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The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading News Source

\$3.99

Dallas, Texas, Sunday, November 14, 2021

DallasNews.com

CORONAVIRUS

'I can feel a lot more safe'

Families look forward to freedom that comes with kids getting vaccine



Robert W. Hart/Special Contributor

Stephen and Rachel Howe, 11-year-old twins, sat with their mom, Laura, at their Coppell home after receiving COVID-19 vaccines Monday at a Fort Worth CVS store.

"Yeah, it's one of them," she said.

Rachel and Stephen Howe are among the millions of American children who became eligible for Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 shot last week after federal regulators gave final clearance for kids ages 5 to 11 to gain access to protection against the coronavirus. The emergency-

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U.N. CLIMATE SUMMIT

Deal reached, with a caveat

Last-minute change waters down key language about coal power

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and **FRANK JORDANS**
The Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland — Almost 200 nations accepted a compromise deal Saturday aimed at keeping a key global warming target alive, but it contained a last-minute change that watered down crucial language about coal.

Several countries, including small island states, said they were deeply disappointed by

the change promoted by India to "phase down," rather than "phase out" coal power, the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions.

"Our fragile planet is hanging by a thread," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement. "We are still knocking on the door of climate catastrophe."

Nation after nation had complained after two weeks of U.N. climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, about how the deal did not go far or fast enough. But they said it was better than nothing and provided incremental progress, if

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Education Lab

Midlothian school has a head start on state's reading push



Elias Valverde II/Staff Photographer

Kindergarten teacher Naomi Simpson works with students to break down words into sounds during intervention time at Vitovsky Elementary in Midlothian. The district's reading STAAR scores have beaten state and regional averages.

By **EMILY DONALDSON** and **TALIA RICHMAN**
Staff Writers

Naomi Simpson sat with two kindergartners at the front of her classroom in Midlothian and instructed: "Get your blending arm ready."

Simpson arranged three letter tiles on the wood table in front of her students, straightened her left arm and then reached for her shoulder.

When she patted the top of her arm, she made an "Sss" sound. Then she sounded out an "AH" as her hand glided to her elbow. By the wrist, she rolled her lips back to make a "PUH." The girls imitated her, combining the letter sounds into a word, while sweeping their hands down their own arms to mimic the progression.

Operation intervention

INSIDE: Readers struggled pre-pandemic, but remote classes made a bad situation worse across the country. **20A**

"Sap," Simpson said. "Remember the sticky stuff that comes on trees sometimes?"

This is intervention time at Vitovsky Elementary, where nearly 60% of students come from low-income backgrounds and a quarter are learning English.

Midlothian ISD school leaders have long championed using small-group literacy intervention time based on the science of reading. It's an approach lawmakers hope other districts embrace as Texas educators confront staggering learning loss during the pandemic.

Texas students' reading scores have long lagged behind the rest of the nation. And the pandemic only made challenges worse.

A new state law passed in response to COVID-19 requires public schools to offer intervention for students lagging behind academically. Legislators overwhelmingly backed the bill, which

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CAPITOL INSURRECTION

Was the Jan. 6 attack planned?

Case of North Texan armed with gun, plastic cuffs bolsters theory

By **KYRA KRAUSE**
Staff Writer
kkrause@dallasnews.com

From a U.S. Capitol balcony, handgun on hip, he waved on the mob amassing at the threshold, like a battle commander leading the charge of an attacking army, according to court filings.

"And I climbed up there and I started going up the bannister and that's when everything started moving forward," Guy Reffitt allegedly said in a secret recording.

"I didn't make it in. But I started the fire," he said in another.

Reffitt, 49, reportedly shared his intentions with fellow militia members weeks before the assault, in a chat group using the encrypted messaging app Telegram: "The fuel is set. We will strike the match in D.C. on the 6th."

The government's case against the Wylie resident, one of the more serious involving the Jan. 6 siege, is providing more evidence that an armed attack of the Capitol was planned; evidence that was overlooked by the FBI in what critics call a massive security failure. How extensive or coordinated such plans were is a matter being investigated by a congressional committee.

Prosecutors say the unemployed oil rig worker from North Texas was armed with a handgun and equipped with tactical gear and flex cuffs when he led the charge up the Capitol steps, toward police. Reffitt was one of the first rioters to make it onto the building, court records say.

But although some brought gas masks, Reffitt did not and was quickly repelled by pepper spray from officers defending the building. But like others, Reffitt wore body armor and a helmet. Prosecutors say his role in the attack was significant and contributed to the violent

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Sunny and pleasant



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Metro, back page

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NATION & WORLD

Leaders aim to ease tensions

President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping will hold their virtual summit on Monday as the two sides look to dial back tensions. **3A**

BUSINESS

In-house investment

For those with more than \$100 million net worth, family offices are becoming increasingly popular for investing their money. **1D**

INSPIRED

'Be in the game'

For Richardson dentist Mark Denny, mission trips have been life-changing. The avid runner says volunteering has strengthened his faith. **2A**

METRO

Violent crime down 7.4%

Violence continues to decrease in Dallas as police begin to focus on the second phase of the chief's crime plan. **1B**

ARTS & LIFE

Jazz riffs

Dance legend Lar Lubovitch's *Elemental Brubeck* comes to Dallas in a performance by Bruce Wood Dance. **1E**

OPINION

Workers are political pawns

Washington politicians are showing us just how much they care about blue-collar families. (Answer: not much.) **1P**



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DISTRACTIONS

DESIGN

RESIN,
RISING

Colorful, cool, modern and no-fuss — shouldn't everyone have a reason for resin right about now? We're having a moment with the versatile polymer. Think cake stands, jumbo salad servers, lightweight serving bowls and pitchers that pop with vivid hues, spied at **Mecox** (5360 W. Lovers Lane). The treasure trove that is **Russell Brightwell's** Fair Park showroom (3809 Parry Ave.) of vintage design objects will soon have dotty pumpkins by artist Yayoi Kusama (who can forget her Insta-viral infinity mirror room at the Dallas Museum of Art), along with retro '90s vessels by Eric Sottsass. And the Rainbow Chair by Cappellini at **Scott + Cooner** (1617 Hi Line Drive, Suite 100), now of legal age, still looks as luscious and fresh as it did the year it — and the new millennium — debuted. Now, let that resonate. *Details: mecox.com, russellbrightwell.com, scottcooner.com*

Connie Dufner



Credits: Cappellini, Russell Brightwell and Lily Juliet

**Clockwise from top:**

Rainbow chair by Cappellini, available at Scott + Cooner; resin pitchers from Mecox; a pair of lacquer-painted resin pumpkins by Yayoi Kusama, from Russell Brightwell



Kohei Kawashima/Pitchfork

EDITOR'S PICK

Slow it down

I have a strange obsession with alternate takes on a song. I will not try to explain this here, but it has something to do with the novelty forcing my brain to experience the tune in a fresh way. Anyway, my dopamine receptors lit up this week after hearing a new album from a favorite Brooklyn indie band, Beach Fossils. The dream-pop group had re-imagined some of their best tracks — “Down the Line” is a favorite — as jazzy ballads. (Repeated listens sparked my partner to drolly comment: “I can't wait for their country-western album.” Shush.) *The Other Side of Life: Piano Ballads* is inspired by the band's love of artists such as Chet Baker and Vince Guaraldi, and was recorded with a group of formally trained jazz musicians. The album has a raw and breathy analog quality to it. It's delightfully mellow. Pair it with over-the-ear headphones and a glass of pinot for fall. *Details: Drops Friday, preorder at beachfossils.com*

Christopher Wynn



Johnny Floyd

VISUAL ART

Statement pieces

For the fifth year, the Dallas Art Fair Foundation Acquisition Program funded the purchase of works for the Dallas Museum of Art's permanent collection. The works chosen come from the fair, but include artists from all stages of their careers. Case in point: *Upon Reflection, I am Aphrodite's Pearls Strung Across the Firmament* (above), a piece by Detroit-based Johnny Floyd, who began painting just three years ago. (Floyd was also featured in a

recent cover story in this section.) The selections are made by DMA curators and a group of donors. This year's choices also include works by Sarah Cain, Danielle McKinney, Susan Weil, Jordan Nassar and Carrie Yamaoka from the galleries Broadway, Night, JDJ, Anat Ebgi and Ulterior, respectively. You can see the pieces today along with other works at the Dallas Art Fair from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fashion Industry Gallery. *Details: 1807 Ross Ave., Dallas, general admission tickets are \$25, dallasartfair.com*

Lauren Smart and Christopher Wynn

ARTS
& LIFE
SUNDAY

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ON THE COVER

Bruce Wood Dance company member Cole Vernon in choreographer Lar Lubovitch's *Elemental Brubeck*. Photograph by Brian Guillaux