

Grand jury votes to indict Trump

First ex-president charged with crime

NEW YORK (AP) — A Manhattan grand jury has voted to indict Donald Trump on charges involving payments made during the 2016 presidential campaign to silence claims of an extramarital sexual

encounter, his lawyers said Thursday, producing the first criminal case against a former U.S. president and a jolt to Trump's bid to retake the White House. Trump, who has denied any

wrongdoing and has repeatedly attacked the investigation, called the indictment "political persecution" and predicted it would damage Democrats in 2024.

The indictment follows years of investigations into his business,



See TRUMP, PAGE 8A Trump

WAUKESHA COUNTY



The FREEMAN

\$1.50

Friday, March 31, 2023

gmtoday.com

'Dancing Chuck' Franzke, WWII veteran, dies at 100

WAUKESHA — A few months after his 100th birthday, Waukesha's "Dancing Chuck" died on Wednesday.

Chuck Franzke became an internet sensation after his dance moves were recorded and put online.

Franzke served as a torpedo bomber pilot in the South Pacific during World War II, flying the Grumman TBF Avenger off the USS Saginaw Bay aircraft carrier in 1945.

"He was very proud that got through the Navy Air Corps, because it was rough," his wife Beverly said.

Franzke became an ambassador for the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight after taking his Honor Flight in 2010. "Chuck was overwhelmed (with his Honor Flight)," Bev said. "When he came back from the Honor Flight he was so happy that he danced right by us!"

"Dancing Chuck" became an internet sensation in April for a video the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight captured of him getting down on his front porch to Justin Timberlake's "Can't Stop the Feeling."

The video has been shared by news outlets throughout the country and world, including "Good Morning America," Billboard.com and the video introduction to the 2020 NFL Draft. Justin Timberlake also took to Twitter and tweeted about the video, later stating he would like to meet Franzke.

"Chuck's zest for living and outgoing personality gave so



Courtesy of Stars and Stripes Honor Flight

The family of World War II Navy pilot "Dancing Chuck" Franzke announced that he passed away on Wednesday, a few months after his 100th birthday.

many people worldwide a reason to smile during dark times," said Karyn Roelke of Stars and Stripes Honor Flight. "He continued to share his joyful optimism until the very end of his life."

Franzke is survived by his wife of 78 years, Bev, and by two children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind a great enthusiasm for life and words of wisdom that will live on in the

hearts of his family and friends. "The best way to have friends is to be one," Franzke often said. "Love gets you to the altar; but trust and respect get you through the next 78 years."

Funeral arrangements are pending. Donations in his memory are requested for the Stars and Stripes Honor Flight, www.starsandstripeshonorflight.org.

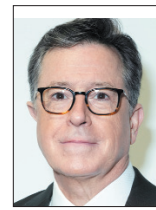
The family asks for privacy at this time.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WAUKESHA

Colbert takes up 'Rainbowland' song controversy

Comedian jokes about Heyer Elementary's decision to remove song from concert

By Karen Pilarski
kpilarski@conley.net.com
262-513-2657



Colbert

WAUKESHA — The controversy over the decision to pull a Miley Cyrus/Dolly Parton song from a concert ended up being discussed on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" on Wednesday night.

"Rainbowland" by Miley Cyrus and Dolly Parton was on the list of songs for first-graders at Heyer Elementary School to sing during a spring concert.

"Florida's not the only state banning wonderful things," Colbert said.

The board of a Florida school pressured a principal to resign after an image of Michelangelo's Renaissance masterpiece David was shown to a sixth-grade art class. The school has a policy requiring parents to be notified in advance about "controversial" topics being taught.

In Waukesha, it was determined that "Rainbowland" could be perceived as controversial according to SDW Board Policy 2240.

"The teacher was asked to pick a different song for the first grade concert at Heyer Elementary which ended up being 'Rainbow Connection' by Jim Henson. That song is great for first graders and fits in their concert theme as well," Superintendent Jim Seberrt

said in an email. "Controversial? About Dolly Parton?" Colbert said. "She is a being of eternal light and rhinestones. The only controversy about Dolly Parton is, is she the best person now, or is she always going to be the best person forever and ever, amen?"

Colbert played a snippet of the song.

"They're afraid of rainbows and being free to be exactly who we are. These people were not hugged enough as children. You know who would hug them? Dolly Parton," he said.

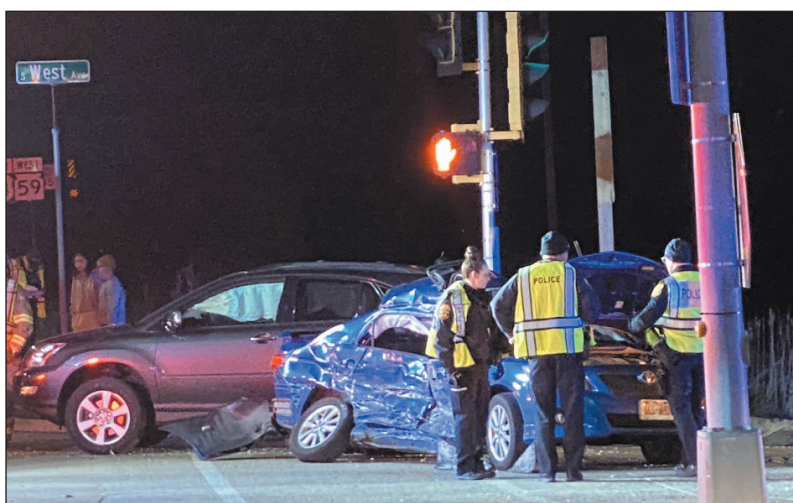
It wasn't the first time Waukesha was mentioned on Colbert's show. Last April he cracked jokes about inflation prices and beers.

"There are a lot of reasons people watch this show, but I know first and foremost, you come for our rock-bottom pricing," Colbert said then.

He announced new inflation numbers came out and prices have jumped 8.5% since last March.

"That means no more splurging at the grocery store. Instead of Milwaukee's Best, it'll have to be Waukesha's Ehhh," Colbert said. He added, "Let's face it, that is not that much worse."

See COLBERT, PAGE 8A



Tim Snopce/Special to The Freeman

Waukesha Police investigating the accident on Wednesday on West Avenue.

6-year-old child killed in Waukesha crash

WAUKESHA — A 6-year-old was killed in a three-car crash on Wednesday evening at the intersection of Highway 59 and South West Avenue, according to Waukesha police.

"The city of Waukesha Police and Fire Departments responded and quickly provided lifesaving measures to the occupants of the vehicle and transported them to Waukesha Memorial Hospital for advanced care," according to police.

The 6-year-old child died later

due to the injuries that were sustained in the crash.

The investigation is still ongoing, but all drivers of the cars in the crash were released from the scene and are cooperating with investigators.

"Our Major Crash Task Force is leading the investigation in partnership with the Wisconsin State Patrol Traffic Reconstruction Unit," police said.

The area of Highway 59 and South West Avenue was closed for some time.

COMING UP



All-Freeman boys basketball

Get ready, Waukesha County. The annual All-Freeman boys basketball awards will be announced in this Saturday's paper! Make sure to pick up a copy to find out who made the All-Freeman team and who will be this year's Player of the Year and Coach of the Year.



INDEX	
Business.....	5A
Classified.....	6B
Comics.....	5B
Commentary.....	6A
Community.....	4B
Lottery.....	2A
Obituaries.....	7A
Sports.....	1B
Success.....	1B
Weather.....	8A

WEATHER



Tomorrow:
Snow likely
High 39 / Low 26

See complete forecast on Page 8A

TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE FREEMAN, call 262-542-2500 or go online at: gmtoday.com/subscribe

KETTLE MORAINÉ SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS
VOTE JAY CROUSE & DR. JJ ANDREWS APRIL 4th FOR SCHOOL BOARD.



PLACING STUDENTS, NOT POLITICS
AT THE HEART OF THE CONVERSATION.

AS MEMBERS OF THE KM SCHOOL BOARD THEY WILL WORK TO:

- Maintain KM's excellent public schools and trust our quality educators.
- Support learning environment choices that educate all of our students.
- Keep the School Board focused on quality education for all, not a partisan political agenda.



JAY CROUSE
(INCUMBENT)



DR. JJ ANDREWS

SCAN TO LEARN MORE



KETTLEMORAINÉALLIANCE.COM

Paid for by the Kettle Moraine Alliance.
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's agent or committee.
The Kettle Moraine Alliance is not sponsored by or associated with the Kettle Moraine School District.

Russia detains American journalist in 'dark turn' for ties

(TNS) — Russia detained American journalist Evan Gershkovich for alleged espionage while he was on a reporting trip in central Russia, the first time a U.S. reporter has been held on spying charges since the Cold War.



Gershkovich

The 31-year-old Wall Street Journal reporter was arrested in Yekaterinburg, about 880 miles east of Moscow, by Federal Security Service agents and brought to Moscow, where a district court ordered him to be held until at least May 29. The case was classified as "top secret."

The newspaper denied the allegations and asked for the immediate release of "our trusted and dedicated reporter." A State Department spokesman said the U.S. had asked for consular access and it would be several days before the request is granted.

"In the strongest possible terms, we condemn the Kremlin's continued attempts to intimidate, repress, and punish journalists and civil society voices," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

The arrest marks the first time Russia has charged a U.S. journalist with spying since the Cold War, and signals a major escalation in tensions amid the spiraling crisis over Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

It immediately raised fears that the Biden administration would be pulled into another protracted diplomatic negotiation for an American citizen's release. Less than four months ago, WNBA star Brittney Griner was released from prison in an exchange for convicted arms dealer Viktor Bout.

Less than a week ago, the U.S. unveiled charges against a Russian national named Sergey Cherkasov for allegedly operating as an undercover agent to gather intelligence while enrolled as a graduate student in Washington. Cherkasov is now in prison in Brazil.

Gershkovich was "caught red-

handed," Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, told reporters on a conference call.

The question now shifts to what the Biden administration does next. U.S. officials spoke with his employer last night, have been in touch with his family and also in direct touch with the Russian government to get consular access.

Gershkovich is accredited to the Wall Street Journal's bureau in Moscow with the Russian Foreign Ministry, and previously worked as a reporter for Agence France-Presse and The Moscow Times, covering Russia and Ukraine extensively. He was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and attended Bowdoin College in Maine.

His recent stories included an examination of the impact of international sanctions on Russia's economy and one about rising tensions between the Kremlin elite and the Wagner paramilitary force, run by Yevgeny Prigozhin, that has been trying for months to take the city of Bakhmut in eastern Ukraine.

Trump

From Page 1A

political and personal dealings. It is likely to galvanize critics who say Trump lied and cheated his way to the top and embolden supporters who feel the Republican is being unfairly targeted by a Democratic prosecutor.

In a statement, his lawyers, Susan Necheles and Joseph Tacopina, said: "He did not commit any crime. We will vigorously fight this political prosecution in court."

The district attorney's investigation centered on money paid to porn actor Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal, whom he feared would go public with claims that they had extramarital sexual encounters with him.

Trump was expected to surrender to authorities next week, though the details were still being worked out, according to a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss a matter that remained under seal.

In bringing the charges, the Manhattan district attorney, Alvin Bragg, is embracing an unusual case that had been investigated by two previous sets of prosecutors, both of which declined to take the politically explosive step of seeking Trump's indictment.

In the weeks leading up to the indictment, Trump railed about the investigation on social media and urged supporters to protest on his behalf, prompting tighter security around the Manhattan criminal courthouse.

Trump faces other potential prosecutions as he seeks to reassert control of the Republican Party and stave off a slew of one-time allies who are seeking or are likely to oppose him for the presidential nomination.

The district attorney in Atlanta has for two years been investigating efforts by Trump and his allies to meddle in Georgia's 2020 vote count. And a U.S. Justice Department special counsel is investigating Trump's storage of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago home in Florida and his efforts to reverse his election loss.

The fate of the hush-money investigation seemed uncertain until word got out in early March that Bragg had invited Trump to testify before a grand jury, a signal that prosecutors were close to bringing charges.

Trump's attorneys declined the invitation, but a lawyer closely allied with the former president briefly testified in an effort to undercut the credibility of Trump's former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen.

Late in the 2016 presidential campaign, Cohen paid Daniels \$130,000 to keep her silent about what she says was a sexual encounter with Trump a decade earlier after they met at a celebrity golf tournament.

Cohen was then reimbursed by Trump's company, the Trump Organization, which also rewarded the lawyer with

bonuses and extra payments logged internally as legal expenses. Over several months, Cohen said, the company paid him \$420,000.

Earlier in 2016, Cohen had also arranged for the publisher of the supermarket tabloid the National Enquirer to pay Playboy model Karen McDougal \$150,000 to squelch her story of a Trump affair in a journalistically dubious practice known as "catch-and-kill."

The payments to the women were intended to buy secrecy, but they backfired almost immediately as details of the arrangements leaked to the news media.

Federal prosecutors in New York ultimately charged Cohen in 2018 with violating federal campaign finance laws, arguing that the payments amounted to impermissible help to Trump's presidential campaign. Cohen pleaded guilty to those charges and unrelated tax evasion counts and served time in federal prison.

Trump was implicated in court filings as having knowledge of the arrangements, but U.S. prosecutors at the time balked at bringing charges against him. The Justice Department has a longtime policy that it is likely unconstitutional to prosecute a sitting president in federal court.

Bragg's predecessor as district attorney, Cyrus Vance Jr., then took up the investigation in 2019. While that probe initially focused on the hush money payments, Vance's prosecutors moved on to other matters, including an examination of Trump's business dealings and tax strategies.

Vance ultimately charged the Trump Organization and its chief financial officer with tax fraud related to fringe benefits paid to some of the company's top executives.

The hush money matter became known around the D.A.'s office as the "zombie case," with prosecutors revisiting it periodically but never opting to bring charges.

After the Trump Organization was convicted on the tax fraud charges in December, Bragg hired longtime white-collar prosecutor Matthew Colangelo to oversee the probe and convening a new grand jury.

Cohen became a key witness, meeting with prosecutors nearly two-dozen times, turning over emails, recordings and other evidence and testifying before the grand jury.

Trump has long decried the Manhattan investigation as "the greatest witch hunt in history."

He has also lashed out at Bragg, calling the prosecutor, who is black, racist against white people.

Trump, who ruffed in 2016 that he "could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody" and "wouldn't lose voters," now faces the indictment in a borough where more than 75% of voters — many of them potential jurors — opposed him in the last election.

9 killed in Army Black Hawk helicopter crash in Kentucky

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — Nine people were killed in a crash involving two Army Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters conducting a nighttime training exercise in Kentucky, Army officials said Thursday.

Nondice Thurman, a spokesperson for Fort Campbell, said the deaths happened Wednesday night in southwestern Kentucky during a routine training mission.

A statement from Fort Campbell said the two HH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, part of the 101st Airborne Division, crashed around 10 p.m. Wednesday in Trigg County, Kentucky. The 101st Airborne confirmed the crash about 30 miles northwest of Fort Campbell. The crash is under investigation.

The helicopters crashed in a field near a residential area with no injuries on the ground, Brig. Gen. John Lubas, the 101st Airborne deputy commander, said. One helicopter had five people aboard and the other had four, Lubas said.

An Army spokesperson declined to comment on whether the helicopters collided in the air.

"At this time, there is no determination on the specifics regarding the accident," Daniel Matthews, a public affairs officer for the 101st Airborne Division, said in an emailed statement Thursday afternoon. Matthews said an aviation safety team from Fort Rucker, Alabama, will investigate the accident.

Speaking a news conference Thursday morning, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said the state would do everything it can to support the families of those killed.

"We're going to do what we always do. We're going to wrap our arms around these families, and we're going to be there with them, not just for the days, but the weeks and the months and the years to come," Beshear said.

Lubas said it is unclear what caused the crash.

"This was a training progression, and specifically they were flying a multi-ship formation, two ships, under night vision goggles at night," Lubas said.

The helicopters have something similar to the black boxes on passenger planes, which records the performance of aircrafts in flight and are used by investigators to analyze crashes.

"We're hopeful that will provide quite a bit of information of what occurred," Lubas said.

The Black Hawk helicopter is a critical workhorse for the U.S. Army and is used in security, transport, medical evacuations, search and rescue and other missions.



Kerem Yv'cel/Minnesota Public Radio via AP

Firefighters work near piled up train cars, near Raymond, Minn., on Thursday, the morning after a BNSF freight train derailed.

Evacuations end after fiery Minnesota ethanol derailment

PRINSBURG, Minn. (AP) — Hundreds of people had to evacuate their Minnesota hometown after a train hauling ethanol and corn syrup derailed and caught fire early Thursday, but authorities are hopeful that the quick response and cold weather will help limit the impact of this latest crash.

Still, those pushing to improve rail safety said Thursday's derailment only adds urgency to the debate over reforms Congress and regulators are considering even as officials seemed to apply some of the lessons learned after last month's fiery derailment near East Palestine, Ohio.

Minnesota officials said the BNSF train derailed around 1 a.m. Thursday in the Town of Raymond, roughly 100 miles west of Minneapolis. That prompted the evacuation of essentially all of the town's 250 homes because they were within 1/2 mile of the derailment. The evacuation order was lifted around noon.

The nation has been increasingly focused on railroad safety since the Feb. 3 Norfolk Southern derailment that prompted several thousand evacuations in and around East Palestine near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border. Residents in that town of about 5,000 remain concerned about lingering health impacts after officials decided to release and burn toxic chemicals to prevent a tank car explosion. State and federal officials maintain that no harmful levels of toxic chemicals have been found in the air or water there, but residents remain uneasy.

The major freight railroads have said they plan to add about 1,000 more trackside detectors nationwide to help spot equipment problems, but federal regulators and members of Congress have proposed additional reforms they want the railroads to make to prevent future derailments. A group of Ohio Representatives said at a news conference Thursday about their rail safety legislation that the Minnesota derailment reinforces the need for reform.

While state and federal agencies were quick to respond to the Ohio derailment, Norfolk Southern's CEO and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg were slow to visit the town, and President Joe Biden has yet to survey the damage himself. Contrast that with Thursday's response when BNSF CEO Katie Farmer showed up on day one to apologize and promise a thorough cleanup, and Buttigieg jumped on CNN within hours to discuss the derailment.

Colbert

From Page 1A

Why is it controversial?

The district has a policy regarding controversial topics in schools.

"Policy 2240 has a number of areas that it covers and remember these are six and seven-year-olds. The main question was is the song appropriate for the age level and maturity of the students," Sebrest said.

In 2021, the School District of Waukesha said certain signage within classrooms, including flags and posters about Pride, Black Lives Matter, Thin Blue Line, and more was not permitted.

The administration's stated reasoning behind the signage directive has been to keep classroom displays within the confines of curriculum.

Colbert said some parents speculated the removal of both rainbow songs "was part of a greater crackdown within the district on LGBTQ issues," Colbert said.

In March the district debated "Our Commitment to All" signs. The signs are designed to further ensure that schools and classrooms are welcoming environments for teaching and learning.

The poster highlights harassment, discrimination and other policies that school officials reviewed with students across the district. There is also a Spanish version.

Miley Cyrus founded the Happy Hippie Foundation. The foundation tweeted out a message for the first grade class at Heyer.

"To the inspiring first grade students at Heyer Elementary, keep being you. We believe in our Happy Hippie heart that you'll be the ones to brush the judgement and fear aside and make all of us more understanding and accepting."

FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TONIGHT
Rain & Snow Likely
33

TOMORROW
Snow Likely
39/26

SUNDAY
Partly Cloudy
55/40

MONDAY
Mostly Cloudy
57/39

TUESDAY
Few Showers
55/45

REGIONAL FORECAST

COMFORT INDEX
5
What the air will feel like tomorrow, based on the temperature, humidity and wind speed.
1 poor; 10 excellent.

TEMPERATURES SHOWN ARE TOMORROW'S HIGHS AND LOWS.

ILLINOIS
Chicago 43/29
Rockford 43/27

WISCONSIN
Superior 33/23
Ashland 31/17
Florence 32/11
Eau Claire 37/21
Wausau 35/17
Green Bay 36/20
Appleton 37/22
Oshkosh 37/22
Beaver Dam 39/24
West Bend 39/25
Milwaukee 40/27
Madison 41/27
Waukesha 39/26

ALMANAC
Statistics for Yesterday
High/Low, Waukesha 39/18
High/Low, Waukesha 41/22
Normal High/Low 49/33
Last year's high for date 56
Last year's low for date 38
Precipitation, Waukesha 0.00"
Precipitation Trace
Precip. month to date 3.20"
Precip. year to date 9.53"
Snowfall Yesterday 0.0"
Snow season to date 51.6"
* Precipitation source: Gen. Mitchell International, Milwaukee. Precipitation is the liquid equivalent of snow, ice and rain.

WIND CHILL TOMORROW
A composite of the effects of temperature and wind on the human body
8 a.m. 23
Noon 23
4 p.m. 29
8 p.m. 28

HEATING DEGREE
An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the day's mean temperature was below 65 degrees.
Yesterday 33
Month to date 877
Season to date 5026
Normal season to date 5518

ALMANAC
Sunset today 7:17 p.m.
Sunrise tomorrow 6:35 a.m.
Moonrise tomorrow 2:45 p.m.
Moonset tomorrow 5:02 a.m.

NATIONAL FORECAST

Saturday, Apr. 1, 2023

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN
Tonight: Breezy. Partly cloudy late in the evening then changing to mostly cloudy. Rain showers with thunderstorms likely through around midnight, then snow showers likely, possibly mixed with rain showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Little snow accumulation.

MARINE FORECAST
Lake Michigan near shore forecast:
Tonight: SE wind 15 to 20 kt. Winds could gust as high as 25 kt. Rain showers before 4am, then a chance of rain and snow showers. Some thunder is also possible. Waves 3 to 4 ft.
Lake Michigan water temperature is 40 degrees.

ULTRAVIOLET INDEX FORECAST
The UVi forecast for Saturday is 3
UV scale and warnings on possible skin damage: 0-2 low risk, 3-5 moderate risk, 6-7 high risk, 8-10 very high risk, 11-over extreme risk.

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR TOMORROW

ATLANTA High: 77 Low: 44	CHICAGO High: 43 Low: 29	DALLAS High: 75 Low: 53
DENVER High: 66 Low: 35	LOS ANGELES High: 71 Low: 49	MIAMI High: 83 Low: 73
MINNEAPOLIS High: 37 Low: 23	NEW YORK High: 67 Low: 38	PHOENIX High: 82 Low: 53
SEATTLE High: 49 Low: 38	ST. LOUIS High: 53 Low: 35	WASHINGTON High: 79 Low: 39