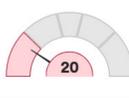


START THE DAY HERE ✕
Gaetz moves to oust McCarthy as House speaker. Missing 9-year-old girl rescued. Powerball jackpot soars after no winner Monday.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Markets → DOW 33,433.35 0.00% — S&P 500 4,288.39 0.00% — NASDAQ 13,307.77 0.00% — | Fear & Greed Index →  Extreme Fear is driving the US market | Latest Market News → There's a brand new breakfast item coming to Taco Bell ESG has lost its meaning. One advocate says let's throw it in ... A woman was found trapped under a driverless car. It's not ... |
|---|--|--|

26-year-old tech CEO found dead in Baltimore with signs of blunt-force trauma

By Mitchell McCluskey and [Jamiel Lynch](#), CNN
 Updated 10:14 PM EDT, Tue September 26, 2023



Police investigating death of tech CEO in downtown Baltimore. The victim, Pava LaPere, was the founder and CEO of Baltimore-based tech start-up EcoMap Technologies.

(CNN) — The Baltimore Police Department has announced an arrest warrant for a suspect wanted for the murder of Pava LaPere, the 26-year-old CEO of startup EcoMap Technologies, who was found dead in a downtown Baltimore apartment Monday with signs of blunt-force trauma to her head.

Police are looking for 32-year-old Jason Dean Billingsley, Acting Police Commissioner Richard Worley said during a news conference Tuesday.

Officers responded to a call for service at an apartment complex in the 300 block of West Franklin Street at around 11:34 a.m. Monday, according to Baltimore police. Upon arriving, the officers found LaPere with severe injuries to her head. Police have not released any further information on her death.

The medical examiner's office took possession of the body, and an examination is pending, police said.

Billingsley is wanted for first-degree murder, assault, reckless endangerment and additional charges. He should be considered armed and dangerous, police said.

"This individual will kill and he will rape. He will do anything he can to cause harm," Worley warned.

Baltimore police said they do not believe LaPere and Billingsley knew each other.

The police did not say how they identified Billingsley as a suspect.

In a message to Billingsley, Worley urged him to turn himself in. "We will find you, so I would ask you to turn yourself in to any officer, any police station," he said.

A startup founder with ties to Baltimore

EcoMap was founded by LaPere and Sherrod Davis while LaPere was a 21-year-old college student at Johns Hopkins, according to [EcoMap's website](#). With just over 30 employees, the startup is part of the artificial intelligence wave. It sells AI tools, including a customizable chatbot, that aim to make clients' information easier to access and customer communications more seamless, the company says.

The company confirmed LaPere's passing to CNN.

"With profound sadness and shock, EcoMap announces the tragic and untimely passing of our beloved Founder and CEO, Pava LaPere," EcoMap said in a statement. "The circumstances surrounding Pava's death are deeply distressing, and our deepest condolences are with her family, friends, and loved ones during this incredibly devastating time."

In August, the company said it had reached nearly \$8 million in financing.

Earlier this year, LaPere was named on the Forbes 30 under 30 list in the social impact category.

"Pava was not only the visionary force behind EcoMap but was also a deeply compassionate and dedicated leader. Her untiring commitment to our company, to Baltimore, to amplifying the critical work of ecosystems across the country, and to building a deeply inclusive culture as a leader, friend, and partner set a standard for leadership, and her legacy will live on through the work we continue to do," the company said.

The CEO of Baltimore-based company Fearless, Delali Dzirasa, served as a mentor to LaPere and remembers her as being a determined leader who was highly regarded across the community.

"There is no person on planet Earth that could tell Pava that she couldn't do something," Dzirasa said. "Even though she was a force, she always made space for other people," he told CNN.

MORE FROM CNN BUSINESS

 Stock market minnows are grabbing most of the world's IPOs

 Sam Bankman-Fried's trial is set to begin today. Here's what you need to know

CNN BUSINESS VIDEOS

 'It's good to be back!': Late night shows return for first time since writers' strike

 MRNA researchers who helped revolutionize vaccine development win Nobel Prize

 Axel Springer CEO on how AI will impact the news

 Are we 2 years away from driverless cars taking over? Expert weighs in

Search CNN... Search →

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| US Crime + Justice Energy + Environment Extreme Weather Space + Science | World Africa Americas Asia Australia China Europe India Middle East United Kingdom | Politics SCOTUS Congress Facts First 2024 Elections | Business Tech Media Calculators Videos | Markets Pre-markets After-Hours Market Movers Fear & Greed World Markets Investing Markets Now Before the Bell Nightcap |
| Opinion Political Op-Eds Social Commentary | Health Life, But Better Fitness Food Sleep Mindfulness Relationships | Entertainment Movies Television Celebrity | Tech Innovate Gadget Foreseeable Future Mission: Ahead Upstarts Work Transformed Innovative Cities | Style Arts Design Fashion Architecture Luxury Beauty Video |
| Travel Destinations Food & Drink Stay News Videos | Sports Pro Football College Football Basketball Soccer Olympics Hockey | Videos Live TV CNN Headlines CNN Max Digital Studios CNN Films HLN TV Schedule TV Shows A-Z CNNVR | Audio | CNN Underscored Electronics Fashion Beauty Health & Fitness Home Reviews Deals Money Gifts Travel Outdoors Pets CNN Store |
| Coupons | Weather Climate Storm Tracker Wildfire Tracker Video | About CNN Photos Investigations CNN Profiles CNN Leadership CNN Newsletters Work for CNN | | |

Most stock quote data provided by BATS. US market indices are shown in real time, except for the S&P 500 which is refreshed every two minutes. All times are ET. Factset: FactSet Research Systems Inc. All rights reserved. Chicago Mercantile: Certain market data is the property of Chicago Mercantile Exchange Inc. and its licensors. All rights reserved. Dow Jones: The Dow Jones branded indices are proprietary to and are calculated, distributed and marketed by DJI Opco, a subsidiary of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and have been licensed for use to S&P Opco, LLC and CNN. Standard & Poor's and S&P are registered trademarks of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC and Dow Jones is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC. All content of the Dow Jones branded indices Copyright S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC and/or its affiliates. Fair value provided by IndexArb.com. Market holidays and trading hours provided by Copp Clark Limited.