



ARUBA TODAY

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Saturday
May 11, 2024

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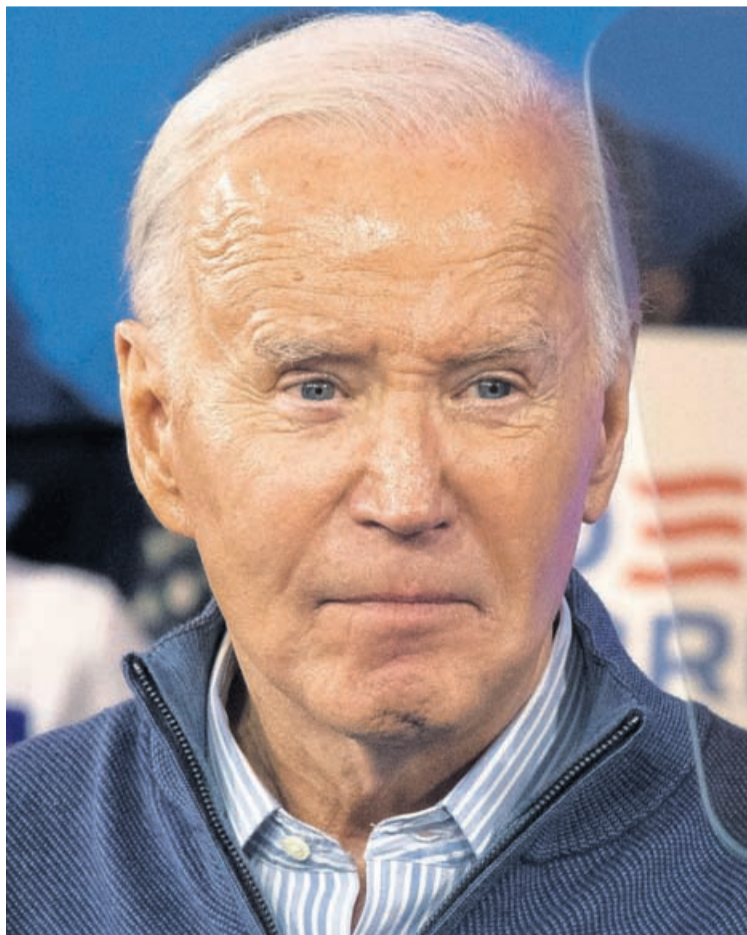
The Biden-Netanyahu relationship is strained like never before. Can the two leaders move forward?

By **AAMER MADHANI, ZEKE MILLER and JULIA FRANKEL**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have long managed a complicated relationship, but they're running out of space to maneuver as their views on the Gaza war diverge and their political futures hang in the balance.

Their ties have hit a low point as Biden holds up the delivery of heavy bombs to Israel — and warns that the provision of artillery and other weaponry also could be suspended if Netanyahu moves forward with a widescale operation in the southern Gaza city of Rafah.

Netanyahu, for his part, is brushing off Biden's warnings and vowing to press ahead, saying, "If we have to stand alone, we will stand alone."



This combination photo shows President Joe Biden, left, on March 8, 2024, in Wallingford, Pa., and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv, Israel, Oct. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	EDDIE KROON SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
WATER'S EDGE RESTAURANT & BAR				Happy Hour 12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10		ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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The Biden-Netanyahu relationship is strained like never before. Can the two leaders move forward?

Continued from Front Page

"If we need to, we will fight with our fingernails. But we have much more than fingernails," he said.

Biden has long prided himself on being able to manage Netanyahu more with carrots than sticks. But the escalation of friction over the past seven months suggests that his approach may be long past its best-by date.

With both men balancing an explosive Mideast situation against their own domestic political problems, Netanyahu has grown increasingly resistant to Biden's public charm offensives and private pleading, prompting the president's more assertive pushback in the past several weeks.

"If they go into Rafah, I'm not supplying the weapons that have been used historically to deal with Rafah, to deal with the cities, that deal with that problem," Biden said in a CNN interview Wednesday, laying bare his growing differences with Netanyahu.

Biden aides nonetheless insist the president is unwilling to allow the U.S.-Israel relationship to truly rupture on his watch. They cite not only the political imperative — many Americans agree with the current level of support to Israel, or think the U.S. should do more — but also Biden's personal history with the country and his belief in its right to defend itself.

The president's aides, watching how pro-Palestinian protests have roiled his party and the college campuses that have been breeding grounds for Democratic voters, have mused for months that Biden could be the last classically pro-Israel Democrat in the White House.

Their optimism about their ability to contain Netanyahu may be falling into the same trap that has vexed a long line of American presidents who have clashed with the Israeli leader over the decades.

White House national security spokesman John



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu speaks as he meets with President Joe Biden, Oct. 18, 2023, in Tel Aviv.

Kirby on Thursday declined to say whether Biden informed Netanyahu of his decision to suspend shipment of 3,500 bombs when the leaders spoke earlier this week. But he said Biden has been "direct and forthright" with Netanyahu about his concerns.

Biden and Netanyahu have known each other since Biden was a young senator and Netanyahu was a senior official in Israel's embassy in Washington. They've hit rough patches before.

There were differences over Israel building settlements in the West Bank during Barack Obama's administration when Biden was vice president. Later, Netanyahu vehemently opposed Biden's push to resurrect the Iran nuclear deal sealed by Obama and scrapped by Donald Trump. Netanyahu chafed at Biden prodding him to de-escalate tensions during Israel's bloody 11-day war with Hamas in 2021.

The leaders went more than a month earlier this year without talking as Biden's frustration with Netanyahu grew over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The relationship remained workable despite such differences between the center-left Democrat and the leader of the most far-right coalition government in Israel's history.

But with the Biden-Netanyahu relationship now coming under greater strain than ever before, it is unclear how the leaders will move forward.

Netanyahu is caught between public pressure for a hostage deal and hardliners in his coalition who want him to expand the Rafah invasion, despite global alarm about the harm it could do to some 1.3 million Palestinians sheltering there. He's made clear that he will push forward with a Rafah operation with or without a deal for hostages.

The Israeli leader vowed to destroy Hamas after its Oct. 7 rampage in southern Israel in which 1,200 people were killed and some 250 were captured and taken hostage. But his public standing has cratered since then, as he faces pressure to find a pathway to a truce that would bring home the remaining hostages and the remains of Israelis who have died in captivity.

He's resisted an investigation into what led to the intelligence and military failures leading up to the Hamas attack. All the while, he's still facing legal problems, including a long-running corruption trial in which he is charged with fraud and accepting bribes.

Netanyahu's political sur-

vival may depend on the Rafah offensive. If he reaches a hostage deal that stops short of conquering Rafah, hardliners in his coalition have threatened to topple the government and trigger new elections. "To keep his partners on board and prevent them from pre-empting an election, in which Likud will be decimated and he will be turned out of office, he needs to keep the 'total victory' myth alive — and that is only possible by avoiding a deal with Hamas," wrote Anshel Pfeffer, a columnist and author of a Netanyahu biography, in the Haaretz daily.

Aviv Bushinsky, a former spokesman and chief of staff for Netanyahu, said the Israeli leader remains focused on the war's primary goal — defeating Hamas — because of concerns about his image and legacy.

He said Netanyahu has spent his career branding himself as the "tough guy on terror."

"He thinks this is how he will be remembered. He's been promising for a decade to cream Hamas," Bushinsky said. "If he doesn't, in his mind he'll be remembered as the worst prime minister of all time."

Biden, meanwhile, faces mounting protests from young Americans, a segment of the electorate criti-

cal to his reelection. And he's faced backlash from Muslim Americans, a key voting bloc in the battleground state of Michigan. Some have threatened to withhold their votes in November to protest his administration's handling of the war.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, a Biden ally who has been frustrated by the administration's handling of the war, said Thursday Biden should go further and suspend delivery of all offensive weaponry to Israel. "The United States does and should stand by its allies, but our allies must also stand by the values and the laws of the United States of America," Sanders said. "We must use all of our leverage to prevent the catastrophe in Gaza from becoming even worse."

At the same time, Biden is facing bruising criticism from Republicans, including presumptive 2024 GOP presidential nominee Trump, who say that his decision to hold back weapons is a betrayal of an essential Mideast ally.

"What Biden is doing with respect to Israel is disgraceful. If any Jewish person voted for Joe Biden, they should be ashamed of themselves. He's totally abandoned Israel," Trump told reporters on Thursday. Idaho Sen. Jim Risch, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said Biden's move is "simply a nod to the left flank" that is handing "a great victory to Hamas." Friction between the U.S. and Israeli leaders is not without precedent.

President George H.W. Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's relationship was strained as the Republican administration threatened to withhold \$10 billion in loan guarantees to thwart new settlement activity in the West Bank. Obama and Netanyahu's relationship was marked by mutual distrust over the Democrat's effort to reignite the Middle East peace process and forge the Iran nuclear deal. □

A cyberattack forces a big U.S. health system to divert ambulances and take records offline

By JOHN HANNA and TOM MURPHY

Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — A cyberattack on the Ascension health system operating in 19 states across the U.S. forced some of its 140 hospitals to divert ambulances, caused patients to postpone medical tests and blocked online access to patient records.

An Ascension spokesperson said it detected “unusual activity” Wednesday on its computer network systems. Officials refused to say whether the non-profit Catholic health system, based in St. Louis, was the victim of a ransomware attack or whether it had paid a ransom, and it did not immediately respond to an email seeking updates.

But the attack had the hallmarks of a ransomware, and Ascension said it had called in Mandiant, the Google cybersecurity unit that is a leading responder to such attacks. Earlier this year, a cyberattack on Change Healthcare disrupted care systems nationwide, and the CEO of its parent, UnitedHealth Group Inc., acknowledged in testimony to Congress



Buildings stand in the Milwaukee skyline on Sept. 6, 2022, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

that it had paid a ransom of \$22 million in bitcoin. Ascension said that both its electronic records system and the MyChart system that gives patients access to their records and allows them to communicate with their doctors were offline. “We have determined this is a cybersecurity incident,” the national Ascension spokesperson’s statement said. “Our investigation and restoration work will take time to complete, and we do not have a timeline for completion.”

To prevent the automated spread of ransomware, hospital IT officials typically take electronic medical

records and appointment-scheduling systems offline. UnitedHealth CEO Andrew Witty told congressional committees that Change Healthcare immediately disconnected from other systems to prevent the attack from spreading during its incident.

The Ascension spokesperson’s latest statement, issued Thursday, said ambulances had been diverted from “several” hospitals without naming them.

In Wichita, Kansas, local news reports said the local emergency medical services started diverting all ambulance calls from its hospitals there Wednesday,

though the health system’s spokesperson there said Friday that the full diversion of ambulances ended Thursday afternoon.

The EMS service for Pensacola, Florida, also diverted patients from the Ascension hospital there to other hospitals, its spokesperson told the Pensacola News Journal. And WTMJ-TV in Milwaukee reported that Ascension patients in the area said they were missing CT scans and mammograms and couldn’t refill prescriptions.

Ascension said its system expected to use “downtime” procedures “for some time” and advised patients to bring notes on their symptoms and a list of prescription numbers or prescription bottles with them to appointments.

At two Wichita hospitals, staffers were forced to use pen and paper and announce medical emergencies over the PA system because their pagers were down, a spokesperson representing the union covering those hospitals’ employees told The Wichita Eagle.

Cybersecurity experts say ransomware attacks have

increased substantially in recent years, especially in the health care sector. Increasingly, ransomware gangs steal data before activating data-scrambling malware that paralyzes networks. The threat of making stolen data public is used to extort payments. That data can also be sold online.

“We are working around the clock with internal and external advisors to investigate, contain, and restore our systems,” the Ascension spokesperson’s latest statement said.

In the Change Healthcare cyberattack earlier this year, hackers entered a server that lacked multifactor authentication, a basic form of security. It was not clear Friday whether the same group was responsible for the Ascension attack.

Change Healthcare provides technology used by doctor offices and other care providers to submit and process billions of insurance claims a year. The attack delayed insurance reimbursements and heaped stress on doctor’s offices around the country. □

The United States announces a new \$400 million package of weapons for Ukraine

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. announced a new \$400 million package of military aid for Ukraine on Friday, as Kyiv struggles to hold off advances by Russian troops in the northeast Kharkiv region.

This is the third tranche of aid for Ukraine since Congress passed supplemental funding in late April after months of gridlock. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had warned Thursday that his country was facing “a really difficult situation” in the east, but said a new supply of U.S. weapons was coming and “we will be able to stop

them.”

The package includes High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems and rockets for them, as well as munitions for Patriot and National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, artillery, anti-aircraft and anti-tank munitions, and an array of armored vehicles, such as Bradley and Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

It will also provide a number of coastal and riverine patrol boats, trailers, demolition munitions, high-speed anti-radiation missiles, protective gear, spare parts and other weapons and equipment. The weapons are being sent through presidential drawdown authority, which pulls systems



A police officer examines fragments of a guided bomb after the Russian air raid in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Associated Press

and munitions from existing U.S. stockpiles so they can go quickly to the war front. The U.S. has now provided about \$50.6 billion in military assistance to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022.

Almost immediately after President Joe Biden signed the \$95 billion foreign aid package, the Pentagon announced it was sending \$1 billion in weapons through that drawdown authority. And just days

later the Biden administration announced a \$6 billion package funded through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which pays for longer-term contracts with the defense industry and means that the weapons could take many months or years to arrive.

Russia has sought to exploit Ukraine’s shortages of ammunition and manpower as the flow of Western supplies since the outbreak of the war petered out while Congress struggled to pass the bill. Moscow has assembled large troop concentrations in the east as well as in the north and has been gaining an edge on the battlefield, Zelenskyy said. □

In reversal, Virginia school board votes to restore Confederate names to 2 schools

By **MATTHEW BARAKAT**
Associated Press

A Virginia school board voted Friday to restore the names of Confederate military leaders to a high school and an elementary school, four years after the names had been removed, a reversal that some experts believe may be the first of its kind.

Shenandoah County's school board voted 5-1 to rename Mountain View High School as Stonewall Jackson High School and Honey Run Elementary as Ashby Lee Elementary.

Friday's vote reverses a decision by the school board in 2020, a time when school systems across Virginia and the South were removing Confederate names from schools and other public locations in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Rivka Maizlish, senior research analyst with the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, which maintains a database of more than 2,000 Confederate memorials nationwide, said she is not aware of any other school that has decided to restore a Confederate name that was removed.

Overall, she said, the trend toward removal of Confed-



A worker attaches a rope as they prepare to remove the statue of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson from its pedestal on July 1, 2020, in Richmond, Va.

Associated Press

erate names and memorials has continued, even if it has slowed somewhat since 2020. She noted that last year the Army renamed nine installations that were named for Confederate leaders, and the Army also removed a Confederate memorial from Arlington National Cemetery.

In Virginia, local governments had been banned from removing Confederate memorials and statues until the law was changed in 2020. The law preserving Confederate memorials did not apply to school names, though.

On Friday, school board members who voted to restore the Confederate names said the previous

board ignored popular sentiment and due process when the names were stripped.

Elections in 2023 significantly changed the school board's makeup.

Board member Gloria Carlineo said during a six-hour meeting that began Thursday night that opponents of the Confederate names should "stop bringing racism and prejudice into everything" because it "detracts from true cases of racism."

The lone board member to vote against restoring the Confederate names, Kyle Gutshall, said he respects both sides of the debate but believed that a majority of residents in his district

wanted to leave the Mountain View and Honey Run names in place.

"I don't judge anybody or look down on anybody for the decision they're making," he said. "It's a complex issue."

During several hours of public comment, county residents spoke up on both sides of the issue.

Beth Ogle, a longtime county resident with children in the school system, said restoring the Confederate names is "a statement to the world that you do not value the dignity and respect of your minority students, faculty and staff."

Kenny Wakeman, a lifelong county resident, said the Stonewall Jackson name "stood proudly for 60 years until 2020," when he said the "actions of a rogue police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota" prompted a reaction to change the name, a reference to the death of George Floyd in Minnesota that propelled a nationwide series of protests and debate over racial justice.

Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson was a Confederate general from Virginia who gained fame at the First Battle of Bull Run near Manassas in 1861 and died

in 1863 after he was shot in battle and had his arm amputated. Jackson's name was also removed from another high school in Virginia's Prince William County in 2020 that is now known as Unity Reed High School.

Ashby Lee is named for both Gen. Robert E. Lee, a Virginia native who commanded Confederate forces, and for Turner Ashby, a Confederate cavalry officer who was killed in battle in 1862 near Harrisonburg, Virginia. A high school near Harrisonburg is also named for Ashby.

The resolution approved by the school board states that private donations will be used to pay for the name changes. Shenandoah County is a largely rural jurisdiction with a population of about 45,000, roughly 100 miles west of the nation's capital.

In Virginia, local governments were banned from removing Confederate memorials and statues until a 2020 law lifted those restrictions. Statues of Confederate leaders, including Lee, Jackson and Confederate President Jefferson Davis were removed from Richmond's famed Monument Avenue in 2020 and 2021 following protests and vandalizing of the statues. □

Liam and Olivia are still the most popular U.S. baby names, and Mateo makes his debut on the list

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Liam and Olivia have for a fifth year together topped the list of baby names for brand new boys and girls born in the U.S. in 2023. And Mateo joins the top 10 baby names list for the first time. The Social Security Administration annually tracks the names given to girls and boys in each state, with names dating back to 1880. The agency gathers the names from applications for Social Security cards.

Based on cultural and population trends, the list shows how names can rise and

fall in popularity. The latest was released Friday.

Liam has reigned supreme seven years in a row while Olivia has topped the girls' list for five, after unseating Emma, previously No. 1 for five years.

After Liam, the most common names for boys are, in order: Noah, Oliver, James, Elijah, Mateo, Theodore, Henry, Lucas, and William. And after Olivia, the most common names for girls are Emma, Charlotte, Amelia, Sophia, Mia, Isabella, Ava, Evelyn and Luna.

The Social Security Administration's latest data show that 3.58 million babies were born in the U.S.



A baby sleeps July 23, 2023, in St. Joseph, Mo.

Associated Press

in 2023. That's a slight decrease from last year's 3.66 million babies, representing an overall decline in the American birthrate.

Social media stars and

popular television shows are having some impact on the rising popularity of certain names, Social Security says. The fastest rising name for boys is Izael while

the second fastest rising, Chozen, shot up to number 813 in 2023.

The character Chozen was a protagonist in the last season of the Netflix show Cobra Kai.

For girls, one of the fastest rising baby names is Kaeli, which rose 1,692 spots. "Parents must have really smashed the 'like' button for YouTube and TikTok star Kaeli McEwen, also known as Kaeli Mae, who routinely promotes a clean, tidy, and neutral-aesthetic lifestyle," Social Security said in a news release.

The complete, searchable list of baby names is on the Social Security website. □

U.N. assembly approves resolution granting Palestine new rights and reviving its U.N. membership bid

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly voted by a wide margin on Friday to grant new “rights and privileges” to Palestine and called on the Security Council to favorably reconsider its request to become the 194th member of the United Nations.

The 193-member world body approved the Arab and Palestinian-sponsored resolution by a vote of 143-9 with 25 abstentions.

The United States vetoed a widely backed council resolution on April 18 that would have paved the way for full United Nations membership for Palestine, a goal the Palestinians have long sought and Israel has worked to prevent.

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood made clear on Thursday that the Biden administration opposed the assembly resolution. The United States was among the nine countries voting against it, along with Israel. “We’ve been very clear from the beginning there is a process for obtaining full membership in the United Nations, and this effort by some of the Arab countries and the Palestinians is to try to go around that,” Wood said Thursday. “We have



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas addresses the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 23, 2022, at the U.N. headquarters.

Associated Press

said from the beginning the best way to ensure Palestinian full membership in the U.N. is to do that through negotiations with Israel. That remains our position.” Under the U.N. Charter, prospective members of the United Nations must be “peace-loving,” and the Security Council must recommend their admission to the General Assembly for final approval. Palestine became a U.N. non-member observer state in 2012. The resolution “determines” that a state of Palestine is qualified for membership — dropping the original language that in the General Assembly’s judgment it is “a peace-loving state.” It therefore recommends

that the Security Council reconsider its request “favorably.”

The renewed push for full Palestinian membership in the U.N. comes as the war in Gaza has put the more than 75-year-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict at center stage. At numerous council and assembly meetings, the humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinians in Gaza and the killing of more than 34,000 people in the territory, according to Gaza health officials, have generated outrage from many countries.

The original draft of the assembly resolution was changed significantly to address concerns not only by the U.S. but also by Rus-

sia and China, according to three Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations were private.

The first draft would have conferred on Palestine “the rights and privileges necessary to ensure its full and effective participation” in the assembly’s sessions and U.N. conferences “on equal footing with member states.” It also made no reference to whether Palestine could vote in the General Assembly.

According to the diplomats, Russia and China, which are strong supporters of Palestine’s U.N. membership, were concerned that granting the list of rights and privileges detailed in an annex to the resolution could set a precedent for other would-be U.N. members — with Russia concerned about Kosovo and China about Taiwan.

Under longstanding legislation by the U.S. Congress, the United States is required to cut off funding to U.N. agencies that give full membership to a Palestinian state — which could mean a cutoff in dues and voluntary contributions to the U.N. from its largest contributor.

The final draft drops the language that would put

Palestine “on equal footing with member states.” And to address Chinese and Russian concerns, it would decide “on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent” to adopt the rights and privileges in the annex.

The draft also adds a provision in the annex on the issue of voting, stating categorically: “The state of Palestine, in its capacity as an observer state, does not have the right to vote in the General Assembly or to put forward its candidature to United Nations organs.”

The final list of rights and privileges in the draft annex includes giving Palestine the right to speak on all issues not just those related to the Palestinians and Middle East, the right to propose agenda items and reply in debates, and the right to be elected as officers in the assembly’s main committees. It would give the Palestinians the right to participate in U.N. and international conferences convened by the United Nations — but it drops their “right to vote” which was in the original draft.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas first delivered the Palestinian Authority’s application for U.N. membership in 2011. □

A train in central Buenos Aires strikes a boxcar on the track, injuring dozens

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — At least 90 people were injured in Argentina’s capital when a passenger train struck an empty boxcar on the tracks and derailed Friday, authorities said, a rare collision that fueled questions about basic safety.

The train was on its way from Buenos Aires to the northern suburbs when it derailed around 10:30 a.m. on a bridge in the trendy neighborhood of Palermo, safety officials said. Authorities said it was not immediately clear why the empty boxcar had been on the rails but that they were in-

vestigating.

“There is not enough information about the mechanics of this accident,” Buenos Aires Mayor Jorge Macri said from the crash site where he praised the swift evacuation of victims. Dozens of injured were treated at the scene and 30 people taken to hospitals in moderate to serious condition, at least two by helicopter with chest trauma and broken bones. Alberto Crescenti, director of the city’s emergency service, said rescuers with police dogs had helped 90 people trapped in the train’s wreckage, lowering



A train wagon that collided with another stands on the rails in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Friday, May 10, 2024.

Associated Press

some from the highway overpass by rope.

Dazed passengers staggering out of the derailed boxcars told local media the

train had stopped on the bridge for several minutes before starting up again and slamming violently into the other train, jolting pas-

sengers and veering off the rails in a jumble of sparks and smoke.

Officials at the Argentine rail authority, Trenes Argentinos, said service on the popular rail line had been suspended as was underway to secure the area. They asked residents to stay away from the crash site to make room for emergency responders.

The collision brought increased scrutiny to rail safety in Argentina, where a string of several train crashes from 2012-2014 left over 50 people dead and hundreds injured. □

A campaign ad by a South African party showing a burning flag is called treason by the president

By **GERALD IMRAY**

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — A campaign video for South Africa's opposition party showing the country's flag in flames has stoked tensions just weeks ahead of national elections that are seen as the most pivotal since the end of the apartheid system of racial segregation 30 years ago.

The opposition Democratic Alliance says the ad is a symbolic depiction of what it claims will befall the country if the ruling African National Congress, or ANC, forms a coalition with two other parties to remain in power after the May 29 election.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, who leads the ANC, has called the ad "despicable" and "treasonous."

State broadcaster SABC said on Thursday it would not air the video because of an alleged "outcry from South Africans" and that airing it would only be "fueling the outrage."



This frame grab taken on Friday, May 10, 2024 from video from a campaign clip for South Africa's opposition Democratic Alliance party shows the country's flag in flames.

Associated Press

Some say the ad accurately portrays the deep problems of the African continent's most advanced economy.

In the video, which has been posted on social media and on the Democratic Alliance's social media pages, a narrator says: "This election is about survival." "Unite to rescue South Africa," the voice adds as the video then plays in reverse and the flag emerges intact, with the caption "VOTE DA" over it.

The Democratic Alliance has come up with controversial ads in past elections

but critics say burning the flag — for many a symbol of their liberation from apartheid — goes too far, though burning the national flag is not illegal in South Africa.

The multicolored flag was adopted after the first all-race elections that brought the ANC to power under Nelson Mandela in 1994 and officially ended apartheid.

"It is that flag that unites all of us," Ramaphosa said earlier this week. "It is despicable that a political party, as it seeks to express itself, go and burn this symbol of

our unity. The symbol of our existence as a nation. And I think it is treasonous."

Racial undertones remain in the country, which is still uneasy about its history of brutal segregation. The opposition Democratic Alliance is the only one of South Africa's main political parties that is led by a white politician and has sometimes been accused of prioritizing the interests of the country's white minority.

Thuli Madonsela, who helped draft a new democratic constitution following the end of apartheid, said on the social media platform X that she is concerned the ad's designers may harbor "unconscious rage against our flag."

DA leader John Steenhuisen said in a campaign speech in the city of Johannesburg on Thursday that the video was "the most successful political advertisement in our democratic history," claiming more than 4 million people have viewed it online and "millions more" have seen

or heard it on other TV and radio stations.

He said Ramaphosa and the ANC's history of corruption and mismanagement are to blame for the economic crisis that now plagues South Africa, with the official unemployment rate at 32% — the highest in the world. More than 30 million South Africans live in poverty, according to the World Bank.

Analysts predict the election will be a turning point for South Africa and that the ANC will lose its parliamentary majority for the first time, requiring it to form a coalition to stay in power.

Some say the DA's campaign ad is legitimate. On Wednesday, SABC published an interview with political analyst Solly Moeng, a Black political analyst.

"The country is in turmoil, the country is burning," said Moeng. "The DA is portraying the country, the symbol of the country, which is in pain, turmoil, burning."

"There's nothing wrong with that," he said. □

Australian judge extends ban on X sharing video of Sydney bishop's stabbing

By **ROD MCGUIRK**

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— An Australian judge on Friday extended a ban on X allowing videos of the stabbing of a Sydney bishop in his church last month after government lawyers condemned the social media company's free speech argument for keeping the graphic images circulating. Australian Federal Court Justice Geoffrey Kennett extended his order that X Corp., the company rebranded by billionaire Elon Musk when he bought Twitter last year, block users from sharing videos of the April 15 attack.

The attack led to terrorism-related charges for the alleged attacker, a teenager, and triggered a riot outside the church.

The order has existed since

April 22 and Kennett will decide on Monday whether it will continue in its current form.

X is alone among social media platforms in fighting a notice from Australia's eSafety Commission, which describes itself as the world's first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online, to take down the video of the attack during an Assyrian Orthodox service streamed online.

A bishop and priest were injured but both survived.

Musk has accused Australia of censorship and has applied to the Federal Court to overturn the eSafety notice. The court will sit on Wednesday to consider setting a hearing date for X's application.

X has geoblocked Australian users from the content,



The opening page of X is displayed on a computer and phone in Sydney on Oct. 16, 2023.

Associated Press

but eSafety argues the video can be still accessed from Australia through Virtual Private Networks.

VPNs are services that allow users to access sites in other countries that are blocked in their own nation. The regulator wants a worldwide ban on the video.

An eSafety lawyer, Tim Begbie, described X in court on Friday as a "market leader in proliferating and distributing violent content and violent and extremist material."

Begbie said Australia could not be expected to conform to X's "pro-free

speech stance."

"The fact is that that stance is in large measure illusory. Because X doesn't stand for 'global removal is bad' in some pure sense," Begbie said.

X's own policies repeatedly refer to circumstances in which the platform will elect to remove content globally, Begbie said.

"The real position is this: X says that 'reasonable' means what X wants it to mean," Begbie said.

"Global removal is reasonable when X does it because X wants to do it. But it becomes unreasonable when X is told to do it by the laws of Australia," Begbie added.

X lawyer Bret Walker said X had taken reasonable steps to block the content from Australia but said there had been glitches. □

Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is

surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!

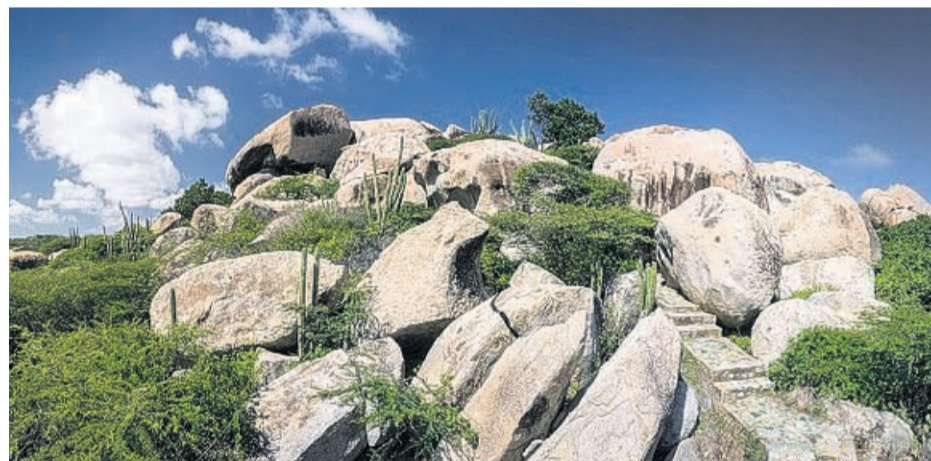


Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mon-di". This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just



another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much

closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the

round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests,



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Aruban snacks and where to find them

**Remembering Mothers
 by Antoinetta DeWit**

When our mothers pass from earth to sky

And we face life on our own

Don't seek to answer the question "why?"

But realise we are not alone.

Their voice and spirit guide us through

Whatever comes our way

No matter what we did or do

We know just what they'd say.

"Stand tall and proud my sweet child

Keep doing the best you can

Living wild or living mild

What counts is where you land."

Yes Mother dear you were so right

I'm where I'm supposed to be

You may now be out of sight

But your smile I clearly see.

Happy Mother's Day

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find pastechis and krokets at local bak-



eries and snack shops, like Bright Bakery in Piedra Plat, Huchada in Santa Cruz or Pastechi House in the city center. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batido shops next the flea markets downtown, or if you're on your way to San Nicolas, at Mauchi Smoothies and Juice Bar in Savaneta (located at the side of the main road).

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few

spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

1. Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
2. Along the main road next to the airport field.
3. At the California Light House.
4. At the Alto Vista Chapel.



These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

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The stories of "Compa Nanzi"

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of

oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.



"Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by? "Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beau-

tiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder. The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.



Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with

his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!"

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.

Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's



a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.



Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road



is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars

priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral



reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock For-

mation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that

is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can eas-

ily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family!



A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There

was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the light-



house after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.'

He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30

meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Blacken

1 Easy targets

5 Musical work

9 Ancient serf

10 Low cards in pinochle

12 Debate

13 Rib

14 Museum display

16 Do a checkout job

17 Corn unit

18 One of the Canary Islands

20 Gumshoe

22 Zest source

23 Melts

25 Superfruit berry

28 Rap sheet data

32 College goal

34 Scoundrel

35 Before today

36 Citrus fruit from Japan

38 Potter's field

40 Tea additive

41 Sports site

42 Russian range

DOWN

1 Continuing story

2 1990s veep

3 Rain

4 Spy's asset

5 Available

6 Cobbler's cousin

7 Powerless

8 Tahini base

9 Cerberus guards

11 "Love Story" writer

15 Title meaning "great spirit"

19 Vaulted area

21 Elec. co., e.g.

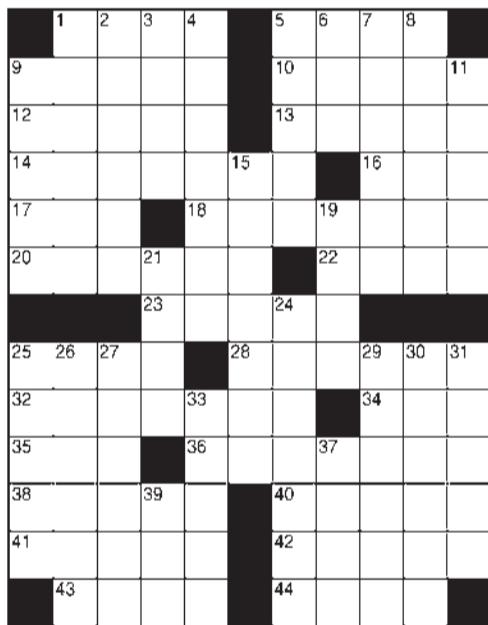
24 "Tell me the news"

25 "Battlestar Galactica" role



Yesterday's answer

26 Some smokes
27 Orbital point
29 Thrifty
30 Steamed snack
31 Sky sights
33 Film prize
37 Certain
39 One-million link



5-11

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-11

CRYPTOQUOTE

LDNN FD, BQZL HE HL AJP

XNZT LJ VJ BHLQ AJPS JTD

BHNV ZTV XSDMHJPE NHUD?

— FZSA JNHIDS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: BELIEVE IN YOURSELF. KNOW THAT THERE IS SOMETHING INSIDE YOU THAT IS GREATER THAN ANY OBSTACLE. — CHRISTIAN D. LARSON

Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

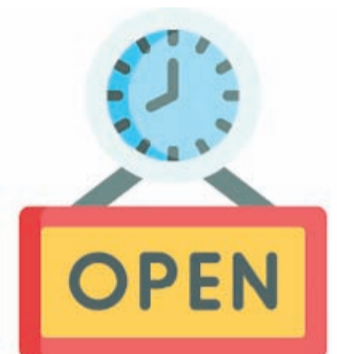
TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 08.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 13.00	21.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Technology crushing human creativity? Apple's new iPad ad has struck a nerve online

By WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A newly released ad promoting Apple's new iPad Pro has struck quite a nerve online. The ad, which was released by the tech giant Tuesday, shows a hydraulic press crushing just about every creative instrument artists and consumers have used over the years — from a piano and record player, to piles of paint, books, cameras and relics of arcade games. Resulting from the destruction? A pristine new iPad Pro.

"The most powerful iPad ever is also the thinnest," a narrator says at the end of the commercial.

Apple's intention seems straightforward: Look at all the things this new product can do. But critics have called it tone-deaf — with several marketing experts noting the campaign's execution didn't land.

"I had a really disturbing reaction to the ad," said Americus Reed II, professor of marketing at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. "I understood conceptually what they were trying to do, but ... I think the way it came across is, here is technology crushing the life of that nostalgic sort of joy (from former times)."

The ad also arrives during a time many feel uncertain or fearful about seeing their work or everyday routines "replaced" by technological advances — particularly amid the rapid commercialization of generative artificial intelligence. And watching beloved items get smashed into oblivion doesn't help curb those fears, Reed and others note.

Several celebrities were also among the voices critical of Apple's "Crush!" commercial on social media this week.

"The destruction of the human experience. Courtesy of Silicon Valley," actor Hugh Grant wrote on the social media platform X, in a repost of Apple CEO Tim Cook's sharing of the ad.



In this image taken from a video advertisement, a hydraulic press crushes an array of creative instruments.

Associated Press

Some found the ad to be a telling metaphor of the industry today — particularly concerns about big tech negatively impacting creatives. Filmmaker Justine Bateman wrote on X that the commercial "crushes the arts."

Experts added that the commercial marked a notable difference to marketing seen from Apple in the past — which has often taken more positive or uplifting approaches.

"My initial thought was that Apple has become exactly what it never wanted to be," Vann Graves, executive director of the Virginia Commonwealth University's Brandcenter, said.

Graves pointed to Apple's famous 1984 ad introducing the Macintosh computer, which he said focused

more on uplifting creativity and thinking outside of the box as a unique individual. In contrast, Graves added, "this (new iPad) commercial says, 'No, we're going to take all the creativity in the world and use a hydraulic press to push it down into one device that everyone uses.'"

In a statement shared with Ad Age on Thursday, Apple apologized for the ad. The outlet also reported that Apple no longer plans to run the spot on TV.

"Creativity is in our DNA at Apple, and it's incredibly important to us to design products that empower creatives all over the world," Tor Myhren, the company's vice president of marketing communications, told Ad Age. "Our goal is to always celebrate

the myriad of ways users express themselves and bring their ideas to life through iPad. We missed the mark with this video, and we're sorry."

Cupertino, California-based Apple unveiled its latest generation of iPad Pros and Airdots earlier this week in a showcase that lauded new features for both lines. The Pro sports a new thinner design, a new M4 processor for added processing power, slightly upgraded storage and incorporates dual OLED panels for a brighter, crisper display.

Apple is trying to juice demand for iPads after its sales of the tablets plunged 17% from last year during the January-March period. After its 2010 debut helped redefine the tablet market, the iPad has become a minor contributor to Apple's success. It currently accounts for just 6% of the company's sales. □



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San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
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Oranjestad:

Trupiaal : Tel. 583 8560

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Centro Medico: Tel. 584 5794

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
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EMERGENCY

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Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
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Scientists are learning the basic building blocks of sperm whale language after years of effort

By **MARIA CHENG**
Associated Press
ROSEAU, Dominica (AP)

— Scientists studying the sperm whales that live around the Caribbean island of Dominica have described for the first time the basic elements of how they might be talking to each other, in an effort that could one day help better protect them.

Like many whales and dolphins, sperm whales are highly social mammals and communicate by squeezing air through their respiratory systems to make strings of rapid clicks that can sound like an extremely loud zipper underwater. The clicks are also used as a form of echolocation to help them track their prey. Scientists have been trying for decades to understand what those clicks might mean, with only minimal progress. While they still don't know, they now think there are sets of clicks they believe make up a "phonetic alphabet" that the whales can use to build the very rough equivalent of what people think of as words and phrases.

"We're now starting to find the first building blocks of whale language," said David Gruber, founder and president of the Cetacean Translation Initiative or CETI, an effort devoted to translating the communication of sperm whales.



A sperm whale swims off the coast of Dominica in March 2024.

Associated Press

In a study published Tuesday in the journal *Nature Communications*, researchers analyzed more than 8,700 snippets of sperm whale clicks, known as codas. They say they have found four basic components they think make up this phonetic alphabet. Pratyusha Sharma, the paper's lead researcher, said this alphabet could then be used by the whales in an unlimited number of combinations.

"It doesn't appear that they have a fixed set of codas," said Sharma, an artificial intelligence and computer science expert at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "That gives the whales access to a much larger communication system," she said, explaining it was as if the whales had a

very large dictionary. Sperm whales have the biggest brains of any animal on the planet at up to 20 pounds, as much as six times the size of an average human brain. They live in matriarchal groups of about 10 and sometimes meet up with hundreds or thousands of other whales. Sperm whales can grow up to 60 feet (18 meters) long and dive to nearly 3,280 feet (1,000 meters) to hunt for squid. They sleep vertically, in groups.

Gruber, a biology professor at the City University of New York, said sperm whales seem to have sophisticated social ties and deciphering their communication systems could reveal parallels with human language and society. To get enough examples

of the sperm whale clicks in Dominica, where there is a resident population of about 200 whales, scientists created a giant underwater recording studio with microphones at different depths. Tags on the whales also record what position they are in when clicking — for example diving, sleeping, breathing at the surface — and if there are any other whales nearby they might be communicating with.

Jeremy Goldbogen, an associate professor of oceans at Stanford University, called the new research "extraordinary," saying it had "vast implications for how we understand ocean giants."

Goldbogen, who was not involved in the study, said that if we were one day able to understand what sperm whales were saying, that knowledge should be used for conservation purposes, like minimizing their risk of being hit by ships or reducing ocean noise levels.

Sperm whales are classified as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The whales were hunted for centuries for the oil contained in their giant heads and the species is still recovering.

Diana Reiss, a marine mammal behavior and communication expert at the City

University of New York, said that scientists understand certain aspects of marine animals' communication reasonably well, including the whistles used by dolphins and the songs sung by humpback whales. But when it comes to sperm whales, even that basic knowledge is lacking.

"What's new in this study is that they are trying to look at the basis for the whales' communication system ... not just particular calls they're making," she said.

Reiss, who was not involved in the new research, said she hoped we would one day be able to match the whales' clicks to behavior. "We will never understand what the clicks mean to another whale, but we may be able to understand what the clicks mean enough to predict their behavior," she said. "That alone would be an amazing achievement," she said.

CETI founder Gruber said millions and possibly billions of whale codas would be needed to collect enough data to try to work out what the whales are saying, but he expects AI to help speed the analysis. He said other sperm whale populations — the whales are found in deep oceans from the Arctic to the Antarctic — likely communicate in slightly different ways. □

Strong solar storm could disrupt communications and produce northern lights in U.S.

By **MARCIA DUNN**
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)

— An unusually strong solar storm headed toward Earth could produce northern lights in the U.S. this weekend and potentially disrupt power and communications.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a rare geomagnetic storm watch — the first in nearly 20 years. That was expected to become a warning Friday night, when the effects of the

solar outburst were due to reach Earth.

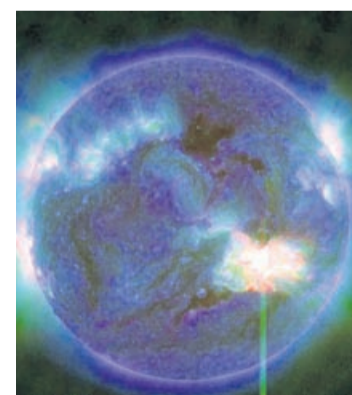
NOAA already has alerted operators of power plants and spacecraft in orbit to take precautions.

"As far as the worst situation expected here at Earth, that's tough to say and I wouldn't want to speculate on that," said NOAA space weather forecaster Shawn Dahl. "However, severe level is pretty extraordinary. It's a very rare event to happen."

NOAA said the sun produced strong solar flares

beginning Wednesday, resulting in five outbursts of plasma capable of disrupting satellites in orbit and power grids here on Earth. Each eruption — known as a coronal mass ejection — can contain billions of tons of plasma and magnetic field from the sun's outer atmosphere, or corona.

The flares seem to be associated with a sunspot that's 16 times the diameter of Earth, according to NOAA. An extreme geomagnetic storm in 2003 took out power in Sweden and dam-



This image provided by NASA shows a solar flare, as seen in the bright flash in the lower right, captured by NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory on May 9, 2024.

Associated Press

aged power transformers in South Africa.

The latest storm could produce northern lights as far south in the U.S. as Alabama and Northern Cali-

fornia, according to NOAA. The most intense solar storm in recorded history, in 1859, prompted auroras in central America and possibly even Hawaii. "That's an extreme-level event," Dahl said. "We are not anticipating that" but it could come close. □

WNBA set to tip off with spotlight on rookie class led by Clark, Reese and Aces' quest for 3-peat

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

While conversations about the WNBA's growth may start with Caitlin Clark, any talk about the 2024 championship begins with the star-studded Las Vegas Aces led by A'ja Wilson and their quest to three-peat.

The Aces have been dominant on the court the past two seasons, becoming the first team to repeat as champion since the Los Angeles Sparks in 2001-02. They are plus-100 favorites to win it again when the league tips off its 28th season on Tuesday, according to BetMGM. New York at plus-230 is the only team close to the champs.

"We've come into games and we have a target on our back. We understand that," Aces guard Chelsea Gray said. "But I think we understand that what got it done last year isn't going to get it done this year. No year has ever been the same in winning a championship."

Wilson, last season's WNBA Finals MVP, and the Aces are looking for a third consecutive WNBA title — a feat only accomplished by the Houston Comets, who won the first four league championships.

But the buzz around the



A'ja Wilson, right, Chelsea Gray, left, of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, present jerseys to President Joe Biden, center right, and Vice President Kamala Harris, center left, during an event to celebrate the 2023 WNBA championship team, in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

league has been centered on Clark, along with Angel Reese, Cameron Brink, Kamilla Cardoso and the rest of a rookie class that has been the most talked about in the past decade. The brands the players built in college have led to sold-out jerseys and arenas. Teams have moved games to bigger venues to accommodate the demand for more tickets. It also helped get the league to finally have charter flights for road games.

For all the hype about the rookies, how they perform on the court will be key to sustaining the early focus

they generated on the league.

Las Vegas is the solid favorite to win it all again, although the Liberty is expected to have something to say about that. New York returns all five starters from last season's team that lost to the Aces in the WNBA Finals.

New York's roster was compiled last season through free agency and trades but now Breanna Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Sabrina Ionescu hope to lead the franchise to its first title.

"We know what happened last year and the fact we didn't achieve our goal

will motivate us, but it's not what we're thinking about the entire season," Stewart said. "I'm really excited to get things going with a new and old group and build the chemistry. Now most of us have a year under our belt, what are we going to do bigger on and off the court?"

While Las Vegas and New York didn't have any headline-making offseason moves, Seattle and Phoenix both created some ripples with moves they hope will make them title contenders.

The Storm, who built a \$60 million state-of-the-art practice facility, added Nneka Ogwumike and Skylar Diggins-Smith. The Mercury signed Natasha Cloud and Kahleah Copper to add to Brittney Griner and Diana Taurasi.

Some other storylines to follow this season:

New Coaches

Chicago and Phoenix both have new coaches this season. The Sky will be led by Hall of Famer Teresa Weatherspoon. Longtime NBA assistant Nate Tibbetts will guide the Mercury.

Weatherspoon returns to the WNBA after working with the NBA's New Orleans Pelicans since 2019. She first was a player development

coach and then an assistant starting in 2020. The team released her in June. Tibbetts comes to the league after nearly two decades of experience as an NBA assistant coach and in the NBA's G League, where he was both a head coach and an assistant. He was most recently an assistant with the Orlando Magic.

Olympic Break

The league will take nearly a monthlong break for the Paris Games from July 18-Aug. 14. Dozens of current and former WNBA players will be competing in the Olympics.

The WNBA will have its All-Star Game in Phoenix right before the Olympics start. The midseason showcase will most likely pit the U.S. national team against a group of All-Stars. The All-Stars won the contest in 2021 — the last time the format was implemented.

Charter Flights

Commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced Thursday the league plans to fund charter flights at a cost of about \$50 million over the next two years in a move that addresses years of player safety concerns. Travel has been a huge topic of discussion for years. End of an Era. □

WNBA franchise awarded to Toronto for 2026 season, according to media reports

TORONTO (AP) — The WNBA is heading to Toronto, according to media reports. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported that the women's professional basketball league has awarded a franchise to the Kilmer Group. The reported deal would have Toronto's WNBA team start playing in May 2026.

The WNBA did not confirm the report.

"We continue to engage in productive conversations with interested ownership groups in a number of markets and the granting of any expansion teams requires a vote of the WNBA and NBA Board of Gover-

nors," the league said.

Larry Tanenbaum is the chairman and CEO of Kilmer Group and the chairman of the board for Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, which owns the NBA's Toronto Raptors and NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs. He also owns 25% of MLSE through Kilmer's holdings.

Adding a team in Toronto would be the first outside of the U.S. for the WNBA, which begins its 28th season next week.

WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said at the league's draft last month that she hopes to expand to 16 teams by the 2028 season. Toronto was one



The Chicago Sky take on the Minnesota Lynx in a WNBA pre-season basketball game in Toronto Saturday May 13, 2023.

Associated Press

of the cities she mentioned when talking about it expansion. Other cities mentioned by Engelbert for possible expansion were Philadelphia, Portland,

Denver and Nashville, as well as the South Florida region.

The new Toronto club would be the 14th team in the WNBA. An expansion

franchise in Golden State is set to join the league in 2025.

The Toronto team will reportedly play at the 8,000-seat Coca-Cola Coliseum, which hosts the AHL's Marlies and PWHL's Toronto franchise.

Canada has hosted two sold-out WNBA pre-season games in the past two years. Toronto's Scotiabank Arena was at capacity to see the Chicago Sky defeat the Minnesota Lynx 82-74 in 2023. Edmonton's Rogers Place was also filled as the Los Angeles Sparks beat the Seattle Storm 84-79 on Saturday. □

Five-time Pro Bowler Jarvis Landry trying to find out if he still wants to play football at age 31

By MARK LONG
AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Five-time Pro Bowl receiver Jarvis Landry accepted a tryout with the Jacksonville Jaguars partly because it was a 40-minute flight from his home and mostly because he needed to find out if he still wants to play football at age 31.

After an hour workout to open a two-day rookie minicamp Friday, Landry wasn't quite ready to answer the most important part.

"We've got another day. We've got another day," he said. "I just want to be as clean as possible, be the best teammate I could possibly be and let everything else play out how it does." Landry is trying to prove he's healthy following a nagging ankle injury that cost him part of the 2022 season. He was out of the league last year but insists he's full speed and potentially primed for a 10th NFL season.

"Just (wanted to see) if I could really do it, if I still really want to do it and push-



Wide receiver Jarvis Landry (6) reaches for a pass as head coach Doug Pederson looks on during the Jacksonville Jaguars NFL rookie camp football practice, Friday, May 10, 2024, in Jacksonville, Fla.

Associated Press

ing myself to those limits," Landry said. "Being out of football last year was very tough. It made me grounded, but it also made me humble and grateful to have opportunities, even like this.

"This is a good stepping stone toward the next chapter of what I'm looking for."

Landry spent four years in Miami and four more in Cleveland. He signed a one-year, \$3 million deal with his hometown New

Orleans Saints in 2022 but finished with 25 receptions for 272 yards and a touchdown — all career lows. He missed eight games and landed on injured reserve that December.

He couldn't possibly end his professional career on that note, right?

"That's a fair question," he said. "The competitor in me says no. But, again, whatever is in God's plans and his cards, I just kind of rock with that, you know what I mean?"

Landry has 713 career catches for 7,870 yards and 38 touchdowns. He made five consecutive Pro Bowls beginning in 2015, the first three with the Dolphins and the last two with the Browns. He also led the league with 112 receptions in 2017.

If the Jaguars sign him, he would be the most experienced receiver in a position group that features Christian Kirk, free-agent addition Gabe Davis and first-round draft pick Brian Thomas Jr.

The Jaguars cut veteran Zay Jones last week, creating a potential landing spot for Landry.

"You just want to be able to put eyes on as many players as you can," coach Doug Pederson said. "He's obviously played several years in this league and been a talented guy and just see where he's at.

"He's been hurt a little bit, so just seeing where he is health-wise and just see where he is at. It's nothing more than just coming in and trying out-type basis."

Landry said he "absolutely" could serve as a mentor to

Thomas, the 23rd overall pick. Both went to LSU and grew up in Louisiana. The duo was nearly inseparable during drills Friday.

"It is a really good learning experience for a guy like Brian," Pederson said. "Jarvis is a vet and he kind of knows what it's like. So I think it'll be good to kind of see how Jarvis handles himself as a professional and ... at least make an impression on Brian this weekend."

Landry also would like to avoid any "old man" references. He's a decade older than Thomas and has at least seven years on the other six receivers in attendance at rookie camp.

"For me, it's just blocking all that out and just having fun," he said. "A lot of these guys I ran into are like, 'Man, I watched your highlights before every game in high school.' I'm like, 'Damn.'"

But it's all talk since Landry doesn't look — he pointed to one gray hair in his beard — or feel old.

"I wouldn't be here if I did," he quipped. □

Pogacar blows away everyone on time trial to extend Giro lead to more than 2 minutes

PERUGIA, Italy (AP) — It looks as though no one will stop Tadej Pogacar from winning the Giro d'Italia on his debut, despite there being two weeks left of the Italian grand tour.

Pogacar blew everyone away on the seventh stage on Friday in winning the lengthy individual time trial, and strengthened his grip on the pink jersey.

The Slovenian star extended his overall lead to 2 minutes, 36 seconds over Daniel Martinez, and 2:46 over Geraint Thomas, who had been second at the start of the day, 46 seconds behind Pogacar.

"After the world championships last year, today was my first race on the TT bike again," Pogacar said. "It was a lot of preparation for this and a lot of ups and

downs since last year in the time trial so I'm super happy that today I felt good.

"I started a bit with an easier pace, I had to get used to the TT bike. Then I paced myself until the climb and I climbed full gas."

Two-time Tour de France winner Pogacar is attempting the Giro-Tour double this year.

Time trial specialist Filippo Ganna seemed on course for the victory and the Italian was practically celebrating in the leader's chair when Pogacar trailed him by 47 seconds at the start of the final six-kilometer climb to Perugia.

But Pogacar flew up the fourth-category climb to beat Ganna by 17 seconds, much to everyone's astonishment.

A disappointed Ganna re-



Slovenia's Tadej Pogacar reacts after winning the stage 7 of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race, a time trial from Foligno to Perugia, Friday, May 10, 2024.

Associated Press

portedly turned down interview requests as he walked away immediately after the stage ended.

There was also more time trial misery for his Ineos Grenadiers teammate Thomas, who last year lost

the Giro lead and the race on the penultimate day's time trial.

"Nothing to do with the wind (today), it's just I tried to ride within myself and when it was time to go, I felt okay but just lacked it a

bit," Thomas said.

"It is what it is. It's just one of those days."

The stage was the first of only two time trials at this Giro, and at 41 kilometers (25 miles) was the longest at the Italian grand tour in nine years.

The Giro hits the high mountains on Saturday's eighth stage, which has been given a five-star rating for maximum difficulty.

It has the race's second uphill finish with a top-category climb of more than 14 kilometers (nine miles) to Prato di Tivo. The riders will also be constantly ascending or descending, with no flat sectors on the 152-kilometer (94-mile) route from Spoleto that features two other categorized climbs. The Giro ends in Rome on May 26. □