said. “You are curious, you are inquisitive, you are in-

telligent, you are thoughtful, you listen to people’s answers.” “People know when you’re not being yourself, even if they can’t articulate for themselves what it is -- they just know something’s off,” she added. In addition, Winfrey told Jefferson to ignore his haters and keep striving for his goals. Jefferson said he has “plenty” of haters but has learned to focus on the positive. “The positive outweighs the negative,” Jefferson said. “Honestly, it’s really about what I believe about myself that really counts.”



La Voz Latina

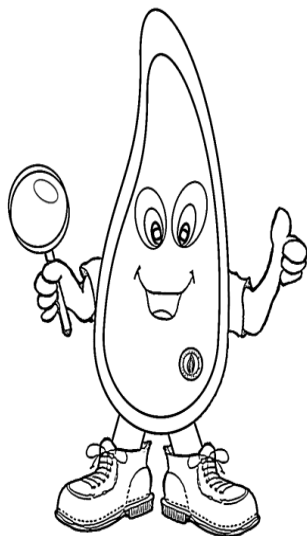
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U.S. Soccer cites salaries of Alex Morgan, other stars to counter class-action move

By Alex Butler
UPI

The United States Soccer Federation has opposed the women's national team players' class action certification attempt for their equal pay lawsuit, citing the salaries of Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe and other stars.

The federation filed a brief Monday night opposing class certification. The 28 players filed the original lawsuit March 8, accusing the federation of "institutionalized gender discrimination," which the players say impacted their wages and the way they train and compete. The complaint also addresses promotion, support and development for the women's games.

"Pay should be based on performance, not gender," players' spokesperson Molly Levinson said in a statement Tuesday.

"[The federation] tries to spin the undeniable fact that if men players won their games, they would be paid considerably more than the women are now.

"This is a tired argument from [the federation] that women players must work twice as hard and win every time men lose in order to try to be paid and have the same working conditions as the men. It runs counter to every American principle of equality, won't stop this case from going forward as a class action, and doesn't stand a chance in a trial."

A trial is scheduled for May 5. The players filed their motion for class certification Sept. 11 in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. If the motion is successful, it would expand the scope of plaintiffs to include ad-



The U.S. Soccer Federation argues that Megan Rapinoe (L) and Alex Morgan were among four players who each earned more money than the highest-paid men's national team player in four of six years since 2014. File Photo by David Silpa/UPI | License Photo

ditional U.S. women's team players who are not among those listed as plaintiffs.

The class designation for the case could award players injunctive relief if they are a member of the team on the day of the final judgment or appeal. It also could provide back pay and punitive damages for players on the team at any point since Feb. 4, 2014.

Federation CFO Pinky Raina stated that proposed class representatives Rapinoe, Morgan, Carli Lloyd and Becky Sauerbrunn each earned more money than the highest-paid men's national player in four of six years between March 30, 2014, and Monday, including their National Women's Soccer League salaries.

If not including the salaries, the players each still

earned more money than the highest-paid men's national team player in those four years, according to the federation.

However, the men's player's wages were affected during that period due to the team's failure to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

The women's team qualified for and won the 2019 World Cup, defending their 2015 title. The women's team has never failed to qualify for a World Cup and is a record four-time champion of international soccer's most-prestigious tournament.

The federation said Lloyd, Rapinoe, Sauerbrunn and Morgan each earned more than \$1.5 million during the time period, if accounting for NWSL salaries.

The federation said the highest-paid men's player earned \$993,967 during the same time period. If not accounting for NWSL salaries, the federation says the women's stars each earned more than \$1.1 million, while the men's player made \$993,967.

"Plaintiffs' motion for class certification should be denied because the proposed class representatives Alex Morgan, Megan Rapinoe, Carli Lloyd and Becky Sauerbrunn were paid more than even the highest-earning MNT members and therefore have suffered no injury," the federation stated in the brief.

"Plaintiffs also claim that they were subjected to discriminatory terms and conditions of employment under Title VII," the federation said.



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