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Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Alex Jones files for bankruptcy following \$1.5 billion Sandy Hook verdicts

Infowars founder Alex Jones speaks after appearing at his Sandy Hook defamation trial in Waterbury

Infowars founder Alex Jones speaks to the media after appearing at his Sandy Hook defamation trial at Connecticut Superior Court in Waterbury, Connecticut, U.S., October 4, 2022. REUTERS/Mike Segar/File Photo

Dec 2 (Reuters) - Conspiracy theorist Alex Jones filed for bankruptcy on Friday, after he and the parent of his Infowars website were ordered to pay about \$1.5 billion for spreading lies about the 2012 Sandy Hook mass shooting.

Jones filed for Chapter 11 protection from creditors with the U.S. bankruptcy court in Houston, a court filing showed.

The filing said Jones has between \$1 million and \$10 million of assets and between \$1 billion and \$10 billion of liabilities. The extent of Jones' personal wealth is unclear.

Jones claimed for years that the 2012 killing of 20 students and six staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, was staged with actors as part of a government plot to seize Americans' guns. He has since acknowledged the shooting occurred, but plaintiffs said Jones cashed in for years off his lies about the massacre.

"Like every other cowardly move Alex Jones has made, this bankruptcy will not work," said Chris Mattei, an attorney representing Sandy Hook families. "The American judicial system will hold Alex Jones accountable, and we will never stop working to enforce the jury's verdict."

Julian Assange appeals to European court over U.S. extradition

Mattei said Jones had engaged in intentional and egregious attacks and the bankruptcy system would not protect him.

A lawyer for Jones did not immediately return a request for comment.

In October, a Connecticut jury said Jones and Free Speech Systems, the parent company of Infowars, should pay nearly \$1 billion in damages to numerous families of victims of the Sandy Hook shooting.

The Connecticut court later ordered Jones to pay an additional \$473 million in punitive damages.

The trial was marked by weeks of anguished testimony from the families, who recounted how Jones's lies about Sandy Hook compounded their grief.

Free Speech Systems filed for bankruptcy in July.



In a separate case in Texas, a jury in August decided Jones must pay the parents of a 6-year-old boy killed in the Sandy Hook massacre \$45.2 million in punitive damages, on top of \$4.1 million in compensatory damages.

Jones's lawyers have said he would appeal the Connecticut and Texas verdicts.

Bankruptcy can be used to wipe out debts, but not if they result from "willful or malicious injury" caused by the debtor. Jones's lies appear to meet that standard, said Susan Block-Lieb, a professor of bankruptcy law at Fordham University School of Law.

"Defamation is pretty clearly an intentional tort - it is especially clear in Alex Jones's case," Block-Lieb said.

The filing also comes with risk for Jones, who will have to disclose all of his assets in court, said bankruptcy lawyer Sidney Scheinberg.

"Now that he's filed for bankruptcy, his assets are an open book," Scheinberg said. "If you hide assets in a bankruptcy case, that's a federal crime."

An economist in the Texas case estimated that Jones is personally worth between \$135 million and \$270 million.

The bankruptcy filing lists the plaintiffs who won verdicts against Jones as his largest unsecured creditors.

Among them are Robert Parker, father of six-year-old

Emilie Parker, who was awarded \$120 million by the Connecticut jury, and FBI agent William Aldenberg, who was among the first law enforcement officers on the scene of the 2012 shooting.

Connecticut judge Barbara Bellis had temporarily blocked Jones from moving any personal assets out of the country at the request of the plaintiffs, who claimed Jones was trying to hide assets to avoid paying.

The families have sued Jones in Texas state court seeking to unwind what they say are millions of dollars worth of illegitimate transfers from Jones's company to shell entities he controls. They allege those transactions were intended to shield Jones's assets from potential judgments.

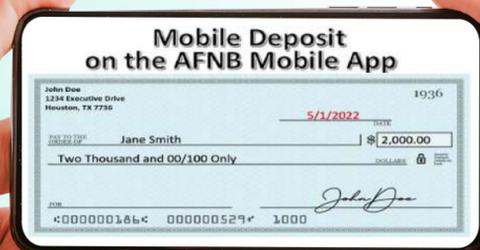
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# LOCAL NEWS

## Amazon pauses work on six new U.S. office buildings to weigh hybrid work needs



ways we connect and work," a Meta spokesperson told Reuters without confirming or denying the report.

Amazon declined to comment on the report. "Case investigation, contact tracing, isolation at home will be your best bets," said Rosamund Lewis, WHO head of the smallpox secretariat which is part of the WHO Emergencies Programme.

"We remain firmly committed to New York and look forward to opening the Farley in the coming months," the spokesperson added.

### Oil rises 2% as no immediate Saudi output boost expected

NEW YORK, July 15 (Reuters) - Oil gained 2.5% on Friday after a U.S. official told Reuters that an immediate Saudi oil output boost was not expected, and as investors question whether OPEC has the room to significantly ramp up crude production.

John Kilduff, partner at Again Capital LLC in New York.

Brent crude futures settled at \$101.16 a barrel, rising \$2.06, or 2.1%, while West Texas Intermediate crude settled at \$97.59 a barrel, gaining \$1.81, or 1.9%.

The comment during U.S. President Joe Biden's Middle East visit comes at a time when spare capacity at members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is running low. "Part of the support is that everybody and their brother who digs down into the Saudi situation see that they don't have a lot of capacity left," said

Both benchmarks saw their biggest weekly percentage drops in about a month, largely on fears earlier in the week that a nearing recession would chop away at demand. Brent lost 5.5% in its third weekly drop, while WTI was down 6.9% in its second weekly decline. Biden, prompted by energy and security interests, arrived in Jeddah on Friday and had been expected to call for Saudi

July 15 (Reuters) - Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O) is pausing the construction of six new office buildings in Bellevue and Nashville to reevaluate the designs to suit hybrid work, the tech giant said on Friday.

The pausing and delay of construction will not affect Amazon's hiring plans, a company spokesperson said, reiterating the firm's proposal to create 25,000 jobs in Bellevue and another 5,000 in Nashville.

"The pandemic has significantly changed the way people work ... Our offices are long-term investments and we want to make sure that we design them in a way that meets our employees' needs in the future," said John Schoettler, vice president of Global Real Estate and Facilities at Amazon.

Separately, Bloomberg News reported on

Friday that Facebook parent Meta Platforms (META.O) and Amazon have pulled back on their office expansion plans in New York City. (<https://bit.ly/3PvFMdD>)

Meta has decided not to take an additional 300,000 square feet of space at 770 Broadway, a building near Astor Place where it is already located and Amazon has cut down the amount of space it intended to lease from JPMorgan Chase & Co at Hudson Yards, the report said. *Cómo proteger tu motor después de 75,000 millas. Maximiza la vida del motor con el aceite de motor Valvoline High Mileage y protégelo del calor, el desgaste, la fricción y los depósitos. Aprende más.*

"There are often a number of reasons why we wouldn't proceed with a particular deal, including office utilization. The past few years have brought new possibilities around the

## Editor's Choice



A worshipper prays during a mass in support of Brazil's President and candidate for re-election Jair Bolsonaro, in Brasilia, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



A woman carries a dog at a site of a residential building heavily damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid their attack on the country, in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko



Ukrainian prisoners of war (POWs) pose for a picture after a swap, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in an unknown location, Ukraine. Courtesy: Head of Ukraine's Presidential Office Andriy Yermak via Telegram



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema after winning the Ballon d'Or. REUTERS/Benoit Tessier



British Prime Minister Liz Truss leaves the Houses of Parliament estate in London, Britain. REUTERS/Henry Nicholls



Kevin Spacey breaks down as he testifies during Anthony Rapp's (seated) civil sex abuse case against Spacey in this courtroom sketch from the trial in New York as U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan presides. REUTERS/Jane Rosenberg

