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## Chrissy Teigen, John Legend announce pregnancy two years after miscarriage

Model Chrissy Teigen and her award-winning singer husband John Legend said Wednesday that the couple is expecting another child, nearly two years after announcing her miscarriage. "The last few years have been a blur of emotions to say the least, but joy has filled our home and hearts again," Teigen wrote on Instagram, captioning a photo of her baby bump. "We have another on the way," she told her nearly 40 million followers, while Legend posted her photo on his account.

In October 2020, Teigen published multiple social media posts recounting

her experience of losing a baby, her third with Legend. One post included a picture of her in a hospital bed, holding the child as Legend kisses her shoulder. She said at the time she was "shocked and in the kind of deep pain you only hear about." The couple's posts about the miscarriage triggered an outpouring of responses.

While some criticized Teigen for sharing, others praised her for lifting the lid on the issue of pregnancy loss. Earlier this year, Teigen, who is also a TV presenter and cookbook author, announced she was undergoing fertility treatment.

In her post on Wednesday, the 36-

year-old admitted she was hesitant to discuss her new pregnancy publicly. "Every appointment I've said to myself, 'ok if it's healthy today I'll announce' but then I breathe a sigh of relief to hear a heart-beat and decide I'm just too nervous still." Teigen and "All of You" singer Legend met on the set of one of his music videos before marrying in 2013. — AFP

In this file photo US singer-songwriter John Legend and his wife model Chrissy Teigen attend the 74th Annual Tony Awards at the Winter Garden Theater in New York City.— AFP



## Lady Gaga dog robber sentenced to four years in US jail



In this file photo taken US singer-songwriter Lady Gaga arrives for the 64th Annual Grammy Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.— AFP

California court on Wednesday sentenced one of three men charged in the armed robbery of Lady Gaga's dog walker, in which the singer's French bulldogs were stolen, to four years in prison. Jaylin Keyshawn White admitted to being part of a gang that shot Ryan Fischer as he exercised the three prize pets in Hollywood in February 2021. At a court hearing in Los Angeles on Wednesday, White, now 20, pleaded guilty to second-degree robbery, and received a four-year prison sentence.

Surveillance footage from the scene of the attack shows a car stopping near Fischer and two people jumping out. One demands that Fischer "give it up" before a struggle, in which a gunshot is heard, and the dog walker falls to the ground, screaming. The attackers each grab one dog-Koji and Gustav-and leave Fischer shouting for help.

The third dog-Miss Asia-ran back to the dog walker after the robbers drove away. The robbery led the "Poker face" singer to offer a \$500,000 reward for the return of the animals, whose theft highlighted a growing trend targeting the valuable breed.

White had been charged in April 2021 along with James Howard Jackson, now 19, and Lafayette Shon Whaley, now 28. The woman who police said handed in the dogs in response to the reward, has been charged with

being an accessory after the fact and with receiving stolen goods. The alleged gunman, Jackson, was mistakenly released from custody earlier this year after what the US Marshals Service described as a "clerical error".

They have offered a reward of up to \$5,000 for information leading to his arrest, saying that he should be considered "armed and dangerous." Fischer sustained chest injuries in the attack, and said on Instagram a month later he had suffered a collapsed lung. Los Angeles police said at the time of the robbery they did not believe the dogs had been targeted because of their owner, but because of the value of the breed on the black market.

Small and friendly-and thus easy to grab-French bulldogs do not have large litters. Their relative scarcity, and their association with stars such as Lady Gaga, Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Jackman, Chrissy Teigen, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Madonna gives them added cache, and means they can change hands for thousands of dollars.— AFP

## Directors 'shocked' by axing of \$90m 'Batgirl' film

The directors of "Batgirl" said Wednesday they were "shocked" that the \$90 million superhero film had been axed by the studio and will now not be released in any format. Warner Bros Discovery announced they were shelving the movie adaptation of the DC Comics character, which was to star Leslie Grace in the title role, alongside Michael Keaton as Batman, preventing it from being seen in either theaters or on streaming platform HBO Max.

"We are saddened and shocked by the news. We still can't believe it," directors Adil El Arbi and Bilal Fallah wrote on Instagram. "As directors, it is critical that our work be shown to audiences, and while the film was far from finished, we wish that fans all over the world



In this file photo US singer-songwriter Leslie Grace attends the opening night premiere of "In The Heights" during the Tribeca Festival at the United Palace Theatre in New York City.— AFP

would have had the opportunity to see and embrace the final film themselves." The movie had completed principal photography and much of the post-production work-where special effects, sound and graphics are added-was also done.

Star Grace ("In the Heights") released an upbeat statement on her Instagram account Wednesday night, saying she was "proud of the love, hard work and intention all of our incredible cast and

### Streaming platforms' belt-tightening

"Batgirl" appears to have fallen victim to a change in corporate strategy after a merger between Warner Bros and Discovery. Warner Bros. had committed to making movies that could go straight to HBO Max as part of an effort to boost subscribers in the increasingly crowded streaming sector.

The decision, which was driven par-



tireless crew put into this film over 7 months in Scotland.

"I feel blessed to have worked among absolute greats and forged relationships for a lifetime in the process!" Her efforts were applauded by El Arbi and Fallah, who described themselves as "huge fans of Batman since we were little kids." "It was a dream to work with such fantastic actors like Michael Keaton, J.K. Simmons, Brendan Fraser... and especially the great Leslie Grace, who portrayed Batgirl with so much passion, dedication and humanity," the "Bad Boys for Life" directing duo added. The move sent shockwaves through Hollywood, where industry veterans said it was unprecedented for a movie to be so close to completion-and with so much money already spent-and not be released.

tially by a need to bypass COVID-hit theaters in 2021, was not popular among creatives and appears to have been rolled back after the tie-up with Discovery.

Trade title Variety quoted industry insiders as saying "Batgirl" had fallen between two stools-not big and glitzy enough for a theatrical release, with its expensive marketing requirements, but too big to make economic sense in the belt-tightening streaming landscape. Variety said the \$90 million hole this would leave in the studio's balance sheet would probably be dealt with via a tax write-down-a process where companies reduce their exposure to tax by subtracting losses from their profits.— AFP

## In Berlin, Rolling Stones end 'Sixty' tour with tribute to Charlie Watts



British rock band The Rolling Stones' singer Mick Jagger performs on stage during a concert as part of their 'Stones Sixty European Tour' at the Waldbuehne at Olympiapark in Berlin.— AFP photos

The Rolling Stones wrapped up their 60th-anniversary tour Wednesday in Germany with an emotional tribute to late drummer Charlie Watts. The legendary British band had opened their European tour with a gig in Madrid on June 1 to mark six decades since they were formed. The "Sixty" tour included 14 concerts across the continent and followed the band's "No Filter" tour, which began in 2017 but saw the North American leg postponed due to the pandemic.

They wrapped up that tour late last year despite the death of Watts last August at the age of 80. Wednesday's concert was the band's 118th appearance in Germany, frontman Mick Jagger

told the audience at the Waldbuehne, an open-air amphitheatre in a forest west of the German capital, adding that they were still as hot as ever.

The group dedicated its last performance to Watts, with Jagger, 79, telling the 22,000 fans the band had had a few glasses of schnapps the night before in Watts' honor. Over more than two uninterrupted hours, the Stones strung together their best-known hits and more recent works, while regularly engaging the crowd, including on a version of "Midnight Rambler" that lasted nearly 10 minutes.

Unsurprisingly, it was the classics "Start Me Up", "Paint it Black", "Jumpin' Jack Flash" and a climactic "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction" that really set the crowd on fire. "It's crazy what they're still capable of doing, and the energy they give off at their age," concertgoer Philippe Georgi, 46, enthused to AFP after the show alongside his father Gunther, who is "the same age as Mick".

"Thirty years ago, it was him that invited me to their concert in Munich, and today it's me," he added. As well as celebrating their 60th anniversary, the Stones have also been marking 50 years since the release of one of their most iconic albums, "Exile on Main St".

Jagger and guitarist Keith Richards, 78, were childhood friends who lost contact until a chance encounter as teenagers at Dartford station southeast of London. They would go on to form, along with Watts and guitarist Ronnie Wood, 75, what would become one of the world's best-known rock bands. They did their first tour of the UK in 1963, and have released more than 50 albums, both studio and live, with millions of copies sold.— AFP



## Scientists revive cells and organs in dead pigs

Scientists announced Wednesday they have restored blood flow and cell function throughout the bodies of pigs that were dead for an hour, in a breakthrough experts say could mean we need to update the definition of death itself. The discovery raised hopes for a range of future medical uses in humans, the most immediate being that it could help organs last longer, potentially saving the lives of thousands of people worldwide in need of transplants.

However it could also spur debate about the ethics of such procedures-particularly after some of the ostensibly dead pigs startled the scientists by making sudden head movements during the experiment. The US-based team stunned the scientific community in 2019 by managing to restore cell function in the brains of pigs hours after they had been decapitated.

For the latest research, published in the journal Nature, the team sought to expand this technique to the entire body. They induced a heart attack in the anaesthetized pigs, which stopped blood flowing through the bodies. This deprives the body's cells of oxygen-and without oxygen, cells in mammals die. The pigs then sat dead for an hour.

### 'Demise of cells can be halted'

The scientists then pumped the bodies with a liquid containing the pigs' own blood, as well as a synthetic form of

haemoglobin-the protein that carries oxygen in red blood cells-and drugs that protect cells and prevent blood clots. Blood started circulating again and many cells began functioning including in vital organs such as the heart, liver and kidney, for the next six hours of the experiment.

"These cells were functioning hours after they should not have been-what this tells us is that the demise of cells can be halted," Nenad Sestan, the study's senior author and a researcher at Yale University, told journalists. Co-lead author David Andrijevic, also from Yale, told AFP the team hopes the technique, called OrganEx, "can be used to salvage organs".

OrganEx could also make new forms of surgery possible as it creates "more medical wiggle room in cases with no circulation to fix things," said Anders Sandberg of Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute. The technique could potentially also be used to resuscitate people. However this could increase the risk of bringing back patients to a point where they are unable to live without life support-trapped on what is called the "bridge to nowhere," Brendan Parent, a bioethicist at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine, said in a linked comment in Nature.

Sam Parnia of the NYU Grossman School of Medicine said it was "a truly remarkable and incredibly significant study". It showed that death was not black and white but rather a "biological process that remains treatable and reversible for hours after it has occurred", he said. Benjamin Curtis, a philosopher focused on ethics at the UK's Nottingham Trent University, said the definition of death may need updating because it hinges on the concept of irreversibility.—AFP



Fans applaud British rock band The Rolling Stones' singer Mick Jagger on stage during a concert as part of their 'Stones Sixty European Tour'.