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## "Vaccine apartheid": Africans tells UN they need vaccines

By PIA SARKAR  
Associated Press

The inequity of COVID-19 vaccine distribution came into sharp focus Thursday as many of the African countries whose populations have little to no access to the life-saving shots spoke at the U.N.'s annual meeting of world leaders. Some called for member states to relax intellectual property rights in order to expand vaccine production. "No one is safe unless we are all safe," was the common refrain.

"The virus doesn't know continents, borders, even less nationalities or social statuses," Chad's president Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno, told the General Assembly.



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## "Vaccine apartheid": Africans tells UN they need vaccines

Continued from Front

"The countries and regions that aren't vaccinated will be a source of propagating and developing new variants of the virus. In this regard, we welcome the repeated appeals of the United Nations secretary general and the director general of the (World Health Organization) in favor of access to the vaccine for all. The salvation of humanity depends on it." The struggle to contain the coronavirus pandemic has featured prominently in leaders' speeches over the past few days — many of them delivered remotely exactly because of the virus. Country after country acknowledged the wide disparity in accessing the vaccine, painting a picture so bleak that a solution has at times seemed impossibly out of reach. South Africa's president Cyril Ramaphosa pointed to vaccines as "the greatest defense that humanity has against the rav-

ages of this pandemic." "It is therefore a great concern that the global community has not sustained the principles of solidarity and cooperation in securing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines," he said. "It is an indictment on humanity that more than 82% of the world's vaccine doses have been acquired by wealthy countries, while less than 1% has gone to low-income countries." He and others urged U.N. member states to support a proposal to temporarily waive certain intellectual property rights established by the World Trade Organization to allow more countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, to produce COVID-19 vaccines. Angola president João Lourenço said it was "shocking to see the disparity between some nations and others with respect to availability of vaccines." "These disparities allow for third doses to be given, in

some cases, while, in other cases, as in Africa, the vast majority of the population has not even received the first dose," Lourenço said. The U.S., Britain, France, Germany and Israel are among the countries that have begun administering boosters or announced plans to do so. Namibia president Hage Geingob called it "vaccine apartheid," a notable reference given the country's own experience with apartheid when neighboring South Africa's white minority government controlled South West Africa, the name for Namibia before its independence in 1990. Benido Impouma, a program director with the WHO's Africa program, noted during a weekly video news conference that the surge in new COVID-19 cases is starting to ease in Africa "but with 108,000 new cases, more than 3,000 lives lost in the past week and 16 countries still in resurgence, this fight is far from over."

"Fresh increases in cases should be expected in the coming months," Impouma said. "Without widespread vaccination and other public and social measures, the continent's fourth wave is likely to be the worst, the most brutal yet." On Wednesday, during a global vaccination summit convened virtually on the sidelines of the General Assembly, President Joe Biden announced that the United States would double its purchase of Pfizer's COVID-19 shots to share with the world to 1 billion doses, with the goal of vaccinating 70% of the global population within the next year. The move comes as world leaders, aid groups and global health organizations have growing increasingly vocal about the slow pace of global vaccinations and the inequity of access to shots between residents of wealthier and poorer nations. The WHO says only 15% of promised donations of vaccines — from rich

countries that have access to large quantities of them — have been delivered. The U.N. health agency has said it wants countries to fulfill their dose-sharing pledges "immediately" and make shots available for programs that benefit poor countries and Africa in particular. Biden, earlier this year, broke with European allies to embrace waivers to intellectual property rights for the vaccines, but there was no movement Wednesday toward the necessary global consensus on the issue required under World Trade Organization rules. While some nongovernmental organizations have called those waivers vital to boosting global production of the shots, U.S. officials concede it is not the most constricting factor in the inequitable vaccine distribution — and some privately doubt the waivers for the highly complex shots would lead to enhanced production. □

## Providers challenge only US law banning vaccine mandates

By **AMY BETH HANSON**  
Associated Press

**HELENA, Mont. (AP)** — Medical providers and Montana residents with compromised immune systems are challenging the only law in the U.S. that prevents employers from mandating workers get vaccinated amid a surge of COVID-19 infections. They argue the new law violates federal requirements for safe workplaces and reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities and want a federal judge to rule that it doesn't apply to hospitals

and other medical providers. The Montana Medical Association, private physician groups, a Missoula hospital and seven individuals filed the complaint in U.S. District Court in Missoula on Wednesday, arguing the law inhibits providers' ability to "practice ethical and effective medicine" by requiring them to employ unvaccinated workers who are more likely to spread infections and diseases than vaccinated workers. The law — which applies to all vaccinations — pre-

vents medical providers from complying "with national standards for the care and treatment of patients, including observing and enforcing infectious disease prevention protocols," the complaint says. "The Montana Medical Association is joining this lawsuit to restore a physician's ability to protect the safety of their vulnerable patients when providing needed medical services," the group said in a statement. Montana's Republican-controlled Legislature passed the law this year that says requiring vac-

cines as a condition of employment is discriminatory and violates the state's human rights laws. Supporters said the law was needed in response to employers coercing employees to get vaccinations under the threat of losing their jobs. Biden also announced the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services will require vaccinations of employees at facilities that receive Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, including hospitals and nursing homes. The Montana law allows

health care facilities to require unvaccinated workers or those who refuse to disclose their vaccination status to wear masks and take other precautions against spreading disease. However, the complaint argues that the law prevents medical providers from taking steps to protect employees and patients who have compromised immune systems and also violates the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which requires employers to provide workplaces free from hazards. □

## For many Haitian migrants, journey to Texas started online

By JUAN A. LOZANO,  
MARIA VERZA and  
JULIE WATSON

Associated Press

**DEL RIO, Texas (AP)** — For the final leg of his journey from Chile to the United States, Haitian migrant Fabricio Jean followed detailed instructions sent to him via WhatsApp from his brother in New Jersey who had recently taken the route to the Texas border. His brother wired him money for the trip, then meticulously mapped it out, warning him of areas heavy with Mexican immigration officials.

"You will need about 20,000 pesos (about \$1,000 U.S. dollars) for the buses. You need to take this bus to this location and then take another bus," recounted Jean, who spoke to The Associated Press after reaching the border town of Del Rio.

What Jean didn't expect was to find thousands of Haitian migrants like himself crossing at the same remote spot. The 38-year-old, his wife and two young children earlier this month joined as many as 14,000 mostly Haitian migrants camped under a Del Rio bridge.

A confluence of factors caused the sudden sharp increase at the Texas town of about 35,000 residents. Interviews with dozens of Haitian migrants, immigration attorneys and advocates reveal a phenomenon produced partly by confusion over the Biden administration's policies after authorities recently ex-



Associated Press

tended protections for the more than 100,000 Haitians living in the United States.

It also reflects the power of Facebook, YouTube and platforms like WhatsApp, which migrants use to share information that can get distorted as it speeds through immigrant communities, directing migration flows. That's especially true for tight-knit groups like the Creole-and-French-speaking Haitians, many of whom left their homeland after its devastating 2010 earthquake and have been living in Latin America, drawn by Brazil and Chile's once-booming economies.

In extending protections for Haitians this spring, the Biden administration cited security concerns and social unrest in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

Homeland Security Secre-

tary Alejandro Mayorkas said the temporary protections were limited to those residing in the U.S. before July 29 — but that condition was often missing in posts, leading Haitians outside the United States to believe they, too, were eligible.

Mayorkas acknowledged that this week, saying "we are very concerned that Haitians who are taking the irregular migration path are receiving misinformation that the border is open," or that they qualify for protected status despite the expired deadline.

"I want to make sure it is known that this is not the way to come to the United States," he said.

Thousands of Haitians have been stuck in Mexican border towns since 2016, when the Obama administration abruptly halted a policy that initially allowed them in

on humanitarian grounds.

Online messages touting the Mexican town of Ciudad Acuña, across from Del Rio, started after President Joe Biden took office and began reversing some of the Trump administration's immigration policies. Ciudad Acuña has been spared the drug and gang violence seen elsewhere along the border. Some of the social media posts recommending it appear to have come from human smugglers seeking to drum up business, according to immigrant advocates.

Haitians began crossing there this year, but their numbers ballooned after a Biden administration program that briefly opened the door to some asylum seekers ended, said Nicole Phillips, of the San Diego-based Haitian Bridge Alliance, which advocates for

Haitian migrants.

The program allowed in a select number of people deemed by humanitarian groups to be at high risk in Mexico.

Del Rio is just one example of how technology that has put a smartphone in the hands of nearly every migrant is transforming migration flows, according to advocates. Migrants often monitor the news and share information on routes. The most popular platform is WhatsApp, which connects 2 billion people worldwide. In 2020, after Turkey announced that the land border with Greece was open, thousands of migrants headed there — only to find the gates closed on the Greek side. Similar sudden mass migrations have happened elsewhere in Europe.

In 2018, social media posts and WhatsApp messages fueled caravans that swelled to 10,000 mostly Central American migrants who arrived at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Last week, in a Facebook group for Haitians in Chile with 26,000 members, one member posted specific instructions on routes through Mexico. It included paths to avoid and recommended certain bus companies. "Good luck and be careful," said the post, written in Haitian Creole.

Another member shared a different route in the comments. The group's members have since relayed stories of horrific conditions in Del Rio and risks of being deported. □

## Bull that escaped Long Island farm captured after 2 months

**MORICHES, N.Y. (AP)** — A bull that escaped from a farm on Long Island and eluded searchers for two months has been captured, authorities said Thursday.

The 1,500-pound (680-kilogram) bull, nicknamed Barney or Barnie, was corralled late Wednesday by staff from Skylands Animal Sanctuary and Rescue,

Suffolk County SPCA Chief Roy Gross said in a news release.

Photos posted by the animal sanctuary on Facebook showed the bull on a bed of hay inside a trailer. "Look who we found cruising around Long Island," the organization said. "He is one handsome kid."

Suffolk County police used drones and helicopters

to help capture the bull, who will live out his days at the Skylands sanctuary in Wantage, New Jersey, Gross said.

Rescuers had been searching the animal ever since he broke through the fence at a Moriches farm on July 20, but he remained on the lam as residents of the area posted sightings on social media.



Associated Press

"We would like to thank everyone for their support and concern as well as rescue groups who also as-

sisted during this ordeal," Gross said. "Great job of collaboration by all who participated." □



# New York health chief, defender of Cuomo policies, resigning

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE**

**Associated Press**

**ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)** — New York Health Commissioner Howard Zucker, who was a leading defender of former Gov. Andrew Cuomo's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has submitted his resignation, Gov. Kathy Hochul said Thursday.

Hochul thanked Zucker for his service and said he has agreed to stay on until the state names a new commissioner.

"I agree with his decision," said Hochul, adding that Zucker's resignation follows her previously announced plans to hire her own team. Her predecessor resigned in the wake of a damning attorney general report that found Cuomo sexually harassed at least 11 women.

Zucker, appointed by Cuomo as health commissioner in 2015, was a leading figure in the state's pandemic response last year as the New York City metro area became one of the world's worst COVID-19 hot spots.



Cuomo often praised Zucker for his leadership, and the two appeared together regularly at the Democrat's widely watched televised briefings. Cuomo touted Zucker's resume: he became one of the nation's youngest doctors at age 22, later earned a law degree, and worked at the White House and World Health Organization. Under Zucker, the Department of Health worked with hospitals statewide to ensure a surge of COVID-19 patients wouldn't catastrophically overwhelm hospital systems.

But Zucker has faced heat-

ed criticism over the state's COVID-19 response, particularly in nursing homes.

Nearly 16,000 people living in nursing homes and other long-term care homes in New York have died of COVID-19, according to state data.

Zucker has also faced criticism from health care workers who said the state failed to ensure hospitals and nursing home personnel had adequate personal protective gear and staffing levels during the peak of the pandemic.

New York's since-rescinded March 2020 directive said nursing homes couldn't refuse to admit patients solely because they had COVID-19.

Zucker and Cuomo defended the directive as needed to free up beds in hospitals in case of a disastrous surge of patients, and to ensure COVID-19 patients weren't languishing in hospitals.

At that time in the spring of 2020, limited COVID-19 testing made it difficult for nursing homes to know whether admitted patients were contagious.

By May 2020, the state withdrew the directive and required hospitals to test patients for COVID-19 before transferring them to nursing homes.

By July of that year, the health department released a report arguing that the main driver of COVID-19 infections in nursing homes were unknowingly infected staff and visitors and not the March directive.

But the report's findings were limited: it excluded thousands of deaths of nursing home residents who later died in hospitals, for example. And the Cuomo administration declined to say whether its findings suggest the directive may

have worsened outbreaks in any nursing homes.

Cuomo staffers and health officials clashed over a decision to exclude the higher death tally from the report. Zucker's agency long declined to release such COVID-19 data despite requests by media and lawmakers. Cuomo said the state needed to verify data, but has acknowledged the decision fueled misinformation.

Zucker praised Hochul's "commitment" to transparency at an August health department committee meeting, saying: "Her leadership allowing me and all of DOH to get the data out is refreshing."

Zucker's role in the state's management of the pandemic may also resurface in an anticipated report from the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

The committee's wide-ranging impeachment probe of Cuomo is looking at the administration's handling of COVID-19 data, as well as efforts to rush COVID-19 testing for Cuomo's inner circle when tests were scarce in spring 2020. □

## Philanthropies pledge billions during UN meeting

By **HALELUYA HADERO**

**AP Business Writer**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation announced Thursday plans to spend more than \$900 million over the next five years to curb global malnutrition, a move to stem the rise in world hunger during the COVID-19 pandemic. It's one of several pledges private donors made this week as world leaders gather in New York for the annual United Nations General Assembly.

On Wednesday, a coalition of nine foundations said they would collectively spend \$5 billion by 2030 to protect at least 30% of the planet's land and sea, known as 30x30. The pledge from former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Washington D.C.-based Wyss Foundation and others is believed to be the largest

private pledge to protect biodiversity.

One of the donors, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, had already announced on Monday his Bezos Earth Fund would earmark \$1 billion to aid with conservation efforts. That commitment is part of the \$10 billion Bezos pledged last year to fight climate change following years of criticism about Amazon's carbon footprint. He stepped down from the company in July.

His charitable organization said it will focus its work on the Congo Basin, and the tropical parts of the Andes and Pacific Ocean.

Separately, the George Soros-funded Open Society Foundations said Monday it will spend an additional \$30.5 million to improve access to COVID-19 vaccines in lower income countries. □

## Harry, Meghan visit NYC sites, including Sept. 11 memorial

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Prince Harry and Meghan, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, got a hawk's-eye view of New York City on Thursday with a visit to the rebuilt World Trade Center's signature tower.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, de Blasio's wife, Chirlane McCray, and their son, Dante de Blasio, posed for photos with Harry and Meghan at the 1,268-foot (386-meter) observatory at One World Trade Center, where clouds partially obscured the panoramic view.

In answer to a question about how she was enjoying her trip to New York, Meghan responded, "It's wonderful to be back, thank you." Harry, asked



the same question, said, "It's wonderful, thank you." The royals did not make further remarks.

After enjoying the view from the 102nd floor, they made their way back down and outside.

Hochul chatted with Meghan while de Blasio and Harry spoke before posing for photos in front of the building, which stands near where the center's former twin towers were

destroyed by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001.

Harry and Meghan then visited the neighboring Sept. 11 memorial plaza. The couple looked out over a reflecting pool where one of the towers stood and then visited the Sept. 11 museum.

The duke and duchess are in New York for a Global Citizen Live event to call for vaccine equity. □



## Woman with Down syndrome loses UK abortion law challenge

By SYLVIA HUI

Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A woman with Down syndrome lost a court challenge against the British government Thursday over a law allowing the abortion up until birth of a fetus with the condition.

Heidi Crowter, 26, and two others took the Department of Health and Social Care to court, arguing that part of the Abortion Act is discriminatory and violates the European Convention on Human Rights.

Abortions in England, Wales and Scotland are allowed up till 24 weeks of pregnancy. But the law states that terminations can be allowed up until birth if there's "a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped." Crowter, who lives independently and recently got married, has said that she found the legislation "offensive" and disrespectful. She said she wanted to change the law to challenge people's perception of Down



Associated Press

syndrome.

Two senior judges dismissed the case Thursday after a two-day hearing, concluding that the legislation isn't unlawful and that it aims to strike a balance between the rights of the unborn child and that of women.

Judges Rabinder Singh and Nathalie Lieven said the case gave rise to strong feelings and differences

over ethical and religious views, but the court must not enter into such controversies and rule only in accordance with the law.

"The evidence before the court powerfully shows that there will be some families who positively wish to have a child, even knowing that it will be born with severe disabilities," they said. "But the evidence is also clear

that not every family will react in that way," they said, and many families may not be able to provide a disabled child with a supportive environment.

"The evidence is also clear that, although scientific developments have improved and earlier identification may be feasible, there are still conditions which will only be identi-

fied late in a pregnancy, after 24 weeks," the judges added. Crowter brought the case with Maire Lea-Wilson, 33, who has a son with Down syndrome, and an unidentified child with the condition.

She said she plans to appeal the ruling.

"The fight is not over," Crowter said outside the Royal Courts of Justice in central London, surrounded by supporters.

"We face discrimination every day in schools, in the workplace and in society. Thanks to the verdict, the judges have upheld discrimination in the womb too," she said.

Paul Conrathe, a lawyer from the firm representing the three claimants, called the judgment disappointing and "out of step with modern attitudes to disability." "By allowing babies with (Down) syndrome to be aborted up to birth, unlike neurotypical babies, the law sends a powerful message that the lives of people with (Down) syndrome are of lesser value," he said. □

## Taliban official: Strict punishment, executions will return

By KATHY GANNON

Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)** — One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers. "Everyone criticized us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and their punishments," Turabi told The Associated Press, speaking in Kabul. "No one will tell us

what our laws should be. We will follow Islam and we will make our laws on the Quran."

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug. 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will re-create their harsh rule of the late 1990s. Turabi's comments pointed to how the group's leaders remain entrenched in a deeply conservative, hard-line worldview, even if they are embracing technological changes, like video and mobile phones.

Turabi, now in his early 60s, was justice minister and head of the so-called Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — effectively, the religious police — during the Taliban's previous rule.

At that time, the world denounced the Taliban's punishments, which took place in Kabul's sports stadium

or on the grounds of the sprawling Eid Gah mosque, often attended by hundreds of Afghan men.

Executions of convicted murderers were usually by a single shot to the head, carried out by the victim's family, who had the option of accepting "blood money" and allowing the culprit to live. For convicted thieves, the punishment was amputation of a hand. For those convicted of highway robbery, a hand and a foot were amputated.

Trials and convictions were rarely public and the judiciary was weighted in favor of Islamic clerics, whose knowledge of the law was limited to religious injunctions.

Turabi said that this time, judges — including women — would adjudicate cases, but the foundation of Afghanistan's laws will be the Quran. He said the same punishments would be re-



Associated Press

vived. "Cutting off of hands is very necessary for security," he said, saying it had a deterrent effect. He said the Cabinet was studying whether to do punishments in public and will "develop a policy."

In recent days in Kabul, Taliban fighters have revived a punishment they commonly used in the past — public shaming of men accused of small-time theft.

On at least two occasions in the last week, Kabul men have been packed into the back of a pickup truck, their hands tied, and were paraded around to humiliate them. In one case, their faces were painted to identify them as thieves. In the other, stale bread was hung from their necks or stuffed in their mouth. It wasn't immediately clear what their crimes were. □



# Lava spread raises fears of more damage on Spanish island

By **RENATA BRITO** and **BARRY HATTON**

**Associated Press**

**TODOQUE, Canary Islands**

**(AP)** — The advance of lava from a volcanic eruption on one of Spain's Canary Islands has slowed significantly, raising fears Thursday that the molten rock might fan out further in coming days and wreak more destruction instead of just flowing out into the sea. One giant river of lava 600 meters (2,000 feet) wide slowed to four meters (13 feet) per hour after reaching a plain on Wednesday, officials said. On Monday, a day after the eruption on La Palma, it was moving at 700 meters (2,300 feet) per hour.

A second stream of lava has virtually ground to a halt, the head of the National Geographic Institute in the Canary Islands, María José Blanco, told a news conference.

It won't reach the Atlantic Ocean before the weekend, she said, with some scientists saying it might never reach the sea.

Blanco said seismic activity on La Palma island was now "low" but molten rock is still being thrown out of the volcano — 26 million cubic meters so far.

Stavros Meletlidis, a volcanologist at Spain's National Geographic Institute, said the dynamics of any eruption were in constant flux.



**Lava from a volcano eruption flows on the island of La Palma in the Canaries, Spain**

**Associated Press**

"The lava is advancing very slowly because it cools in contact with the atmosphere, through friction with the ground and building materials and, above all, because its front edge is widening out," he told Radio Televisión Canaria.

As it slowed, the lava grew thicker. In places, it rose up to 15 meters (50 feet) high, authorities said. It now covers 166 hectares (410 acres) and has swallowed up around 350 homes.

The uncertainty left many residents on the western side of the island of 85,000 people in limbo. Scientists say the lava flows could last for weeks or months.

Joel Francisco, 38, said he and his elderly parents had to evacuate the area around the village of Todoque in a rush, taking only a few belongings and important documents.

Now that the flow seems to have slowed, he hopes to go back and retrieve some more things in case the house is entombed in lava — if police let him.

"We don't know how long we have to wait until we can return to our homes because the roads are closed," he told The Associated Press. "Some people have it worse off, their houses are gone."

Like many on the island,

Francisco works on a banana plantation, and his livelihood is also at risk of being ruined by lava or damaged by volcanic ash. "We are waiting to see if we can go out to work or not," he said. "This changed our life."

Spain's King Felipe VI, who visited the homeless Thursday along with Queen Letizia and Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, vowed to help the island's needy.

"Suddenly, you have had almost everything taken from you, in one fell swoop. No home, no equipment, no clothes, no food, no resources, no work," the monarch told reporters.

"We have to do everything we can to help these families."

The eruption occurred along the island's Cumbre Vieja volcanic ridge. The Canary Islands are a volcanic archipelago. La Palma witnessed its last eruption in 1971.

As lava, ash and smoke continued to pour from the volcano, shooting up to 4,200 meters (nearly 14,000 feet) high, there were concerns about whether airspace above the island should remain open.

ENAI, which manages Spain's airspace, said two areas above the affected area are being declared no-fly zones to allow emergency services to operate freely. Many flights to and from La Palma were delayed early Thursday.

Volcanic ash can be dangerous for aircraft. It can also cause respiratory problems, as well as potentially being an irritant for the eyes and skin.

The Emergency Military Unit deployed on the island said the readings it has taken of the air found no threat to health.

Authorities haven't reported any casualties from the eruption. Scientists had been monitoring the volcanic activity and had warned of a possible eruption, allowing almost 7,000 people to be evacuated in time. □

## BP, Exxon warn of supply issues in UK due to driver shortage

By **PAN PYLAS**

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — The British government sought to ease concerns Thursday of a fuel crisis after oil giants BP and ExxonMobil-owned Esso warned they had to ration supplies and close some gas stations as a result of a truck driver shortage. BP said it was reducing gasoline and diesel deliveries and that a "handful" of its stations were closed. ExxonMobil said the labor problem affected a "small number" of the businesses it operates with supermarket chain Tesco. "The driver shortage is a very serious issue that needs urgent government and industry action to resolve; however, we urge

people not to panic buy," trade body Logistics U.K. said. "The logistics industry is resilient and has proven capable of supporting shops, families and businesses during COVID-19, border closures and the first stages of Brexit, and will continue to serve the needs of the nation," the association said. Industry and government officials worry the news will cause a rush of people speeding to fill up their vehicles, leading to lines and further supply bottlenecks. In September 2000, Britain came to a near-standstill for several days when truckers, aghast at the rising cost of fuel at the time, started blockading refineries, spurring motorists to head to the pump. Prime Min-

ister Boris Johnson's office urged people not to panic buy fuel in response to the latest news and said the government was making changes to deal with the driver shortages. "I think the first thing to say is that there is no shortage of fuel in the U.K., and people should continue to buy fuel as normal," Jamie Davies, a spokesman for the prime minister, said. "We obviously recognize the challenges faced by the industry, and we're taking steps to support them," Davies said, pointing to a new government initiative to accelerate the process by which drivers can get their trucking licenses.

Fuel distribution is not the first in-

dustry to face issues from the shortage of drivers. A number of factors have contributed to the shortage, including an exodus of drivers from European Union countries as a result of Britain's departure from the EU and the coronavirus pandemic.

Among the many companies struggling to maintain stock and service levels are pub company JD Wetherspoon, whose founder was an ardent supporter of Brexit, and fast-food chains KFC, McDonald's and Nando's.

Supermarkets have also reported a shortage of some goods, while vaccine company Seqirus said drivers shortages had delayed its deliveries of flu vaccines. □



## Some Argentines turn to unusual pandemic pets for comfort

By **ALMUDENA CALATRAVA**  
and **NATACHA PISARENKO**  
Associated Press

Millions of people have found solace during the pandemic in cuddling a dog or cat. For a few, comfort comes in other forms — those of a horse or a pig, perhaps a possum-like sugar glider or even a tarantula. As the new coronavirus began to circulate last year, Luciana Benetti found her plans for a big traditional 15th birthday party scrapped. In its place, her parents gave her a pig. Chanchi turned out to be a loyal and loving companion — racing to her side when she fainted.

"One day my legs gave way and he came running. He grabbed my hair and raised my head," she said. She had been taking online classes at home, unable to see friends or schoolmates. "I didn't feel well. I was dizzy because I couldn't leave." Without Chanchi, "I wouldn't be me," said Benetti, who often sleeps alongside the 20-kilo (45-pound) Juliana pig that greets her with a squeal of delight when she arrives at her house.

Even less common is the case of Lorena Álvarez, whose Buenos Aires apartment is also home to 28 pocket-sized marsupials commonly known as sugar gliders.

"They create pure love for me," she said. "Do you know what it is to lay down ... and they smother you with kisses?"



Associated Press

Álvarez, who teaches statistics at a university — online these days — lives otherwise alone, but said the pets have helped her feel like she has company — sometimes popping up atop her head during Zoom calls.

"I get up and I live for them. They are my engine of struggle and of life," she said of the animals that scamper over her looking to be petted, or leap and glide down to the floor.

The 28 are the result of two she adopted several years ago after getting a permit for the exotic animals.

That sort of multiplication is one of several reasons that many animal rights groups oppose keeping gliders as pets, and why some dealers sell only neutered males.

Skeptics say the animals are often abandoned by overwhelmed owners less dedicated than Álvarez — who herself offers advice to would-be owners — or suffer in the hands of people unprepared for the behaviors, special diets and needs of a tree-dwelling night creature that can glide for 50 yards (meters) when free. Some places, including California and New York City, ban them as pets. Argentine veterinarian Adrian Petta, who specializes in unconventional pets, said he's seen hundreds of animals over the past 18 months of the pandemic — pigs, rabbits, birds, rodents, geckos and the like.

"Many people have felt alone and have sought

pets, or they are tired of the television and computers and need more affective relationships," he said. Even with those that show no affection, "people can feed them and feel that someone or something needs them."

That's the case for Osvaldo Negri, a 50-year-old nurse. Negri said he began raising spiders to overcome arachnophobia, and now has 60. He said that caring for them has helped him cope with working at the hospital in the midst of COVID-19, "unplugging" as he watches and sometimes touches the spiders, feeding them cockroaches.

"I concentrate on having to move slowly because if they frighten, they could fall" and could die, he said,

showing off a colorful and somewhat venomous Mexican tarantula in the palm of his hand.

As with gliders, the choice of pet can be controversial. The red-kneed *Brachypelma smithi* tarantula he displayed is listed as a "near-threatened" species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, but the trade in similar arachnoids has helped push 21 other varieties onto its official list of threatened and endangered species.

For Solana Pesca, companionship comes with the bright-eyed rats Regue and Brama, who scratch at their cage when they see her enter the door of her small apartment in Buenos Aires.

"They understand what you feel, they seek you out," said Solis, who works at an animal laboratory.

South of Buenos Aires, in the town of Tandil, 77-year-old Alberto Castro had spent much of his time at the Hogar San Jose, a home for the elderly, sitting in a chair. That changed in March last year, just as the pandemic was starting to appear, when the home's operator, Alejandro Moreno Hueyo, brought in a horse named Coco.

Castro took to caring for the horse, which arrived in bad shape.

"It changed my life. I care for it, it seeks me out and when I approach, it neighs. As long as I am there, nothing is going to happen to it," he said. □

## Mexico allows limited return of activists to help porpoise

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The environmentalist group Sea Shepherd said Thursday the Mexican government will allow it to return to the Gulf of Mexico to help efforts to save the critically endangered vaquita marina porpoise, but won't allow the group to remove illegal gill nets.

It marks the latest Mexican government move that appears to give equal weight to sovereignty and fishing concerns, and the fate of

the world's most endangered sea marine mammal.

Only about 10 of the elusive porpoises are believed to remain in the Gulf, the only place they live, and they cannot be held or bred in captivity.

For years, Mexico has relied on Sea Shepherd to remove most of the illegal nets that trap and drown vaquitas, while doing relatively little to combat violent attacks by poachers

on the environmentalists' ships. The group estimates it has removed about 1,000 of the long, heavy nets over the last six years.

But the environmentalists were forced to leave the Gulf, also known as the Sea of Cortes, in January after a New Year's Eve attack in which fishermen rammed a Sea Shepherd vessel with their boat; one of the fishermen later reportedly died of injuries sustained in that attack.



Associated Press

Since then, the job of locating and removing nets has been largely left to Mexico's navy, which has done little to stop fishermen set-

ting nets to catch totoaba, a fish whose swim bladder is a delicacy in China and sells for thousands of dollars per pound (kilogram). □



# LOCAL



## Census 2020 results

**ORANJESTAD** - The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) informs the results of the Censo2020. The results of Censo2020 are compared with Censo2010 to indicate if there were changes over the last 10 years. The results are categorized into eight topics. Here are the results for the topic, Population

### How many are we?

During the Censo2020 a total of 108.166 persons were counted, representing an increase of 6.682 persons compared to Censo2010. It means that in the last ten years, our population continued to grow more slowly than in the prior decades. During the last ten years, the population increased by 6.6%. It means that the population density continues to grow. While in the Censo2010 there were 564 persons per square kilometer, during the Censo2021



they counted 601 persons per square kilometers. Our population consists of more women than men. Women represent 52.8% and men 47.2% of the population. The average median age is 42 years. It entails four years more compared to Censo2010. The average age of women is 43 years and of men 40 years. The largest group of our population consists of adults between 18 to 64 years old. They represent 62.8% of the population. Compared to Censo2010 this group increased by 4.3%. The sec-

ond largest group consists of children and youth between 0 and 17 years. They represent 21.2% of our population. Compared to Census2010 this group decreased by 10.9%. The smallest group of our population consists of senior citizens, persons 65 years and older. This group consists of 16.0% of the population. Compared with Censo2010, it increased by 63%. In other words, the population of Aruba increasingly consists of persons 65 years and older.



### Housing

According to the data collected by Censo2020, 78.3% of households in Aruba live in a house. In Censo2010, 79.5% of households lived in houses. The second-largest group of households lives in an apartment. This group represents 17.9% of households in Aruba. It entails a slight increase compared to Censo 2010, where 16.4% of households lived in apartments 3.8% of the total households live in different types of housing, namely:

- 2.0% live in trailer or container;
- 1.2% live in a separate room within a house;
- 0.4% live in an outside room;
- 0.2% live in other types of housing, for example, a condominium.

Compared to prior censuses, for example, 2000 and 2010, there are no significant changes in the percentage of households living in these types of housing, except for households living in an outside room. In the Censo2000, 2.0% of households in Aruba lived in an outside room. The percentage dropped to 1.1% in Censo 2010 and continued to decline to 0.4% in Censo2020.

### Homeownership

The Censo2020 results indicate that 75% of households own the house they live in. It represents an increase of 11.9% compared to Censo2010, where the percentage stood at 67%. The percentage of households that rent their home decreased from 28.2% in Censo2010 to 22.3% in Censo2020. The percentage of households that live free of charge in their homes also decreased from 3.7% in 2010 to 2.4% in 2020.

For more information, you may visit the CBS website [www.census2020.aw](http://www.census2020.aw) or their Facebook: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba. □

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## Olivier Falchi named executive chef at the Hilton

**PALM BEACH** The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino recently announced that international chef Olivier Falchi will be overseeing all culinary operations for the resort as Executive Chef.

The French-born chef brings with him to Aruba a wealth of experience in top-notch restaurants and hotels around the globe. Throughout his career, Falchi had the opportunity to work in a variety of culinary settings, and appreciating local and cultural influences on cuisine.

At the heart of his craft is a strong native culinary tradition from the south of France, the city of Auch where he was born, close to the Spanish border. He fondly recalls an elaborate meal served at home, every night of the week, for family members and friends to congregate and connect, with a special more elaborate edition on Sunday.

As an aspiring young chef making a name for himself in culinary circles Falchi had the pleasure to work at hotels and restaurants including top-rated Relais Et Chateaux establishments, in Switzerland, France, French Polynesia and Argentina.

Combining his classic French training with the Argentinean art of using open fire in the kitchen, Falchi found his culinary niche, enjoying awards and recognitions as Chef of the Year, repeatedly, while landing Best Hotel Restaurant for his workplaces, Hotel Sofitel Arroyo in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Hotel Sofitel, Arc de Triomphe, Paris, France. Invited as Celebrity Chef, he cooked his way in festivals around the world including Peru, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Mexico, Spain, Canada, and Colombia.

As the pandemic hit, the chef transitioned smoothly from high-volume catering, events, and specialty restaurants to take out and delivery, developing a great following of foodies, cooped up at home between four walls, waiting for restrictions to be lifted. He also regularly aired Master Classes on the internet, streamed in different countries under his own brand name: La Cuisine d'Olivier.

"I worked harder than I ever worked during the pandemic," he shares with a great sense of accomplishment, "food is a great way of taking care of humanity in times of crisis. You feed people, and you make them



happy," he adds.

The news of Falchi's versatility and excellent culinary pedigree reached Aruba, as Vasco Baselli, the General Manager of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino was ready to recruit outstanding new talent, in the wake of former Executive Chef, Matt Bolland's retirement.

He was impressed with the credential and with the rare combination of old school and new school knowledge Falchi brings to the development of restaurant menu concepts, catering for large and small events and special innovative celebrations.

"My previous island experience, Falchi bantered was in the National Service to my country, France, in Guadelupe, where I learned to savor and prepare Creole food. It will, no doubt, come in handy in Aruba," he concludes.

Chef Falchi is Member of the Culinary Academy of France, Member of Les Toques Blanches Internationales, and Member of Lucullus, French Chefs of Argentina, he is author of a hard cover book La Cuisine d'Olivier, as well as a global food ambassador as Catering and Consulting Chef under his own brand name: La Cuisine d'Olivier. □





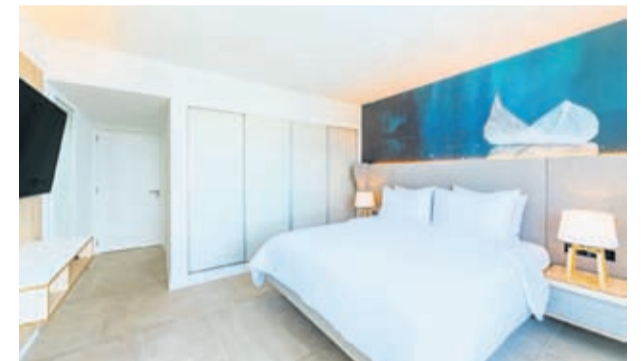
# Make your stay on Aruba unique! Radisson Blu: trendy, fresh and new



**PALM BEACH** — There is a new kid in town, or rather: a new lady named Radisson Blu Aruba. Radisson Blu brand originates from Copenhagen, Denmark, where interior design and style live. The upper upscale hotel brand breathes the freshness of clean sheets, eases your mind with white and light wooded tones and pampers you with a luxury, trendy feel. This resort sets itself apart from the rest with huge, spacious rooms, impeccable service, a beach chic appearance and a superb location where everything you need is within walking distance. The buzzing nightlife of Palm Beach is around the corner, the stunning white-sanded beaches a stone throw away! With special opening rates this is your chance to try the lady in blue!



the attention to details: the elevator space is upgraded with corners of huge bamboo poles and trendy light bulbs incorporated in a wall of wooded decoration. The hallways are high and spacious taking you to the hip suite where the design is white with light wood to provide a luxury, contemporary ambiance. The suite's kitchen is fully equipped with an oven, dishwasher and kitchenware, a big family table ready to invite you to family breakfast or a friends gathering. You feel great, the white interior even accentuates the bright-blue ocean in front of you: inhale this Zen moment from your spacious balcony.



ings. One thing has to be said: the hotel's staff makes a difference. Real smiles, real attention and real enthusiasm is what you encounter. Here we are experiencing something new and a new place has new vibes, for you to discover. Go and find out why Sunset Bistro is the next hotspot for a bite, a drink or more.

### Fabulous facts

132 expansive suites, which feature free Wi-Fi, multiple bedrooms, a spacious living room and dining area, and a well-equipped kitchen. From 1.073 to 2.147 square feet you will have a perfect match for a family or two couples, or have all the space to yourself; it is entirely up to you. For sweeping vistas of Aruba's beaches, upgrade to a suite located on the top floors of the hotel. Blu's suites offer views of the ocean, island, or pool to inspire you while you relax.

Radisson Blu offers more than most standard rooms, you feel you are renting a condominium with the luxury services of a hotel. On your way to the suite the resort shows you already



### Have a Sunset bite

A delightful breakfast, a scrumptious lunch or a delicious dinner are all possible at Sunset Bistro on the third floor. Here you will find a modern setting by the hotel's infinity pool with amazing ocean views. The chef and his team are clearly dedicated to making you come back presenting to you tasty tapas items or full entrée offer-

### Water wellness

Imagine to wake up in your spacious, stylish suite and after some yawning and stretching you enjoy a cup of Joe on your balcony where your eye catches the huge pool below. This is very inviting and your body needs this as we all know that water makes us feel calm. The only worries you will have is to choose between the infinity pool right in front of Sunset Bistro or the big adult and children's pools centered between the suites and main hotel building. Cindy or one of her colleagues from the Acqua Breeze Pool Bar welcome you with a big smile and Caribbean flair.

### That Blu thing

To say it all in a nutshell: this resort has a special something to it, you feel the difference in the attention, the design, the details and the space. To find out for yourself, you need to dive into the experience and most probably you will say like we do: it's a Blu thing. □



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# Stocks rise on Wall Street, erasing most weekly losses

By DAMIAN J. TROISE and  
ALEX VEIGA

AP Business Writers

Stocks on Wall Street were broadly higher in afternoon trading Thursday, erasing weekly losses for most of the major indexes.

The rally extends the gains from a day before, when the Federal Reserve signaled it may begin easing its extraordinary support measures for the economy later this year.

The S&P 500 index was up 1.5% as of 2:13 p.m. Eastern. The benchmark index is now within 1.7% of the all-time high it set on Sept. 2. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 584 points, or 1.7%, to 34,842 and the Nasdaq rose 1.1%.

Nearly every stock in the S&P 500 rose. It's now up 0.6% for the week and has recovered from a sharp sell-off on Monday. The turnaround is more pronounced within the Dow, which is now up 0.8% for the week after having been down 1.9% for the week as of Tuesday.

The change in investor sentiment has also put oil prices in the green. Benchmark U.S. crude oil is now up 1.4% for the week. Bond yields moved solidly higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 1.39% from 1.32% late Wednesday.

Technology companies and banks led the way higher. Cloud-based software company Salesforce.com was a standout with a 7.1% gain after raising its sales forecast for the year. Citigroup rose 4.2%.

Small-company stocks, which are typically a good measure of investor confidence for economic growth, also jumped over to the winning column. The Russell 2000 is up 12.1% for the day and 1.3% for the week.

Other standouts included Olive Garden owner Darden Restaurants. Its stock jumped 6% after delivering strong quarterly results.

Investors got some reassuring news out of China, where Evergrande, one of the country's biggest pri-

vate real estate developers, said it will make a payment due Thursday on a domestic bond. Concerns about the potential for a default jarred global markets earlier in the week.

European and Asian markets rose. The Federal Reserve on Wednesday indicated it may start raising its benchmark interest rate sometime next year, earlier than it envisioned three months ago. It also said it will likely begin slowing the pace of its monthly bond purchases "soon" if the economy keeps improving. The Fed and other central banks have been buying bonds throughout the pandemic to help keep long-term interest rates low.

"The reality is that the Fed is going to err on side of not tightening anything on inflation until they absolutely have to," said Brent Schutte, chief investment strategist, Northwestern Mutual Wealth Management Company. "They are going to stick around as long as they pos-

sibly can."

The central bank has been closely watching job growth to get a better gauge of the economic recovery. The jobs market has seen a choppy recovery amid a resurgence of COVID-19 with the highly contagious delta variant. The Labor Department's latest update shows that the number of Americans applying for unemployment aid rose last week for a second straight week to 351,000.

Markets have had a rough September and investors could be in for more choppiness as they work through a mix of concerns, Schutte said. That includes COVID-19 and its lingering impact on the economy, along with a slow recovery for the employment market and the Fed's position on support.

"People got so used to a one-way market," he said. "It's going to be more of two-way market and investors need to get used that, but I still think the trend is higher." □

## In a brutal labor market, Target trims holiday hiring goals

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO  
AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Target will hire fewer seasonal workers this year as it navigates a tight labor market, instead offering more hours and flexibility to the employees it does have.

About 100,000 seasonal workers will be hired nationwide, the company said Thursday, about 30,000 less than last year. Many of those workers will be offered jobs beyond the holiday season. A total of 5 million additional hours of work will be offered during the holiday season to non-holiday hires, potentially

adding \$75 million more into their paychecks.

Already, Target's hourly employees are working nearly 15% more than last year.

Employers have struggled all year to find staff. They've increased hourly pay, announced signing bonuses and cast aside previous minimum standards like a high school diploma. They're also making applications more convenient. UPS this month said it will hire more than 100,000 people for the holiday rush and for many, a job offer from UPS will come within 30 minutes of applying.

In its own bid to attract

more workers last month, Target said that it would spend \$200 million over the next four years to offer its workers free undergraduate and associate degree programs as well as certificates in business-oriented majors at select institutions. Target does not appear to be alone in the decision to lower its hiring goals. Global recruiting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas predicts retailers will add 700,000 workers during this year's holiday season, over 36,000 fewer than in 2020. Hiring before the pandemic was particularly robust, however, and hires this year out-



Associated Press

pace those of 2019. Retailers are focused more on hiring people who will stay rather than temporary, seasonal workers, said Andrew Challenger, senior vice president of Challenger, Gray & Christmas. And employers are trying to

better accommodate the workers they can find.

Target, based in Minneapolis, is allowing a lot more potential flexibility through a new mobile scheduling app that allows workers to choose shifts or swap with other employees. □

## GM invests \$300M in China's self-driving car company Momenta

General Motors is investing \$300 million in China's self-driving car company Momenta.

GM said Thursday that the investment will speed up the development of next-generation self-driving technologies in China. The move is also part of a plan GM announced three

months ago to invest \$35 billion in engineering and capital in electric vehicle and autonomous vehicle technology from 2020 to 2025.

"Together with GM, we will jointly invest in autonomous vehicle technologies to enhance driving safety, convenience and efficiency,"

Momenta CEO Xudong Cao said in a prepared statement.

GM this year is making a hard push into new technologies, even scrapping its old square blue logo for a lower case gm surrounded by rounded corners and an 'm' that looks like an electrical plug.

It has set a goal of making the vast majority of the vehicles it produces electric by 2035, and the entire company carbon neutral, including operations, five years after that. It's partnered with Microsoft with hopes of accelerating its rollout of electric, self-driving cars. □





**CROSSWORD**

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 41 Muralist
  - 1 Absorb Rivera
  - 6 Scout settlements
  - 43 Bumbling
  - 44 Slip
  - 11 Past plump
  - 45 Tag numbers
  - 12 "— of Two Cities"
  - 46 College VIPs
  - 13 Birch's kin
  - 14 Less common
  - 15 Cassis cocktail
  - 16 Market activity
  - 18 Sense of self
  - 19 Deli meat
  - 20 Finished off
  - 21 Band sample
  - 23 Bit of change
  - 25 Museum focus
  - 27 Summer sign
  - 28 Dog show category
  - 30 Trolley's kin
  - 33 Batter's goal
  - 34 Original acct.
  - 36 Nest egg
  - 37 Battle site of 1945
  - 39 Plumber's vehicle
  - 40 Western evergreen

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 Drenched
  - 2 Compel
  - 3 Hall of Fame pitcher
  - 4 Try out
  - 5 Australia city
  - 6 Chewy candy
  - 7 Somewhat
  - 8 Hall of Fame pitcher
  - 9 More than enough
  - 10 Suit material
  - 17 Grammys category
  - 22 Vein makeup
  - 24 Court sight
  - 26 Lease signers
  - 28 Beach outfit
  - 29 Grass coating
  - 31 Region of Spain
  - 32 Upscale homes
  - 33 Pueblo people
  - 35 Crossed the creek
  - 38 "Huh-uh"
  - 42 Wrath

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45					46				

9-24

A X Y D L B A A X R  
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.

9-24

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

X Q E P N H P W X O H G V G H W X

X O P Z F P Z X O H Y Q G E L U Q W X

J H Q J E H H M P W X X O V X P W

V E E . — Q W B V G Y P E L H

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A MAN WHO DARES TO WASTE ONE HOUR OF LIFE HAS NOT DISCOVERED THE VALUE OF LIFE. — CHARLES DARWIN



Associated Press

## One to charge them all: EU demands single plug for phones

By **KELVIN CHAN**  
AP Business Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — The European Union announced Thursday to require the smartphone industry to adopt a uniform charging cord for mobile devices, a push that could eliminate the all-too-familiar experience of rummaging through a drawer full of tangled cables to find the right one.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, proposed legislation that would mandate USB-C cables for charging, technology that many device makers have already adopted. The main holdout is Apple, which said it was concerned the new rules would limit innovation, and that would end up hurting consumers. iPhones come with the company's own Lightning charging port, though the newest models come with cables that can be plugged into a USB-C socket.

The push by the EU will certainly be cheered by the millions of people who have searched through a jumble of snarled cables for the one that fits their phone. But the EU also wants to cut down on the 11,000 metric tons of electronic waste thrown out every year by Europeans. The commission said the

typical EU resident owns at least three chargers, and use two regularly, but 38% of people report not being able to charge their phones at least once because they couldn't find a compatible charger. Some 420 million mobile phones or portable electronic devices were sold in the EU last year.

The draft rules also call for standardizing fast charging technology and giving consumers the right to choose whether to buy new devices with or without a charger, which the EU estimates will save consumers 250 million euros (\$293 million) a year. After attempting for more than a decade to cajole the industry into adopting a common standard - efforts that whittled dozens of different charging plugs down to a handful - the EU's executive Commission is pushing the issue.

"Chargers power all our most essential electronic

devices. With more and more devices, more and more chargers are sold that are not interchangeable or not necessary. We are putting an end to that," Thierry Breton, the EU's internal market commissioner, said. "With our proposal, European consumers will be able to use a single charger for all their portable electronics - an important step to increase convenience and reduce waste."

Companies will get two years to adapt to the new rules once they take effect. The rules would apply only to electronics sold in the European single market's 30 countries, but, like the EU's strict privacy regulations, they could end up becoming a de facto standard for the rest of the world.

Apple said it shared the European Commission's commitment to protecting the environment but questioned whether the proposals would help consumers. □

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# EPA rule sharply limits HFCs, gases used as refrigerants

By **MATTHEW DALY**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In what officials call a key step to combat climate change, the Environmental Protection Agency is sharply limiting domestic production and use of hydrofluorocarbons, highly potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators and air conditioners. The new rule announced Thursday follows through on a law Congress passed last year and is intended to decrease U.S. production and use of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years, part of a global phaseout designed to slow global warming.

The administration also is taking steps to crack down on imports of HFCs, greenhouse gases that are thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide. They often leak through pipes or appliances that use compressed refrigerants and are considered a major driver of global warming. President Joe Biden has pledged to embrace a 2016 global agreement to greatly reduce HFCs by 2036.

White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy, a former EPA administrator, said the new rule was "a win on climate and a win on jobs and American competitiveness. It's really, frankly, folks, a very big deal."

The rule, set to take effect in late October, is expected to reduce harmful emissions by the equivalent of 4.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2050, McCarthy said, a total similar to three years of emissions from the U.S. power sector. EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the phasedown is backed by a coalition of industry groups that see it as an opportunity to "supercharge"



Associated Press

American leadership on domestic manufacturing and production of alternative refrigerants. The industry has long been shifting to the use of alternative refrigerants and pushed for a federal standard to avoid a patchwork of state laws and regulations.

"This action reaffirms what President Biden always says that when he thinks about climate, he thinks about jobs," Regan said, echoing a Biden refrain about climate change. Transitioning to safer alternatives and more energy-efficient cooling technologies is expected to generate more than \$270 billion in cost savings and public health benefits over the next 30 years, Regan said.

A pandemic relief and spending bill passed by Congress last December directs the EPA to sharply reduce production and

use of HFCs. The measure, known as the American Innovation and Manufacturing, won wide bipartisan support. The law also includes separate measures to promote technologies to capture and store carbon dioxide produced by power and manufacturing plants and calls for reductions in diesel emissions by buses and other vehicles.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., chairman of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, was an influential backer of the law, with Sen. John Kennedy, R-La. Both represent states that are home to chemical companies that produce alternative refrigerants and sought regulatory certainty through federal action.

At a signing ceremony Thursday, Carper said the new rule was "a profound leap forward in tackling the climate crisis," even if

many Americans probably have never heard of HFCs or realized how they contribute to global warming. The HFC provision in the new law was supported by an unusual coalition that included major environmental and business groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, American Chemistry Council and the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute. The chemistry council represents major companies including Dow, DuPont, Honeywell, Chemours and Arkema.

The administration said it also is taking other steps to ensure reductions in HFCs, including creation of an interagency task force to prevent illegal trade, production, use or sale of the climate-damaging gases. The task force will be led by the Department of Homeland Security, and EPA's offices of Air and Radiation and Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. □



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**Editor**

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**Assistant Director**

**Xiomara Arends**

**Editors**

**Liza Koolman (Management assistant)**

**Richard Brooks**

**Sales**

**Linda Reijnders**

**Sulaika Croes**

**Classifieds**

**classified@cspnv.com**

**Distribution and Collection**

**accounting@bondia.com**

**Social / Website**

**Juan Luis Pinto**

**Pilar Flores**

**Columnists**

**Anthony Croes**

**Weststraat 22**

**T: 582-7800**

**E: news@arubatoday.com**

**W: www.arubatoday.com**

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# Its relevance at stake, UN reaches toward a new generation

By **SALLY HO**

**Associated Press**

At the United Nations this week, the pandemic-era rules of engagement for General Assembly week are strict. Entourage sizes are tightly regulated, and there are no exceptions for kings, presidents or other "excellencies." Yet somehow, in the middle of it all, the U.N. made room to fully embrace the diplomatic soft power of seven young Korean pop stars.

While the mega-popular BTS may croon that they don't need "Permission to Dance," the decision to allow the K-pop band to both give a serious speech to world leaders and film a sunny new music video at the U.N.'s distinctive headquarters was another of the many signs that the elders are ready — eager, even — to turn to young people for diplomacy and relevance. In this era of kid icons and social media activism, the contrast was evident: globally cherished musical juggernaut fronted by the youthful South Korean men in perfect makeup on one hand, and the famously bureaucratic — stodgy, even — 76-year-old diplomatic institution built in the aftermath of WWII on the other. The paradox was captured by Trevor Noah, the millennial late-night talk show host: "Old people were probably watching this, like, 'What the hell is a BTS?'" he said. "And young people were watching it, like, 'What the hell is the U.N.?"

In his General Assembly opening address on Tuesday, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres practically scolded world leaders for disappointing young people with a perceived inaction on climate change, inequalities and the lack of educational opportunities, among other issues.

"Some 60% of your future voters feel betrayed by their governments," Guterres told the gathering of world leaders. "We must prove to children and young people that despite the seriousness of the situation, the world does have a plan and the



**Members of South Korean K-pop band BTS watch a music video on the General Assembly Hall monitors during a meeting on Sustainable Development Goals at the 76th session of the U.N. General Assembly at U.N. headquarters**

**Associated Press**

governments are committed to implementing it."

Rather than initiating a sentiment, Guterres clearly was channeling one that already exists. Other world leaders from Slovakia to Maldives, Latvia to Costa Rica took a similar conciliatory tone toward the estimated 1.8 billion human beings aged 10 to 24 — a cohort that the United Nations claims is the largest generation of young people in the history of the world. "A new generation has grown up in the last 30 years," said Latvia President Egils Levits. "In Latvia, like elsewhere, youth are deeply concerned about the climate crisis and about disinformation. They want to build inclusive societies where people of all generations, backgrounds and communities can feel included — not only formally, but in practice."

To this end, Guterres also announced the creation of a new U.N. Youth Office to "bridge the generational divide" in global affairs. While details are sparse on the actual functions and budget of this new office, it is designed to tackle issues distinctly tied to the activism of people between the ages of 15 and 29, including climate change and worldwide inequities.

"If we want to ask what kind of world do we want to have, 15 to 29 is kind of the age that's doing it," said Connie Flanagan, a University of Wisconsin professor who studies youth activism. "Those are the years when you're taking stock of your life. And as a result, you're taking stock of your world." Flanagan said the United Nations must find a way to include young people in initiatives but not tokenize them, and in the process harness the strengths of late adolescents and early adults, who are generally less jaded about the pace of change and more collaborative and eager to make it happen.

"Whatever the motivation may be, it's good they want to remain relevant with young people," Flanagan said. "It's always hard for people to have power to give up power."

The new office will be an expansion of the current U.N. youth envoy's work, which has been slowly building up over the past decade just as a generation of young people have established their agency online — earning corporate deals as entrepreneurs, developing loyal fans as entertainers and spearheading social movements, often using just their words, charisma

and smartphone.

The current appointed envoy, Jayathma Wickramanayake said young luminaries like Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg have brought mainstream visibility to young people's agenda, and social media has democratized the work of activism and what it means to influence public policy. Yousafzai was a Pakistani schoolgirl when she was shot in the head for advocating for girls' access to education, and the Swedish Thunberg has been an outspoken — and sometimes confrontational — force on climate change. Both were teenage girls when they, to much fanfare, addressed the United Nations in recent years.

By paving the way for other young people to take on weighty issues, Wickramanayake said, the two have also helped shatter preconceptions that young people lack experience to deal with world leaders and expertise on issues like education or the extremes of climate change.

"Having those icons with really global outreach and also the power to reach out to the world's most powerful people have destroyed those stereotypes ... about young people having leadership positions and

being able to lead movements," said Wickramanayake, who at 30 years old is the youngest person in Guterres' cabinet. She was first hired at 26, making her the youngest person ever to serve in the top ranks of the secretary-general's administration in the history of the United Nations.

The sensibility is spreading. In Denmark, a children's nonprofit on Tuesday also convened 20 "delegates" between the ages of 11 and 16 years old from across the globe to deliver a manifesto to the United Nations. They called themselves the "Children's General Assembly" — an initiative sponsored in part by the Lego toy company — and discussed a range of issues from children's rights and bullying to refugees and development goals.

"If you really want to do something about (injustice), it has to start with you," said Mankgara Maime, a 16-year-old girl from Johannesburg, South Africa, who participated in the Denmark presentation. "You can't feel sorry about them and not think about how to help."

There is already evidence that this week may prove to be a milestone for the U.N.'s engagement with young people.

Nearly a million people tuned into the U.N. YouTube channel livestream on Monday to watch BTS discuss young peoples' resilience, COVID-19 vaccines and the earth's well-being. To date, that BTS music video — which could easily be mistaken for a U.N. promotional reel — has 16 million views on the same channel. The U.N. institution itself has just 1.7 million regular subscribers.

"I've heard that people in their teens and 20s today are being referred to as COVID's lost generation, that they've lost their way at a time when they need the most diverse opportunities," RM, the leader of BTS, said in their speech. "But I think it's a stretch to say they're lost just because the paths they tread can't be seen by grown-up eyes." □



## Kedon Slovis, USC return home to face Oregon State

By DAN GREENSPAN

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — The last time Southern California played at home, there were so few fans left at the end of a 42-28 loss to Stanford that individual critiques could be heard as Clay Helton headed up the tunnel for what would be the last time as head coach.

Whether the stands are full to embrace the Trojans under interim coach Donte Williams in his first game at the Coliseum against Oregon State on Saturday is one of the questions lingering for a program that seems to attract drama.

"I hope everybody's in there, is happy to cheer on the Trojans, and we play the way that everybody is accustomed to us playing," Williams said.

A 45-14 win at Washington State in Williams' first game in charge of USC (2-1, 1-1 Pac-12) seemed capable of generating the enthusiasm that had been lacking for nearly all of Helton's tenure.

However, freshman quarterback Jaxson Dart, who ignited the Trojans by coming off the bench to throw for 391 yards and four touchdowns, isn't expected to play against the Beavers (2-1). Dart hasn't practiced this week after injuring his



Associated Press

right knee in his collegiate debut, and Williams has not provided any details about the nature of Dart's injury.

That means junior Kedon Slovis should remain the starter. Although Slovis was the target of some booing along with the rest of the offense for poor play against the Cardinal, running back Keaontay Ingram believes the new energy Williams has brought should lead to a more positive atmosphere.

"Even though Coach Helton got fired, we still got to keep pushing, keep moving forward," Ingram said.

"And Coach Donte coming in with new rules, new traditions, new circumstances and stuff, and everybody on the team is buying into that, so I feel like it's gonna be one fun weekend this weekend."

As for the Beavers (2-1), they remain something of an unknown as they start Pac-12 play despite delivering emphatic wins by a combined margin of 87-27 in their past two games. Coach Jonathan Smith recognizes even with their uncertainty at quarterback, the Trojans represent a significant test.

"I think everybody in this league can beat everybody, and you've got to play well on Saturday to win and we're gonna have to play really well to beat these guys," Smith said.

**MIGHT BE DUE**

Oregon State has won just three of 48 games (3-42-3) against USC in Los Angeles, the last coming in 1960. Smith said the Beavers' lack of success in the series is not a talking point for the current team. "In the locker room, the team meetings, it's so much about what we're headed towards," he said. "The previous years

don't matter. It's going to come down to who plays the best for 60 minutes this Saturday."

**LONDON'S CALLING**

The Trojans should have junior WR Drake London, their top offensive weapon, available after he suffered an apparent head injury against the Cougars. London, who ranks second in the FBS with 29 receptions and fourth with 375 yards receiving, returned to practice Wednesday after being limited to conditioning drills earlier in the week.

**BACK ON TRACK?**

After seeing progress from its running game to start this season, USC took a step backward as it managed 48 yards rushing against Washington State. Dart was the team's leading ball-carrier with 32 yards on six attempts, while Ingram and Vavae Malepeai combined for 25 yards on 16 rushes.

**CONTAINMENT**

The Beavers did not allow a play of 20 yards or longer in a 42-0 win over Idaho last week, something they had not done since a 38-3 win against Arizona on Oct. 13, 2001. It also marked the first time Oregon State did not give up a pass play covering at least 20 yards since denying Stanford in a 26-15 loss on Nov. 5, 2016. □

## Iowa becomes first Power 5 school to add women's wrestling

By JOHN BOHNENKAMP  
Associated Press

**IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP)** — Iowa announced Thursday it will become the first Power Five school to add a women's wrestling program and it will begin competition in the 2023-24 season.

"Being the first is huge," Iowa men's wrestling coach Tom Brands said. "Being the first is impactful." Iowa's men's program is coming off its 24th NCAA national championship. Athletic director Gary Barta said adding a women's program had been discussed for several years.

"(Wrestling) is part of the history of Iowa," Barta said. "It's part of the university's DNA." A search for a head coach will begin this fall.

The NCAA recognized women's wrestling as an emerging sport in all divisions in 2020. There are 45 women's intercollegiate wrestling programs, including five in Iowa.

The sport is growing at the high school level — 32 states have a sanctioned girls high school wrestling state championship. Girls wrestling is not sanctioned by the two high school athletic associations in Iowa, but has a state tour-

namment sponsored by the Iowa Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association. More than 600 girls participated in wrestling in Iowa last season.

The Hawkeye Wrestling Club has been sponsoring female wrestlers since 2017. Terry Steiner, the U.S. women's national coach, won an NCAA individual title and was part of three NCAA championship teams when he wrestled at Iowa in the early 1990s.

"Women's wrestling is awesome," Brands said. "There are little girls around the country, around the planet, who are going to see



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this. It's that impactful." Brands has long supported female wrestling, telling the NCAA Board of Governors in a 2017 letter that "it is long overdue for women to share in the opportunities of this great sport." The university's new wrestling building planned for con-

struction in 2022 includes training facilities.

"Frankly, Tom was in my ear three, four, five years ago saying, 'Come on boss, let's go. Let's get women's wrestling added,'" Barta said. "We were not ready to do that yet, but we were watching it." □



# Matt Ryan says he loves Atlanta, not worried about future

By **ROB MAADDI**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Matt Ryan has watched Joe Montana, Peyton Manning and Tom Brady switch teams, so he knows there's a possibility he won't finish his career with the Atlanta Falcons.

Save that speculation for talk shows and columns. Ryan is too focused on this season and too smart to say otherwise.

"The one thing in our league is that nothing is a given, right?" Ryan said on the AP Pro Football Podcast. "And so change is constant. I love Atlanta. I have loved being here for 14 years. I'm excited about the coaching staff and the front office we brought in here. And, I still have a number of years left on my contract, so I feel really good about that."

"But, when you're asked about four or five years down the line, there's just no telling. And so with that in mind, I don't worry about it. I worry about right now and trying to be the best version of myself right now." Ryan is signed through 2023 with a restructured deal that raised his salary cap number to \$48.6 million in 2022 and \$43.6 million in 2023. The Falcons made it clear they're fine rebuilding with their 36-year-old QB when they used the No.



Associated Press

4 overall pick on tight end Kyle Pitts instead of quarterbacks Justin Fields or Mac Jones.

It's been a rough start and Ryan is determined to turn things around when the Falcons (0-2) visit the New York Giants (0-2) on Sunday. Last week, Ryan got a close look at the 44-year-old Brady tossing five TDs in Atlanta's 45-28 loss to Tampa Bay. Ryan rallied the Falcons in the third quarter before two tipped balls were returned for scores.

"You definitely draw inspiration," Ryan said about Brady. "It's impressive to watch him. He looks as

good as ever. He's taken great care of himself. He's really disciplined and committed to what he's doing and has belief in what he's doing. And, I sit at the same spot. I feel like my body feels really good. I'm in a great space. I want to compete, know the drive, and my energy is as good as it's ever been. I'm enjoying what I'm doing and want to win and I want to continue to win. And so I'd love to do this for as long as I can."

Ryan, who just broke Drew Brees' NFL record for most yards passing through 14 seasons, was NFL MVP in

2016 in his second season playing in former offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan's offense. He's excited about growing in new coach Arthur Smith's system.

"It takes time to get a feel for a coach as a play caller and what the weekly routine is like, what they install on Wednesdays and Thursdays and just getting into the flow of that," Ryan said. "I also think that it takes time to get a feel for him situationally, how his brain works, what he's trying to do. I feel like we've been on the same page a lot early on this season and

been in a good spot. I think we're going to make strides as the year goes on. I'm confident that will continue to improve.

"But I think the thing I like about him best is just he's got a plan of where he wants to take this offense, being physical and running the football moving forward. We're probably not there yet, but we're working toward it. And, his self-belief and belief in the vision of what he wants for us moving forward is the thing I like the best."

Though he plans to keep playing for several more years, Ryan is an avid golfer so his future retirement plans include plenty of days on the course. Matty Ice doesn't like to look like a typical golfer when he hits the links so he has partnered with the lifestyle and performance apparel brand TravisMathew.

Recently, Ryan helped TravisMathew launch its first Eco Collection, a line of sustainable clothes made partially from recycled water bottles. From now until Dec. 15, the company will donate 100% of profits from the Eco Collection to the Surfrider Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves, and beaches. □

# Women's Euro soccer prize money doubles but only 4% of men's

By **ROB HARRIS** AP Global Soccer Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — Prize money will double for the Women's European Championship but will be less than 4% of the riches paid out for the most-recent men's tournament.

European governing body UEFA announced Thursday that the 16 women's teams at Euro 2022 in England will share 16 million euros (\$19 million), while 4.5 million euros (\$5 million) will go to clubs who release their players.

The 24 teams at the men's European Championship shared 371 million euros (\$435 million) in UEFA prize

money this year, but clubs were also guaranteed at least 200 million euros (\$235 million) for the release of players.

That means while at least 571 million euros (\$670 million) is allocated in the financial package for the men's tournament, only 20.5 million euros (\$24 million) has been set aside for the women's showpiece.

After the decision of its executive committee, UEFA said it was "ensuring that more money than ever before is distributed across the women's game."

The committee features only one woman — French Football Federation gener-

al manager Florence Hardouin — alongside 19 men.

The prize money is a reflection of the disparities in the revenue generated by the men's game compared to women's competitions.

The Women's European Championship is being hosted by England next July after being delayed by a year due to the pandemic.

FIFA has faced long-standing criticism for the inequity in funding between the men's and women's game. The global governing body awarded \$400 million in prize money for the 32 teams at the 2018 men's World Cup, includ-



Associated Press

ing \$38 million to champion France. It awarded \$30 million for the 24 teams at the 2019 Women's World Cup, including \$4 million to the Americans after their second straight title.

FIFA has increased the total

to \$440 million for the 2022 men's World Cup and is looking to double the women's prize money to \$60 million for the expanded 32-team 2023 Women's World Cup. □