

Andrus enters Rangers Hall of Fame

Former Texas Rangers third baseman Adrián Beltré (left) and former short-stop Elvis Andrus posed with Andrus’ Rangers Hall of Fame plaque during an induction ceremony Saturday. Andrus spent 12 of his 15 major league seasons with the Rangers. **(Coverage, SportsDay)**



Eliás Valverde II/Staff Photographer

CONGRESS

Senators prepare to take up tax bill

Weekend session underway as Trump’s deadline for passage approaches

By **LISA MASCARO, KEVIN FREKING and JOEY CAPPELLETTI**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate launched a rare weekend session Saturday as Republicans race to pass President Donald Trump’s package

of tax breaks, spending cuts and bolstered deportation funds by his July Fourth deadline. Republicans are using their majorities in Congress to push aside Democratic opposition, but they have run into a series of political and policy setbacks. Not all GOP lawmakers are on board with proposals to reduce spending on Medicaid, food stamps and other programs as a way to help cover the cost of extending some \$3.8 trillion in Trump tax breaks. See **REPUBLICANS** Page 6A

COURTS

Fairlife accused again of cruelty

Lawsuit says firm’s claim of humane care for dairy cows amounts to fraud

By **TRACEY MCMANUS**
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On labels in grocery stores and recently deleted pledges on its website, Coca-Cola has advertised that the milk it sells comes from humanely treated cows, a promise in the product’s very name — Fairlife.

At Woodcrest Dairy in New Mexico, a member of the Dallas-based Select Milk Producers cooperative that supplies Fairlife, an undercover investigator filmed a different reality: workers kicking cows in the head and beating them with steel rods; breaking tails as discipline during milking; and attaching a chain to a fetus inside a cow in labor to force it out before the mother was ready.

The alleged “near-constant torment and torture of cows as a daily practice,” captured this year by investigative welfare organization Animal Recovery Mission, is cited in a new federal false advertising complaint against the corporate giants behind the Fairlife brand.

In the class action lawsuit amended May 29, plaintiffs accuse Fairlife and its co-founders, Coca-Cola and Select Milk, of defrauding customers by building the \$1 billion brand on claims of cow welfare while sourcing milk from dairies with “egregious animal cruelty.”

While Fairlife promotes sustainability and prints “recycle me” on some bottles, the lawsuit also alleges the milk is packaged in material that contaminates the nation’s recycling stream, compounding the fraud.

The complaint comes after Coca-Cola, Fairlife and Select Milk

SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE



Photos by Shafkat Anwar/Staff Photographer

Gold is definitely his color: Faizan Zaki poses with some of the trophies he has won during his spelling journey to national best. His first time at the nationals, he was just 7 years old.

C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N



Faizan Zaki, (left) champion of the 2025 Scripps National Spelling Bee, talks to an interviewer as his father, Zaki Anwar, listens at their home in Allen.

North Texas 13-year-old had to learn contest’s lessons before his big win

By **MAGGIE PROSSER**
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ALLEN — Faizan Zaki readied himself at the kitchen table for a challenge. His father scrolled through his online Merriam-Webster subscription in search of Scottish Gaelic words — a notoriously difficult orthography. On that Wednesday afternoon early this month, Zaki Anwar landed on a noun pronounced “kyax.” “Oh, say it again,” Faizan, 13, said. “Definition?” “It’s a trouble, anxiety, stir,” his father replied. “OK, language of origin?” Faizan asked.

“Scottish,” was the answer. “K-I-A-U-G-H,” the teen said emphatically. “That’s how good he is,” Anwar said frankly. The shaggy-haired Plano ISD middle schooler, donning bib No. 207 over his lucky Aeropostale hoodie, was dubbed the country’s best speller at the centennial Scripps National Spelling Bee last month inside a suburban Washington, D.C., ballroom. Correctly spelling éclaircissement (noun: a clearing up of something obscure), he beat out 242 kids ages 8 to 14 to join an elite club of C-H-A-M-P-I-O-N-S.

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Sunny, very warm

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Metro, back page

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NATION & WORLD

‘I know what can happen’

Americans who know the reality of vaccine-preventable diseases such as rubella, measles and polio all too well share their stories. **4A**

METRO

Mayor moves to next chapter

In his two terms on the front lines of McKinney’s breakneck development, George Fuller “set the tone” for growth of the North Texas city. **1B**

ARTS & LIFE

Paintings that pop

Alex Da Corte’s high-powered visual intelligence gives viewers a lot to think about in his colorful, pop-inspired show at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth (right). **6E**

BUSINESS

The impact of deportations

Experts say cracking down on immigration hurts the labor market, causing ripple effects. **1D**



Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

Filing alleges packaging is not recyclable

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agreed to pay \$21 million in 2022 to settle an earlier class action lawsuit citing widespread animal abuse filmed by ARM at farms in Indiana and Texas.

That settlement included a litany of binding stipulations, including that the company prohibit suppliers from “beating any animals or subjecting them to any act of cruelty.”

Subsequent undercover operations in 2024 and 2025 by ARM at Fairlife suppliers in Arizona and New Mexico show the cruelty is systemic across states, according to the complaint, and continued despite the injunction.

“From someone that’s a specialist in investigating cruelty in the dairy industry globally, Fairlife is top-tier, the worst offenders,” said Richard Couto, founder of ARM, which has exposed abuses in backyard slaughterhouses, the illicit horse meat trade and factory farming for 15 years.

‘Zero tolerance’

Fairlife declined to answer questions from *The Dallas Morning News* but provided a statement saying, “We are deeply committed to animal welfare and have zero tolerance for abuse.

“We work closely with our co-op partners to ensure the highest standards of care are consistently upheld across all their member farms that supply milk for Fairlife products,” it continued.

The complaint was filed in California federal court on Feb. 26 by the Waymaker law firm on behalf of a group of consumers.

It was amended May 29 to add findings from ARM’s investigation into the New Mexico dairy, which took place from December to March.

Fairlife told *The News* it stopped accepting milk from the two Arizona dairies cited in ARM’s investigation “since learning about the incident in February” and that it had not received milk from Woodcrest in New Mexico “since 2023.”

However, the complaint alleges 100% of Woodcrest’s milk went to Fairlife during ARM’s investigation.

Couto said in an interview his investigators confirmed this through videotaped discussions with a delivery driver who took Woodcrest’s milk to Fairlife’s factory in Dexter, N.M., about 8 miles away and by following trucks to the plant.

Denise Vander Meulen, a partner in Woodcrest Dairy, told *The News* “we do not accept, condone or tolerate the behaviors alleged in this lawsuit” but she declined to answer any questions, including whether it stopped supplying Fairlife.

Despite Fairlife’s assertion it stopped sourcing from the two Arizona dairies, the amended complaint alleges investigators documented trucks switching shipments from day to night



Chitose Suzuki/Staff Photographer

The Dallas-based Select Milk Producers cooperative includes members that supply Fairlife, a dairy company owned by Coca-Cola accused of defrauding customers by building the \$1 billion brand on disputed claims of cow welfare.

and sending the milk to United Dairymen of Arizona, a cooperative that supplies Fairlife.

“Is this what happens when a company is too big to fail? They feel like they can say whatever they want with impunity? Fairlife, true masters of consumer deception,” said Bobak Bakhtiari, executive director of Consumer Protection Foundation, a nonprofit that investigates consumer issues, including those at Fairlife.

Origin of fraud

The lawsuit alleges Fairlife’s fraud began with Select Milk founders Mike and Sue McCloskey, who launched a dairy empire amid Americans’ declining milk consumption and rising scrutiny from animal welfare groups.

The McCloskeys, also defendants in the lawsuit, created Select Milk in 1994 as a cooperative of dairies with “a story to tell” about producing higher quality milk from well-cared-for cows and sustainable practices, Sue McCloskey explained in a 2018 TedTalk.

It grew into one of the largest cooperatives in the United States, with 99 members in Texas, New Mexico and the Midwest.

The dairies produce 7 billion pounds of milk per year, according to the Texas Agriculture Council.

In 2004, the McCloskeys founded Fair Oaks Farms in Indiana, 12 dairies with 36,000 cows, according to a 2016 *Fortune* article.

Fair Oaks doubles as one of the nation’s largest agritourism attractions with a restaurant, museum and lodging all promoting the dairy industry.

The McCloskeys’ Select Milk joined with Coca-Cola in 2012 to launch Fairlife, which uses an ultrafiltration process to create a product with 50% more protein and 50% less sugar than standard milk.

Labels on early bottles touted the company’s promise of “extraordinary care and comfort for our cows” while Fair Oaks served as a flagship for the brand.

ARM investigations

A portion of Fair Oaks’ milking and animal operations are showcased to the public to bring “consumer transparency” to modern farming, Sue McCloskey said in a 2019 video.

But in areas closed to visitors, an ARM investigation in 2019 documented such extreme abuse it led to criminal charges against three employees, viral outrage and the first class-action complaint.

The McCloskeys did not respond to a phone call or text message requesting comment or an email sent to their attorneys. But in 2019, Mike McCloskey confirmed the abuse took place and apologized in a video, saying it “created a sadness that I’ll have to endure the rest of my life.”

Since the release of ARM’s 2019 investigation into Fair Oaks — the video has had 18 million views — Coca-Cola announced it stopped sourcing milk from the dairy.

In 2020, Coca-Cola acquired full ownership of Fairlife, which now includes Core Power protein shakes, but the lawsuit alleges Select Milk still “retains most of the operational control of Fairlife.”

ARM went back undercover in 2023 at Windy Too and Windy Ridge, two dairies the lawsuit alleges were tied to the Fair Oaks compound in Indiana.

Along with animals being whipped and beaten, calves left to die in filth and sick cows dragged by tractors, investigators documented a truckload of milk driven from Windy Ridge to Fairlife’s plant in Coopersville, Mich.

In September that year, Fairlife confirmed to news website Food Dive the shipment occurred as Windy Ridge was “in consideration” as a supplier but said the milk was not actually used.

The lawsuit alleges Windy Ridge continues to supply Fairlife through a plant in Michigan, which a Fairlife spokesperson denied in an email to *The News*.

Windy Ridge owner Steve Bos confirmed to the *Chicago Tribune* in 2023 the dairy in ARM’s video was his, but said he was not part of Fair Oaks Farms and did not sell to Fairlife.

A filing with the Internal Revenue Service lists Bos as president of Lake States Dairy Center, the nonprofit arm of Fair Oaks Farms.

Bos told *The News* in a text message that, “The allegations to which you refer are categorically false,” but he declined to elaborate.

Branding ‘based on lies’

Couto founded ARM in South Florida in 2010 after discovering illegal, backyard slaughterhouses and black market horse meat around Miami. His undercover investigations expanded internationally and have led to criminal convictions and the breakup of hundreds of illegal operations.

Couto said after his investigation into Fair Oaks led to the initial lawsuit and settlement, he worked to get investigators hired at other Fairlife suppliers to check compliance.

ARM’s investigation at Woodcrest in New Mexico — described in the May 29 complaint with photos — details how workers put cows in metal head gates, where they couldn’t move, and kicked them in the face repeatedly.

“We started working there with no insight and hoping not to find any cruelty at all,” Couto

said. “Within the first 10 minutes of us punching in a time card, felony animal cruelty was taking place.”

The investigation captured a worker clipping a hook between a cow’s nostrils and yanking an attached rope with the force of his body as the cow is “bellowing loudly during this abuse.”

Photographs and descriptions in the lawsuit show down cows, too sick and weak to stand, dragged by tractors and newborns dragged by chains.

Couto submitted his findings to the Chaves County Sheriff’s Office. Sheriff Mike Herrington did not respond to requests asking if he was investigating.

However, the Arizona Department of Agriculture is investigating ARM’s report of abuse at Rainbow Valley and Butterfield dairies in Buckeye, 40 miles west of Phoenix, according to department spokesperson Rachel Andrews.

At Rainbow Valley, an ARM investigator in 2024 documented a manager electrically prodding a pregnant cow 70 times while in labor, including in the mouth and genitals, according to the complaint. Like at Woodcrest in New Mexico, ARM filmed workers breaking cows’ tails to make it easier to attach the milking device to the udder, the lawsuit alleges.

At Butterfield, investigators documented workers repeatedly kicking calves, beating cows and putting live calves into crates with decomposing corpses. Others were left in temperatures over 130 degrees without shade, according to the complaint.

Thomas De Jong, owner of the two Arizona dairies, did not respond to a phone call or text message for comment.

When Fairlife surpassed \$1 billion in sales in 2022, CEO Tim Doelman touted “significant progress in the business-critical areas of animal welfare

and sustainable practices.”

On an animal care mission page on its website, deleted since the new lawsuit’s filing, Fairlife promoted \$40 million invested in animal welfare audits, oversight and veterinary care since 2019.

It said its suppliers are certified through the National Dairy Farmers Assuring Responsible Management Program, or FARM, that enforces care standards. However, FARM is administered by the National Milk Producers Federation, a powerful lobby for the dairy industry.

Andrew deCoriolis, executive director of advocacy group Farm Forward, said this self-policing is “humane washing,” efforts to assuage consumers while hiding harms of industrial animal production.

Because farmed animals have few regulatory protections, deCoriolis said third-party certifications emerged in that void but allow businesses to pass without substantive protections for animals.

“Consumers imagine these products come from animals raised on pasture and in healthy conditions when that’s not at all the case,” deCoriolis said.

Sustainability

The complaint alleges Fairlife also deceives consumers through sustainability claims that amount to “recycling fraud.” Its bottles are made from opaque plastic containing titanium dioxide, an element that makes them nontransparent and unable to be processed with clear, plastic bottles.

Most processors in the world cannot accommodate opaque pigmented plastic, and no other food or beverage company uses it, said Jan Dell, a chemical engineer and founder of antipollution nonprofit the Last Beach Cleanup. The lawsuit alleges Fairlife bottles falsely indicate to consumers they can be recycled with clear plastics, while many include “recycle me” wording.

“For Coca-Cola to be knowingly poisoning the recycling system, it’s just so bad, it’s so harmful to what they say they profess to be for,” Dell said.

Fairlife did not respond to questions about its packaging.

Economic harm is typically the only consequence that can reform big agriculture, said Farm Forward’s deCoriolis. But Coca-Cola and Fairlife have survived previous viral exposure for alleged animal abuse.

ARM’s 2019 video showing abuse at Fair Oaks Farms drew worldwide outrage. But in 2023, after the last settlement, Coca-Cola announced Fairlife had grown 30% from the prior year while a quarter of all U.S. households purchased a Fairlife product.

“Fairlife has been seen as one of the saviors of the dairy industry, they are being held up as ‘look at what dairy can become again,’” deCoriolis said. “A lot of that consumer interest is based on lies.”

TRUMP WHITE HOUSE

Haitians are stripped of protections

DHS says Haiti is ‘safe,’ leaving thousands at risk for deportation

By VICTORIA BISSET
The Washington Post

The Trump administration announced an end to temporary legal protections for Haitian migrants in the United States, leaving hundreds of thousands of people at risk of deportation.

The temporary protected status for Haitian nationals in the U.S., granted after a 2010 earthquake near Port-au-Prince caused up to 200,000 deaths, will terminate Sept. 2, the Department of Homeland

Security said in a statement Friday.

“This decision restores integrity in our immigration system and ensures that Temporary Protective Status is actually temporary,” DHS said in a statement Friday. The “environmental situation in Haiti has improved enough that it is safe for Haitian citizens to return home,” DHS said, and Haitian nationals may “pursue lawful status” through other means if they are eligible.

The statement did not elaborate on why it considered Haiti safe for citizens.

Meanwhile, the U.S. government continues to advise Americans against all travel to

Haiti, which has been under a state of emergency since March 2024 because of “kidnapping, crime, civil unrest, and limited health care.” The State Department’s travel advisory adds that “mob killings and assaults by the public have increased” and that crimes including “robbery, carjackings, sexual assault and kidnappings for ransom” are common.

The U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince last week noted that some domestic air travel had resumed, and urged Americans to leave the country “as soon as possible.”

In a federal register notice of the decision, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi

Noem said she decided to terminate the TPS designation for Haiti “because it is contrary to the national interest to permit Haitian nationals ... to remain temporarily in the United States.”

“Widespread gang violence in Haiti is sustained by the country’s lack of functional government authority. This breakdown in governance directly impacts U.S. national security interests, particularly in the context of uncontrolled migration,” she said in the notice. While the situation in Haiti was “concerning,” she wrote, “the United States must prioritize its national interests.”

Rep. Ayanna Pressley, D-



Odelyn Joseph/The Associated Press

The U.S. government continues to advise Americans against all travel to Haiti, which has been under a state of emergency since March 2024.

Mass., who cochairs the House Haiti Caucus, described the move “to send vulnerable families back to a country plagued with violence and a horrific humanitarian crisis” as “unconscionable, shameful, and dan-

gerous,” in a statement Saturday.

The humanitarian and political situation in the nation has deteriorated drastically since the assassination of President Jovenel Moise in 2021.