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Olympic champion Evgeny Rylov loses Speedo deal after attending Putin rally

By Issy Ronald, CNN

Updated 11:19 AM ET, Tue March 22, 2022

Evgeny Rylov leaves the pool after winning a gold medal and breaking the Olympic record in the men's 200m backstroke final at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on July 30, 2021 in Tokyo.

Evgeny Rylov leaves the pool after winning a gold medal and breaking the Olympic record in the men's 200m backstroke final at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games on July 30, 2021 in Tokyo.

(CNN)Swimwear maker Speedo has ended its sponsorship deal with two-time Olympic gold medal swimmer Evgeny Rylov after the Russian attended a rally hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Rylov, who won gold in the 100 and 200 meter backstroke events at last year's Tokyo Olympic Games, was among eight top Russian athletes who appeared on stage at the rally in Moscow last week, according to Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta. The rally commemorated the eighth year of Russia's annexation of Crimea -- which is deemed illegal by the Ukrainian government and not recognized in the West.

"Following his attendance at the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow at the weekend, Speedo can confirm that it has terminated the sponsorship of Evgeny Rylov with immediate effect," the company said in a statement to CNN.

"We condemn the war in Ukraine in the strongest possible way and stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, our athletes and our teammates who have been impacted by the conflict."

"As part of this decision, any outstanding sponsorship fees will be donated to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)," Speedo added.

Rylov, 25, competed in Tokyo as part of the Russian Olympic Committee due to Russia's ban from major international sporting competitions over doping non-compliance.

According to pictures on social media, Rylov wore his Olympic medals at the rally. He also sported, reports Reuters, the letter 'Z' on his outfit -- a letter used by Russian forces as an identifying symbol on their vehicles in Ukraine following Russia's invasion of the country. Some supporters of the war in Ukraine have also displayed the symbol.

The International Swimming Federation (FINA) -- swimming's world governing body -- did not immediately comment when contacted by CNN.

FINA is one of the few sports governing bodies still allowing Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as neutrals, despite recommendations from the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for an outright ban.

FINA's policy, according to the website insidethegames, is to review each athlete on a "case-by-case" basis.

The governing body has withdrawn the FINA Order previously awarded to President Putin in 2014.

CNN also contacted the Russian Swimming Federation for comment but they did not immediately respond.

## **Could the Covid-19 vaccine become a yearly shot? Some experts think so**

**By Jacqueline Howard, CNN**

Updated 7:18 PM ET, Mon March 21, 2022

How vaccines stop the spread of viruses

See the rigorous arrival process for the 2022 Winter Olympics

Frustrated moms meet up in a parking lot to scream

Debunked: Pro athletes are NOT dropping dead because of the Covid-19 vaccine

Vehicles from the protest convoy are parked blocking lanes on a road, Sunday, Jan. 30, 2022 in Ottawa.

Residents of the national capital are again being told to avoid traveling downtown as a convoy of trucks and cars snarl traffic protesting government-imposed vaccine mandates and COVID-19 restrictions. (Adrian Wyld/The Canadian Press via AP)

Thousands in Ottawa protesting Covid-19 mandates

Hostility and exhaustion linked to Covid fuel superintendent shortage

Joe Rogan reacts to Spotify controversy: Will do my best to balance views

Michael Smerconish has a theory about Palin's 'reckless' move

Scientist explains how they're creating a universal Covid vaccine

How vaccines stop the spread of viruses

china zero covid beijing winter olympics marketplace asia hnk\_00012317.png

How much longer can China's economy handle 'zero-Covid'?

Baby with Covid separated from family and quarantined alone in Hong Kong

Dr. Gupta examines lessons the US can learn from NFL on Covid

John Avlon 0211 1

Avlon: Blocking bridges alienates far more people than it attracts

Britain's Prince Charles, Prince of Wales speaks during a visit to AstraZeneca to open their new global Research and development facility at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus in Cambridge in eastern England on November 23, 2021. (Photo by Chris Jackson / POOL / AFP) (Photo by CHRIS JACKSON/POOL/AFP via Getty Images)

Prince Charles tests positive for Covid-19

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Hospital overwhelmed with onslaught of Covid-19 patients

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coronavirus south dakota tuchman pkg ac360 vpx\_00011204.png  
Hospital overwhelmed with onslaught of Covid-19 patients

This country just dropped all Covid restrictions. Hear from their health minister (CNN)Some scientists think we might be rolling up our sleeves each year not just for flu shots but for Covid-19 jabs too.

Public health experts aren't quite clear on what the future holds for Covid-19 vaccines -- but some say it's looking more and more like these shots could be needed on a yearly basis, similar to how flu shots are recommended each fall.

"In order to keep it under control, we likely will need some form of periodic vaccination. Now, whether that's annual or every two years or every five years, we don't really know that yet. I think that that will emerge as we

gather more data," Dr. Archana Chatterjee, dean of the Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University, said Monday.

"But I do anticipate that this will be required on a periodic basis to keep it under control," said Chatterjee, who's also a member of the US Food and Drug Administration's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee. She added that her comments do not reflect the opinions of the committee or the FDA.

Covid-19 could eventually be seasonal, scientists say

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The committee is scheduled to meet April 6 to discuss the need for Covid-19 vaccine booster doses in the future, including how often they might be needed -- if at all.

The FDA said Monday that representatives from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health also will participate in the meeting.

The meeting is intended to assist the FDA in developing a "general framework" that will inform when further Covid-19 vaccine booster doses might be needed and what might warrant updating the makeup of vaccines to target specific coronavirus variants.

No official vote is planned, and there will be no discussion of authorization or approval for any specific products.

"As we prepare for future needs to address COVID-19, prevention in the form of vaccines remains our best defense against the disease and any potentially severe consequences," Dr. Peter Marks, director of the FDA's Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, said in a news release Monday.

"Now is the time to discuss the need for future boosters as we aim to move forward safely, with COVID-19 becoming a virus like others such as influenza that we prepare for, protect against, and treat," Marks said.

"Bringing together our panel of expert scientific external advisors in an open, transparent discussion about booster vaccination is an important step to gain insight, input and expert advice as we begin to formulate the best regulatory strategy to address COVID-19 and virus variants going forward."

'It's heading towards this vaccine becoming an annual vaccine'

The day before the FDA announced the meeting date, former FDA Commissioner Dr. Scott Gottlieb said he also thinks Covid-19 vaccines may become an annual shot.

"I think it's heading towards this vaccine becoming an annual vaccine, at least for the foreseeable future, until we really understand the epidemiology of this disease and understand whether this coronavirus starts to recede into the background like the four circulating strains of the coronavirus that we've become accustomed to have," Gottlieb, a Pfizer board member, told Margaret Brennan on CBS "Face the Nation" on Sunday.

Coronaviruses that are known to infect humans were first identified in the 1960s, and among them are four circulating strains that cause common colds. The other human coronaviruses are Middle East respiratory syndrome, or MERS; severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS; and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

When it comes to Covid-19, "I think this is really a six-month vaccine in terms of providing really meaningful protection against symptomatic disease and infection," Gottlieb said. "And this is likely to become an annualized vaccine for the majority of Americans."

It won't be a pandemic forever. Here's what could be next

It won't be a pandemic forever. Here's what could be next

It remains clear that the coronavirus that causes Covid-19 is not disappearing any time soon. Rather, some researchers say we can expect the pandemic to transition into an endemic phase. Endemic means a disease has a constant presence in a population but is not affecting an alarmingly large number of people, as typically seen in a pandemic.

So SARS-CoV-2 could still circulate, but hopefully it would be at low enough levels that it no longer overwhelms our health systems.

"In terms of the virus itself, what we can expect is that it's not going to go away, that we will have recurrent surges and that our immunity will wane over time," said Dr. Abraar Karan, an infectious disease fellow at Stanford University.

Several studies have shown that the immunity against Covid-19 elicited by the Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines can wane over several months, especially among older adults who might have weaker immune systems.

"So the combination of our immunity waning and then the virus mutating means that future surges are unpredictable," Karan said.

"We will need boosters again in the future -- probably later this year is my guess -- and they will need to be tweaked more closely to what the most recent strain is that's spreading," he said. "We do this, obviously, annually for flu. ... But flu has a more predictable seasonality to it."

What a future booster might look like

Future Covid-19 boosters might be completely different formulas from the vaccines that are administered now.

A fourth Covid-19 shot might be recommended this fall, as officials 'continually' look at emerging data

A fourth Covid-19 shot might be recommended this fall, as officials 'continually' look at emerging data

Some companies, including Pfizer and Moderna, are developing variant-specific vaccines that could target whatever variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is circulating when the booster might be needed.

Pfizer and Moderna have said they are working on a vaccine that would specifically protect against the Omicron variant, even though it's not clear whether one is needed.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said the company is also hoping to make a vaccine that will protect against Omicron as well as all other variants of SARS-CoV-2.

The goal is to create "something that can protect for at least a year," Bourla told CBS this month. "And if we are able to achieve that, then I think it is very easy to follow and remember so that we can go back to really the way [we] used to live."

A universal vaccine could be the future of the coronavirus fight

A universal vaccine could be the future of the coronavirus fight

Moderna and the biotechnology company Novavax also are working on two-in-one combination vaccines that can offer protection against both flu and Covid-19.

"Our goal is to be able to have a single annual booster -- so that we don't have compliance issues where people don't want to get two to three shots a winter, but they get one dose where they get a booster for corona and they get a booster for flu and RSV, to make sure that people get their vaccines," Moderna CEO Stéphane Bancel said at the World Economic Forum in January of a single vaccine for Covid-19, influenza and respiratory syncytial virus, a common virus that causes cold-like symptoms.

There could be a benefit to having a combination Covid-19 and flu vaccine, Chatterjee said.

"There are logistical benefits: The number of injections that need to be given is reduced; the benefits to the storage facilities that are delivering, administering these vaccines don't have to store as many vaccines because they're in a combined form," she said.

But she added that there are some limitations, as well.

"There are a couple of different issues with combinations. You have to make sure that they work together, which doesn't always happen. Sometimes, the vaccine components can interfere with each other, and you don't get as good an immune response as you would like," Chatterjee said. "And then there's the safety factor. As you add more vaccines together, often you get more reactions, particularly local reactions."

Covid-19 booster shot uptake is at all-time low in the US, CNN analysis finds

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Another element: Will enough people even take the vaccine?

The pace of Covid-19 booster administration in the United States has slowed. Although more than 65% of the US population is fully vaccinated with at least their initial series, only 29% of the population has received a third dose.

The uptake of flu shots in the United States also has room for improvement.

Traditionally, about half of adults get their flu shots. During the 2020-21 flu season, among adults 18 and older, coverage was 50.2%, according to CDC data.

Chatterjee said a combination flu and Covid-19 vaccine might improve that uptake.

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"I would assume -- and this is an assumption on my part -- that those who currently get the influenza vaccine would probably continue to get them, and if they were offered as combinations, most of them would probably take the combination vaccine," Chatterjee said.

"And then for those who received the Covid vaccine, perhaps they will be encouraged to take the combination also, so that they get double protection against flu," she added. "Am I optimistic? I am that we will get better coverage for both types of viruses through combination vaccine."

CNN's Jen Christensen contributed to this report.

### **1 biggest offseason surprises, ranked**

**March 21st, 2022**

**Anthony Castrovine**

**Anthony Castrovine**

Clayton Kershaw is back with the Dodgers.

OK, thus concludes our discussion of Hot Stove deals that DID NOT surprise us.

Now, let's talk about some of the stuff that did.

We publish a list like this every winter. The fact that we're publishing this year's list in the second half of March is obviously indicative of what an unusual "winter" it has been in Major League Baseball.

But even before the lockout, we were already knee-deep in the strangest offseason in recent memory. And things have only gotten stranger since the free-agent and trade markets opened back up for business.

Let's attempt to sort through all that's happened and pick the absolute most surprising developments (so far, at least).

#### 1. Kris Bryant's Rockies pact

As good a player as Bryant is, he was not forecast to receive the second-highest total value (\$182 million over seven years) of any player in this loaded free-agent class. (Only Corey Seager's 10-year, \$325 million deal with the Rangers was richer.)

- Bryant looks to bring veteran presence to upstart Rox

And Bryant certainly wasn't expected to wind up in Colorado. None of the prominent free agents were. After all, it was only 13 months ago that the Rockies swallowed \$51 million in dealing their homegrown franchise face, Nolan Arenado, to the Cardinals. And coming off their fourth straight fourth-place finish in a division featuring the Dodgers, Giants and Padres, the Rox seem to be a team with holes that Bryant alone can't fill.

But hey, it's the goal of teams to get better, and it's the goal of stars to get paid. Both the Rockies and Bryant accomplished that. So let's applaud them ... just as soon as we wipe our jaws off the floor.

Kris Bryant on joining Rockies

Mar 18, 2022 · 2:32

Kris Bryant on joining Rockies

## 2. Carlos Correa's short-term deal with the Twins

The industry was basically split as to whether Seager or Correa was the top free agent in this class, but it was pretty much assumed that those two generational shortstops were 1-2 in some order. Francisco Lindor's Mets extension (10 years, \$341 million) from a year ago had set the bar for what Seager and Correa could shoot for. Seager perhaps bettered that deal by signing with a team in a state with no income tax.

Correa, on the other hand, signed a very different deal than what anybody expected for him going into the offseason. After the lockout and his mid-winter agent switch, his best option turned out to be a three-year, \$105.3 million deal with a Minnesota team absolutely nobody thought would be in the market for one of the premier shortstops. And it could be a short-term engagement, because Correa has opt-outs after this season and next. So when all is said and done, Correa might still make more money than any shortstop in history. But for now, someone get this man a winter coat!

Correa arrives at Twins camp

Mar 20, 2022 · 0:25

Correa arrives at Twins camp

## 3. The Rangers really went for it

It didn't affect the standings much for a team that finished fifth in three of the last four seasons, but the Rangers had quietly fared pretty well in the free-agent bargain bin in recent winters, landing the likes of Mike Minor, Lance Lynn, Kyle Gibson and Hunter Pence on what turned out to be wily deals.

Going into this winter, however, the Rangers' brass had told us they were ready to play in the deeper end of the free-agent pool to accelerate their rebuild.

They weren't kidding.

- Seager, Semien ready to lead Rangers

Combined, Texas' 10-year pact with Seager and seven-year deal with Marcus Semien are worth half a billion dollars. The Rangers also landed one of the market's more enticing starters in Jon Gray and rounded out their roster with Brad Miller, Kole Calhoun and Martín Pérez. We'll see if that's enough to turn a 102-loss team into an instant contender. But either way, the next time Rangers president of baseball operations Jon Daniels and general manager Chris Young say they have money to spend, let's take them seriously.

Seager, Semien on Spring Training

Mar 18, 2022 · 1:32

Seager, Semien on Spring Training

#### 4. Freddie Freeman and Kenley Jansen swapped teams

When Freeman went deep in the seventh inning in Game 6 of the World Series last fall, it would have surprised no one if he were handed an extension offer as he rounded third base. Or surely, that bus speeding through Atlanta's championship parade must have been racing Freddie to the surprise news conference announcing him as a Brave for life, right?

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Freeman on becoming a Dodger

Mar 18, 2022 · 4:53

Freeman on becoming a Dodger

Turns out, contract talks between the Braves and Freeman's camp had been at an impasse for quite a while. The club's stunning swap for Matt Olson on March 14 caught everybody -- Freeman included -- off-guard.

And just when we were beginning to wrap our minds around the image of Freeman in a Dodgers uniform, we got word -- from the Braves themselves (a rare instance of a team scooping reporters) -- that they had signed the Dodgers' all-time saves leader. Unfortunately, "California Love" isn't gonna cut it as Jansen's intro song anymore. ("Georgia On My Mind" isn't quite as much of a banger but might have to do.)

#### 5. Max Scherzer's average annual value with the Mets

It was a foregone conclusion that Mad Max would get a relatively short-term deal worth a staggering amount of money.

But \$43.33 million per year?

That blew past Gerrit Cole's record AAV of \$36 million. But to put Scherzer's number in hilarious perspective, less than two weeks before he reached his pact with the Mets, an anonymous bidder paid \$43.2 million at auction for a rare first printing of the U.S. Constitution.

Of course, Scherzer had a better 2021 ERA than James Madison.

#### 6. The Red Sox -- not the Yankees -- signed a premier shortstop

After moving Gleyber Torres off the position late last year, the Yankees had a glaring need at shortstop at the outset of the greatest free-agent shortstop market in history. The Red Sox, on the other hand, were seemingly set at short with the great Xander Bogaerts.

Well, you know how baseball goes. But even those of us who have learned to expect the unexpected are surprised to look up here in late March and see Trevor Story with Boston (where he'll likely slide over to second base), while the Yankees abstained from the shortstop market and went the more low-key route in trading for Isiah Kiner-Falefa, signing utilityman Marwin Gonzalez and expecting Anthony Volpe, the eighth-ranked prospect in baseball per MLB Pipeline, to man the position in the not-too-distant future.

Red Sox on Trevor Story

Mar 20, 2022 · 1:02

Red Sox on Trevor Story

7. Philadelphia signed Kyle Schwarber AND Nick Castellanos

The Phillies were a bad defensive team last year (their minus-20 Outs Above Average mark ranked 24th in MLB), and president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski had said that improving at shortstop was a priority.

Ah, so the Phillies would certainly delve into the deep shortstop market, right?

- Phils: 'What a lineup we're about to have'

Nope. They went the beer-league softball route and just brought in a couple dudes who mash.

Schwarber and Castellanos graded out in the first and fourth percentile, respectively, in Outs Above Average last year. But they unquestionably lengthen the lineup anchored by reigning NL MVP Bryce Harper, and perhaps the Phillies can just outslug all their defensive mistakes.

Hoskins on Phillies' new pickups

Mar 19, 2022 · 0:24

Hoskins on Phillies' new pickups

8. Derek Jeter entered free agency

It was an odd sight to see him with anybody but the Yankees, but Jeter was earnest about his opportunity to reshape a franchise when he took over as the Marlins' CEO in September 2017. Under Jeter, the Marlins hired Kim Ng, the first female general manager in North American men's professional sports, secured a new naming rights deal for their home park, completed a new regional TV contract, introduced new uniforms and unexpectedly advanced to and won a playoff series in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season.

But just when it appeared a team with a bevy of young arms might start to morph into a more sustained winner, Jeter suddenly announced in late February that his vision for the future no longer aligned with that of the team.

We knew there would be a lot of shortstops available this winter. We didn't think Derek Jeter would be one of them.

## 9. The first notable signee was ... Andrew Heaney?

Way back in early November, the Dodgers jumped the market by inking Heaney to a one-year contract worth \$8.5 million. While that's not a bank-breaking figure for a team with the Dodgers' resources, it was still an eye-catching sum for a guy coming off a 5.83 ERA and 76 ERA+ (or 24% worse than league average) in 129 2/3 innings for the Angels and Yankees last year.

Heaney's deal ranks 20th in average annual value among starters signed this offseason. For the sake of perspective, he got \$3 million more than Michael Pineda will receive from the Tigers after posting a 3.62 ERA and 117 ERA+ in 109 1/3 innings.

Heaney on signing with Dodgers

Nov 12, 2021 · 1:49

Heaney on signing with Dodgers

## 10. Isiah Kiner-Falefa was traded twice in 24 hours

It was widely assumed that Kiner-Falefa, who had taken over as the Rangers' regular shortstop in 2021 after winning a Gold Glove at third base in 2020, would be moving back to the hot corner because of the signing of Seager. Prior to the Rangers' spending spree, Kiner-Falefa, who ranked second in 2021 WAR (per Baseball Reference) among the club's returning position players, had seemed to be one of Texas' few building blocks. He was important enough to their plans that he was the first player Rangers manager Chris Woodward called when the lockout was lifted.

So, yes, it was surprising when the Rangers dealt Kiner-Falefa to the Twins for catcher Mitch Garver. And it was downright shocking when the Twins turned right around and flipped him, along with Josh Donaldson, to the Yankees in the deal that landed them Gary Sánchez and Gio Urshela.

Ultimately, Kiner-Falefa wound up with the team he grew up rooting for as a kid in Hawaii. So at least his strange saga had a happy ending.

Kiner-Falefa's first Yankees hit

Mar 18, 2022 · 0:17

Kiner-Falefa's first Yankees hit

## 11. The Blue Jays let Robbie Ray walk ... but signed Kevin Gausman

For the second straight year, a reigning Cy Young winner left his team in free agency. But when 2020 NL Cy Young Trevor Bauer left the Reds for the Dodgers, it was pretty straightforward: The Dodgers were willing to fork over big money for Bauer, while the Reds weren't.

Ray's departure from Toronto after his 2021 breakout is more nuanced. In late November, he signed a five-year, \$115 million contract with the Mariners -- a deal that was almost identical to the five years and \$110 million the Blue Jays committed to Kevin Gausman less than a day earlier.

A \$5 million difference spread over five years is a relative pittance. So this ultimately came down to the Blue Jays' desire to land Gausman -- a player they had targeted a couple times previously -- exceeding their desire to retain their first Cy winner since Roy Halladay in 2003 (though it's worth factoring in that they also received Draft-pick compensation for Ray signing elsewhere). It will be interesting to compare the performances of Ray

and Gausman going forward ... and even more interesting if Seattle and Toronto wind up meeting each other in October.

### **Pentagon's Kirby says 'clear evidence' of Putin war crimes**

The Pentagon said Tuesday there is "clear evidence" Russia has committed war crimes despite the fact Moscow remains heavily involved with the U.S. and other nations amid ongoing negotiations for a new Iran nuclear deal.

Spokesperson John Kirby was pressed on Russia's involvement in the talks during "Fox & Friends" on Tuesday as Putin's assault on Ukraine continues. Kirby said the administration is "involved in these talks" and wants to see a deal reached to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

"Russia is the aggressor here," Kirby said. "And I think we have seen here at the Pentagon, we certainly see clear evidence that the Russian military is conducting war crimes. We think it's important for the investigative process to continue. We're going to contribute to that."

"But obviously, relations with Russia are not at a premium, nor should they be given the unprovoked and illegal aggression that Russia has put on the people of Ukraine," he continued.

Kirby said although there is "clear evidence" Putin has committed war crimes, investigations into the matter remain ongoing.

"There will be consequences from that on the international scale," Kirby warned regarding the conclusions of the probe. "What needs to happen now is this war needs to end. Mr. Putin always had diplomatic options. He didn't have to do this."

### **Ukraine claims it has recaptured key Kyiv suburb**

Firefighters are seen as smoke billows from a building of a research institute, part of Ukraine's National Academy of Science, after a strike in northwestern Kyiv on Tuesday. (Photo by Aris Messinis/AFP via Getty Images)

Ukraine said Tuesday it has recapture a strategically important suburb of Kyiv as Russian forces squeezed other areas near the capital.

Explosions and bursts of gunfire shook Kyiv, and black smoke rose from a spot in the north. Intensified artillery fire could be heard from the northwest, where Russia has sought to encircle and capture several suburban areas of the capital, a crucial target.

Residents sheltered at home or underground under a 35-hour curfew imposed by city authorities that runs to Wednesday morning.

Early Tuesday, Ukrainian troops drove Russian forces out of the Kyiv suburb of Makariv after a fierce battle, Ukraine's Defense Ministry said. The regained territory allowed Ukrainian forces to retake control of a key highway and block Russian troops from surrounding Kyiv from the northwest.

## **Russia newspaper that reported heavy Russian troop losses in Ukraine now claims it was hacked**

Cars drive past a destroyed Russian tank as a convoy of vehicles evacuating civilians leaves Irpin, on the outskirts of Kyiv, on March 9. (AP/Vadim Ghirda)

A Russian tabloid newspaper that published a report citing the Russian defense ministry as saying that nearly 10,000 of Moscow's soldiers have been killed in Ukraine is now claiming it has been hacked.

The daily Komsomolskaya Pravda reported Monday that 9,861 soldiers have been killed in action in Ukraine and another 16,153 have been wounded before quickly removing the article from its website, describing it as the work of hackers, according to the Associated Press.

Asked about the report, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov refused to comment on it at Tuesday's conference call with reporters, referring questions about the military casualties to the defense ministry.

On March 2, the defense ministry reported 498 soldiers had been killed and hasn't released any casualty numbers since then.

## **St. Louis prosecutors will not charge man arrested for trying to carjack police officers** **The St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office says the case 'is under investigation'**

Prosecutors in St. Louis, Missouri, declined filing charges against a man who allegedly attempted to carjack a marked police SUV while two officers were inside, according to police.

The St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department sought charges of first-degree robbery, armed criminal action and resisting arrest against a 27-year-old suspect who allegedly tried to carry out the carjacking Saturday.

A spokeswoman for the police said Monday that the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office refused to file charges, the St. Louis Dispatch reported.

A spokeswoman for Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner told 5 On Your Side the case "is under investigation," but declined answering why charges weren't filed.

Fox News Digital reached out to the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office early Tuesday morning.

Police said officers responded to a report of shots fired Saturday morning at about 3 a.m. in the city. The officers in the marked police SUV said a man stepped in front of their car as it was moving, before the man stood next to the passenger's window and pointed a gun.

The man ran off when he realized it was a police vehicle, according to the officers.

The two officers called dispatch and provided a description of the man. The suspect was apprehended in the parking lot of a nearby restaurant. Police found he was carrying a gun during a search.

The suspect, who was not named in local media reports, is facing other previous charges in the St. Louis area, including domestic assault, violating an order of protection and first-degree property damage, according to 5 On Your Side.

## **Saint Peter's improbable March Madness run has brought the community together, ex-Peacocks stars say** **Saint Peter's is just the third No. 15 seed to make the Sweet 16**

By Ryan Gaydos | Fox News

The Peacocks entered the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament as the No. 15 seed and have made an improbable run to the Sweet 16. Saint Peter's upset No. 2 Kentucky on Thursday, 85-79, and then defeated No. 7 Murray State in the second round, 70-60.

The Jersey City, New Jersey-based school has gotten students, alumni and the fan base excited for their next game against No. 3 Purdue on Friday night in Philadelphia.

Saint Peter's head coach Shaheen Holloway questions a call during the first half of a college basketball game against Murray State in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Indianapolis. Saint Peter's head coach Shaheen Holloway questions a call during the first half of a college basketball game against Murray State in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

Randy Holmes, who starred on the Peacocks during their run to the 1995 NCAA Tournament, told Fox News Digital in a recent interview that this Saint Peter's team has "galvanized" the community and it was mostly because of the sharp coaching from Shaheen Holloway.

"Coach Shaheen Holloway has these guys playing at a higher level. Under the circumstances, it's amazing what he's done and how his team bought in," Holmes said. "As a result of that, he's brought together the Saint Peter's community. There's people I haven't spoke with, or text or communicated with in 15 years and all of sudden Saint Peter's is winning now and it's just reconnected us. It's amazing what he's done and what the team has done."

### SAINT PETER'S TOPS MURRAY STATE; PEACOCKS ONLY 3RD 15-SEED TO EVER REACH SWEET 16

Saint Peter's Jaylen Murray (32) looks to shoot against Murray State's DaQuan Smith (1) during the first half of a college basketball game in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Indianapolis.

Saint Peter's Jaylen Murray (32) looks to shoot against Murray State's DaQuan Smith (1) during the first half of a college basketball game in the second round of the NCAA tournament, Saturday, March 19, 2022, in Indianapolis. (AP Photo/Darron Cummings)

Holmes was on the '94-95 team coached by Ted Fiore. That squad was also a No. 15 seed and lost to No. 2 UMass in the first round of the tournament. At that time, it was Saint Peter's second appearance in the tournament. This season is the school's fourth.

Keydren Clark echoed those sentiments in a separate interview with Fox News Digital. He said he received a lot of messages after the team's upset win over Kentucky.

"Yes, I got a lot of Facebook messages, a lot of text messages from people, Instagram DMs. It's been a lot of contact from people I haven't talked to and people I have kept in touch with," Clark said. "It's amazing they remember me from playing there. I tell them thank you but at the end of the day it's not about me. I'm along for the ride just like you guys are because I had my opportunity but it didn't work out. But I'm living through

them because it's something I would have loved to do and they're doing it. So, for me, it's like thank you guys for thinking of me but it's not even about me, it's more so about them

Clark is the school's all-time leader in points scored and one of the few Peacocks players who have gone on to play professional basketball after college. He played from 2002-2006 but never got a chance to play in the tournament.

He said he was pretty hyped to watch Saint Peter's take down a giant like Kentucky.

"I'm super excited. When the game was going on against Kentucky, I'm watching it and watching it. It's getting close, staying close, staying close and at halftime, it's tied. I run downstairs to get my jersey and I put it on and I'm watching the whole second half standing in front of the TV with a basketball in my hand and my jersey on. Just so many emotions, goosebumps, everything going on," he told Fox News Digital.

"I was just genuinely happy for the guys. When they were able to pull it off it was just like wow they really just did that. It was a release for me because I never got the opportunity. So for them to actually do it and go out there and slay the University of Kentucky it was like yeah, they did that."

Holmes was hopeful about the team's chances in the Sweet 16 against the Boilermakers. Saint Peter's is the third No. 15 seed to make it to the Sweet 16.

"The sky's the limit for these guys. Who would've ever thought they would've beaten Kentucky? If you can beat Kentucky and teams like that ... you have a shot," Holmes told Fox News Digital.

"Right now, they're playing with house money and everybody's proud of them and they're the Cinderella story. They're making history. I'm very proud of the coaching staff, the young players and obviously the Saint Peter's community and I think they have some more in the tank."

KC Ndefo #11 of the St. Peter's Peacocks celebrates with teammates after defeating the Murray State Racers 70-60 in the second round of the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on March 19, 2022, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

KC Ndefo #11 of the St. Peter's Peacocks celebrates with teammates after defeating the Murray State Racers 70-60 in the second round of the 2022 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on March 19, 2022, in Indianapolis, Indiana. (Dylan Buell/Getty Images)

Clark said it came down to execution.

"I like their chances because we're very good defensively," he said. "We don't let the game get away from us. We control the game from the defensive end and on the offensive end we slow it down, make teams play at our pace. It allows us to create opportunities for ourselves. The team has done a great job of executing. Coach has great game plans and he's demonstrated that versus Kentucky.

"Xs and Os were gonna be there, defensively we're going to be there it just comes down to making shots," Clark added. "I believe we have nothing to lose at this point. All the pressure is on the powerhouses to knock us off so as long as they go there and play free and compete, which I know we'll do. I like our chances."

Saint Peter's has two seniors, six juniors, two sophomores and five freshman on the team. When asked whether he had any advice for the team, Holmes said to cherish the time they are spending in the tournament.

"I would just say cherish the moment, play in the moment, because nothing is promised. Just enjoy it. Take a lot of pictures because who knows when they're going to get back to this level of play this far in the tournament. Just cherish every bit of it and have fun," he said.

The winner will move to the Elite Eight to play the winner of North Carolina and UCLA.

### **Kid Rock is selling his \$500,000 Ford GT supercar**

Classic Ford GT can reach 205 mph

This is one way to rock down the highway ... very quickly.

Kid Rock is the original owner of his 2005 Ford GT.

Controversial musician Kid Rock is sending his 2005 Ford GT across the auction block at the RM Sotheby's event in Fort Lauderdale on Saturday, March 26.

Kid Rock is the original owner of the supercar and has put 3,096 miles on it since it was new.

The Ford GT was built for the 2005 and 2006 model years. (RM Sotheby's)

Ford sold just over 4,000 GTs through the 2005 and 2006 model years at a starting price of \$139,995 before fees with 669 of the first year models finished in the red with white stripes scheme featured on Kid Rock's car.

The Ford GT is powered by a 550 hp supercharged V8.

The mid-engine coupe is powered by a 550 hp supercharged V8 and was one of the world's fastest cars of its day with a top speed of 2005 mph.

Kid Rock's Ford GT is all original and the buyer also gets an autographed guitar.

Hagerty estimates the value of a perfectly preserved example at about \$450,000 while RM Sotheby's pre-auction estimate is in the \$500,000 to \$575,000 range, factoring in the celebrity ownership.

Along with being all-original, the car comes with a couple of extras including photo signed by Ford GT designer Camilo Pardo and a guitar autographed by Kid Rock.

### **Silver Dollar City prepping for 'biggest entertainment year ever'**

**By Kevin McClintock | [kmclintock@joplinglobe.com](mailto:kmclintock@joplinglobe.com) Mar 18, 2022**

**1 of 3**

**BRANSON, Mo. — Silver Dollar City officials are promising 2022 will be the “biggest entertainment year ever” for the award-winning 1880s theme park.**

The park opened to the public for the season on Wednesday. Along with its 40 rides and attractions, there will be 10 world-class festivals and events planned between now and the end of the year.

They include:

- Street Fest, April 14-May 1. Similar to a street carnival, Street Fest will feature colorful performers, stilt-walkers, live musical performances and distinctive food menus from around the world. There will also be acrobatics, juggling, comedy skits and even some knife-throwing trickery.
  - Bluegrass & BBQ Festival, May 4-30. Just as the street festival ends, a large bluegrass music gathering begins, with hundreds of performers plying their musical trade across 10 stages throughout the park, headlined by Rhonda Vincent & The Rage as well as Daily & Vincent. Pitmasters will also serve thousands of pounds of barbecued meats, smoked for 16 hours, throughout the month.
  - National Kids Fest, June 11-July 24. The biggest act taking place during this time is Nik Wallenda’s Zirkus, an exclusive show and the return of the famed daredevil of circus royalty who, a decade ago, dangled 200 feet by his jaw above the city from a helicopter. Wallenda’s show will include acrobatics, aerial stunts, human pyramids, trick bicycling, juggling and high-wire walking.
- “The impossible is possible. We want to present an inspiring message that ‘I can do anything if I set my mind to it.’ We hope guests come to be impressed and leave inspired,” Wallenda said.
- Midnight Madness, July 23-Aug. 7. This is the time for daredevils, when visitors are encouraged to ride the park’s roller coasters — Time Traveler, Outlaw Run and Wildfire and others — in the dark, with the path lit up only by stars and the moon. There will also be fireworks and a dance party.
  - Southern Gospel Picnic, Aug. 25-Sept. 5. Some of the nation’s most notable Southern gospel groups will fill stages throughout the park during the day and Echo Hollow Amphitheater at night. Have a picnic with all the traditional favorites, including fried chicken, cinnamon rolls and ice cream.
  - Country Music Days, Sept. 8-11 and 15-18. Do you like gospel but love country even more? Stick around for a series of country music concerts.
  - Harvest Festival, Sept. 21-Oct. 29. With a major expansion scheduled for this year, “Pumpkins in the City” will come alive at sunset, when tens of thousands of carved pumpkins illuminate the night. Crafters, cowboy lore, live music and a black light dance party are nightly occurrences.
  - An Old Time Christmas, Nov. 5-Dec. 30. This award-winning festival, which always receives national attention, is highlighted by 6.5 million Christmas lights, the Holly Jolly Light Parade and an eight-story animated Christmas tree, as well as the “Joy on Town Square” light shows.

## **Boating In The Spring? Three Tips For Avoiding Disaster**

**Mar 22, 2022 Updated 3 hrs ago**

### **Springtime Boating**

Across America at boat launch ramps, the familiar growl of boat motors waking up from their long winter nap heralds the start of the boating season. But what makes boating, fishing or sailing this time of year different from all others? When it comes to safety, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has three tips to answer that question...

LAKE OF THE OZARKS, Mo. — Across America at boat launch ramps, the familiar growl of boat motors waking up from their long winter nap heralds the start of the boating season. But what makes boating, fishing or sailing this time of year different from all others? When it comes to safety, Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has three tips to answer that question:

The water is still cold. Darn cold. Even though the white stuff is gone and you're in a T-shirt and can feel the sun's warmth on your face, lurking beneath your boat's keel is water that could make breathing difficult or disable you in minutes after an accidental fall overboard. Wear a comfortable life jacket—with the self-inflating varieties now, there's no excuse for boating without one on. And if you're boating solo, rig a self-boarding ladder that can be deployed while in the water.

Have backup plans. For a routine breakdown while underway, being part of a towing plan like XTow can save you hundreds (or thousands) on a tow. However, most important is to leave a note, or "float plan," for friends or family members advising them of your expected return. That's because early in the season there are way-too-few boaters out there who could provide aid if something unexpected happened, and if no one knows where you are, you could be in a heap of trouble. A sample float plan can be found at: [BoatUS.com/floatplan](https://www.boatus.org/floatplan).

Give the boat a spring checkup. The number one reason why boats sink in the springtime is being in a hurry to get in the water. Check every engine hose and clamp. Remove leaves in scuppers and clear clogged cockpit drains. Check to see that freezing water didn't crack the sea strainer or seacock/valves. Go to [BoatUS.com/springchecklist](https://www.boatus.org/springchecklist) to get a copy of a Spring Fitting Out Safety Checklist.

## **Jared Leto Reflects on Near-Death Experience While Rock Climbing: 'Ah, Not Now'**

**Jared Leto says he "nearly died" while climbing in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Las Vegas**

**By Greta Bjornson**

**March 22, 2022 10:56 AM**

Jared Leto is looking back on a terrifying time.

The WeCrashed actor and avid rock climber, 50, opened up to Men's Health about his near-death experience while climbing at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Las Vegas. Leto, who first spoke about the incident in March 2020, said he was out with professional climber and Free Solo subject Alex Honnold when the rope supporting him began to come apart against a rock.

Leto recalled that his reaction was "was like an acceptance, and a little bit of sadness."

"It wasn't even fear. It was like, ah, not now," he told the magazine for their latest issue, which he covers.

Leto first shared on Instagram two years ago that he had "nearly died" while rock climbing, but didn't disclose the date of the scary situation.

He posted video footage from the climb to his account, captioning the clip, "#FBF Not to sound dramatic, but this is the day I nearly died. Took a pretty good fall climbing with @alexhonnold at Red Rock."

Leto continued, "Looked up and within seconds the rope was being cut by the rock while I dangled some 600 ft in the air. I remember looking down at the ground below. It was a strange moment - less fear, more matter of fact, and slightly melancholy.

"The adrenaline came after, when I got back on the wall. But we made it through and lived to see another day 🤔 🙌," he wrote. "Overall it was actually quite fun. we continued climbing into the night."

Leto began climbing after he made a five-part climbing docuseries, Great Wide Open, in 2016, according to Men's Health. One reason why the actor made Great Wide Open was because he wanted to make time to learn to climb, the outlet reported.

Since first taking up the sport, Leto has climbed Joshua Tree, Yosemite and as far as Sardinia, often posting photos from his adventures on his Instagram page.

"I'd put it somewhere between amateur bowling and . . . Usain Bolt," Leto told Men's Health of his take on the challenge of climbing

"It's hard to explain because you're up there having a good time, but it's full on for a couple of hours. You're singing and running around, you have so much adrenaline, and you're performing at your limit," he explained. "Your heart is pounding outta your chest, you're dripping sweat, and you're exhilarated, but you're working your body in a really intense way."

### **Mizzou names Cleveland State's Dennis Gates as basketball coach** **Gates replaces Cuonzo Martin, who was fired after his third losing season in five years at Missouri.**

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri is hiring wildly successful Cleveland State coach Dennis Gates to help rebuild a long-floundering program that has churned through seven head and interim coaches since Norm Stewart prowled the sidelines in Columbia.

The university's Board of Curators approved Gates' hiring on Tuesday.

The 42-year-old Gates took over Cleveland State's program in 2019 and, after winning just 11 games in his first season, engineered one of the biggest turnarounds in Division I basketball. The Vikings went 19-8 and made the NCAA Tournament last season, then went 20-11 and lost in the first round of the NIT this season.

Gates replaces Cuonzo Martin, who was fired after his third losing season in five years at Missouri.

One of the up-and-coming coaches in college hoops, Gates signed a revised contract in May 2021 that paid him \$550,000 a year and made him the highest-earning coach in the Horizon League. Gates will be paid much more handsomely by Missouri, though, which lavished upon Martin a seven-year contract that guaranteed him \$21 million total.

Gates is the first significant hiring by athletic director Desiree Reed-Francois, who arrived at Missouri in August.

The pressure is on for Reed-Francois's move to work out. Her decision to fire Martin, who was 78-77 with the Tigers but had helped the basketball program — and the athletic department — navigate several years of social unrest on campus, was met with almost universal scorn from those within the close-knit college basketball coaching fraternity.

Missouri has not won an NCAA Tournament game since 2010, a period of ineptitude that in part cost not only Martin but also Frank Haith and Kim Anderson their jobs. The Tigers have never made it to the Final Four.

Gates grew up in Chicago and was a three-time captain for California before embarking on his coaching career, first as an intern for the Los Angeles Clippers. He spent time at Florida State and Marquette as a graduate assistant before stints on the bench at California, Northern Illinois, Nevada and alongside Leonard Hamilton at Florida State.

He helped to recruit lottery pick Jonathan Isaac and stars such as M.J. Walker and Terance Mann to Tallahassee.

Gates' wife, Jocelyn, was hired as a senior associate athletic director at Ohio State last summer. It's unclear whether she will remain there or if a job will become available within the Missouri athletic department.

### **DESE partnership will offer mental health first aid training for school staff and students**

#### **Jake Young, KOMU**

MISSOURI – The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education will partner with Mental Health First Aid Missouri to offer mental health training for school staff and students, using federal relief funds.

Mental Health First Aid Missouri is operated by the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the Missouri Institute of Mental Health. The trainings being offered are designed to help adults "identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges."

The partnership will offer two sets of trainings. One will concern the mental health of adults, while the other deals with the mental health of adolescents ages 12 to 18.

"Just as CPR helps even those without clinical training assist an individual having a heart attack, Mental Health First Aid prepares participants to interact with a person experiencing a mental health crisis," said Rachel Taube, project director for Mental Health First Aid.

Commissioner of Education Margie Vandeven says these trainings will offer timely help.

"Students, teachers, and school staff alike are experiencing increased mental health challenges and stressors right now," she said. "Providing training opportunities like these helps create a larger support system for those who need it while also helping reduce the stigma around mental health and asking for help."

More than 2.5 million people have been certified since Mental Health First Aid began in the U.S. in 2008. Schools may register for training using an online form at [MHFAMissouri.org](http://MHFAMissouri.org)

## **'The Price Is Right' is bringing competition to you with new pop-up tour on wheels**

### **The iconic CBS Original game show "THE PRICE IS RIGHT" celebrates 50 years of fun with a 50-stop nationwide "COME ON DOWN TOUR"**

**By The Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — The game show that made famous the phrase “Come on down!” is coming on down to you.

“The Price Is Right” is hitting the road, putting the game show on wheels and making 50 stops on a coast-to-coast tour for anyone who can’t make the trip to the Los Angeles studio.

A customized trailer that can fold up the games will be on the move. The game show’s famous wheel is part of the truck, but other parts pull out, along with podiums.

The “Come On Down Tour” — separate from the TV show or live stage shows — will kick off Friday at the Santa Monica Pier and will make stops in such cities as Denver, Dallas, New Orleans, Nashville and St. Louis.

Fans can follow the tour’s journey across the country via Instagram @TheRealPriceIsRight to see where it is headed next.

The stops announced so far include:

Los Angeles, CA – Friday, March 25

Denver, CO – Friday, April 1

Dallas, TX – Thursday, April 7

New Orleans, LA – Friday, April 15

Nashville, TN – Friday, April 22

St. Louis, MO – Thursday, April 28

Cleveland, OH – Friday, May 6

New York, NY – Wednesday, May 18

All guests must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

**Prosecutors weigh in on how bond reform has shaped Missouri justice system**  
**by Michael Adkison Monday, March 21st 2022**

Back in 2019, the Missouri Supreme Court implemented new rules on letting criminals out on bond, designed to afford further equal access to justice in the court system. Then-Chief Justice Zel Fischer praised the rules in his State of the Judiciary that year. (File)

"That being said I think it has led to instances where people who shouldn't be getting out on bond are getting out on bond," Locke Thompson, the Cole County Prosecuting Attorney, said. "And by that, I mean people who are dangers to the community committing crimes of serious violence."

JEFFERSON CITY — On March 15, an Eldon woman appeared in court to review her bond conditions.

Normally, that's not necessarily a news story, but 52-year-old Lisa Abbett has been out on bond for nearly two years on six different charges, including second-degree murder. In fact, as one court record put it, Abbett has, "An extensive 47-page criminal history.

But even with that record, denying bond is no guarantee.

Benjamin Winfrey, the Miller County prosecutor who is arguing on behalf of the State of Missouri in Abbett's case, can't comment on current cases, including Abbett's. As such, a reporter asked him, vaguely, if he's seen other cases of individuals let out on bond, only to commit more crimes.

"Yes, and they're too large to count," Winfrey said. Though he said his office is not to blame; nor is law enforcement, or the judges, for that matter.

"I wouldn't even say there's a 'who,' the problem is there's a 'what,'" he said, "and that is the changes in bond rule that we all have to follow, and we all have to operate in."

Back in 2019, the Missouri Supreme Court implemented new rules on letting criminals out on bond, designed to afford further equal access to justice in the court system. Then-Chief Justice Zel Fischer praised the rules in his State of the Judiciary that year.

"Too many who are arrested cannot afford bail even for low-level offenses and remain in jail awaiting a hearing," he said. "We all share a responsibility to protect the public, but we also have a responsibility to ensure those accused of crime are fairly treated according to the law, and not their pocketbooks."

"Bond reform has made the system more fair," former Cole County Prosecuting Attorney Bill Tackett said. "the Supreme Court saying money should not be the overriding issue. [The list of qualifiers for bail] is: are they a risk to the community; are they a flight risk; and they've added in whether they can afford for whatever crime it is however big or small."

Still, Tackett said, "statistically, it's not" possible that criminals let out on bond go on to commit violent crimes. Conversely, Winfrey unhesitatingly said the rules do people the public at risk.

"They are more at risk because it means their random car could be stolen from a gas pump at a local gas station," he said. "It means their check card could be stolen off of a counter at the random gas station. It means their home could be burglarized."

And he went on to say that prosecuting these individuals is more difficult under the rules. Asked how much stress these changes have put on his office, on a scale of one to ten, he said "anything above a ten."

Finding these cases of individuals committing crimes after being let out on bond is difficult. There's not a master list anywhere of every individual on bond, so finding those cases involves working backward. KRCG 13 found a few examples based on previous reporting.

Last year, a man named Brandon Veasman pleaded guilty in Maries County to a charge of tampering with a vehicle, sentenced to seven years in prison. Though, under habeas corpus, he was sent to Pulaski County to answer to other charges. Despite his conviction and prison sentence, Veasman was allowed to post bond in Pulaski County, after which, court records say, he murdered a man.

Tonka Ponder, the man charged with the fatal shooting at the Bagnell Strip in Lake Ozark last summer, was able to post bond on his charges.

We reached out to several prosecutors and officials for comment on this story, many of whom were hesitant to weigh in on the justice system.

Locke Thompson, the Cole County Prosecuting Attorney, spoke with KRCG 13, saying he understood the bond reform rules in principle.

"That being said I think it has led to instances where people who shouldn't be getting out on bond are getting out on bond," he said. "And by that, I mean people who are dangers to the community committing crimes of serious violence."

"Quite honestly, no one benefits [from these rules]," Winfrey said. "I believe that the Supreme Court and those who made these rules had the best intentions in mind, but I believe there needs to be changes."

"I know we cannot incarcerate our way to solving the drug epidemic," he continued. "That is not my goal. I want to help folks. But we can't help them if they are roaming the community without any supervision."

As for Lisa Abbett, herself, her bond review will continue this May, days before her trial for second-degree murder is set to take place.

Among those testifying to revoke her bond is Eldon Police Chief Brian Kidwell, who wrote in a court affidavit, "She is either going to kill herself or someone else, as she is suspected of doing on July 27, 2019."

**Deadly tornadoes tear through Texas as severe weather outbreak eyes South**  
**A swarm of tornadoes terrorized Texas's Interstate 35 corridor during rush hour Monday, while the South braces for possible twisters Tuesday**  
**By Matthew Cappucci and Jacob Feuerstein**

At least one person is dead and many more injured following a long night of significant and destructive tornadoes in Texas. More than 20 reports of tornadoes were received, including at least one that slammed into a TV station's tower in Round Rock just north of Austin. Other populous communities such as Jacksboro, Elgin, Taylor, Jarrell, Madisonville and Crockett were impacted as well, and more severe weather is in the offing.

More than 60,000 customers were without power Tuesday morning in Texas after the night of storms.

The same parent storm system will shift east Tuesday, sweeping through the Deep South with another round of tornadoes, hail and damaging straight-line winds. The National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center has hoisted an uncommon Level 4 out of 5 risk of severe weather, warning of a "regional severe weather outbreak, including potential for strong tornadoes."

The scene after multiple tornadoes touched down across Texas

The Weather Service issued tornado watches for much of Louisiana and Mississippi Tuesday morning, which are in effect into the late afternoon and evening hours. The watches include Lake Charles, Baton Rouge and New Orleans in Louisiana and Jackson and Hattiesburg in Mississippi.

Storms will shift into Alabama during the evening, and the tornado risk will continue.

By late Wednesday, there's a chance of severe weather over parts of the Southeast and southern Mid-Atlantic, including the Carolinas, late Wednesday.

There are signs that another round of active weather could be in the cards for April as the calendar flips to peak tornado season. April, May and June represent the months that feature the greatest number of tornadoes, and with reasons to believe this season could be more active than average, the ongoing storms may offer a glimpse of what's to come.

Storms cause damage in Texas

Severe thunderstorms rapidly fired just west of Interstate 35 in Central Texas around 4 p.m. local time. The storms were erupting along a dryline or the leading edge of arid air from the Desert Southwest, blossoming into a warm, moist and "unstable" air mass blowing in from the Gulf of Mexico.

At least 16 people were injured, according to Fox Weather, from what turned into an onslaught of tornadoes.

The first damaging tornado of the day struck Jacksboro, about 100 miles northwest of Dallas, where a high school was damaged among scores of other structures.

One person was killed by a tornado and at least seven more hospitalized in northwest Greyson County, Tex., about 60 miles north of Dallas, in the Sherwood Shores community.

Kingston, Okla. also was hit by a damaging tornado, marking the Sooner State's first of the year.

Several tornadoes were reported just outside Austin.

A significant, destructive tornado crossed Interstate 35 in Round Rock, Tex., just north of Austin, making a direct hit to a tower camera belonging to TV station KVUE.

The same storm produced a tornado that narrowly missed the Fort Hood weather radar, about 60 miles north of Austin. The radar measured 100 mph of rotational velocity just 253 feet above the ground. The radar went offline moments later, initially prompting fears that it was hit — but it was later revealed the radar escaped unscathed.

Tornado damage was also reported in Taylor, about 15 miles to the east of Round Rock.

Elgin, about 20 miles east of Austin, was also hit by a destructive twister and was the scene of a viral video which showed a pickup truck flipped by a tornado, spun around, but still able to operate once the twister passed:

Jarrell, about 40 miles north of Austin and largely razed by an F5 tornado that killed 27 people May 27, 1997, was hit again.

Farther east, the communities of Crockett and Madisonville, about midway between Dallas and Houston, were also struck by tornadoes, with reports of injuries and individuals trapped. Storm chasers took to social media to solicit medical aid and supplies for the hard-hit area.

In all, the Weather Service received more than 100 reports of severe weather and issued dozens of tornado warnings as the siege of storms charged through Central and Eastern Texas.

Dangerous weather targets Deep South on Tuesday

Next up for dangerous storms is the Deep South, where a Level 4 out of 5 risk area encompasses much of Louisiana and southern Mississippi. Thunderstorms were ongoing in Southeast Texas and northwest Louisiana around daybreak, but most were remaining below severe limits.

The thunderstorms had clustered into a squall line producing heavy rainfall, but will become reinvigorated as they move into a humid air mass heated by the rising sun.

The National Weather Service Storm Prediction Center's outlook for severe weather on Tuesday. (NOAA/SPC)  
(NOAA/SPC)

The squall line itself will probably morph into a QLCS, or Quasi-Linear Convective System. That's essentially a band of thunderstorms with embedded circulations that can produce brief, quick-hitting tornadoes with little advanced notice. The nascent QLCS will evolve and shift east with time, entering Alabama around sundown and rolling through the state after dark. Alabama is notorious for hosting a high proportion of nocturnal tornadoes.

A high-resolution model simulation of severe thunderstorms rolling across the Deep South. (WeatherBell)  
(WeatherBell)

Concern is greater for what may happen ahead of the QLCS. That's where "warm air advection" or warm air arriving on a conveyor belt of swift southerly winds will allow for some more isolated, discrete thunderstorm cells to pop. In an environment characterized by high to extreme wind shear or a change in wind speed and/or direction with height any of those cells would become rotating thunderstorms or supercells. Those would have the best chance of more significant tornadoes, one or two of which may reach EF3 or greater strength and remain on the ground for a considerable amount of time.

Since supercells will precede the QLCS, some areas might be exposed to multiple rounds of violent weather. High-resolution computer models are beginning to hint at a disconcerting assortment of supercells that may target eastern Mississippi and west central Alabama around sunset, which could bring an elevated risk of nocturnal tornadoes to places such as Tuscaloosa, Cullman and Birmingham.

It's important to note that part of the Deep South has a high density of mobile and manufactured homes, which are exceptionally vulnerable to even low-end tornadoes. The bulk of tornado fatalities occur in mobile/manufactured homes or vehicles. It's imperative that residents of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who reside in a non site-built home solidify adequate severe weather plans before warnings are issued.

Thunderstorms will move into the Southeast on Wednesday with an attendant Level 2 out of 5 "slight risk" for severe weather. Southern Virginia, the coastal Carolinas, Georgia and the Florida Panhandle could see storms. Widely scattered damaging straight-line wind gusts and an isolated spin-up tornado are possible before the front shifts offshore early Thursday.

#### Flood threat

The National Weather Service's forecast for how much rain may fall through the end of the workweek. In addition to severe thunderstorm hazards, dangerous flooding is probable. The National Weather Service is also highlighting a moderate risk of excessive rainfall and flash flooding in northern Louisiana and Mississippi and northwest Alabama — including Monroe, La, Tupelo and Starkville, Miss., and Huntsville and Decatur, Ala. That's where moisture pooling north of the warm front will congeal in a sprawling mass of downpours that will train or move over the same areas repeatedly.

Flash flood watches are up in much of that area, where a widespread 2 to 4 inches is expected. Localized totals approaching a half foot can't be ruled out either. Urban and small stream flooding is possible, with more disruptive flash flooding possible in spots, too.

#### How rare is this event?

Historical tornado probabilities across the Lower 48 in mid to late March. Notice that tornadoes are more common in the Mid-South and Mississippi Valley as compared with Southeast Texas. (NOAA/SPC) (NOAA/SPC) Tornadoes aren't uncommon in March, but Monday's tornadoes struck somewhat unusually far south and east for an early spring outbreak. While the chance of a tornado in late March is, historically, nonzero in Southeast Texas, twisters are as much as three times less common than over other parts of the interior Southeast.

That being said, anomalous events do happen, and East Texas is no stranger to strong twisters — even in March. Just last year, for example, intense supercells raked the Panhandle on March 13. Though the tornadoes associated with that outbreak remained over sparsely populated parts of the Lone Star state, radar implied that some may have been violent.

Another recent springtime outbreak impacted East Texas on April 22, 2020. A powerful supercell that day tracked several hundred miles and produced a large EF3, killing two people. The parent thunderstorm dropped tornadoes in three states during its journey, which prompted the issuance of 16 tornado warnings.

Two particularly noteworthy EF4 tornadoes have struck East Texas in recent years, though both were farther north than many of Monday's twisters. One, on Dec. 27, 2015, ripped through the suburbs of Dallas, killing 10. The other tracked just west of Athens on April 29, 2017. Intense tornadoes become more common in the populous corridors of Texas as spring builds in.

Jason Samenow contributed to this report.

## **Human-Induced Event': Experts Reveal Horrifying Likely Causes Of Boeing 737 That Plunged Into Ground**

**By Ryan Saavedra**

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**Mar 22, 2022**

A passenger plane with 132 people aboard crashed in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Monday afternoon, the regional emergency management department said. The China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737 aircraft, which departed from Kunming and was bound for Guangzhou, crashed into a mountainous area near the Molang village in Tengxian County in the city of Wuzhou at 2:38 p.m., causing a mountain fire, according to the department. The airline said the cause of the accident will be fully investigated.

Zhou Hua / Xinhua via Getty Images

Experts have started to speculate about the causes of a horrifying plane crash that was caught on camera on Monday that showed a China Eastern Airlines Boeing 737-800 crashing vertically into the ground.

Flightradar24 released data from the flight that showed the aircraft was cruising at just over 29,000 feet when it then plunged more than 20,000 feet in under a minute before later slamming into the ground. Rescue crews have not been able to locate any survivors of the more than 130 people that were on board the flight.

“Even with total loss of power, no aircraft plummets to the ground from 20,000 feet in two minutes with an event at 8,000 feet,” Australian aviation expert Neil Hansford told News.com.au. “I think aircraft technical failure can be ruled out and it will be an external event ... I would get on a Boeing 737-800 in an instant with an Australian carrier, so my suggestion would be it won't be Boeing or aircraft technical related.”

“It is very unlikely the pilot passed out as the non-flying pilot would have been able to very safely take over the flying and land the aircraft,” he continued. “Likely scenarios include pilot suicide, aircraft mid-air collision with military aircraft (they don't have transponders like civil aircraft), [flight MU5735] was struck by a missile or an on-board explosion. My tipping is a human-induced event or bought down by rogue missile. Debris looks like MH117 over Ukraine, and the Chinese are providing too much information this time which is uncharacteristic.”

China Eastern Airlines immediately grounded all of its Boeing 737-800s following the crash and communist dictator Xi Jinping ordered an immediate investigation.

U.K. aviation expert Sally Gethin said that it was “really hard to ascertain at this point in time whether the aircraft was entirely intact when it dropped so suddenly.”

“I would tend to think that there had already been a catastrophic incident on board for it to be able to drop so dramatically in that way,” she said. “But at the same time, it could also be a problem that the pilot was struggling with and finally lost control.”

Gethin stayed away from providing too much speculation about the likely causes of the crash and simply pointed to where the cause of the crash will be determined.

“[It] will be revealed in their communications with the radar control, with their traffic management side, and that will be revealed in the voice recorder,” she said.

“[The plane] was at nearly 30,000 feet – which is cruising altitude – and from the ground that would look like a dot up in the sky,” she said when asked about footage showing the crash. “It fell from that height – nearly 30,000 feet – suddenly perpendicular. It maintained some stability, it paused and then several seconds later it then dropped again suddenly. That footage captures it in that second phase, where it drops completely vertically to the ground.”

### **Brave Veterinarian Rescuing Injured Animals In Ukraine Battle Zone**

**By Ashe Schow**

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**Mar 22, 2022**

Radoslaw Fedaczynski, a vet and the owner of 'Ada' pet clinic is performing a medical examination of an injured dog from Ukraine.

While Ukrainians flee their war-torn homeland, and organizations and charities work to assist refugees, at least one veterinarian is braving the battle zone to help injured animals.

Jakub Kotowicz, 32, has rescued more than 200 cats and 60 dogs, as well as other animals, the New York Post reported. Kotowicz reportedly started going to the war zone “last week as part of a caravan from Przemyśl on the Polish border,” the outlet noted.

“The animals he liberated included Vira, a dog with a bullet caught in her spine; and a pygmy goat with deformed legs, named Sasha,” the Post added. “Kotowicz hopes to adopt the goat, who now shares a comfy bed with several Chihuahuas.”

The outlet noted that Vira, the injured dog, will receive a wheelchair to help her mobility.

Kotowicz began his own animal rescue charity, the ADA Foundation, 15 years ago when he was just 17. It's through that organization that he is helping injured animals in Ukraine. The young veterinarian now reportedly hopes to purchase an additional ambulance and open up a new hub to better help rescued animals and to use as a warehouse for packing supplies.

Unfortunately, some of the animals Kotowicz saved had to be put down, but others were able to be helped and will be re-homed throughout Europe, the Post reported. That is, if their owners can't be found. The outlet noted that two cats have been reunited with their Ukrainian owners. Meanwhile, Kotowicz's clinic has started a "dog village" to help lost dogs find their owners. If the owners can't be found, the dogs will be put up for adoption.

"All the cats are very stressed, the journey from Lviv is one day and we crossed the border with a diplomatic pass but the queue from Ukraine was very long," Kotowicz said, according to the outlet. "We are preparing the animals for an adoption process. Sometimes the animals which are in very poor condition will be with us for two or three months. Some people came here and were asking if we had their cat."

Kotowicz is not alone in his endeavor. The Post noted that volunteers from Canada, Denmark, Ireland, and the U.S. have also been helping Ukrainian animals, and British wildlife photographer Nick Tadd has helped raise nearly \$80,000 for Kotowicz's clinic.

### **Charity packs 50K meals for Ukraine refugees**

### **The Pack Shack teamed up with Convoy of Hope to get meals to Eastern Europe**

**Daniella Genovese**By Daniella Genovese |

BeyondWords

An Arkansas-based nonprofit is on a mission to ship at least 50,000 meals to Eastern Europe to support Ukrainians as they continue to endure relentless attacks by the Russian forces.

Since 2014, The Pack Shack has worked with hundreds of nonprofits nationwide, packing nearly 40 million meals for people in need.

Most times, the meals "stay right in the local communities where they're packed," co-founder and CEO Bret Raymond told Fox News.

Now, they're shifting their efforts to help "with the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II," Raymond continued.

Through the end of March, a number of local volunteers and organizations will head to The Pack Shack's Cave Springs facility to put together meals consisting of rotisserie chicken flavored rice and beans for Ukraine refugees.

Raymond said the organization is determined to hit its 50,000 meal goal regardless of the donations they receive.

After the meals are packed, they will be sent to The Pack Shack's nonprofit partner, Convoy of Hope, which will get the meals to Poland, from where they will be distributed to people who need them.

"Convoy of Hope is responding in Europe to help many Ukrainian Refugees that have fled to Poland and other neighboring countries," the nonprofit said in a statement. "We have a need for meals that can be used in our response in this region, and we are thankful to The Pack Shack for partnering with us."

The Pack Shack volunteers helping pack meals for Ukraine refugees.  
The Pack Shack volunteers helping pack meals for Ukraine refugees. (The Pack Shack)

Raymond said their initiative helps people who have a desire to "do something hands-on to make a difference."

While there are so many great ways to assist Ukrainians in need, this task allows volunteers to "roll up their sleeves," he continued.

"These are families living with their kids," Raymond said. "Sometimes families are splitting up and some of the family is being behind to defend their homeland ... there's a huge injustice that is happening."

It's a daunting mission, but it's one the nonprofit is equipped to handle.

Before the pandemic, Raymond said they were able to pack almost 9 million meals a year for people in need all across the United States.

"Isn't it so nice to have people around us who love us and care for us? And in order to have those people around us, we need to be those people for others," Raymond said. "We want to be the kind of people who see others in need and have compassion and take action."

After the organization finishes packing up the meals, Raymond said the organization plans to "assess the situation, see where the needs are and see how we can be of best help to do everybody who needs it."

### **TODAYS FORECAST**

Another beautiful spring day with sunshine and 70s. That is about to change. Rain with thunder and cooler air is on the move and will be around off and on for much of the rest of the week. Temps will cool with the rain...back into the 50s and 60s for high temps. Thursday will be the coolest. Dry time is back Friday, with a nice weekend on tap. Warmer air is back next week.