



## Applesauce lead cases raise alarm on FDA

States are investigating 118 cases tied to tainted pouches, The Post finds

BY AMANDA MORRIS, TEDDY AMENABAR, LAURA REILEY AND JENNA PORTNOY

It started as a routine investigation: Two young siblings in western North Carolina had tested positive for lead poisoning in June. Alan Huneycutt, a long-time environmental health specialist with the state's Department of Health and Human Services, was doggedly trying to find the source.

He had ruled out the usual suspects in and around the children's home — old paint, contaminated water, tainted soil — yet the children's lead levels continued to climb.

What he eventually found — that the two siblings had eaten contaminated pouches of cinnamon applesauce — sparked an international investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and a massive national recall of cinnamon applesauce pouches manufactured by an Ecuador-based company, Austrofood, and sold under the brand names WanaBana, Schnucks and Weis.

Dozens of other children around the country are believed to have been poisoned. A Washington Post investigation has found that the number of children affected is probably higher than official counts. As of Tuesday, the FDA said it has received reports of 64 children under age 6 who have suffered "adverse events" linked to the tainted cinnamon applesauce pouches.

But state health and environment officials have told The Post they are investigating at least 118 confirmed or suspected cases in 31 states believed to be linked to the popular snacks. To determine the extent of the exposure, The Post contacted officials in 50 states and D.C., and received responses from all but Kansas.

The discrepancy in case counts is probably because of differences in how suspected and confirmed cases are reported at the state and federal levels.

The FDA said its count is  
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STALEMATE UKRAINE'S FAILED COUNTEROFFENSIVE



## Inside Ukraine's fumbled campaign

On June 15, in a conference room at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, flanked by top U.S. commanders, sat around a table with his Ukrainian counterpart, who was joined by aides from Kyiv. The room was heavy with an air of frustration.

Austin, in his deliberate baritone, asked Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov about Ukraine's decision-making in the opening days of its long-awaited counteroffensive, pressing him on why his forces weren't using Western-supplied mine-clearing equipment to enable a larger, mechanized assault, or using smoke to conceal their advances. Despite Russia's

Miscalculations, disagreements undercut Kyiv and U.S. planning

BY WASHINGTON POST STAFF

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thick defensive lines, Austin said, the Kremlin's troops weren't invincible.

Reznikov, a bald, bespectacled lawyer, said Ukraine's military commanders were the ones making those decisions. But he noted that Ukraine's armored vehicles were being destroyed by Russian helicopters, drones and artillery with every attempt to advance. Without air support, he said, the only option was to use artillery to shell Russian lines, dismount from the targeted vehicles and proceed on foot.

"We can't maneuver because of the land-mine density and tank ambushes," Reznikov said, according to an official who was present.

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## Penn leaders resign amid backlash to testimony on antisemitism

BY JACK STRIPLING, HANNAH NATANSON AND SUSAN SVRLUGA

University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill has resigned after intense criticism from donors, alumni and others of her testimony at a congressional hearing about antisemitism on college campuses.

Scott L. Bok, chair of Penn's board of trustees, said in a note to the campus community that

Magill will stay in the role until an interim president is appointed. After that, she will remain a tenured faculty member at the university's law school.

The note was sent shortly before Bok announced that he would step down as board chair. In a separate note, he wrote: "Former President Liz Magill last week made a very unfortunate misstep — consistent with that of two peer university leaders sitting alongside her — after five



University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill walked back her remarks but didn't placate critics.

hours of aggressive questioning before a congressional committee. Following that, it became clear that her position was no longer tenable, and she and I

concurrently decided that it was time for her to exit."

"The world should know that Liz Magill is a very good person and a talented leader who was beloved by her team," he said. "She is not the slightest bit antisemitic. Working with her was one of the great pleasures of my life."

The moves came a day before Penn's board of trustees was set to meet amid the growing leadership crisis at the Ivy League  
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## Scrutiny of arms to Israel grows

GAZA TOLL ADDS TO PRESSURE ON BIDEN

Debate centers on U.S. rules for foreign aid

BY MISSY RYAN, MICHAEL BIRNBAUM, ABIGAIL HAUSLOHNER AND JOHN HUDSON

The Biden administration faces mounting pressure over its provision of powerful weapons to Israel, with the spiraling death toll in Gaza deepening questions about whether the United States, as the country's chief military backer, must do more to ensure civilians' safety.

Rights groups, along with a growing bloc from within President Biden's Democratic Party, are intensifying scrutiny of the arms flow to Israel that has included tens of thousands of bombs since Hamas militants' bloody attacks of Oct. 7. Local authorities say that at least 17,700 people, many of them civilians, have been killed in Israel's operation to dismantle the Palestinian group.

At the heart of the debate, as Biden seeks billions of dollars in additional military aid for Israel's Gaza operation, are the administration's own rules for arming foreign nations, which indicate weapons transfers must not take place when the U.S. government assesses that violations of international law are "more likely than not" to occur.

Administration officials, offering the first detailed account of their approach to navigating those guidelines, say they have held extensive discussions with Israeli counterparts to ensure they understand the country's obligations under international humanitarian law. But they acknowledge the United States is not conducting real-time assessments of Israel's adherence to the laws of war.

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**Missing Palestinians:** Israel is accused of detaining civilians. **A16**

**Hunger crisis:** Aid groups warn of mass starvation in Gaza. **A23**

## Some states spurn migrants. The Rust Belt wants them.

Seeking an infusion of vitality, Pittsburgh says arrivals over southern border are welcome

BY TIM CRAIG

PITTSBURGH — This city jumped into action multiple times recently amid rumors that buses of migrants would be arriving here from the U.S.-Mexico border. The emergency operations center and Red Cross were activated, temporary camps for men and women and children were identified, and interpreters from throughout Southwestern Pennsylvania were put on standby.

The buses never arrived, a setback for Pittsburgh-area leaders who are out to prove that just about anyone is welcome in their neighborhoods.

"We are not here to reject any immigration. As a matter of fact, we want to make this the most safe, welcoming, thriving place in America, and you can't do that without immigration," Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey (D) said in an interview, adding that he does not make distinctions on the basis of  
SEE MIGRANTS ON A6



New U.S. citizens at a naturalization ceremony at the City-County Building in downtown Pittsburgh on Sept. 21. "We are not here to reject any immigration," Pittsburgh Mayor Ed Gainey (D) has said.

## Gun permits soar in Israel amid push to arm populace

Hamas slaughter shakes faith that police, army can protect civilians

BY CLAIRE PARKER, JON GERBERG, JUDITH SUDILOVSKY AND JOHN HUDSON

JERUSALEM — Since Hamas rampaged through Israeli communities on Oct. 7, the government here has promoted a simple message: Guns save lives.

Using rhetoric redolent of gun rights advocates in the United States, hard-right national security minister Itamar Ben Gvir has pushed to loosen strict firearm licensing requirements and create more civilian "standby teams" to harden communities against a repeat of the deadly surprise attack.

"In the right hands, a weapon

can save lives. The war demonstrated this — whenever weapons were present, disasters were smaller," he said in late October. "A gun can save a family, and an assault rifle can save a building. A weapon can protect you, your family, your street and your country."

Under an expedited processing system, Ben Gvir's ministry in the past two months has received more than 256,000 applications to carry private firearms, it said in an update last week. The ministry received around 42,000 for all of last year.

Ben Gvir's approach has led to some turmoil inside the government and out. The head of the National Security Ministry's firearms division resigned on Sunday after Israeli newspaper Haaretz reported that Ben Gvir had put loyalists without the necessary legal authority or training in charge of approving gun licenses. Critics, meanwhile, warn the  
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### METRO

"Digital Gateway" data center project heads for a vote in Prince William.

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Tim Alberta explores how evangelicals learned to put country over God.



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Factory reopening could save this town, but many still bash the economy.



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The Washington Post / Year 147, No. 53695

