



You decide



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Majority decision

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SPORTS

Ryan Garcia knocks Devin Haney down 3 times and hands him his first pro loss

NEW YORK (AP)

Ryan Garcia's behavior leading up to his bout against Devin Haney seemed so erratic that some people thought he shouldn't be allowed to fight at all.

Think of the performance they would have missed.

Garcia knocked Haney down three times and handed the WBC super lightweight champion his first loss, winning the fight by majority decision Saturday night but not the title because he was over the weight limit.

Garcia's odd actions in public and on social media throughout the buildup led to questions about how serious he was about this fight. It sure seemed as though he didn't devote enough time for training when he was more than 3 pounds above the 140-pound limit on Friday.



Ryan Garcia, right, punches Devin Haney during the eighth round of a super lightweight boxing match early Sunday, April 21, 2024, in New York.

But the speed and power in his hands was too much for Haney, who was hurt right from the opening round and went down in the seventh, 10th and 11th.

"Come on guys, you really thought I was crazy?" Garcia screamed to the fans during his post-fight interview in the ring.

Garcia (25-1, 20 KOs) won by scores of 115-109 and 114-110 on two of the judges' cards, while the third had it 112-112.

The Associated Press scored it 114-110 for Garcia.

The 25-year-olds from California split six fights as amateurs, but Haney had the stronger pro career, winning the undisputed lightweight title and then moving up to win the WBC belt in his first fight at 140 pounds.

Garcia couldn't take that, but he took Haney's perfect record. Haney fell to 31-1.

Haney had seemingly taken his place among the best fighters in the world, while it became easy to wonder if Garcia was overhyped. Garcia was stopped by Gervonta Davis last year in his biggest fight and expectations were he was going down again, even as he insisted he was ready to fight despite the appearance that he spent more time on the internet than in the gym.

Garcia explained that he needs his nights out and time for his other interests to help get past problems in his personal life, such as a divorce.

"I did what I thought I needed to do to feel OK," Garcia said.

He was better than OK. He was better than one of the best fighters in the world.

It had been unclear from the start how enthused Garcia was for the fight, which he was lobbying to be held in Las Vegas even after it had already been announced for Brooklyn.

It became a non-title bout Friday when Garcia weighed in at 143.2 pounds, 3.2 above the super lightweight limit. He didn't seem bothered, firing off social media posts saying the extra weight would make him stronger, then drinking what appeared to be a bottle of beer on the scale during the ceremonial public weigh-in later in the afternoon.

But he looked like the fast-rising sensation of earlier in his career, the crowd chanting his name as he began to dominate the latter rounds.

Garcia said he would look to move up to 147 pounds, saying he is unable to get to the 140-pound limit.

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STATE

Ex-police officer wanted in 2 killings and kidnapping shoots, kills self in Oregon, police say

SEATTLE, Washington (AP)

A former Washington state police officer wanted after killing two people, including his ex-wife, was found dead with a self-inflicted gunshot wound following a chase in Oregon, authorities said Tuesday. His 1-year-old baby, who was with him, was taken safely into custody by Oregon State Police troopers.

The troopers began chasing the ex-Yakima officer, Elias Huizar, when they saw him driving southbound on Interstate 5 near Eugene, Oregon, at about 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Oregon State Police Capt. Kyle Kennedy said at a media briefing Tuesday evening that Huizar fled after a trooper tried to pull over his vehicle.

Troopers pursued Huizar's vehicle at high speeds and at one point exchanged gunfire with him, according to Kennedy. The pursuit, over about 25 miles, ended when Huizar's vehicle hit a commercial vehicle that was stopped on the interstate because of an unrelated crash.

Huizar's vehicle spun and became immobile in the median, and when troopers tried to make contact with him, he shot himself and died at the scene, Kennedy said. The 1-year-old was uninjured and removed from the vehicle, Kennedy said.

He additionally said he didn't believe anyone was hurt during the exchange of gunfire with police.

"All day our thoughts have been how to rescue this young boy and we're thankful for the outcome that occurred," Kennedy said.

Huizar went on the run Monday afternoon after killing two people, including his ex-wife, Amber Rodriguez, 31, whom he shot eight times outside a West Richland elementary school in front of their 9-year-old son and other witnesses, police said. Rodriguez had recently obtained a protection order against Huizar.

Rodriguez worked at the school, while Huizar had recently worked as a substitute teacher in the Richland School District, the district confirmed in a Facebook post Tuesday.



This image provided by the West Richland Police Department shows Elias Huizar.

Police did not identify the other victim, whose body was found later Monday at Huizar's house, except to say she was Huizar's girlfriend.

According to court records, Huizar, 39, had at least until early this year been living with a 17-year-old girl whom he met when she was 11 and he was a middle school resource officer in Yakima. He impregnated her when she was 15; their baby recently turned 1, Rodriguez wrote in seeking a protection order against Huizar.

The Yakima Police Department said in a Facebook post Tuesday that Huizar left the department in 2021 "after receiving discipline." It did not provide any other information.


In February, the 17-year-old girl reported to police that Huizar sexually assaulted a 16-year-old friend, who had passed out at their house. Huizar was charged with rape of both the teen and her friend. He was out on bail pending trial, authorities said.


The Richland School District said it terminated Huizar's employment following his arrest in February. It said it had received recommendations from the Yakima School District before hiring him in 2022, and that he had passed background checks.


Mpox
(previously called monkeypox)


What You Need to Know


Mpox (previously called monkeypox) infection is a disease that can cause rashes and other symptoms. Learn how you can protect yourself and those around you from mpox.

- 

Mpox is spread through close contact with a symptomatic person.
Mpox is spread by direct contact with the skin or body fluids of an infected person. It can also spread by touching contaminated objects (such as bedding or clothing) or by respiratory droplets during direct and prolonged face-to-face contact. It is not a sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- 

Symptoms of mpox can vary.
Mpox usually causes a rash that starts as flat spots that become raised fluid-filled blisters that can be painful. Some people have just a few spots on one part of the body while others have many all over the body. Other symptoms can include fever, headache, and swollen lymph nodes.
- 

Prevention is essential to reducing transmission.
Avoid skin-to-skin contact with anyone who has open wounds or rashes, and don't share clothing or other items with them. Reduce the number of people you have close, intimate, or sexual contact with. If you have been exposed or are at high risk for infection, ask about getting the mpox vaccine.
- 

Vaccination is available for people exposed to mpox or at high risk.
If your symptoms have not started, post-exposure vaccination within 4 days of exposure may be an option to reduce or prevent symptoms. Talk to your medical provider or local clinic.
- 

Seek out care immediately.
If you have a new or unexplained rash and think it might be mpox, talk to your medical provider or local clinic. Antiviral medications are available to treat mpox if you have severe pain or other symptoms, or have a condition such as a weakened immune system that makes you more likely to get severely ill.

For more information, visit doh.wa.gov/mpox or call 1-833-829-HELP

- If you were exposed to mpox:**
If you have been exposed and do not have symptoms yet, talk to a health care provider about vaccination.
- How can I get vaccinated?**
People who are close contacts of cases or those at high risk of infection can get vaccinated by their medical providers or local clinic.
- Vaccine considerations**
If you receive an mpox vaccination, you should still practice other prevention measures, such as not having skin-to-skin contact with someone with mpox infection. You are not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after your second dose. The vaccine may not be 100% effective so continue to watch for any mpox symptoms.
- If you think you have mpox:**

 - Cover your rash.
 - Isolate yourself from others.
 - Immediately talk to your health care provider. It is important to call as soon as you think you have symptoms of the disease.
- If you have been diagnosed with mpox:**
Until the scabs are gone and the skin below has healed, do the following:

 - Separate yourself from other people and animals (mammals like pets or rodents).
 - Restrict family, friends, or other visitors to those with an essential need to be in the home.
 - Do not let others touch your skin, especially any areas with a rash.
 - Keep lesions covered.
 - Do not share bedding, towels, dishes, or utensils.
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Consider using disposable gloves to cover hand lesions.
 - Wash your own laundry and dishes.
 - Routinely clean and disinfect commonly touched surfaces and items.
 - Avoid use of contact lenses to prevent unintentional infection of the eye.
 - Do not kiss, hug, cuddle, sleep, play sports, or have sex with others.
 - Wear a well-fitting mask, especially when seeing a health care provider or while you have fever or respiratory symptoms.

For more information, visit doh.wa.gov/Mpox or call 1-833-829-HELP
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To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.

LATIN AMERICA

Mexico's likely next president would be its first leader with a Jewish background

MEXICO CITY (AP)

By mid-2024, Claudia Sheinbaum will most likely become Mexico's first female president. She would also be its first leader with a Jewish background in a country that's home to nearly 100 million Catholics.

On June 2, voters will choose a new president, 628 congressmen and thousands of local positions — Mexico's largest election ever, according to the National Electoral Institute.

Sheinbaum, a former mayor of Mexico City and the governing party's candidate, has kept a comfortable lead in all polls against opposition candidates Xóchitl Gálvez and Jorge Álvarez Máynez.

What role has religion played in the ongoing campaign that will elect the successor to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador? The answers are nuanced.

Does Sheinbaum identify herself as Jewish?

The 61-year-old candidate has approached the question with caution: While she is of Jewish ancestry, she is not religiously observant.

Her four grandparents were all Jews who immigrated to Mexico from Lithuania and Bulgaria. She was born in Mexico City and her parents did not raise her under any religion. According to her campaign team, Sheinbaum considers herself a woman of faith, but she is not religiously affiliated.

Being Jewish can be an identity, but not necessarily a religious one, said Tessa Schlosser, director of the Jewish Documentation and Research Center of Mexico.

"For some, if you are born to a Jewish mother, you are Jewish," Schlosser said. "For others, if you are born to a father. For others, if you have a grandfather. So, even in terms of lineage or racialization there are many debates."

How big is the Mexican Jewish community?

The first Jews arrived in Mexico in 1519, along with the Spanish colonization. The community began to grow substantially by the early 20th century, as thousands



Presidential candidate Claudia Sheinbaum speaks during her opening campaign rally at the Zocalo in Mexico City, March 1, 2024.

of Jews fled from the Ottoman Empire to escape instability and antisemitism.

To date, the Mexican Jewish community is formed by Ashkenazi Jews, from Central and Eastern Europe, and Sephardic Jews, mainly from Turkey, Greece, Italy, Spain and Syria.

According to Renee Dayan — director of Tribuna Israelita, which serves as a link to the Central Committee of Mexico's Jewish community — there are now about 50,000 Jews in the country. The majority are settled in Mexico City and its surroundings, with small communities in the cities of Monterrey, Guadalajara, Tijuana, Cancún, San Miguel de Allende and Los Cabos.

So, what role does religion play ahead of June elections?

Although Sheinbaum has repeatedly said that she does not practice any religion, she proudly publicized a meeting she held in February with Pope Francis and has indeed worn Catholic symbols at her rallies.

Mexico is a secular state with a robust legal framework that establishes the government's separation from the church, but the Catholic presence in the country is vast.

According to the latest official report (2020), 98 million of 126 million Mexicans are Catholics. They are followed by 14 million Protestants, mostly evangelicals, and then comes the Jewish community. More than 10 million people say they have no religion and 3 million identify as believers without religious affiliation.



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FEBRUARY 2024

DOH 820-244

Protect yourself from Long COVID: Get Vaccinated



Researchers estimate that millions of people have experienced Long COVID.



Anyone who gets COVID can develop Long COVID.



Studies have found that people who aren't vaccinated against COVID-19 may be more likely than others to develop Long COVID.

Long COVID, or Post-COVID Conditions (PCC), is defined as any signs, symptoms, or conditions that continue or develop after a COVID-19 infection. [Symptoms](#) can last weeks, months or years and can include fatigue, brain fog, cough, trouble breathing or shortness of breath, aches and pains, loss of smell or change in taste, fever, trouble sleeping, mood changes and more.

Anyone, regardless of age, infected with COVID-19 can develop Long COVID. It is more common in people who did not get vaccinated, and people who have had severe COVID-19 symptoms. People who get COVID-19 multiple times may also have more health risks, including Long COVID.

You can lower your chances of developing Long COVID symptoms by staying up to date with your COVID-19 vaccinations. COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for anyone ages 6 months and over.

POLITICS

Biden administration announces partnership with 50 countries to fight future pandemics

WASHINGTON (AP)

President Joe Biden's administration will help 50 countries identify and respond to infectious diseases, with the goal of preventing pandemics like the COVID-19 outbreak that suddenly halted normal life around the globe in 2020.

U.S. government officials will offer support in the countries, most of them located in Africa and Asia, to develop better testing, surveillance, communication and preparedness for such outbreaks in those countries.

The strategy will help "prevent, detect and effectively respond to biological threats wherever they emerge," Biden said in a statement Tuesday.

The Global Health Security Strategy, the president said, aims to protect people worldwide and "will make the United States stronger, safer, and healthier than ever before at this critical moment."

The announcement about the strategy comes as countries have struggled to meet a worldwide accord on responses to

future pandemics. Four years after the coronavirus pandemic, prospects of a pandemic treaty signed by all 194 of the World Health Organization's members are flailing.

Talks for the treaty are ongoing, with a final text expected to be agreed upon next month in Geneva. It's meant to be a legally binding treaty that obliges countries to monitor pandemic threats and share scientific findings. But major disputes have emerged over vaccine equity and transferring the technology used to make vaccines.

Even if a deal is hammered out, there would be few consequences for countries that choose not to abide by the treaty.

The U.S. will push on with its global health strategy to prevent future pandemics, regardless of a pandemic treaty or not, a senior administration official told



President Joe Biden speaks as he meets with Iraqi Prime Minister Shia al-Sudani in the Oval Office of the White House, on Monday, April 15, 2024, in Washington.

reporters on Monday.

Several U.S. government agencies — including the State Department, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Health and Human Services and the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID — will help countries refine their infectious disease response.

Health systems around the globe have

been overwhelmed with COVID-19 and other health emergencies such as Ebola, malaria and mpox, the CDC said in a statement. The new strategy will help countries rebuild their agencies, the U.S. agency explained.

"Global health security is national security, and CDC is proud to contribute its expertise, investments and rapid response to protect the health and safety of the American people and the world," Mandy Cohen, the CDC's director, said in a statement.

Congo is one country where work has already begun. The U.S. government is helping Congo with its response to an mpox virus

outbreak, including with immunizations. Mpox, a virus that's in the same family as the one that causes smallpox, creates painful skin lesions. The World Health Organization declared mpox a global emergency in 2022, and there have been more than 91,000 cases spanning across 100 countries to date.

NATIONAL

The number of Americans applying for jobless benefits holds steady

(AP)

The number of Americans filing for jobless benefits didn't change last week as the labor market continues to defy efforts by the Federal Reserve to cool hiring.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that unemployment claims for the week ending April 13 were unchanged from the previous week's 212,000.

The four-week average of claims, which softens some of the weekly volatility, was also unchanged at 214,500.

Weekly unemployment claims are considered a proxy for the number of U.S. layoffs in a given week and a sign of where the job market is headed. They have remained at historically low levels since the pandemic purge of millions of jobs in the spring of 2020.

The Federal Reserve raised its benchmark borrowing rate 11 times beginning in March of 2022 in a bid to stifle the four-decade high inflation that took

hold after the economy rebounded from the COVID-19 recession of 2020. The Fed's intention was to loosen the labor market and cool wage growth, which it said contributed to persistently high inflation.

Many economists thought there was a chance the rapid rate hikes could cause a recession, but jobs have remained plentiful and the economy forged on thanks to strong consumer spending.

Last month, U.S. employers added a surprising 303,000 jobs, yet another example of the U.S. economy's resilience in the face of high interest rates. The unemployment rate dipped



A hiring sign is displayed in Riverwoods, Illinois, on Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

from 3.9% to 3.8% and has now remained below 4% for 26 straight months, the longest such streak since the 1960s.

Though layoffs remain at low levels,

companies have been announcing more job cuts recently, mostly across technology and media. Google parent company Alphabet, Apple, eBay, TikTok, Snap, Amazon, Cisco Systems and the Los Angeles Times have all recently announced layoffs.

Outside of tech and media, UPS, Macy's, Tesla and Levi Strauss also have recently cut jobs.

In total, 1.81 million Americans were collecting jobless benefits during the week that ended April 6, an increase of 2,000 from the previous week.

STATE

A police officer killed 3 people in 8 years — and faces a murder trial for the last one

SEATTLE, Washington (AP)

Jury selection began Monday in the trial of a suburban Seattle police officer charged with murder in the death of a 26-year-old man outside a convenience store in 2019 — the third person the officer had killed in the past eight years.

Auburn officer Jeff Nelson shot and killed Jesse Sarey while trying to arrest him for disorderly conduct in an interaction that lasted just 67 seconds, authorities said. Sarey had reportedly been throwing things at cars.

Citing surveillance video from nearby businesses, prosecutors said Nelson wrestled with Sarey, repeatedly punched him in the head and shot him twice. As Sarey was wounded and reclined on the ground from the first shot, which struck his upper abdomen, Nelson cleared a jammed round out of his gun, glanced at a nearby witness, turned back to Sarey and shot him again — this time in the forehead, prosecutors said.

The case is the second to go to trial

since Washington voters in 2018 made it easier to charge police by removing a standard that required prosecutors to prove they acted with malice; now, prosecutors must show that the level of force was unreasonable or unnecessary. In December, jurors acquitted three Tacoma police officers in the 2020 death of Manuel Ellis.

Nelson later said in a written statement that he believed Sarey had a knife and posed a threat before the first shot — and that Sarey was on his knees in a “squatting fashion ... ready to spring forward” before the officer fired again. He has pleaded not guilty to charges of second-degree murder and first-degree assault.

An Iraq war veteran, Nelson joined the department in 2008.

The city of Auburn paid Sarey’s family \$4 million to settle a civil rights claim and



In this August 24, 2020, file photo, Auburn police officer Jeff Nelson appears in King County Superior Court, in Kent, Washington.

has paid nearly \$2 million more to settle other litigation over Nelson’s actions as a police officer.

In an earlier case, the city of Auburn agreed to pay \$1.25 million to the family of a different man killed by Nelson, Isaiah Obet.

Obet had been reportedly breaking into houses and attempting to carry out a carjacking with a knife when Nelson

confronted him in 2017. Nelson released his police dog, which bit Obet, and then shot the man in the torso. Obet, on the ground and still fighting off the police dog, started to try to get back up, and Nelson shot him again, in the head, police said.

Lawyers for Obet’s family said he posed no threat to anyone when he was shot. The Auburn Police Department disagreed.

“If Officer Nelson had not acted that day to protect the community, there could have been additional victims,” then-Police Chief Dan O’Neil said in a Facebook post after the family sued.

Nelson also shot and killed Brian Scaman, a Vietnam veteran with mental issues and a history of felonies, in 2011 after pulling Scaman over for a burned-out headlight. Scaman got out of his car with a knife and refused to drop it; Nelson shot him in the head. An inquest jury cleared Nelson of any wrongdoing.

STATE

The drug war devastated minority communities. Is marijuana legalization helping?

ARLINGTON, Washington (AP)

When Washington state opened some of the nation’s first legal marijuana stores in 2014, Sam Ward Jr. was on electronic home detention in Spokane, where he had been indicted on federal drug charges. He would soon be off to prison to serve the lion’s share of a four-year sentence.

A decade later, Ward, who is Black, recently posed in a blue-and-gold throne used for photo ops at his new cannabis store, Cloud 9 Cannabis. He greeted customers walking in for early 4/20 deals. And he reflected on being one of the first beneficiaries of a Washington program to make the overwhelmingly white industry more accessible to people harmed by the war on drugs.

“It feels great to know that I’m the CEO of a store, with employees, people depending on me,” Ward said. “Just being a part of something makes you feel good.”

A major argument for legalizing the adult use of cannabis was to stop the harm caused by disproportionate enforcement of drug laws that sent millions of Black, Latino and other minority Americans to prison and perpetuated cycles of violence and poverty. Studies have shown that minorities were incarcerated at a higher rate than white people, despite similar rates of cannabis use.

But efforts to help those most affected participate in — and profit from — the legal marijuana sector have been halting.

Since 2012, when voters in Washington and Colorado approved the first ballot measures to legalize recreational marijuana, legal adult use has spread to 24 states and the District of Columbia. Nearly all have “social equity” provisions designed to redress drug war damages.

Those provisions include erasing criminal records for certain pot convictions, granting cannabis business licenses and



Cloud 9 Cannabis CEO and co-owner Sam Ward Jr., left, and co-owner Dennis Turner pose at their shop, on Thursday, February 1, 2024, in Arlington, Washington.

financial help to people convicted of cannabis crimes, and directing marijuana tax revenues to communities that suffered.

“Social equity programs are an attempt to reverse the damage that was done to Black and brown communities who are over-policed and disproportionately impacted,” said Kaliko Castille, former president of the Minority Cannabis Business Association.

States have varying ways of defining who can apply for social equity marijuana licenses, and they’re not necessarily based on race.

In Washington, an applicant must own more than half the business and meet other criteria, such as having lived for at least five years between 1980 and 2010 in an area with high poverty, unemployment or cannabis arrest rates; having been arrested for a cannabis-related crime; or having a below-median household income.

Washington established its program in 2020. But only in the past several months has it issued the first social equity retail licenses. Just two — including Ward’s — have opened.

Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board Member Ollie Garrett called the progress so far disappointing, but said officials are working with applicants and urging some cities to rescind zoning bans so social equity cannabis businesses can open.