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EPSTEIN FILES

Lawmakers find 6 more likely co-conspirators

Reps. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky, and Ro Khanna, D-California, have been reviewing millions of confidential records related to Jeffrey Epstein. KENT NISHIMURA/REUTERS

"What we want is the men who Jeffrey Epstein trafficked women to – we want those names published."

Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Kentucky

Massie, Khanna want to know why names were redacted in public release

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Two House members who led the effort to force the Justice Department to release more documents about accused sex trafficker Jeffrey Epstein said they discovered at least six more suspected accomplices.

The department began Feb. 9 allowing lawmakers to review millions of records that remain confidential.

See EPSTEIN FILES, Page 2A

Caffeinated coffee, tea may benefit the brain

Nancy Lapid
REUTERS

Drinking a few cups of caffeinated coffee or tea every day may help in a small way to preserve brain power and prevent dementia, researchers reported on Feb. 9.

People with the highest daily intake of caffeinated coffee had an 18% lower risk of developing dementia compared to those with the lowest such intake, according to a study based on responses to questionnaires by 132,000 U.S. adults spanning four decades.

The study, published in JAMA, also found that the people with the highest intake had a lower rate – by nearly 2 percentage points – of self-perceived memory or thinking problems compared to those with the lowest intake.

Results were similar with caffeinated tea, but not with decaffeinated beverages, the researchers said.

While the findings are encouraging, the study does not prove caffeine helps protect the brain, they said.

The magnitude of caffeine's effect, if any, was small, and there are other better-documented ways to protect cognitive function, study leader Dr. Daniel Wang of Harvard Medical School said in a statement.

Lifestyle factors linked with lower risks of dementia include exercise, a healthy diet and adequate sleep, according to previous research. "Our study suggests that caffeinated coffee or tea consumption can be one piece of that puzzle," Wang said.

The findings were most pronounced in participants who consumed two to three cups of caffeinated coffee or one to two cups of caffeinated tea daily, the researchers reported.

Further research is needed to validate the factors and mechanisms responsible for the findings, the researchers said.

Paramount sweetens Warner Bros. Discovery bid – again

Harshita Mary Varghese and Aditya Soni
REUTERS

Paramount Skydance has enhanced its Warner Bros. Discovery bid by offering extra cash for each quarter the deal fails to close after this year and agreed to cover the breakup fee the HBO owner would owe Netflix if it walked away.

Even though Paramount did not raise its overall per-share offer, the sweeteners mark the company's latest attempt to woo Warner Bros. shareholders in its prolonged battle with Netflix for control of some of the world's most prized TV and film assets.

The CBS parent has offered a 25-cent per share "ticking fee" that will equal about $650 million in cash each quarter between the start of 2027 and the close of a deal with Warner Bros., Paramount said on Feb. 10.

It did not raise its overall offer of $30 per share, or $108.4 billion, for the whole of Warner Bros. including cable assets.

But Paramount would fund the $2.8 billion termination fee that Warner Bros. would owe Netflix if their $82.7 billion deal for its studio and streaming assets falls through.

Both Netflix and Paramount covet Warner Bros. for its leading film and television studios, extensive content library and major franchises such as "Game of Thrones," "Harry Potter" and DC Comics' superheroes Batman and Superman.

Several analysts said the move signaled Paramount's confidence that the Netflix deal may fail to pass regulatory scrutiny and it would have an easier path to approval, but it may not be enough to sway investors waiting for a higher offer.

See PARAMOUNT, Page 2A

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