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In early primaries, voters favor polling places over mail

By **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY**
Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — The great vote-by-mail wave appears to be receding just as quickly as it arrived. After tens of millions of people in the United States opted for mail ballots during the pandemic election of 2020, voters in early primary states are returning in droves to in-person voting this year. In Georgia, one of the mostly hotly contested states, about 85,000 voters had requested mail ballots for the May 24 primary, as of Thursday. That is a dramatic decrease from the nearly 1 million who cast mail ballots in the state's 2020 primary at the height of the coronavirus pandemic. The trend was similar in

Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia, which held primaries this month; comparisons were not available for Nebraska, another early primary state. A step back in mail balloting was expected given easing concerns about COVID-19, but some election officials and voting experts had predicted that far more voters would seek out the convenience of mail voting once they experienced it. Helping drive the reversal is the rollback of temporary rules expanding mail ballots in 2020, combined with distrust of the process among Republicans and concerns about new voting restrictions among Democrats.

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President Joe Biden speaks at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on the West Front of the Capitol in Washington, Sunday, May 15, 2022, honoring the law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2021.

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	SATURDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
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In early primaries, voters favor polling places over mail

Continued from Front

And a year and a half of former President Donald Trump and his allies pushing false claims about mail voting to explain his loss to Democrat Joe Biden has also taken a toll on voter

confidence. "It's unfortunate because our election system has been mischaracterized and the integrity of our elections questioned," said Ben Hovland, a Democrat appointed by Trump to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

"Mail ballots are a safe and secure method of voting used by millions of Americans, including myself." A record 43% of voters in the U.S. cast mail ballots in 2020, compared with 24.5% in 2016, according to the commission's survey of lo-



Raymond Broedel casts his ballot at the City-County Building in the final hours of early voting in the primary election in Indianapolis, Monday, May 2, 2022.

Associated Press

cal election officials. The number of voters who used in-person early voting also increased, although the jump was not quite as large as in mail ballots, the survey found. Before the November 2020 election, 12 states expanded access to mail ballots by loosening certain requirements. Five more either mailed ballots to all eligible voters or allowed local officials to do so, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. This year, eight states will mail ballots to every eligible voter. In Georgia, state officials had adopted no-excuse mail ballots and three weeks of early, in-person voting before the pandemic. Laws surrounding mail voting changed after the 2020 election, amid Trump's effort to discredit the outcome after his narrow loss in the state. There is no evidence to support Trump's claims of widespread fraud or a conspiracy to steal the election. Judges, including some appointed by

Trump, dismissed numerous lawsuits challenging the results. An exhaustive review by The Associated Press of every potential 2020 voter fraud case in the six states disputed by Trump found nowhere near enough instances to affect the result. That has not stopped Republican state lawmakers from citing election security concerns as justification for new restrictions to voting, and mail voting in particular. The changes have confused some voters. In Texas, voters were tripped up by new identification requirements in the state's March primary, resulting in an abnormally high rate of mail ballot rejections. Requesting a mail ballot is significantly harder now in Georgia than in 2020, when voters could go online to request a ballot be sent to them without a printed request. Part of the 2021 voting law pushed by Republicans required voters to print or obtain a paper form, then sign it in ink before sending it in by mail, email or fax. □



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Biden urges unity to stem racial hate after Buffalo shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Sunday cited the Buffalo shootings in calling for national unity as a remedy for “the hate that remains a stain on the soul of America” while New York’s governor and the city’s mayor appealed for forceful action from Washington after the latest mass shooting had caused a community to grieve. Biden used his remarks at a Capitol ceremony honoring law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2021 to decry what he said his Justice Department has labeled as “a hate crime, a racially motivated act of white supremacy and violent extremism.”

Authorities say that a white gunman in military gear attacked shoppers and workers at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, on Saturday, killing 10 people, including a retired Buffalo police officer, and wounding three others. Most of the victims were Black. Law enforcement officials said Sunday that the 18-year-old gunman had researched the local demographics while looking for places with a high concentration of Black residents.

“A lone gunman, armed with weapons of war and hate-filled soul, shot and



President Joe Biden speaks at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service on the West Front of the Capitol in Washington, Sunday, May 15, 2022, honoring the law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2021.

killed 10 innocent people in cold blood at a grocery store on Saturday afternoon,” Biden said at the 41st annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service. “We must all work together to address the hate that remains a stain on the soul of America. Our hearts are heavy once again, but the resolve must never, ever waver. No one understands

this more than the people sitting in front of me,” the president said.

Biden did not address calls by Gov. Kathy Hochul, D-N.Y., and Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown for strong federal action in the aftermath of the latest act of mass violence in the United States. His brief remarks did not mention gun control efforts that have stalled in Wash-

ington.

“We’ve seen many of these mass shootings around the country year in and year out, month in and month out. And it’s always the same refrain. People send their thoughts and their prayers. Lawmakers in Washington say that there’s something that must be done,” Brown told NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Associated Press

“And then there are some on one side of the aisle that block anything from being done. It seems like there are those that believe owning a gun is more precious than the sanctity of human life. So I think people all across this country have to rise up. They have to speak more loudly and more clearly that there must be gun control in this country. This is a uniquely American phenomenon. These mass shootings don’t happen in other countries across the world,” he said.

Brown said he would like to see “sensible gun control.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said tighter gun measures are “a huge priority” for Democrats and the White House. She bemoaned the 60-vote threshold needed in the 50-50 Senate that has made it so difficult to advance such legislation, but pledged on CNN’s “State of the Union” that “we are not going away until the job is done.” Hochul said that most of what she described as “the illegal guns” being used on the streets of her state’s cities are coming from other states. “We need a national response,” she told NBC. “We need other states to step up. We need the federal government on our side.” □

McConnell, GOP senators meet Zelenskyy in surprise Kyiv stop

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and a delegation of GOP senators met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv during an unannounced visit Saturday, delivering the latest show of American solidarity with the country at war with Russia.

“Our delegation reaffirmed to President Zelenskyy that the United States stands squarely behind Ukraine and will sustain our support until Ukraine wins this war,” McConnell said in a statement released after the delegation had left Ukraine.

A video posted on Zelenskyy’s Telegram account showed McConnell, R-Ky., and Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, John Barrasso of Wyoming and John Cornyn of Texas greeting him in the capital. Zelensky, in an Instagram post, called the visit “a strong signal of bipartisan support for Ukraine from the United States Congress and the American people.”

Later, in his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said he believed that the senators’ trip showed

“the strong connection between the Ukrainian and American people. We discussed various areas of support for our country, including defense and finance, as well as strengthening sanctions against Russia.”

The trip came at a time when the Senate is working to approve a nearly \$40 billion package for Ukraine, a substantial infusion of support that will push American aid to the region well above \$50 billion. The measure includes \$6 billion for Ukraine for intelligence, equipment and training for its forces, plus \$4 billion in financing to help Ukraine and NATO allies build up their militaries.

Passage was delayed Thursday by Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, who demanded the inclusion of a proposal to have an inspector general scrutinize the new spending. But final approval is not in doubt and could come in the week ahead, reflecting overwhelming support in Congress for replenishing the Ukrainian war effort.

“They’re only asking for the resources they

need to defend themselves against this derailed invasion,” McConnell said this past week of the Ukrainians. “And they need this help right now.”

In his statement after the visit, McConnell called the visit “inspiring” and said he and his colleagues had seen firsthand “the courage, unity, and resolve of the Ukrainian people.”

McConnell added: “It is squarely in our national interest to help Ukraine achieve victory in this war and to help Ukraine and other countries deter other wars of aggression before they start.”

It was the second high-profile congressional delegation to stop in Ukraine in as many weeks. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., visited on May 1 with a group of House Democrats and promised Zelenskyy that the United States will “be there for you until the fight is done.”

First lady Jill Biden visited western Ukraine last weekend for a Mother’s Day meeting with Zelenskyy’s wife, Olena Zelenska. □

Low winds may help crews control huge New Mexico wildfire

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) —

Crews fighting the second-largest wildfire in New Mexico's history are trying to take advantage of several days of mild winds to gain control over a fire that had charred more than 450 square miles (1,165 square kilometers) by Sunday.

Fire officials said the wildfire grew by about 14 square miles (36 square kilometers) since Saturday night but now was at 36% containment, up from 27% previously. It was originally forecast that winds would pick up Monday, but fire officials said that likely won't happen until later in the week.

"We get a small reprieve," fire information officer Renette Saba said Sunday. "The winds are not strong enough to keep from getting air resources in there. The crews feel they can make good progress on contingency lines."

Saba said the fire was actively burning on one side only, with the north part going over an old scar area and producing a large smoke plume.

Nearly 2,000 firefighters were battling the 5-week-old fire that threatened



A haze of wildfire smoke hangs over the Upper Rio Grande valley behind the mesa-top city of Los Alamos, N.M., on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

the small New Mexico city of Las Vegas for a time before being stopped just outside town in the past week. The blaze has already destroyed at least 473 structures including homes and other buildings.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said Friday in a letter to President Joe Biden that New Mexico needs more help than is being provided under the

president's recent disaster declaration.

The governor said the needed response, including immediate funding for debris removal and "a full range of emergency protective measures," exceeds the state's capabilities and the federal government should bear 100% of the costs because one part of the fire was ignited by wind-blown embers from a prescribed

burn in the Santa Fe National Forest.

Wildfires have broken out this spring across multiple states in the western U.S., including California, Colorado and Arizona.

Predictions for the rest of the spring do not bode well for the West, with drought and warmer weather brought on by climate change worsening wildfire danger.

Associated Press

Nationwide, more than 2,000 square miles (5,180 square kilometers) have burned so far this year — the most at this point since 2018, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

In Colorado, a fire burning in ponderosa pine and grass southwest of Colorado Springs had grown to 1.8 square miles (4.6 square kilometers) by Sunday and remained 10% contained, fire officials said.

The High Park Fire broke out Thursday about 4 miles (6 kilometers) west of the former mining town of Cripple Creek. The cause of the fire remains unknown.

On Sunday morning, the evacuation area included 134 homes while another 463 residences were under pre-evacuation notices, said fire information officer Maribeth Pecotte.

Crews were doing mop-up work on the northwest and west-southwest edges of the fire on Sunday. At least four helicopters were aiding fire crews on the southeastern edge of the fire, which was burning in steep, rocky terrain with heavy fuels, Pecotte said. □

\$230M settlement reached over 2015 California oil spill

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The owner of an oil pipeline that spewed thousands of barrels of crude oil onto Southern California beaches in 2015 has agreed to pay \$230 million to settle a class-action lawsuit brought by fishermen and property

owners, court documents show. Houston-based Plains All American Pipeline agreed to pay \$184 million to fishermen and fish processors and \$46 million to coastal property owners in the settlement reached Friday, according to court

documents. The company didn't admit liability in the agreement, which follows seven years of legal wrangling. The agreement still must undergo a public comment period and needs federal court approval. A hearing on the matter is scheduled for June 10.

"This settlement should serve as a reminder that pollution just can't be a cost of doing business, and that corporations will be held accountable for environmental damage they cause," said Matthew Preusch, one of the attorneys who represented the plaintiffs.

Plains All American Pipeline officials didn't immediately return a message Saturday from The Associated Press seeking comment.

On May 19, 2015, oil gushed from a corroded

pipeline north of Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, northwest of Los Angeles, spreading along the coasts of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles counties.

It was the worst California coastal oil spill since 1969 and it blackened popular beaches for miles, killing or fouling hundreds of seabirds, seals and other wildlife and hurting tourism and fishing.

A federal investigation said 123,000 gallons spilled, but other estimates by experts in liquids mechanics were as high as 630,000 gallons. Federal inspectors found that Plains had made several preventable errors, failed to quickly detect the pipeline rupture and responded too slowly as oil flowed toward the ocean. Plains operators working from a Texas control room

more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) away had turned off an alarm that would have signaled a leak and, unaware a spill had occurred, restarted the hemorrhaging line after it had shut down, which only made matters worse, inspectors found.

Plains apologized for the spill and paid for the cleanup. The company's 2017 annual report estimated costs from the spill at \$335 million, not including lost revenue. The company also revised its plans for dealing with onshore pipeline spills.

In 2020, Plains agreed to pay \$60 million to the federal government to settle allegations that it violated safety laws. It also agreed to bring its nationwide pipeline system into compliance with federal safety laws. □



Workers monitor the site where an underground oil pipe broke the day before near Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif., May 20, 2015, polluting beaches and killing hundreds of birds and marine mammals.

Associated Press

U.S. set to remove 5 groups from foreign terrorism blacklist

By **MATTHEW LEE**

AP Diplomatic Writer

BERLIN (AP) — The United States is poised to remove five extremist groups, all believed to be defunct, from its list of foreign terrorist organizations, including several that once posed significant threats, killing hundreds if not thousands of people across Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Although the groups are inactive, the decision is politically sensitive for the Biden administration and the countries in which the organizations operated, and could draw criticism from victims and their families still dealing with the losses of loved ones.

The organizations include the Basque separatist group ETA, the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo, the radical Jewish group Kahane Kach and two Islamic groups that have been active in Israel, the Palestinian territories and Egypt.

The U.S. State Department notified Congress on Friday of the moves, which come at the same time as an increasingly divisive but unrelated debate in Washington and elsewhere about whether Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard should or can be legally removed from the U.S. list as part of efforts to salvage the languishing Iran nuclear deal.

That designation, which was imposed by the Trump administration, was not



A woman shelters from the rain under an umbrella, while walking past a wall painted with portraits of prisoners of the Basque separatist armed group ETA, in the small village of Hernani, northern Spain, May 2, 2018.

mentioned in Friday's notifications. In separate notices to lawmakers, the State Department said the terrorism designations for the five groups will be formally removed when the determinations are published in the Federal Register, which is expected this coming week. Copies of the notifications, all of which were signed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday, were obtained by The Associated Press. The general reason for the removals is identical in each of the cases: Blinken asserting that they were based on an administrative review of the designations,

which by law is required every five years.

The reviews take into account whether designated groups are still active, whether they have committed terrorist acts within the previous five years and whether removal from or retention of the list would be in U.S. national security interests.

Under the law that created the list, the secretary of state can remove groups that he or she deems no longer to fit the criteria.

"Based on a review of the Administrative Record assembled in this matter and in consultation with the Attorney General and the

Secretary of the Treasury, I determine that the circumstances that were the basis for the designation ... have changed in such a manner to warrant revocation of the designation," Blinken wrote in each notice.

Removing the groups from the list has the immediate effect of rescinding a range of sanctions that the designations had entailed. Those include asset freezes and travel bans as well as a prohibition on any Americans providing the groups or their members with any material support. In the past the material support provision has been broadly defined to encom-

pass money or in-kind assistance, in some cases even medical care.

All but one of the five groups was first designated a foreign terrorist organization in 1997 and have remained on the list for the past 25 years.

U.S. officials familiar with the matter said the decisions were made only after consulting lawmakers several months ago about whether the latest five-year reviews should proceed. Before now, only 15 groups have been removed from the list.

The specific reasons for each the removals are included only in classified sections that accompanied the notifications, which are not classified on their own. These sections are labeled "SECRET/NOFORN," which means their contents can only be shared among U.S. officials with proper clearances and not with foreign governments.

The groups to be removed are:

—Aum Shinrikyo (AUM), the Japanese "Supreme Truth" cult that carried out the deadly sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway in 1995 that killed 13 people and sickened hundreds more. The group has been considered largely defunct since the executions of its top echelons, including leader Shoko Asahara, in 2018. It was designated a foreign terrorist organization in 1997. □

Associated Press

Suicide bomber kills 6, gunmen kill 2 Sikhs in N.W. Pakistan

By **RIAZ KHAN**

Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)

— A suicide bombing near a security forces vehicle killed three soldiers and three children in northwest Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan on Sunday, while gunmen shot dead two minority Sikhs in Peshawar, officials said.

A military statement said the suicide bomber triggered his explosives-laden vest near a vehicle on security patrol in a village

near the town of Mir Ali in the tribal district of North Waziristan.

The attack killed two soldiers in the vehicle on the spot and wounded another. Three children playing alongside the road were also critically wounded. All of the wounded were rushed to a hospital in a helicopter but none survived, the statement said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. The military said security forces and intelli-

gence officials were combing the area searching for the bomber's handlers.

The region has served as a safe haven for local and foreign militants for years. The military carried out a massive operation after militants attacked an army-run school in Peshawar in 2014 that left over 150 dead, mostly school children.

Also on Sunday, police officer Ejaz Khan said gunmen riding on a motorcycle opened fire on two



Pakistani Sikh mourners gather around the body of a Sikh who was killed by gunmen in Peshawar, Pakistan, Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

members of the minority Sikh community in a bazaar in the Peshawar suburb of Sarband. □

Okinawa marks 50 years of end to U.S. rule amid protests

By **MARI YAMAGUCHI**

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Okinawa Governor Denny Tamaki on Sunday urged Japan's central government to do more to reduce the U.S. military presence in the southern island group as it marked the 50th anniversary of its return to Japan after 27 years of American rule, amid frustration and bitterness over a lack of support from the mainland. Tamaki said Okinawa has come a long way since the devastation of World War II and nearly three decades of U.S. rule, which ended when it reverted to Japan on May 15, 1972. But the tiny island group's yearslong demand for the mainland to share its security burden remains unresolved.

"I call on the central government to share with the entire nation the significance of Okinawa's reversion and the importance of permanent peace that Okinawans have long craved for," Tamaki said. Ceremonies marking the anniversary were held simultaneously in two locations — one in the Okinawan city of Giowan, home to a disputed U.S. air station, and the other in Tokyo. The separate ceremonies symbolize the deep divide in views



Protesters march, opposing to the ceremony marking the 50th anniversary of its return to Japan after 27 years of American rule on May 15, 1972, in Ginowan, Okinawa, Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

over Okinawa's history and ongoing suffering.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said he takes Okinawa's concerns seriously and will make efforts to reduce the burden while still maintaining U.S. military deterrence on the islands.

Kishida and his minister in charge of the islands were in Okinawa, where hundreds of protesters staged a rally Saturday demanding a speedier reduction of U.S. military forces, as fears

grow that Okinawa may become a front line of conflict amid rising China tensions.

More protests were held Sunday on Okinawa, including one in the prefectural capital of Naha, where nearly 1,000 people renewed their demands for peace.

Resentment and frustration run deep in Okinawa over the heavy U.S. presence and Tokyo's lack of effort to negotiate with Washing-

ton to balance the security burden between mainland Japan and the southern island group.

Because of the U.S. bases, Okinawa faces burdens including noise, pollution, accidents and crime related to American troops, Okinawan officials and residents say.

Adding to Okinawa's fears is the growing deployment of Japanese missile defense and amphibious capabilities on Okinawa's

outer islands, including Ishigaki, Miyako and Yonaguni, which are close to geopolitical hotspots like Taiwan. Okinawa was the site of one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, which killed about 200,000 people, nearly half of them Okinawan residents.

Okinawa was sacrificed by Japan's imperial army to defend the mainland, and many Okinawans are skeptical that the Japanese military would protect them in future conflicts, experts say. The U.S. military kept its troop presence on the island group for 20 years longer than most of Japan, until 1972, due to Okinawa's strategic importance for Pacific security to deter Russia and communism.

Many Okinawans had hoped that the islands' return to Japan would improve the economy and human rights situation as well as base burdens.

Today, a majority of the 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan under a bilateral security pact and 70% of military facilities are still in Okinawa, which accounts for only 0.6% of Japanese land. The burden has increased from less than 60% in 1972 because unwelcomed U.S. bases were moved from the mainland. □



An Indian farmer carries wheat crop harvested from a field on the outskirts of Jammu, India, April 28, 2022.

Associated Press

By **ASHOK SHARMA**

Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India on Sunday said it would keep a window open to export wheat to food-deficit countries at the government level despite restric-

tions announced two days earlier.

India's Commerce Secretary B.V.R. Subrahmanyam told reporters the government will also allow private companies to meet previous commitments to ex-

India open to exporting wheat to needy nations despite ban

port nearly 4.3 million tons of wheat until July. India exported 1 million tons of wheat in April.

India mainly exports wheat to neighboring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

A notice in the government gazette by the Directorate of Foreign Trade on Friday said a spike in global prices for wheat was threatening the food security of India and neighboring and vulnerable countries.

A key aim of restrictions on exports is to control rising domestic prices. Global wheat prices have risen by more than 40% since the beginning of the year.

Before the war, Ukraine

and Russia accounted for a third of global wheat and barley exports. Since Russia's Feb. 24 invasion, Ukraine's ports have been blocked and civilian infrastructure and grain silos have been destroyed.

At the same time, India's own wheat harvest has suffered from a record-shattering heat wave that is stunting production.

He said India's wheat production this year has come down by three million tons from 106 million tons last year. Wheat prices have shot up by 20-40% in India.

"The current rise in prices seems to be a panic reaction rather than a reaction based on a genuine col-

lapse in supply or a sudden shooting of demand," Subrahmanyam said.

Even though it is the world's second-largest producer of wheat, India consumes most of the wheat it produces. It had set a goal of exporting 10 million tons of the grain in 2022-23, looking to capitalize on the global disruptions to wheat supplies from the war and find new markets for its wheat in Europe, Africa and Asia.

Up to 90 million tons of wheat were consumed in India last year out of a total production of 109 million tons, Subrahmanyam said, adding that India exported 7 million tons of wheat last year. □



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Venezuela plans stock sale in break from socialist model

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's government is seeking private investors to pump funds into vital but crippled state-run companies, decades after seizing them in the name of socialism.

The government on Monday intends to offer 5% to 10% stakes in companies ranging from telephone and internet service providers to a petrochemical producer. In another country, those industries might be attractive targets for investors, but questions remain as to who would be willing or able to take a minority position in the Venezuelan companies that have suffered from years of neglect and mismanagement.

Adding to the mystery is lack of details provided by the government about the sale, including what price it is seeking for shares in the companies and on what stock market they might be listed. Some are speculating the move could be a first step toward returning the companies to private hands. "We need capital for the development of all public companies," Maduro said during a televised event Wednesday. "We need technology. We need new markets, and we are going to move forward." It's a marked departure from Maduro's predecessor, the late President Hugo Chávez, who nationalized many companies in his bid to transform the South American country into a socialist state. Among the companies Maduro mentioned are CANTV and its subsidiary Movilnet, petrochemical producer Petroquímica de Venezuela and a conglomerate focused in the mining sector.

Interest, however, may be limited to investors with ties



A view of an out of service National Telephone Company of Venezuela, CANTV, phone booth, in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, May 13, 2022.

to the government or those with an appetite for risk.

The country is still under economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. and other countries that prevent investors from being able to funnel money to Venezuela's state-owned companies. And the percentages Maduro announced would not give private investors decision-making powers to undertake much-needed changes within the corporations.

At the turn of the century, Chávez carried out a series of takeovers in the electricity, telecommunications, natural gas and oil sectors. But the government made minimum investments in some of these companies, which have left them providing substandard services. Days-long power outages are common across the country. Millions of households either do not have access to water or the service is intermittent. Internet and phone services are deficient.

Government supporters and opponents alike com-

plain about poor basic services across the country even if an election is not approaching. But economists point out that Venezuela's government needs to improve some of those services even if it is slightly ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

"We are no doubt seeing a paradigm shift that is largely forced by the circumstances but also largely fueled by political survival," Luis Prato, senior economist with the firm Torino Capital. "Since June 2014, with this significant drop in oil prices, the Maduro administration began to see a drop in oil revenues. Then, we went through a period from 2014 to 2019 of price controls, of a more intervening state." But as the state lost the ability to generate wealth and growth, Prato said, "it began to make room for participation of the private sector."

Venezuela is still under a protracted social, economic and humanitarian crisis credited to plummeting oil prices, economic

sanctions and two decades of mismanagement by socialist governments. But the government has taken steps to relieve some of the economic pressures, including by giving up its long and complicated efforts to restrict transactions in U.S. dollars in favor of the local bolivar, whose value has been obliterated by inflation.

Some shares of CANTV have long traded on the Stock Exchange of Caracas, the country's oldest exchange. Maduro during this week's announcement said the state-owned companies would be listed in the country's "various stock exchanges" without specifying.

But by Friday, Gustavo Pulido, president of the Stock Exchange of Caracas, had not received any information of the planned stock sales. He said the process to register the other companies and eventually list them is lengthy and requires the disclosure of financial documents.

"It takes as long as you

want to take to make the placement successful. I couldn't tell you a certain time," Pulido said, adding that an offering on the Stock Exchange of Caracas could not be structured by Monday.

The government established its own exchange in 2010. A government spokesman did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press regarding the exchanges it intends to use.

Prato said the government is likely to use its own exchange or a separate digital system for now but that it would have limited results. Henkel Garcia, director of the Caracas-based firm Econometrica, said the companies require significant investments to improve the quality of their services, which were much better before they were nationalized. But he warned that the country lacks a mechanism to oversee the accounting and financial reporting procedures of the companies, making it impossible to guarantee the private investment in the state companies would be appropriately spent.

"If this really is the beginning of the total sale or the total handing over of these companies, which for me is a probable scenario, one would have to ask to whom they would be handed over because we have episodes like the Russian one, in which these companies that once belonged to the state ended up in the hands of people who were close to the government," Henkel said. "So, it is a complex phenomenon that one could say opens the door to something positive, but with the institutional weakness that we have and with the lack of credible referees, well, it might not end in the best way." □

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PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers has improved its services when it comes to turn around time for results. As of November its offering same day test results (previously it was 24 hours) on both PCR and Antigen tests.

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MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).



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Aruba's underwater wonderland

ORANJESTAD - Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots, where you can take your snorkeling gear and we selected the top spots for you.

TresTrapi

TresTrapi means tree steps in Papiamentu, Papiamentu is together with Dutch the official language spoken on Aruba. The beach is called TresTrapi because it is accessible by the tree steps carved into the rocks. TresTrapi is a small rocky beach, located on the north-western side of the island, approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you can easily walk over the beach into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While snorkeling you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to TresTrapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animal, keep your distance and enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken world war two ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough. □



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Aruba's name shines in international competition for incentive travel

Oranjestad - During the month of April, during the SITE Global Conference 2022 in Dublin, Ireland, Aruba's name shined when the company HMI Performance Incentives won a "Crystal Award" for the social project they conducted here on our Island.

HMI Performance Incentives, organized for their client Manning Building Supplies, made a donation to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FNPC) during their visit as an incentive group in Aruba last year. With this donation around 40 families in Aruba were provided with food products and hygiene products for a whole month. During the visit, the participants had the opportunity to package the



products at the hotel so these could later be handed over to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FNPC). Many of the 300 participants of this travel shared

that they felt a special connection with this project during their stay.

The effort of all these amazing people contributed to this social project. At the same time, the positive impact on Aruba that this traveling group made, led to them winning this presti-

gious award in the incentive traveling industry. Aruba's name shined during the award presenting ceremony in the presence of more than 500 professionals in the industry.

Aruba Convention Bureau is very proud of this achievement, due to the

fact that it shows that as a destination from incentive groups, Aruba offers different opportunities to any participants, such as beautiful experiences in social corporate responsibilities. Aruba Convention Bureau believes that by incorporating these social incentives like these we can bring many benefits to the community as well as the company and its employees. Aruba Convention Bureau created a guide for social corporate responsibilities and promotes this with the goal of creating opportunities for the groups in this industry.

Aruba Convention Bureau thanks all the local associates and partners who made this possible. Congratulations to Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad as well as Hyatt Regency Resort and De Palm Tours DMC for this achievement. □

As Musk buyout looms, Twitter searches for its soul

By BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A

toxic cesspool. A lifeline. A finger on the world's pulse. Twitter is all these things and more to its over 229 million users around the world — politicians, journalists, activists, celebrities, weirdos and normies, cat and dog lovers and just about anyone else with an internet connection.

For Elon Musk, its ultimate troll and perhaps most prolific user whose buyout of the company is on increasingly shaky ground, Twitter is a “de facto town square” in dire need of a libertarian makeover.

Whether and how the takeover will happen is anyone's guess. On Friday, Musk announced that the deal is “on hold,” while tweeting that he was still “committed” to it. Earlier in the week, the billionaire Tesla CEO said he'd reverse the platform's ban of President Donald Trump if his purchase goes through. The same day, he also said he supported a new European Union law aimed at protecting social media users from harmful content. Twitter's current CEO, meanwhile, fired two top managers on Thursday.

All that said, it's been a messy few weeks for Twitter. One thing is certain: the turmoil will continue, inside and outside of the company.

“Twitter at its highest levels has always been chaos. It has always had intrigue and it has always had drama,” says Leslie Miley, a former Twitter engineering manager. “This,” he says, “is in Twitter's DNA.”

WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING ABOUT

From its 2007 start as a scrappy “microblogging service” at the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas, Twitter has always punched above its weight. At a time when its rivals count their users by the billions, it has stayed small, frustrating Wall Street and making it easier for Musk to swoop in with an offer its board could not refuse.

But Twitter also wields unri-

valed influence on news, politics and society thanks to its public nature, its simple, largely text-based interface and its sense of chronological immediacy. “It's a potluck of pithy self-expression simmering with whimsy, narcissism, voyeur-

ers. People who are thinking about things tend to be attracted to a text-based platform. And it's full of journalists. So Twitter is both a reflection of and a driver of what people are thinking about,” says writer, editor and OnlyFans creator

Black Twitter, feminist Twitter, baseball Twitter, Japanese cat Twitter, ER nurse Twitter and so on.

“It's enabled interest groups, especially those that are organized around social identity, whether we're talking about gender

This is the Twitter of Nazis, of demented trolls, of conspiracy theorists and of nation states funding massive networks to influence elections.

Jaime Longoria, manager of research and training for the nonprofit Disinfo Defense League, says Musk's purchase of Twitter jeopardizes a platform that many experts believe has done a better job of reining in harmful content than its competitors.

“We're watching and waiting,” Longoria says. “The Twitter we know may be over.”

In a series of tweets in 2018, then-CEO Jack Dorsey said the company was committed to “collective health, openness, and civility of public conversation, and to hold ourselves publicly accountable towards progress.”

Twitter, led by its trust and safety team, has worked to improve things. It enacted new policies, added labels to false information, kicked off repeated violators of its rules against hate, inciting violence and other harmful activities. In fits and starts, things have started to improve, at least in the United States and Western Europe. Outside Western democracies, though, not much has changed when it comes to clamping down on hate and misinformation.

“There's a lot of hate on Twitter, especially directed at minorities.

And so there's always a constant battle to get Twitter to clamp down on hate speech, very often violent hate speech and fake news,” says Shoaib Daniyal, associate editor with the Indian news website Scroll.

Musk's free speech absolutism, Daniyal says, doesn't make much sense in India because there have not been many curbs on speech on the platform to begin with.

“It's fairly filled with hate anyway,” he says. “And Twitter hasn't done a lot about it. So let's see where it goes.” Which, given Musk's mercurial nature, could be almost any direction at all. □



The Twitter application is seen on a digital device, Monday, April 25, 2022, in San Diego.

Associated Press

ism, hucksterism, tedium and sometimes useful information,” Associated Press technology writer Michael Liedtke wrote in a 2009 story about the company. Twitter had 27 employees at the time, and its most popular user was Barack Obama.

Today, the San Francisco icon employs 7,500 people. Obama is still its most popular account holder, followed by pop stars Justin Bieber and Katy Perry (Musk is No. 6).

Twitter's rise to the mainstream can be chronicled through world events, as wars, terror attacks, the Arab Spring, the #MeToo movement and other pivotal moments in our collective history played out in real time on the platform.

“Twitter often attracts think-

Cathy Reisenwitz, who's been on Twitter since 2010 and has over 18,000 followers.

She finds it great for discovering people and ideas and having others discover her writing and thoughts. That's why she's stayed all these years, despite harassment and death threats she's received on the platform.

Twitter users in academia, in niche fields, those with quirky interests, subcultures small and big, grassroots activists, researchers and a host of others flock to the platform.

Why? Because at its best, it promises an open, free exchange of facts and ideas, where knowledge is shared, debated and questioned. And those subcultures — they're formidable. There's

or sexuality or race, to have really important in-group dialogues,” says Brooke Erin Duffy, a professor at Cornell University who studies social media.

THE DARK SIDE

On the flip side of Twitter's immediacy, public, open nature and 280-character (once 140-character) limit is a perfect recipe for passions to run high — especially anger.

“The anonymity of Twitter empowers people to take shots sometimes, but it is still one of the most effective ways to communicate with people with similar interests,” says Steve Phillips, a former general manager of the New York Mets who now hosts a show on MLB Network Radio.

But there's also the massive, dark part of Twitter.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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DOWN Saturday's answer

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A X Y D L B A A X R
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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.

5-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

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R C J D C V , T L N C P R L M F L A H G Y X
N H P Y X P R L C S L A E L H E Y L
Y D W L M F C M . — C Y C I C Y X C
Saturday's Cryptoquote: CLEAR THINKING
REQUIRES COURAGE RATHER THAN
INTELLIGENCE THOMAS SZASZ

'Doctor Strange 2' keeps hold on top spot in 2nd weekend



This image released by Marvel Studios shows, from left, Xochitl Gomez as America Chavez, Benedict Wong as Wong, and Benedict Cumberbatch as Dr. Stephen Strange in a scene from "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness."

Associated Press

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

"Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" stayed on top of the box office charts during its second weekend in theaters, earning an additional \$61 million from North American theaters, according to studio estimates Sunday. With \$688 million in global grosses, it's already one of the highest grossing films of the pandemic and the second biggest of 2022. But a 67% fall is also a steep drop — even for reliably frontloaded superhero films. Still, "Spider-Man: No Way Home" slid 68% in weekend two. Released by the Walt Disney Co., "Doctor Strange 2" benefitted from being the first Marvel movie to follow "Spider-Man: No Way Home," in which Benedict Cumberbatch's sorcerer played a pivotal role. Directed by Sam Raimi, "Doctor Strange 2" also builds upon the popular Disney+ series "Wandavision" and contains a number of cameos that fans didn't want to be spoiled. The elements all came together to give "Doctor Strange" the 11th-biggest domestic debut of all time. But reviews also weren't quite as strong as those for the latest "Spider-Man" installment, which could impact the film in the long run. The movie has already exceeded the global earn-

ings of the first "Doctor Strange" movie, as well as 11 other Marvel Cinematic Universe titles — and it's not even playing in China. "Audiences crave these big blockbusters on the big screen," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "This marketplace has given 'Doctor Strange' a pretty long runway to be successful until 'Top Gun.'" There was little in the way of new competition. The only major new movie was Universal Pictures and Blumhouse's adaptation of Stephen King's "Firestarter," which was released in both theaters and on the company's streaming service, Peacock+. Starring Zac Efron and Ryan Kiera Armstrong, "Firestarter" earned just \$3.8 million from 3,412 North American theaters. Reviews for the film didn't drop until the day of release, but critics have been less than impressed with this iteration of King's story about a preteen with pyrokinetic powers. Audiences weren't on board either, giving it a C-CinemaScore. As Dergarabedian noted, however, no film that opens "day and date" in theaters and on streaming is expecting to break any records. "The notion that a theatrical exclusive debut gives movies their best shot at success is right," Dergarabedian said. "Firestarter" debuted in

fourth place, behind hold-over family films "The Bad Guys" and "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," which took the second and third spots. Now in its fourth weekend, Universal's "The Bad Guys" added \$6.9 million, bringing its global grosses to \$165.6 million. "Sonic 2," in its sixth week, earned \$4.6 million, raising its cumulative total to \$175.7 million. Meanwhile, "Everything Everywhere All At Once" is still going strong even after eight weeks in release. The A24 film picked up an additional \$3.3 million, down only 6% from the previous weekend, bringing its total grosses to \$47 million. The faith-based comedy "Family Camp" also opened this weekend from Roadside Attractions. Playing on 854 screens, the PG-rated pic earned \$1.4 million. And Bleecker Street released the well-reviewed indie "Montana Story," starring Haley Lu Richardson as a woman who returns home with her estranged brother to care for their ailing father. "Montana Story" grossed \$20,104 from four theaters. Things will pick up considerably in the coming weeks: Next weekend, Focus Features debuts "Downton Abbey: A New Era" and A24 has the Alex Garland thriller "Men," before everyone clears the way for Tom Cruise in "Top Gun: Maverick." That flies into theaters Memorial Day weekend. □

Michigan profs push 'pee for peonies' urine diversion plan

By **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER**

Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) —

A pair of University of Michigan researchers are putting the "pee" in peony. Rather, they're putting pee ON peonies.

Environmental engineering professors Nancy Love and Krista Wigginton are regular visitors to the Ann Arbor school's Nichols Arboretum, where they have been applying urine-based fertilizer to the heirloom peony beds ahead of the flowers' annual spring bloom.

It's all part of an effort to educate the public about their research showing that applying fertilizer derived from nutrient-rich urine could have environmental and economic benefits.

"At first, we thought people might be hesitant. You know, this might be weird. But we've really experienced very little of that attitude," Wigginton said. "In general, people think it's funny at first, but then they understand why we're doing it and they support it." Love is co-author of a study published in the Environmental Science & Technology journal that found urine diversion and recycling led to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy. Urine contains essential nutrients such as nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus and has been used as a crop fertilizer for thousands of years.

Love said collecting human urine and using it to create renewable fertilizers — as part of what she calls the "circular economy of nutrients" — will lead to greater environmental sustainability.

Think of it not so much as recycling, but "pee-cycling," Wigginton said.

"We were looking for terms that would catch on but get the idea across, and 'pee-cycling' seems to be one that stuck," she said.

As part of a \$3 million grant from the National Science Foundation awarded in 2016, Love and Wigginton have not only been testing advanced urine-treatment



University of Michigan civil and environmental engineering professors Nancy Love, right, and Krista Wigginton apply human urine derived fertilizer to beds of peonies at Nichols Arboretum in Ann Arbor on Monday, May 9, 2022.

methods, but also investigating people's attitudes about the use of urine-derived fertilizers.

That is what brought them to the much-loved campus Peony Garden, which contains more than 270 historic cultivated varieties from the 19th and early 20th centuries representing American, Canadian and European peonies of the era. The garden holds nearly 800 peonies when filled and up to 10,000 flowers at peak bloom.

Love and Wigginton plan to spend weekends in May and June chatting up visitors. One important lesson they learned is about the precision of language.

"We have used the term, 'pee on the peonies.' And

then it grabs people's attention and then we can talk to them about nutrient flows and nutrient efficiency in our communities and how to be more sustainable," Love said. "It turns out some people thought that that was permission to drop their drawers and pee on the peonies."

"So, this year, we're going to use 'pee for the peonies' and hope that we don't have that confusion."

The urine-derived fertilizer the researchers are using these days originated in Vermont. But if all goes according to plan, they'll be doling out some locally sourced fertilizer next year.

A split-bowl toilet in a campus engineering building is designed to send solid

Associated Press

waste to a treatment plant while routing urine to a holding tank downstairs. Urine diverted from the toilet and urinal were to be treated and eventually used to create fertilizers, but the COVID-19 pandemic forced the school to shut down the collection efforts. □

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Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks

Sales

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
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Hindley wins toughest Giro stage, López stays in pink

BLOCKHAUS, Italy (AP) —

Australian cyclist Jai Hindley won the ninth stage of the Giro d'Italia atop the fearsome Blockhaus on Sunday but Juan Pedro López managed to keep hold of the leader's pink jersey after the race's toughest leg. Hindley, who rides for Bora-Hansgrohe, edged out Romain Bardet and overall favorite Richard Carapaz in a sprint to the line at the end of an arduous day of climbing.

Mikel Landa and João Almeida also finished with the same time.

"I was just trying to survive as best I could, actually," said Hindley, who was runner-up in the Giro in 2020. "I knew it was flattening out in the last k's (kilometers) and there was a right hander before the finish with around 200 to go. I wanted to take the corner first and then just gave it everything to the line, and yeah here we are."

"It's pretty incredible. It wasn't the easiest year I had last year. I worked so hard to get back to the level to compete at the Giro and I'm at a loss for words honestly. It's pretty amazing."

López surprisingly kept hold of the maglia rosa as the Spaniard finished the



Australia's Jai Hindley, right, crosses the finish line to win the 187-kilometer 9th stage of the Giro D'Italia cycling race from Isernia to Mt. Blockhaus, in central Italy, in front of second-placed Romain Bardet of France, left, and third-placed Ecuadorian Richard Carapaz, center, Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

191-kilometer (119-mile) route from Isernia 1 minute, 46 seconds behind Hindley on a day in which several favorites lost time on the iconic final climb that had double-digit gradients along a series of hairpin bends leading to the line.

"This is wonderful for me, I don't believe this moment," the Trek-Segafredo rider said. "We need to enjoy every moment."

López is 12 seconds ahead

of Almeida now and 14 ahead of Bardet, with Carapaz just a second further back.

As well as the Blockhaus, the route also included the top-category climb to Passo Lanciano and two other categorized ascents on a day with 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) of climbing.

A nine-man breakaway led the stage for most of the day but they were caught and the peloton started

the final climb to Blockhaus together.

Simon Yates was one of the favorites dropped early on and the British rider crossed the line 11 minutes behind Hindley with his right knee heavily strapped. He had sustained the injury on the fourth stage climb up Etna. "Now that I've lost the race, it's causing me a lot of problems. But that was not my only problem today, I really struggled in the heat

again," Yates said. "That's how it goes. I gave my all and that's it."

"I was hopeful of still being able to try and do something but I've been in a lot of pain since Etna. I've been trying to manage it as best as possible. Like I said, it was not my only problem today."

Carapaz tried to attack several times in the final 5 kilometers but was unable to shake off his rivals for the stage win.

There was a worrying moment earlier in the day when Natnael Tesfatsion, who was leading the stage, crashed on the descent from Passo Lanciano. Tesfatsion misjudged a corner and somersaulted over his handlebars into the bushes. However, the Eritrean swiftly received treatment from race doctors and was eventually able to continue.

The race has its second rest day on Monday before a 196-kilometer (122-mile) stage from Pescara to Jesi that is mainly flat in the first half along the Adriatic coast before three fourth-category climbs later in the day.

Whether Yates can fight back or even decides to continue remains to be seen. □



Minjee Lee, of Australia, hits off the fourth tee during the fourth round of the LPGA Cognizant Founders Cup golf tournament, Sunday, May 15, 2022, in Clifton, N.J.

Associated Press

By TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

CLIFTON, N.J. (AP) — LPGA scoring leader Minjee Lee made her only three birdies on the back nine and captured the Cognizant Founders Cup by two shots over Lexi Thompson on Sunday

for her first win of the year. The 25-year-old Australian took the lead for good with a birdie on the par-5 14th hole at Upper Montclair Country Club. She closed with a 2-under 70, her only round not in the 60s, for a 72-hole total of 19-under

Minjee Lee hangs on, wins LPGA Founders Cup over Thompson

269 in the event that honors the 13 founding members of the LPGA Tour.

Lee won her seventh career title and first since taking her first major at last year's Evian Championship. She steadied herself after what she called a "good" bogey on the par-3 eighth.

Looking for her first LPGA Tour win since 2019, Thompson rallied from three down and grabbed a share of the lead with a birdie at No. 10. Thompson and Lee traded birdies on the par-5 12th, but Thompson closed with six straight pars for a 69. Thompson had birdie opportunities on the final two holes that she failed to convert before Lee closed

it in style with a short birdie of her own. Madelene Sagstrom of Sweden and hard-charging Angel Yin tied for third, three shots off the pace at 16 under. Sagstrom, who was a shot behind Lee at the start, closed with a 72 despite a quadruple bogey at No. 3 when she needed three shots to get out of a bunker.

Yin, who thought about leaving the tour earlier this year, shot 67. She grabbed a piece of the lead with her seventh birdie at No. 14, but bogeyed the 16th. Carolota Ciganda shot 64 on Sunday and finished fifth. Nasa Hataoka of Japan and Megan Khang were tied for sixth at 14 un-

der. Two-time defending champion and top-ranked Jin Young Ko finished at 8 under.

Augusta National Women's Amateur champion Anna Davis finished at 3 under while playing her second straight tour event on a sponsor exemption.

This marked the third straight time the Founders Cup was played at a different course. It was held at Wildfire Golf Club in Arizona in 2019, at Mountain Ridge in West Caldwell, New Jersey, last year and now Upper Montclair, which will be the site for the next two years. The event was canceled in 2020 because of the pandemic. □

Jermell Charlo stops Castaño, claims 4th belt at 154 pounds

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

CARSON, Calif. (AP) — Jermell Charlo had to exercise incredible patience during his quest to become the first undisputed super welterweight champion.

After a split draw in his first bout with Brian Castaño last year was followed by a three-month postponement of their rematch because of an injury for Castaño, Charlo had to wait again Saturday night because Castaño showed up late to the arena.

When the showdown finally began, Charlo survived Castaño's early attacks and waited for the moment to pounce.

The moment arrived in the 10th round, and Charlo emphatically seized it.

Charlo became the first man to hold every 154-pound title in the four-belt era when he stopped his Argentine opponent with two knockdowns in the 10th. He completed his remarkable quest by becoming just the seventh fighter to reign as the undisputed champ of any weight class since the four-belt era began in 1988.

"This is legacy," Charlo said. "This is something that is legendary. I'm a legend. This is a beautiful thing."

After an entertaining bout with ample toe-to-toe action, Charlo (35-1-1, 19 KOs) dropped Castaño twice in rapid succession in the 10th. Charlo leaped onto the ropes in celebration while the referee was still counting out his opponent, celebrating the addition of Castaño's WBO super welterweight title to his WBC, WBA and IBF belts. Charlo survived several impressive early rounds by Castaño (17-1-2) in the rematch of the fighters' split draw 10 months ago in Texas.

"I got in my bag around the seventh round," said Charlo, the Houston native and twin brother of middleweight champ Jermall Charlo. "I started sitting down a little bit more instead of boxing so much and moving around. I saw that he was wearing down

a little bit, and I was breaking him down. I just saw my punches being more effective. I get stronger in the later rounds, if they didn't know." Charlo executed a tactical, counterpunching game plan impressively under a nearly full moon at Dignity Health Sports Park, the famed outdoor stadium south of downtown Los Angeles.

Castaño's aggression and Charlo's sharp responses led to big exchanges in almost every round, highlighted by a sensational fifth round of relentless action. But Castaño's early pace slowed in the middle rounds, and Charlo ended it in dramatic fashion at 2:33 of the 10th.

After catching Castaño with a right uppercut and a

left hook for the first knockdown, Charlo dropped Castaño again seconds later with two left hands to the head and a left to the body, leaving Castaño on the canvas.

"We showed that we are warriors," Castaño said through a translator. "We both were fighting back and forth. It was power back and forth, and then his right hand came over and stopped the fight. He's a champion. He hit me. He got me. But I'm OK."

After unbeaten Philadelphia welterweight Jaron Ennis stopped Custio Clayton with a vicious right hand in the second round of the show's penultimate bout, the main event was slightly delayed because Castaño showed up late



Jermell Charlo, right, celebrates after defeating Brian Castano in a super welterweight boxing title bout Saturday, May 14, 2022, in Carson, Calif.

Associated Press

to the arena, according to the fight's promoters.

Traffic and parking were terrible around the sports complex, which hosted a match for Major League Soccer's LA Galaxy at the

same time as the fight card in the tennis arena that shares the property with the soccer stadium, but it wasn't clear whether that was the reason Castaño was tardy. □

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Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering

creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine

your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all through 2021, and hopefully will continue to do so in 2022. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

