shooting

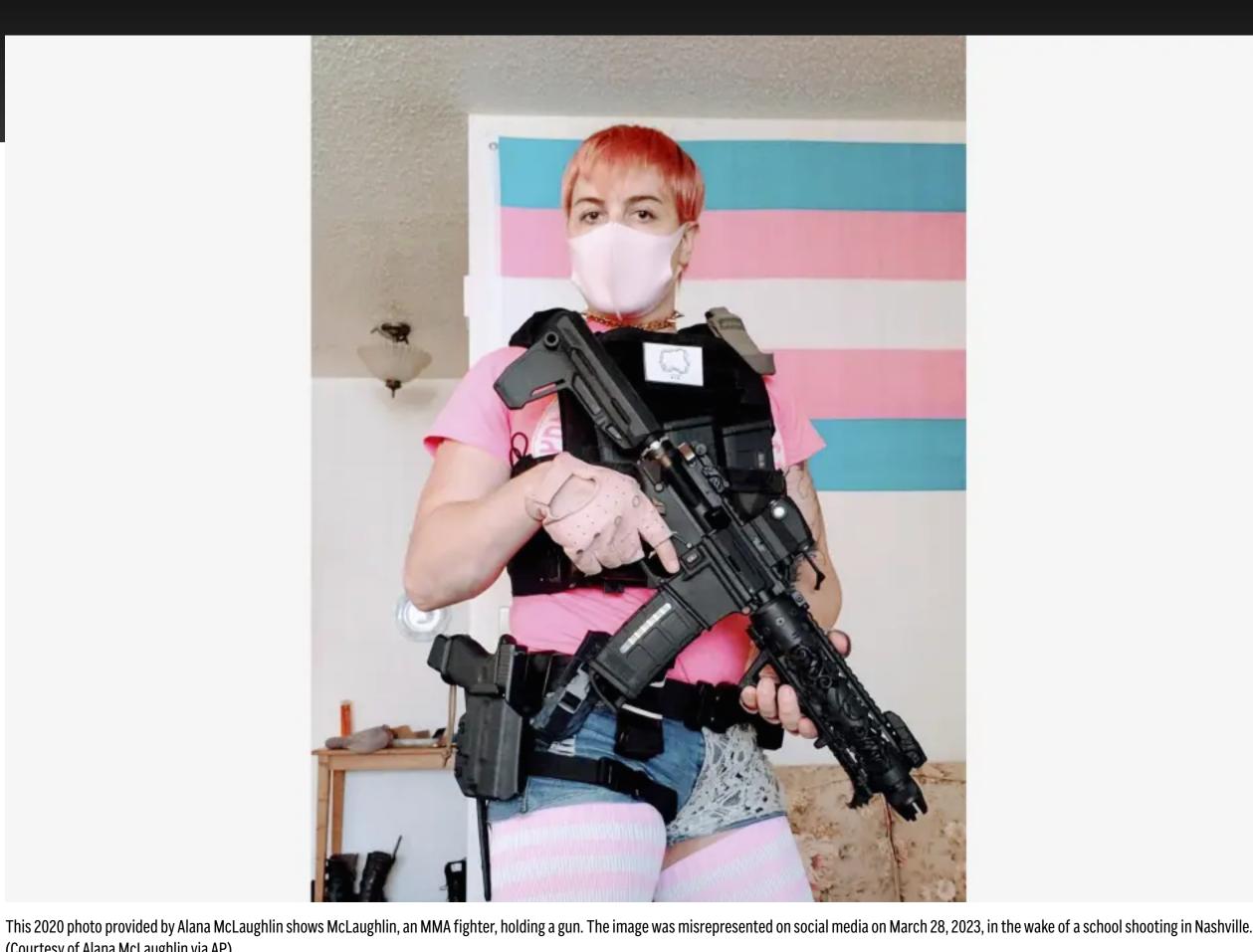
(Courtesy of Alana McLaughlin via AP)

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Photo of trans woman holding gun misrepresented after Nashville



CLAIM: A transgender woman posted a photo of herself holding a gun and calling for

BY ALI SWENSON AND ARIJETA LAJKA

shooter was transgender.

Published 4:32 PM EST, April 3, 2023

violence against Christians, referencing a "Trans Day of Vengeance."

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AP'S ASSESSMENT: False. A Twitter account posted a years-old photo of Alana McLaughlin, an MMA fighter and trans woman, holding a gun and falsely suggesting she

used the threatening language. McLaughlin confirmed she didn't author the post. THE FACTS: A screenshot of the tweet amassed thousands of shares in the wake of Monday's mass shooting at a private school in Nashville, where police have said the

The tweet shows McLaughlin with pink hair and a pink shirt, holding an AR-15 style gun and wearing a Glock-19 pistol with an expanded magazine on her waist, with a pink, blue and white transgender pride flag in the background.

"kill," "behead," "roundhouse," "slam dunk," "crucify," "defecate in" and "launch." **ADVERTISEMENT**

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The caption appears to advocate for violence against Christians, including the verbs

Some social media posts claimed the tweet was proof McLaughlin was organizing or

planning to attend an April 1 protest event outside the U.S. Supreme Court called the

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"Trans Day of Vengeance."

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But McLaughlin, who lives in Oregon, confirmed she didn't author the post and was not aware of where this event was taking place or planning to attend.

which was later suspended from the platform, has any ties to the planned event. The event website on Wednesday featured language clarifying that it was "about unity, not inciting violence."

There is no evidence the Twitter account that originally posted the violent tweet,

Noah Buchanan, co-founder of Trans Radical Activist Network, which is organizing the event, also confirmed to the AP in an email that McLaughlin is not affiliated with the protest, and reiterated that it was not intended to be a violent event. The image of McLaughlin used in social media posts dates to 2020, when it was

featured in a <u>Huck Magazine profile</u> about her and other LGBTQ people who said they had decided to arm themselves to stay safe amid violence directed toward their community. **ADVERTISEMENT**

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against "escalating right-wing threats."

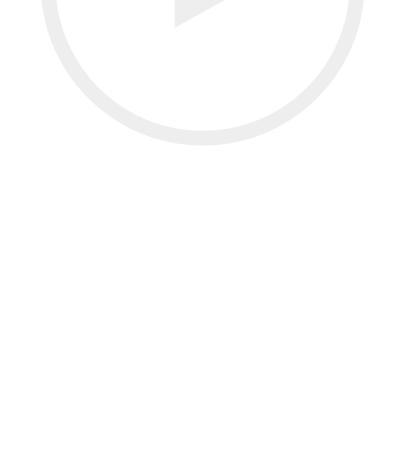
"It is entirely defensive," said McLaughlin, who added that she arms herself to protect

This is part of AP's effort to address widely shared misinformation, including work with outside

companies and organizations to add factual context to misleading content that is circulating online. Learn more about fact-checking at AP.

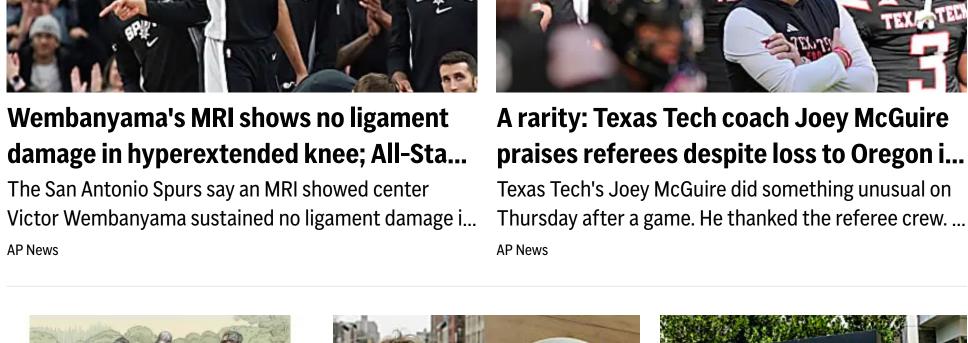
McLaughlin said the photo had been misrepresented in other ways in the past,

including in posts falsely claiming she was a soldier fighting in Ukraine.



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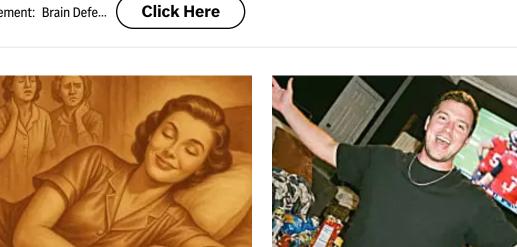
Wembanyama's MRI shows no ligament



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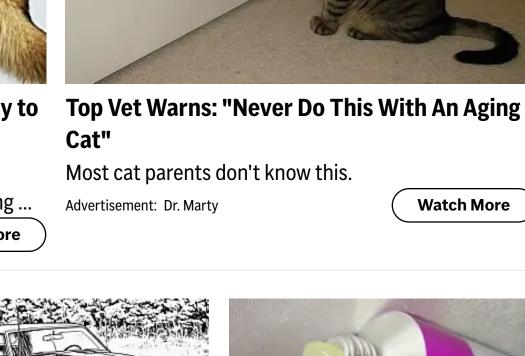
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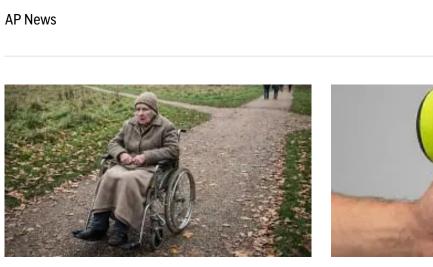
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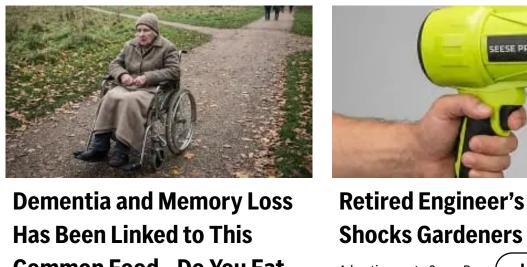
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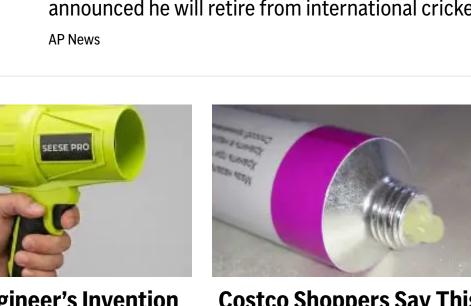


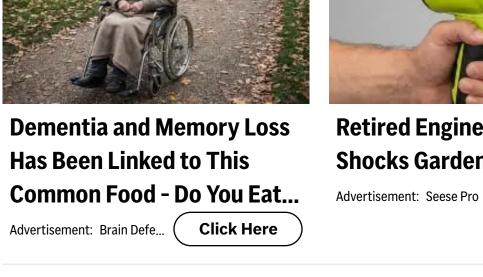


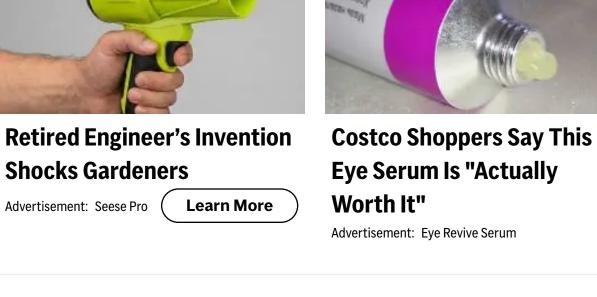










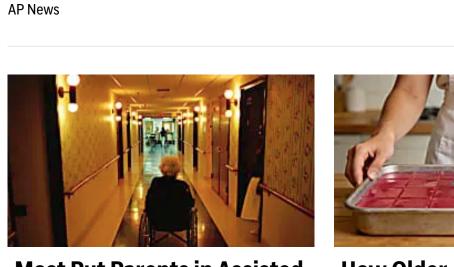




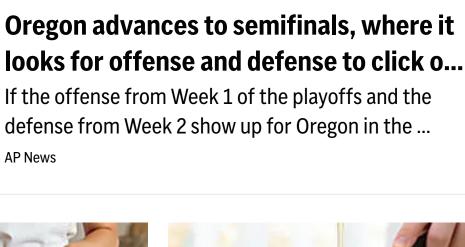








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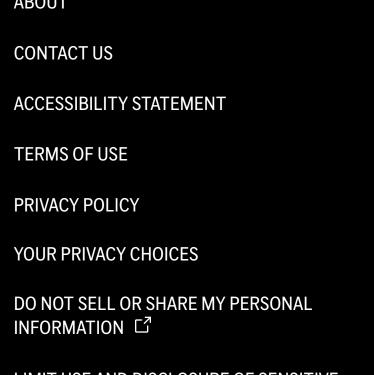
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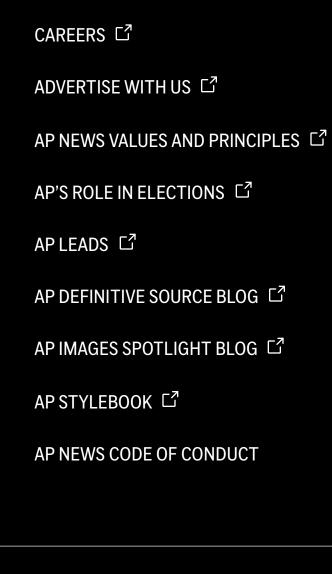
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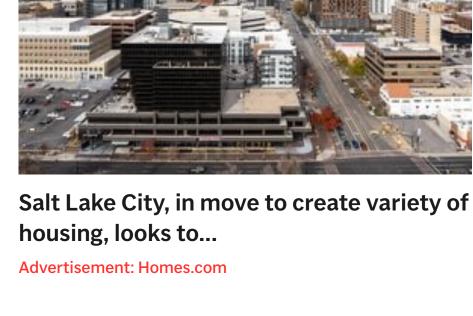
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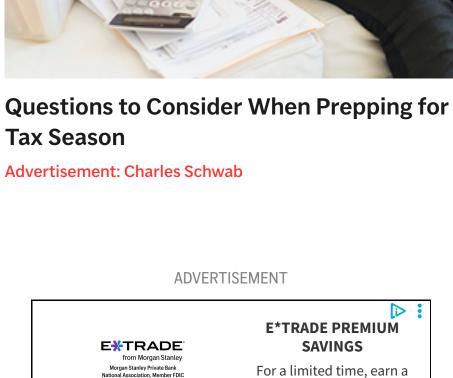
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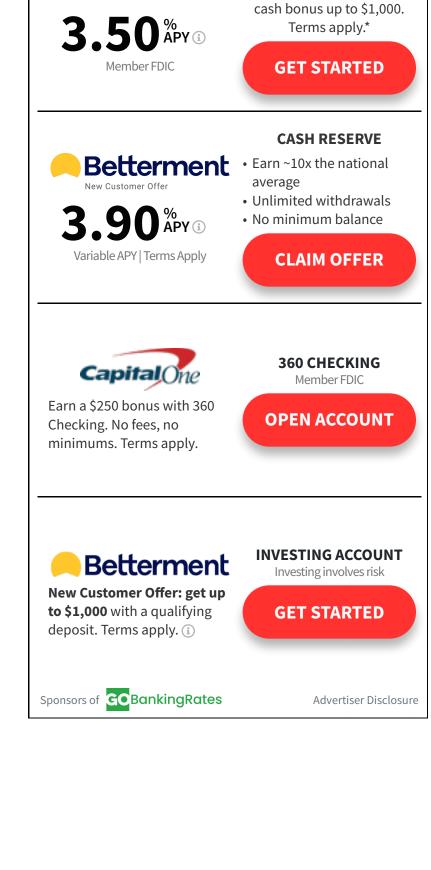
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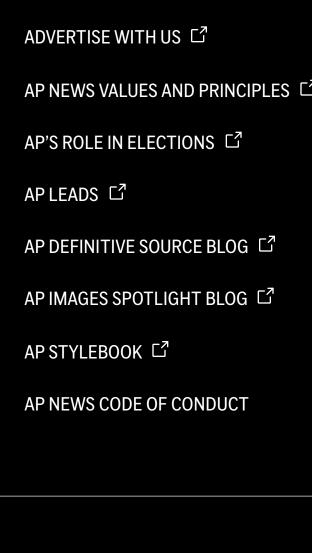






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