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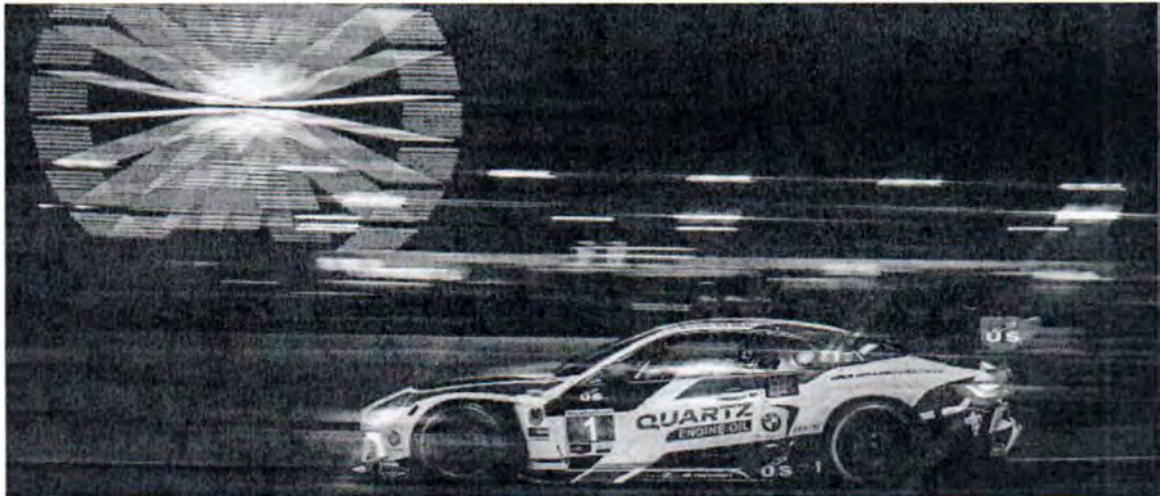
March, 20 23

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That's Racin'

PHOTOGRAPH BY TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE



LAT IMAGES

The No. 1 Paul Miller Racing, BMW M4 GT3, GTD speeds past the iconic ferris wheel.

Meyer Shank Racing scores second straight win in Rolex 24 at Daytona

The debut of the IMSA WeatherTech Sportscar Championship's newest class not only lived up to expectations, but arguably outperformed them. With one of the most dramatic wins to the Rolex 24 at Daytona overall victory in recent memory, it all unfolded in front of a rapt international television audience and a record crowd at Daytona International Speedway.

Meyer Shank Racing's Tom Blomqvist drove the pole-winning No. 60 Acura ARX-06 to a 4.190-second victory, to win the Grand Touring Prototype (GTP) class win in the first race with hybrid-powered prototypes. It was the second consecutive and third overall Rolex 24 victory for the Meyer Shank team, which led a race-best 365 of the 783 laps, crossing the stripe 4.190 seconds ahead of Felipe Albuquerque in the No. 10 Konica Minolta Acura ARX-06 from Wayne Taylor Racing with Andreu Autosport.

The Cadillac Racing Cadillac V-LMDh cars from Chip Ganassi Racing finished third (with driver Renger van der Zande in the No. 01) and fourth (Earl Bamber in the No. 02). The top four cars were separated by 11.176 seconds after 24 hours of racing on the 3.56-mile Daytona International Speedway road course.

"I knew we had a fantastic car, unbelievable," said an excited Blomqvist, who won the 2022 Rolex 24 in his first race with Meyer Shank and went on to collect the Daytona Prototype International (DPI) class championship. "I just have to say, a massive 'well done' to everyone who's been a part of this project."

"What a car we've built and I'm so grateful to be able to drive that and be trusted with the duty to take it to the finish. Amazing. I was a bit nervous because the (No.)

10 car was definitely the second fastest car when it came down to it. But yeah, we held it off and had to take it to another level to secure this victory."

Blomqvist shared the car in the race with Colin Braun, Helio Castroneves and Simon Pagenaud, the latter duo also part of last year's Rolex 24 triumph. Today's victory, in fact, is Castroneves' third straight in the iconic race, tying late sports car legend Peter Gregg for most consecutive overall victories in sports car racing's renowned season opener.

"This team is amazing. This is absolutely a dream come true," Castroneves, the four-time Indianapolis 500 winner said after once again convincing his teammates and team owners Mike Shank and Jim Meyer to climb the track fence in celebration. "So happy to start the year like that and keep it going."

Pagenaud, Castroneves' teammate on the Meyer Shank IndyCar team, was also all smiles, earning his second straight Rolex winner's watch.

"I think I'm getting used to it," he joked, adding, "I'll tell you what, it was tough out there but it was fun. I'm going to savor this one."

The MSR No. 60 Acura led the final 97 laps despite having to repair the gearbox mid-race and worrying whether it would indeed make it to the end. It marks the third straight Rolex 24 overall victory for Acura, which also won with the WTR/Andretti team in 2021.

Nine hybrid prototypes made the highly anticipated debut of the GTP class in the race. All but one were still running at the finish, including the top six overall finishers, an impressive outing for a car making its first competi-

tive showing in one of the longest, most grueling events on the schedule.

The celebratory feeling went from track to pits to company brass. The first win in a totally new car elicited both relief and confidence. The finish of the race, the reliability and competitiveness a good sign for all.

"It feels unbelievable," said David Salters, president of Honda Performance Development (HPD), which developed the race winner. "The real privilege is to work with those people (Acura teams) and achieve days like today. We all know it doesn't happen all the time. Was it worth it? It's been two years and I think it's the best thing I've been involved in in my whole life."

"If that isn't a demonstration of precision crafted performance, I don't know what is," Salters added. "It's a landmark moment. It's the pinnacle of sports car racing."

Scoring the LMP2 class victory was the No. 55 Proton Competition ORECA LMP2 #7 by just 0.016 seconds as James Allen bested Ren Hanley with a phenomenal last-lap dash. Fred Poerl, Francesco Pizzi and Gianmaria Bruni aided the No. 55 to victory. Rick Ware Racing's No. 51 car, featuring 2022 Daytona 500 champion Austin Cindric, finished sixth in the class along with drivers Pietro Fittipaldi, Devlin DeFrancesco and Eric Lux.

The No. 17 AWA Duquenne D08 entrant piloted by Wayne Boyd, Anthony Mantella, Nico Vassone and Thomas Merill took the win in LMP3 by a healthy 12-lap margin.

—Holly Cunningham/NASCAR

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CHRIS GRANT/GETTY IMAGES

Martin Truex Jr., driver of the #19 Bass Pro Shops Toyota, (center) winner, Austin Dillon, driver of the #3 Get Bioethanol Chevrolet, (left) second place and Kyle Busch, driver of the #8 BetMGM Chevrolet, third place pose for photos on the podium after the NASCAR Clash at the Coliseum at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum on Sunday.

Martin Truex Jr. wins wild Busch Light Clash at The Coliseum

In front of a large, enthusiastic crowd in one of the most iconic venues in sports, Martin Truex Jr. earned his first NASCAR Cup Series victory in more than a decade in a rough and tumble all-star Busch Light Clash at the Coliseum Sunday night at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Truex's No. 19 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota held off Austin Dillon's No. 3 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet by a mere .786-second leading the final 25 laps of the 150-lap annual non-points exhibition event marking the start of the NASCAR season. It was the former series champion Truex's first career Busch Light Clash victory.

Dillon's new teammate, two-time series champion Kyle Busch finished third in the No. 8 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet — the three top finishers left on a podium with medals; representatives of the Olympic Games the venue has also famously hosted.

"Just really good race car, the guys did a really good job with this Bass Pro Shops Toyota Camry," the New Jersey native Truex said. "Last year was a pretty rough season for us with no wins, to come out here and kick it off this way, just really proud of these guys."

"Tonight, was just kind of perverse, not give up and just battle through and we found ourselves in the right spot at the end. Sometimes they work out your way and sometimes they don't. Tonight, it went out my way."

The iconic HOLLYWOOD sign on the hills over-

looking Turn 3 and the downtown Los Angeles skyline just beyond Turn 2 provided a unique setting to this event.

It was a packed house at the 100-year-old Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum for the race — lots of new fans mixed with the most loyal long-timers dressed in their best NASCAR fan t-shirts, driver jackets and hats excited to watch the NASCAR Cup Series show exactly the kind of high drama short track action that has made the 75-year-old sport an American treasure.

The track was purpose-built inside the stadium bringing the sport to a new market, which appears to have wholeheartedly embraced.

And while this may be a pre-season exhibition, frustration was often in mid-season form Sunday night.

The race was slowed 16 times for cautions. Dillon had a late race run-in with Bubba Wallace, their cars colliding. Wallace got the worst end of the contact and was knocked from contending for the win to instead finishing 22nd in the 37-car field — despite leading 40 laps and challenging Truex as the race wound down.

"Obviously, Bubba knocked me through the corner," Dillon said. "I was going to hit him back. Didn't mean to turn him like that but when it gets down to the end, I think everybody knows what's going on and that's what you see at places like this and I (North Carolina short track) Bowman Gray Stadium."

Dillon acknowledged that Wallace may be upset with him and said they would talk.

Hendrick Motorsports teammates Alex Bowman and Kyle L. Larson rounded out the top five. Tyler Reddick was sixth in his debut in the No. 45 23XI Racing Toyota.

New Englander Ryan Preece, 32, making his first start in the No. 41 JGR Toyota, finished ninth with driver William Byron in the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet rounding out the top 10.

Denny Hamlin, who won his Heat Race earlier in the day in his No. 11 JGR Toyota, finished 11th with driver William Byron in the No. 24 Hendrick Motorsports Chevrolet rounding out the top 10.

The four Heat and two Last Chance Qualifier races Sunday afternoon provided plenty of drama in setting the field for the Main Event under the lights — and under the fire of the Coliseum's famed pyrotechnic torch.

Both RFK Racing Fords — driven by team co-owner Brad Keselowski and Chris Buescher — were among the eight cars that didn't qualify. Joining the RFK drivers on that list of DNQs are Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Harrison Burton, Ty Dillon, Corey LaJoie, Cody Ware, JJ. Yeley and B.J. McLeod.

The NASCAR Cup Series next moves east in Florida for the Feb. 19 regular season opening DAYTONA 500 at the Daytona International Speedway (Sunday, Feb. 19, 2:30 p.m. ET on FOX, MRN and SiriusXM NASCAR Radio).

—Holly Cunningham/NASCAR

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 Tell Me More

Cornell Univ. returns Native American remains dug up in 1964

By MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

Cornell University has returned ancestral remains to the Onondaga Indian Nation that were inadvertently dug up in 1964 and stored for decades in a school archive.

"We're returning ancestral remains and possessions that we own; recognition never should have been taken, never should have come to Cornell and never should have been kept here," Cornell President Martha E. Pollack said at a news reception ceremony Tuesday, according to the university.

Pollack apologized on behalf of the Ivy League school in Ithaca, New York, noting the "disrespect shown to these ancestors."

The remains, possibly more than 300 years old, were discovered by people digging a ditch for a water line on an upstate New York

farm east of Binghamton in August 1964.

Police called a Cornell anthropology professor, who determined the remains belonged to a young adult male of Native American ancestry.

Reparation records recently filed with the federal government indicate the remains represent "at minimum" three people.

The remains were stored on campus until after the professor's death in 2014, when they were transferred to the anthropology department. They were rediscovered by colleagues during an archival inventory.

These individuals, an adult man, a child of four years or younger and another child or adolescent of undetermined age, will be once again laid to rest in the traditions of our people," Onondaga Indian Nation Representative Ray Halbritter said at the ceremony.

Twenty-two "funerary" objects that were interred with the remains also were returned. The objects include pieces of pottery, a piece of leather, a large earthenware shell fragment and a bone.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act requires federally funded institutions, such as universities, to return remains and cultural items.

Cornell is among colleges, museums and other institutions returning Native American artifacts and ancestral remains. Colgate University in November returned to the Onondaga more than 1,500 items once buried with ancestral remains, some dating back 400 years.

The site in Windsor New York was once a large settlement located on the banks of the Susquehanna River, in the traditional territory of the Onondaga.

US mass killings linked to extremism spiked over last decade

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of U.S. mass killings linked to extremism over the past decade was at least three times higher than the total from any other 10-year period since the 1970s, according to a report by the Anti-Defamation League.

The report, provided to The Associated Press ahead of its public release Thursday, also found that all extremist killings identified in 2022 were linked to right-wing extremism, with an especially high number linked to white supremacy. They include a racist mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, that left 10 Black shoppers dead and a mass shooting that killed five people at an LGBT nightclub in Colorado.

It is not an exaggeration to say that we live in an age of extremist mass killings, the report from the group's Center on Extremism says.

Between two and seven extremist-related mass killings occurred every decade from the 1970s to the 2000s, but in the 2010s, that number skyrocketed to 21, the report found.

The trend has since continued with five extremist mass killings in 2021 and 2022, as many as there were during the first decade of the new millennium.



Investigators stand outside during a moment of silence for the victims of the Buffalo supermarket shooting outside the Tops Friendly Market on May 21, 2022, in Buffalo, N.Y. The number of U.S. mass killings linked to extremism was at least three times higher in the last decade than the total from any 10-year period since the 1970s. That's according to a report released by The Associated Press by the Anti-Defamation League. (AP Photo/Joel S. Siegel)

The number of victims has risen as well. Between 2010 and 2020, 164 people died in ideologically extremist-related mass killings, according to the report. That's much more than in any other decade except the 1990s, when the bombing of a federal building in Oklahoma City killed 168 people.

Extremist killings are those carried out by people with ties to extremist movements, the report says.

Several factors combined to drive the numbers up between 2010 and 2020. There were shootings inspired by the rise

of the Islamic State group as well as a handful targeting police officers after civil unrest and riots linked to the increasing pervasiveness of violence by white supremacists, said Mark Potvin, a senior research fellow at the ADL's Center on Extremism.

The report tracks extremists linked to various forms of extremism in the United States and compares them in an annual report. It tracked 25 extremist-related killings last year, a decrease from the 33 the year before.

Nearly three percent of the killings in 2022 were

committed with firearms. The report also noted that no police officers were killed by extremists last year, for the first time since 2011.

With the waning of the Islamic State group, the main threat in the near future will likely be white supremacists, the report found. The increase in the number of mass killings, meanwhile, is one of the most alarming trends in recent years, said Center on Extremism Vice President Oren Segal.

"We cannot afford to kill by accident this as the new norm," Segal said.

New York finalizes overtime changes for farm workers

By MAYSON KHAN
Associated Press/Report for America

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York officials gave final approval Wednesday for a measure that will lower the hourly threshold for when farm workers qualify for overtime pay.

Under the adopted measure, the overtime pay threshold will gradually be reduced to 40 hours a week. Starting on Jan. 1, 2024, farm workers will be eligible for overtime pay after 56 hours worked per week.

Right now, farm workers in the state qualify for overtime pay after working more than 60 hours per week.

The state's Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Ransford, who approved of a recom-

mendation to reduce the overtime threshold in September, said it would "ensure equity for farm workers, who are the very backbone of our agriculture sector."

The gradual transition should give farmers time to make appropriate adjustments, she said.

The overtime rule has been applauded by labor movement advocates who say farm workers deserve the same benefits long enjoyed by other workers. But many farm owners say the new measure will drive up labor costs and threaten family farms in the state.

"Our family farmers are already struggling with skyrocketing inflation, high unemployment insurance rates and a severe winter shortage. This is one more burdensome mandate passed on by underfunded bureaucrats that will come

more harm," state Senate GOP Leader Rob Ort said in a statement.

Gov. Kathy Hochul in her budget plan proposed expanding tax credits for farmers to ensure the new standards are implemented smoothly.

Farm owners will be able to tap into a tax credit of \$2,000 per employee. A refundable overtime tax credit was also established to help cover the costs of farm employers who will have to pay overtime benefits.

Mayson Khan is a corporate reporter for the Associated Press/Report for America. She is also a freelance writer. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Mayson Khan on Twitter.

R. Kelly to learn if he effectively gets 'life'

By MICHAEL TARM and
CLAIRE SAVAGE
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A federal judge will sentence R. Kelly for his Chicago convictions of child pornography and enticement of minors for sex on Thursday, when the 46-year-old singer will learn if he must spend the rest of his life behind bars or if he will have some hope of getting out.

The central question for the judge at the hearing in Kelly's hometown of Chicago is whether to heed prosecutors' request to order that Kelly serve a new sentence only after he completes his 30-year term imposed last year in New York for racketeering and sex trafficking.

A sentence that Kelly must serve consecutively would be tantamount to a life sentence.

Prosecutors acknowledge that a lengthy term served after the New York sentence would practically erase any chance of Kelly ever leaving prison alive. They say the Grammy Award-winner's crimes against children and his lack of remorse justified that.

They recommended a 25-year sentence served consecutively. That would make him eligible for release in 2066, a year shy of his 1,000th birthday. The defense wants a sentence of around

10 years, served consecutively.

If the judge does let Kelly serve his new sentence simultaneously with the New York sentence, he will serve no more than the 30 years and should be eligible for release at around age 80 — providing him some hope of one day resuming life outside prison.

Juries in Chicago convicted Kelly last year on six of 13 counts — three counts of producing child porn and three of enticement of minors for sex. Kelly was

acquitted of the charges of sexual abuse, which he successfully argued his 2008 state child pornography trial.

Kelly rose from poverty in Chicago to become one of the world's biggest R&B stars. Known for his smooth hit "I Believe I Can Fly" and for sex-infused songs such as "Bump n' Grind," he sold millions of albums even after allegations about his abuse of girls began circulating publicly in the 1990s.

In prison, Kelly was accused of sexual abuse of girls as a sexual sexual pre-

dict who used his fame and wealth to seduce and sexually abuse and then discard them.



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Weinstein faces a 2nd long sentence in LA rape conviction

By ANDREW DALTON AP
Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Harvey Weinstein could see the long prison term he is already serving on a second day in California prison, handing the one-time movie magnate and lord of the Oscars to a new law after conviction for rape and sexual assault.

Unless the judge finds a defense motion for a new trial, Superior Court Judge Lisa B. Lynch is scheduled to sentence the 70-year-old Weinstein to a downward Los Angeles correction on Thursday. She could give him up to 18 years in prison. He has more than a year left on his sentence in New York after a 2020 conviction there.

Juries in December convicted Weinstein of one count of rape and two counts of sexual assault against an Italian model and actor during a 2013 film festival

in the movie to that year's Academy Awards. The jury spared Weinstein an even longer sentence with which he was acquitted him of the sexual battery of a teenage therapist and failed to resolve on counts involving two other women.

The victim whose dramatic testimony led to the guilty counts may make a state-

ment on the toll the attack has taken on her.

Last week, Lynch rejected a request from Gloria Allred, an attorney for some of the women who testified at trial, to allow others to make similar statements in court about the man who has for five years been a magnet for the #MeToo conversation.

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