



After Supreme Court ruling, it's open season on U.S. gun laws



The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill in Washington, July 14, 2022.

Associated Press

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST and ALANNA DURKIN RICH-ER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruling expanding gun rights threatens to upend firearms restrictions across the country as activists wage court battles over everything from bans on AR-15-style guns to age limits.

The decision handed down in June already has led one judge to temporarily block a Colorado town from enforcing a ban on the sale and possession of certain semi-automatic weapons. The first major gun decision

in more than a decade, the ruling could dramatically reshape gun laws in the U.S. even as a series of horrific mass shootings pushes the issue back into the headlines.

"The gun rights movement has been given a weapon of mass destruction, and it will annihilate approximately 75% of the gun laws eventually," said Evan Nappen, a New Jersey gun rights attorney.

The court battles come as the Biden administration and police departments across the U.S. struggle to combat a surge in violent crime and mass shootings,

including several high-profile killings carried out by suspects who purchased their guns legally.

And given the sheer number of cases now working through the courts, a lot more time will be spent in courtrooms no matter who wins. "We will see a lot of tax dollars and government resources that should be used to stop gun crime being used to defend gun laws that are lifesaving and wildly popular," said Jonathan Lowry, chief counsel and vice president at Brady, the gun control group.

Continued on next page

Faritah Luidens presented her theatre play 'Friends Forever'



According to IMF: 'Aruba moved very swiftly from the pandemic'



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Continued from Front

Congress broke through years of deadlock to pass a modest gun violence prevention package weeks ago, and the House voted to renew a ban on high-powered semi-automatic weapons, though that effort is likely doomed in the Senate as Republicans push back on firearms restrictions and say recent spikes in gun violence should be met with a stepped-up police response.

The Supreme Court decision struck down a New York law requiring people to demonstrate a particular need to get a license to carry a concealed gun in public, saying it violates Second Amendment rights. Several other states including California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Rhode Island have similar laws expected to be directly impacted by the ruling.

In Massachusetts, for example, police chiefs can no longer deny or impose restrictions on licenses just because the applicant doesn't have a "good reason" to carry a gun. New York quickly passed a new concealed-weapon law, but Republicans there predict it will also end up being overturned.

In its New York ruling, the high court's conservative majority also changed a test lower courts had used for evaluating challenges to gun laws.

Judges should no longer consider whether the law serves public interests like enhancing public safety, the opinion authored by Justice Clarence Thomas said. Instead, they should only weigh whether the law



AR-15-style rifles are on display at Burbank Ammo & Guns in Burbank, Calif., June 23, 2022.

Associated Press

is "consistent with the Second Amendment's text and historical understanding."

"Basically, the Supreme Court has given an invitation for the gun lobby to file lawsuits against virtually every gun law in America," Lowry said.

The Supreme Court has ordered lower courts to take another look at several other cases under the court's new test. Among them: laws in California and New Jersey that limit the amount of ammunition a gun magazine can hold and a 2013 ban on "assault weapons" in Maryland.

Gun rights groups are also challenging similar bans in California, New York, New Jersey and Delaware.

"The rifles at issue in this case are the sorts of bearable arms in common use for lawful purposes that responsible and peaceable people across the United States possess by the mil-

lions. And they are, moreover, exactly what they would bring to service in militia duty, should such be necessary," a New Jersey lawsuit brought in June by the Firearms Policy Coalition says, referencing the language of the Second Amendment.

The ruling also has come up in challenges to restrictions on gun possession for 18- to 20-year-olds in Texas and Pennsylvania. And it has been cited in a case challenging a federal ban on gun possession for people convicted of nonviolent crimes punishable by more than a year behind bars, as well as a prohibition on concealed guns on the subway in Washington, D.C.

In addition, a gun rights group is suing Colorado over the state's 2013 ban on magazines that hold more than 15 rounds, saying the high court ruling

reinforces the group's argument that it infringes on Second Amendment rights. And the ruling has public defenders in New York City asking judges to drop gun possession cases.

Not all those lawsuits will necessarily be successful. The Texas attorney general, for example, argues the Supreme Court ruling doesn't affect the state's age limit law, and more state and local governments can certainly defend their gun laws as being in line with U.S. history. Adam Skaggs, chief counsel and policy director at the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, predicted that when the dust settles, only laws "along the margins" will eventually be struck down. "Most judges are going to see these for what they are, which is overreaching and lacking in any merit," he said.

Backers of gun restrictions

can also look to a concurring opinion from Justice Brett Kavanaugh.

Joined by Chief Justice John Roberts, Kavanaugh stressed that the Second Amendment does allow for a "variety" of gun regulations. He cited the use of background checks and mental health records as part of a licensing process to carry a gun and noted that states can forbid the carrying of firearms in "sensitive places" such as schools and government buildings. But the Colorado decision handed down last month, while still early in the process, was a rosy sign for gun rights groups.

U.S. District Court Judge Raymond Moore, who was nominated by President Barack Obama, said he was sympathetic to the town's goal of preventing mass shootings like the one that killed 10 people at a grocery store in nearby Boulder last year. But Moore said he didn't know of "historical precedent" for a law banning "a type of weapon that is commonly used by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes," so the gun rights groups have a strong case against the ordinance.

Encouraged by that decision, Taylor D. Rhodes, the executive director of the Rocky Mountain Gun Owners, told The Associated Press that his group was considering going after other gun measures in Colorado, where Democrats hold the majority in the state legislature and the governor's office.

Referring to the Supreme Court's ruling, Rhodes said: "The Bruen decision gave us a 4-ton wrecking ball." □



The Pentagon is seen from Air Force One as it flies over Washington, March 2, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. airman charged in Syria base blast that injured troops

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Air Force has filed criminal charges against an airman in connection with an April explosion that injured U.S. troops at a base in eastern Syria.

Tech. Sgt. David Dezwaan Jr., an explosive ordnance disposal specialist, is facing several charges includ-

ing dereliction of duty, destroying military property, reckless endangerment and aggravated assault in the blast that injured four service members. He has been held in confinement by the Air Force since June. The U.S. military initially reported that the injuries were caused by artillery or another form of indirect fire. But the Pentagon later

said the April 7 attack was carried out by the "deliberate placement of explosive charges" by one or more individuals at an ammunition holding area and shower facility on the base, known as Green Village.

The Air Force, in a statement Thursday, said a preliminary hearing date has been set for Aug. 23 at Hill Air Force Base in Utah. □

U.S. declares public health emergency over monkeypox outbreak

By ZEKE MILLER, MIKE STOB-
BE and MICHAEL BALSAMO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government declared a public health emergency Thursday to bolster the response to the monkeypox outbreak that has infected more than 6,600 Americans.

The announcement will free up money and other resources to fight the virus, which may cause fever, body aches, chills, fatigue and pimple-like bumps on many parts of the body.

"We are prepared to take our response to the next level in addressing this virus, and we urge every American to take monkeypox seriously," said Xavier Becerra, head of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The declaration by HHS comes as the Biden administration has faced criticism over monkeypox vaccine availability. Clinics in major cities such as New York and San Francisco say they haven't received enough of the two-shot vaccine to meet demand, and some have had to stop offering the second dose to ensure supply of first doses.

The White House said it has made more than 1.1 million doses available and has helped to boost domes-



Jonathan Parducho, a pharmacist, removes a tray of vials of the Jynneos vaccine for monkeypox from a box containing 20 doses, in the vaccine hub at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, July 29, 2022, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

tic diagnostic capacity to 80,000 tests per week.

The monkeypox virus spreads through prolonged skin-to-skin contact, including hugging, cuddling and kissing, as well as sharing bedding, towels and clothing. The people who have gotten sick so far have been primarily men who have sex with men. But health officials emphasize that the virus can infect anyone.

Earlier this week, the Biden administration named top officials from the Federal Emergency Management

Agency and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to serve as the White House coordinators to combat monkeypox.

Thursday's declaration is an important and overdue step, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health law expert at Georgetown University. "It signals the U.S. government's seriousness and purpose, and sounds a global alarm," he said.

Under the declaration, HHS can draw from emergency funds, hire or reassign staff to deal with the outbreak and take other steps to

control the virus.

For example, the announcement should help the federal government to seek more information from state and local health officials about who is becoming infected and who is being vaccinated. That information can be used to better understand how the outbreak is unfolding and how well the vaccine works. Gostin said the U.S. government has been too cautious and should have declared a nationwide emergency earlier. Public health measures to control

outbreaks have increasingly faced legal challenges in recent years, but Gostin didn't expect that to happen with monkeypox.

"It is a textbook case of a public health emergency," Gostin said. "It's not a red or a blue state issue. There is no political opposition to fighting monkeypox."

A public health emergency can be extended, similar to what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted.

The urgency in the current response stems from the rapid spread of the virus coupled with the limited availability of the two-dose vaccine called Jynneos, which is considered the main medical weapon against the disease.

The doses, given 28 days apart, are currently being given to people soon after they think they were exposed, as a measure to prevent symptoms.

Becerra announced the emergency declaration during a call with reporters. During the call, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Robert Califf said regulators are reviewing an approach that would stretch supplies by allowing health professionals to vaccinate up to five people instead of one with each vial of Jynneos. □

U.S. proposes to increase refund protections for air travelers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Transportation Department is proposing to require airlines to offer passengers a refund if their flight schedule is changed significantly or the airline makes major changes to their itinerary. The proposed rule announced Wednesday would require airlines to give refunds if their departure or arrival time changes by three hours or more for a domestic flight or at least six hours for an international one.

Refunds would also be due if the airline changes the passenger's departure or arrival airport, adds stops in their itinerary, or causes "a significant downgrade" in the travel experience

by switching to a different type of plane.

The rule would apply even for travelers who buy non-refundable tickets, which

usually cost less and are favored by many leisure travelers.

The proposal comes after the department was flood-

ed with complaints by passengers whose flights were canceled or changed or who were afraid to fly during the early months of the pandemic and who couldn't get refunds.

Airlines prefer to hand out travel vouchers instead of refunds.

The department proposes to require that airlines and ticket agents give vouchers that don't expire for passengers who are told not to travel during a pandemic for health reasons or because borders are closed. The proposal faces a public-comment period and likely opposition by airlines. Their trade group, Airlines for America, did not immediately comment.

Currently, airlines are required to offer refunds to passengers whose flights are canceled or significantly changed, but it has never defined a cancellation or significant change. Because of that, airlines have challenged the Transportation Department's authority to force them to pay refunds.

"When Americans buy an airline ticket, they should get to their destination safely, reliably, and affordably," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said in a statement. "This new proposed rule would protect the rights of travelers and help ensure they get the timely refunds they deserve from the airlines." □



A flight shows cancelled on the departures board at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2021, in Arlington, Va.

Associated Press

Feds charge 4 police officers in fatal Breonna Taylor raid

By DYLAN LOVAN

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — The federal government filed civil rights charges Thursday against four Louisville police officers over the drug raid that led to the death of Breonna Taylor, a Black woman whose fatal shooting helped fuel the racial justice protests that rocked the nation in 2020.

The charges are another effort to hold law enforcement accountable for the killing of the 26-year-old medical worker after one of the officers was acquitted of state charges earlier this year.

"Breonna Taylor should be alive today," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in announcing the charges, which include unlawful conspiracy, use of force and obstruction of justice. The charges named former officers Joshua Jaynes and Brett Hankison, along with current officers Kelly Goodlett and Sgt. Kyle Meany.

Hankison was the only officer charged Thursday who was on the scene that night. Louisville police said they are seeking to fire Goodlett and Meany. Taylor was shot to death by officers who knocked down her door while executing a search warrant. Taylor's boyfriend fired a shot that hit one of the officers as they came through the door, and they returned fire, striking Taylor multiple times.

Local activists and members of Taylor's family celebrated the charges and thanked federal officials. Supporters gathered in a downtown park and chanted: "Say her name,



Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, with Attorney General Merrick Garland, speaks during a news conference at the Department of Justice in Washington, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

Breonna Taylor!"

"This is a day when Black women saw equal justice in America," family lawyer Benjamin Crump said.

Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, said she has waited nearly 2 1/2 years for police to be held accountable.

"Today's overdue, but it still hurts," she said. "You all (are) learning today that we're not crazy."

The Justice Department is also conducting a non-criminal investigation of the Louisville Police Department, announced last year, that is probing whether the department has a pattern of using excessive force and conducting unreasonable search and seizures. In the protests of 2020, Taylor's name was often shouted along with George Floyd, who was killed less than three months after Taylor by a Minneapolis police officer in a videotaped encounter that shocked the nation.

Protesters who took to the streets over months in Louisville were especially critical of Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron, who presented only wanton endangerment charges against Hankison for a grand jury to consider in

2020. Members of the grand jury later came forward to complain that Cameron's office had steered them away from charges for the other officers involved in the raid.

"Thank God that Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron did not get the last word in regard to justice for Breonna Taylor," Crump said Thursday. "We have always said this was a conspiracy to cover up the death of Breonna Taylor. Today the Justice Department put forth the charging documents to show we weren't crazy."

Cameron, a Republican running for governor next year, said in announcing the indictment against Hankison in September 2020 that he would leave "issues regarding potential civil rights violations" to federal officials to investigate. Cameron had not responded to a request for comment Thursday afternoon. Garland said the officers who were at Taylor's home just after midnight on March 13, 2020, "were not involved in the drafting of the warrant, and were unaware of the false and misleading statements."

Hankison was indicted on

two deprivation-of-rights charges alleging he used excessive force when he retreated from Taylor's door, turned a corner and fired 10 shots into the side of her two-bedroom apartment.

Bullets flew into a neighbor's apartment, nearly striking one man.

He was acquitted by a jury of state charges earlier this year in Louisville.

A separate indictment said Jaynes and Meany both knew the warrant used to search Taylor's home had information that was "false, misleading and out of date." Both are charged with conspiracy and deprivation of rights.

Meany ran a police unit that focused on aggressive drug investigations. Police served five warrants simultaneously the night of the Taylor raid, four of them in a concentrated area where drug activity was suspected, and the fifth at Taylor's apartment nearly 10 miles (16 kilometers) away.

The warrant for Taylor's house alleged that she was receiving packages for a suspected drug dealer who was a former boyfriend. The warrant, signed by Jaynes and approved

by Meany, said Jaynes had confirmed with the postal service that packages for the ex-boyfriend, Jamarcus Glover, were going to Taylor's apartment. Investigators later learned that Jaynes had not confirmed that with the postal inspector.

Jaynes was fired in January 2021 for violating department standards in the preparation of a search warrant execution and for being "untruthful" in the Taylor warrant.

Jaynes and Goodlett allegedly conspired to falsify an investigative document that was written after Taylor's death, Garland said. Federal investigators also allege that Meany, who testified at Hankison's trial, lied to the FBI during its investigation.

Federal officials filed a separate charge against Goodlett, alleging she conspired with Jaynes to falsify Taylor's warrant affidavit.

Garland alleged that Jaynes and Goodlett met in a garage in May 2020 "where they agreed to tell investigators a false story." Former Louisville Police Sgt. John Mattingly, who was shot at Taylor's door, retired last year.

Another officer, Myles Cosgrove, who investigators said fired the shot that killed Taylor, was dismissed from the department in January 2021. Taylor's boyfriend, Kenny Walker, who was in her apartment that night and fired the shot at Mattingly, was initially charged with attempted murder of a police officer but that charge was dropped after Walker told investigators he thought an intruder was breaking into the apartment.

The Taylor case also prompted a review of the city's "no-knock" warrant policy. Officers at Taylor's door said they knocked and announced they were police even though the warrant didn't require that. Those types of warrants, used in drug investigations to attempt to prevent the destruction of evidence, were later banned in the city of Louisville. □

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U.S. envoy: Africa trip isn't to compete with Russia, China

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations headed to Africa on Wednesday, saying she was going to focus on how the United States can help Uganda, Ghana and Cape Verde deal with the food crisis that has hit the continent particularly hard not to compete with China and Russia.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield said the long-planned trip is not part of global competition with either of America's rivals, but it is part of a series of high-level U.S. engagements "that aim to affirm and strengthen our partnerships and relationships with African leaders and peoples."

Her trip from Aug. 4-7 will be followed immediately by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visits to South Africa, Congo and Rwanda from Aug. 7-11. It also comes on the heels of Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's visit last week to Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda and the Republic of Congo where he accused the U.S. and European countries of driving up food prices.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi began 2022 with a four-day visit to Eritrea, Kenya and the Comoros, keeping a 32-year tradition that the country's top diplomat make his first trip of the year to Africa. "We're not catching up. They are catching up," Thomas-



Linda Thomas-Greenfield, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, introduces U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken before a town hall at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations with members of staff on May 19, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

Greenfield said. "We have been engaging with this continent for decades, and even my own career is very much evidence of that."

Thomas-Greenfield first went to Africa as a student in the 1970s, and in her career as a U.S. diplomat she rose to be assistant secretary of state for African affairs from 2013 to 2017.

She said high energy prices, climate change, COVID-19 and increasing conflict have pushed millions of Africans "to the brink," and that Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has added to the crisis, "especially since some countries in Africa once got up to 75% of

their wheat from Russia and Ukraine." The U.S. ambassador said the three countries she is visiting — Uganda first followed by Ghana and Cape Verde — all face serious food security situations because of the significant rise in the cost of food and energy. But she said Ghana has been a leader in dealing with it and she will be visiting a market, meeting farmers and going to a grain factory in the country "to see how we can help them improve on their production."

In an interview and at a news conference ahead of her three-nation visit, Thomas-Greenfield said her trip happens to come on the

heels of Lavrov's visit.

Refusing to call Russia's invasion of Ukraine a war, Lavrov said: "The situation in Ukraine did additionally negatively affect food markets, but not due to the Russian special operation, rather due to the absolutely inadequate reaction of the West, which announced sanctions."

Thomas-Greenfield countered: "Russia is there to defend what they know they have to defend that they took actions that are hurting Africans, and they're trying to somehow defend their actions and blame somebody else for the impact that their actions are having on the African con-

tinental."

"They can try to do that. But my question to them is, how are you helping Africans to address the food insecurity issue, not whom you're blaming for the food insecurity issues," she said. "We're there to help Africans address those issues. Russia can deal with its own problems." As for China, while its trade with Africa last year was dramatically higher than U.S. trade, Thomas-Greenfield said "if you look at our figures, and how far back our engagement has been with the Africans, then we really are far above those numbers."

"As you look at what China's doing in Africa, you need to look at the debt trap that African countries, many of them, have faced because of those relationships with China," she said. China has become one of the biggest lenders to developing countries through its Belt and Road initiative to expand trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe.

Wang, China's foreign minister, insisted during his visit to Kenya in January that there is no "debt trap."

"The so-called 'debt trap' in Africa is not a fact, but a malicious hype-up," he said. "It is an 'utterance trap' created by those external forces that do not want to see Africa accelerate development." □

French PM announces the creation of new LGBTQ ambassador job



French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne greets the media as he leaves the Elysee Palace after the cabinet meeting at the Elysee Palace, Friday, July 29, 2022.

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne on Thursday announced the creation of a new position of ambassador for LGBTQ rights in efforts to fight discrimination across the world. Borne spoke while visiting an LGBTQ center in Orleans, central France, on the 40th anniversary of the decriminalization of homosexuality in the country.

Borne said an ambassador will be named by the end of the year and will notably be in charge of pushing for universal decriminalization of homosexuality and trans

identity.

She also announced the creation of a 3 million-euro (\$3.05 million) fund to finance ten new LGBTQ+ centers, in addition to the 35 already existing in France. Borne's announcements followed criticism of the government after one minister made comments seen as stigmatizing homosexuality and LGBTQ people. Asked about her opposition to France's 2013 law authorizing gay marriage and adoption, the minister, Caroline Cayeux, said: "I have a lot of friends among

all those people." The remarks last month shocked many LGBTQ people and activists against discrimination and abuse, and provoked calls for her resignation.

On Thursday, Borne said that "the President of the Republic's approach, my approach, the government's approach is not ambiguous: we will continue to fight to make progress on the rights of the LGBTQ." Borne added that the minister "made unfortunate comments, she apologized." □

Efforts intensify to reach 10 trapped coal miners in Mexico

SABINAS, Mexico (AP) — Efforts to rescue 10 miners trapped in a collapsed and flooded coal mine in northern Mexico intensified Thursday with hundreds of people involved in the operation, authorities said. The collapse occurred after the miners breached a neighboring area filled with water on Wednesday, officials said. Authorities had not reported any contact with the trapped miners since the collapse. The miners are trapped between two 200-foot deep mine shafts more than half flooded with water, Undersecretary of Defense Agustín Rádiala Suástegui said Thursday. Rescuers were working to pump water out of the flooded mine. A National Guard plane was expected to arrive Thursday with six special forces scuba divers who could enter the mine when conditions allow. Civil Defense Coordinator Laura Velázquez said that five miners had managed to escape the collapse. Three of them remained



National Guards stand along the road that leads to where miners are trapped in a collapsed and flooded coal mine in Sabinas in Mexico's Coahuila state, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

hospitalized. Authorities had initially reported nine trapped miners Wednesday, but revised that number to 10 on Thursday. The mine is in Sabinas, about 70 miles southwest of Eagle Pass, Texas. The mine began operations this year, and the local government said it had not received any complaints or reports of previous incidents. More than 24 hours after

the collapse, relatives of the trapped miners waited in the shade of a tree outside the mine. Police and soldiers with rifles restricted access to the mine. Alfredo Torres, cousin of one of the trapped miners, said he had been volunteering in the rescue effort since Wednesday. Wearing a plastic helmet and clothes and boots coated in mud, he said they had been using small pumps

since the day before to remove water from the flooded shafts, but the water remained high. "No one can go in," Torres said. "We have to first try to pump out all of the water, get it out, so the miners can go in to rescue their co-workers. He said that so far there had been no contact with the trapped miners. He said he still hoped to find them alive, but recognized that "many hours have

passed and the water is still very high." A small chapel was set up outside the mine where family members could pray for the miners' rescue. Bishop Alonso Garza from the Piedras Negras diocese complained that conditions for miners continued to be bad and called on the government and companies to improve safety. "Each time that a tragedy like this happens they say yes and unfortunately now no." In June and July of 2021, cave-ins at two Coahuila mines claimed the lives of nine miners. Mexico's worst mining accident also occurred in Coahuila on Feb. 19, 2006, when an explosion ripped through the Pasta de Conchos mine while 73 miners were inside. Eight were rescued with injuries including serious burns. The rest died and only two of their bodies were recovered. López Obrador's administration promised two years ago to recover the remaining 63 bodies, a highly technical endeavor that has still not begun. □

WHO Africa sees 10-year growth in healthy life expectancy



Residents of the Malawi village of Tomali wait to have their young children become test subjects for the world's first vaccine against malaria, on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

By CHINEDU ASADU
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Africa recorded a ten-year growth in its healthy life expectancy from 2000 to 2019, the World Health Organization Africa office said Thursday, exceeding the global average and progress seen in any other region over the same pe-

riod. The healthy life expectancy in the region "rose by almost ten years to stand at 56 years in 2019 compared with 46 years in the year 2000," Dr. Lindiwe Makubalo, assistant regional Director for WHO Africa, said at an online briefing, citing the new WHO's State of Health in Africa report.

The gain exceeds that of the average global healthy life expectancy that increased by five years over the same period, Dr. Makubalo said, attributing it to better essential health services, improvement in health service coverage, in productive and maternal health and in health services to tackle infectious diseases. Despite the progress made, "we certainly have a lot to do and we seem to be ready to move together," the WHO Africa official said, warning that life expectancy in the African region is still below the global average of 64 years. "Unless countries strengthen and make greater investments in the development of health systems as well as implementing effective catch-up plans, these life expectancy gains could easily be lost," she said, warning also that the COVID-19 pandemic which

had "greater disruptions" to essential health services in Africa compared to other regions may also affect the continent's healthy life expectancy estimates. Health systems across the continent have been overstretched mostly by the COVID-19 pandemic but also by other disease outbreaks such as monkeypox, cholera and Lassa fever. Countries such as Nigeria, the continent's most populous nation, are battling as many as five of these outbreaks. To improve the health systems beyond the pre-pandemic levels and achieve "quality, equitable and accessible services for all," a major step would be in boosting public health financing, Dr. Makubalo said, noting that only seven countries in the region fund more than half of their annual national health expenditure. "Over the past

20 years, out-of-pocket expenditure has increased in about 15 countries," the official further said of the health situation in Africa, urging nations to do more to improve access to essential health services. A case in point for countries recording massive gains is Botswana where universal health coverage is "the cornerstone of our development and our response or approach to health care delivery in the country," according to Moses Kitele with Botswana's Ministry of Health. "We have made some strides in attaining UHC (universal health coverage) particularly with regards to minimizing the financial hardship," Dr. Kitele told the briefing, citing a recent WHO-funded study which shows that less than 1% of the households in Botswana face catastrophic health spending associated with health care. □

According to IMF: 'Aruba moved very swiftly from the pandemic'

ORANJESTAD – During a press conference this week, Aruba's minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber spoke about how the recovery of tourism for Aruba has been exceptional and among the best in the world. For the first six months of 2022, Aruba received 528,325 tourists, a recovery of 92 percent.

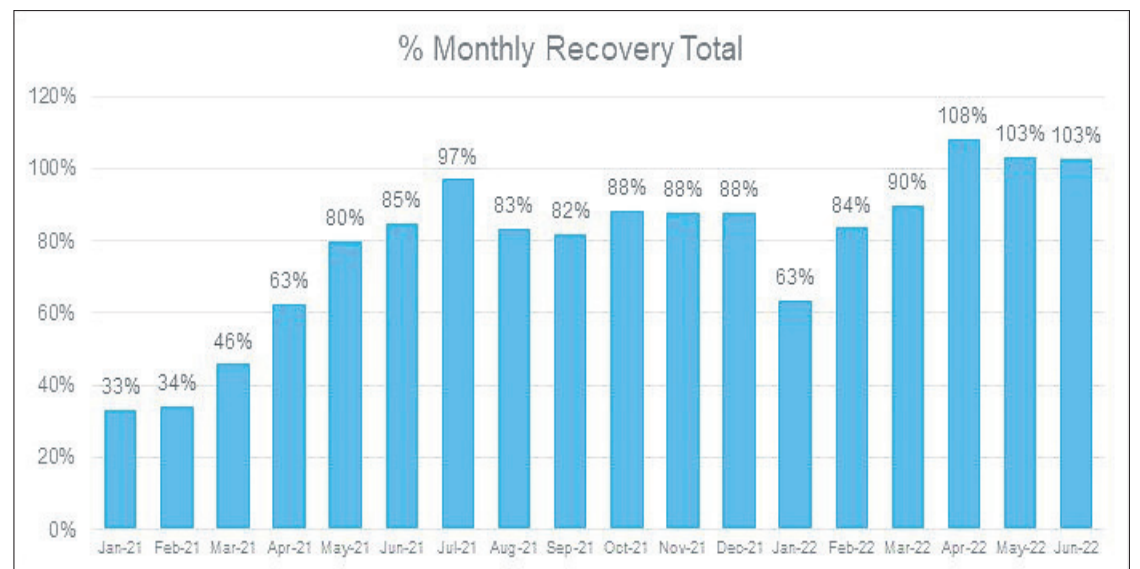
The recovery of tourism on Aruba for 2022 is at 92 percent (-8%), which according to minister Oduber, is very good, and one of the best in the world. The average recovery worldwide is 46% (-54%), and in our region, this is around 60% (-40%).

According to minister Oduber, this confirms our courage and determination to announce "our exit strategy in the middle of the pandemic in January 2022. The

tourists felt themselves safe and secure with the protocols implemented on Aruba" relating to Covid-19.

As the International Monetary Fund commentd, "Aruba moved very swiftly from the pandemic." Today, Aruba is the second country in the world with the best recovery of tourism.

The minister thanks all their partners, ministry of Tourism, Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA), Aruba Ports Authority (APA), Aruba Airport Association (AAA), Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA), Aruba Time Share Association (ATSA), Aruba Vacation Rentals and also extends gratitude to everyone working in the tourism sector, and the whole community of our beautiful island of Aruba.



ARRIVALS

YTD JUNE

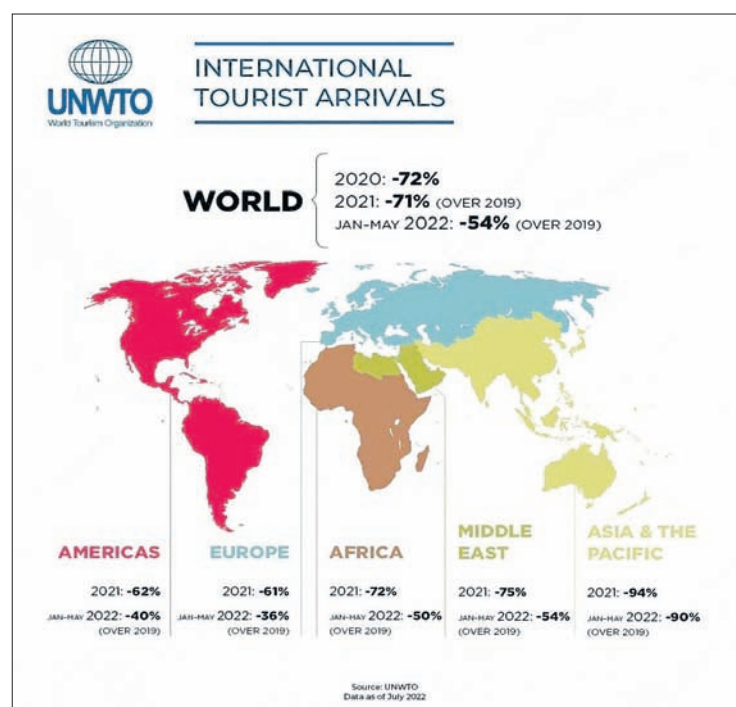
528,325

ARRIVALS

-8.2%

GROWTH

	2021	Growth	2022	% Growth	Weekends 2021	Weekends 2022
USA	435,343	-11.55%	423,790	-2.7%	75.6%	39.2%
Canada	28,519	-11.04%	16,536	-42.0%	5.6%	3.1%
NA	463,862	-23.15%	440,326	-5.1%	80.6%	83.3%
Venezuela	8,528	-7.80%	719	-91.6%	1.5%	0.1%
Colombia	17,126	-2.66%	14,400	-15.6%	3.3%	2.7%
Brazil	5,185	-1.24%	3,981	-23.6%	0.9%	0.7%
Argentina	7,551	-2.46%	5,095	-32.5%	1.3%	1.0%
Chile	5,434	-2.84%	2,940	-46.2%	1.0%	0.5%
Ecuador	822	-1.09%	1,200	46.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Peru	2,463	-1.09%	1,654	-33.8%	0.5%	0.3%
Paraguay	1,554	-1.77%	787	-49.7%	0.3%	0.1%
Uruguay	1,060	-1.26%	798	-25.0%	0.2%	0.1%
Mexico	826	-1.28%	698	-15.5%	0.1%	0.1%
Others	4,454	-1.91%	3,469	-22.3%	0.8%	0.7%
SA	15,483	-19.37%	16,188	4.6%	9.6%	6.8%
Netherlands	21,731	-1.71%	24,239	11.5%	3.8%	4.6%
UK	4,340	-1.92%	4,354	0.3%	0.8%	0.8%
Germany	3,380	-1.97%	2,504	-25.9%	0.6%	0.5%
Italy	2,847	-2.08%	1,899	-33.3%	0.5%	0.4%
Sweden	2,454	-2.09%	479	-80.6%	0.4%	0.1%
Belgium	1,222	-1.21%	1,262	3.3%	0.2%	0.2%
Ireland	140	-1.22%	127	-9.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Others	6,611	-1.23%	5,430	-17.8%	1.2%	1.0%
Europe	42,996	-1.23%	40,373	-6.1%	7.5%	7.0%
ROW	11,308	-1.23%	11,518	1.9%	2.3%	2.2%
Total	575,449	-8.2%	528,325	-8.2%		
W/O Wm.	567,121	-7.0%	527,606	-7.0%		



I STILL DO! MENU

...includes a complimentary sparkling wine.
PRICE: US\$ 120,- PER COUPLE

APPETIZER
Cupid's Salad
Mixed local greens with spinach, arugula, avocado, apple, orange segment, strawberry, and citrus vinaigrette.

ENTRÉE
Duo D'Amour
Grilled beef tenderloin and Caribbean lobster tail served with asparagus, red beet mashed potatoes, local ratatouille, red wine sauce and melted butter.

DESSERT
Hot & Sweet
Chocolate brownie and vanilla ice cream.

I Do! Special:
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Passions on the Beach's 'I Still Do! Dinner menu

Passions on the Beach allows couples to enjoy a true toes-in-the-sand dining experience along one of the world's top-ranked beaches, Eagle Beach. From the calming sounds of the ocean waves and live instrumentals to the soft light reflecting off the ocean as the sun sets and the moon rises, dining at Passions on the Beach is truly an unparalleled and unforgettable experience. In connection with the 4th edition of the 'I Do! Vow renewal on Thursday August 11th, couples are invited to indulge at Passions on the Beach afterwards for our most romantic night yet – complete with a special I Still Do! menu designed to celebrate and ignite love. Here's to forever after!

Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch

NOORD — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.

From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property



Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic Aruban house, welcoming you in a warm ambiance that emphasizes the philosophy of connecting. Candles, Buddha ornaments and a homey setting form the décor for you to sit and talk about your dream house or investment. "My

goal was to do real estate in a different way when I established



this company June 1st 2009. Not from the perspective of only selling, but to look for the perfect match between dream house

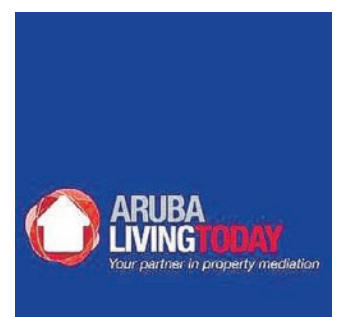
and client. My philosophy is: it will only work when all involved are happy and connected by that personal touch."

Aruba Living Today caters for both local and foreign market divided into 40 % local buyers and 60 % foreign buyers. "Our customers come from Holland, Belgium, Norway, Germany, UK, Russia, Latin America, United States and Canada. We are widely covered and thus provable good with different cultures, also we speak four languages." Besides that, Aruba Living Today is open to every budget, they have listings for all category buyers. As a member of the Aruban

Real Estate Association, they are listed also on the website www.arubalisting.com within a group of 20 of the most advanced realtors on the island. Aruba Living Today is featured on House Hunters, social media, Aruba Living Today and of course in Aruba Today's newspaper.

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Aruba Sport Unie associates with The Freewinds**

Oranjestad - The team of Freewinds together with Sr. Wiwi Peña are working together to bring more happiness to the youth participating in the "Youth Summer Camp" of Aruba Sport Unie, thanks to the books of The Way To Happiness, a moral guide for a better life.

Despite everything that is currently happening in the world, Aruba helps our youth by making sure that this Summer Camp can offer refuge to the youth where not only can they have a good time and enjoy athletic activities, but also learn about the values that will contribute to their development into valuable citizens of our beautiful and happy Island.

Fighting against the increasing level of crime and violence, Freewinds has associated with different important members of our community. Sr. Wiwi Peña and Sr. Gerald Franca of Aruba Sport Unie gave more than 100 The Way To

ever have to go through, Freewinds and Aruba Sport Unie made sure that our kids had a fun and educational vacation, which ended up with gifts making this vacation a memorable one. With the book The Way To Happiness, the kids learned various valuable concepts. This knowledge will help them live a better life for the rest of their lives.

Moral values are the bricks that surround the kids so that they can walk with security meanwhile they learn how to make a better future and Sr. Peña firmly believes in this. Wiwi said "Thanks to the presence of Freewinds we have a program that focuses on the moral principles. The books were given to the kids but I'm sure they will be helpful to the parents so they can be a better guide for their

kids. These kids don't have a vision towards how life is structured and they need a guide through the correct moral principles."

Sr. Peña is in favor of activities that will keep the youth away from hurtful influences. We have to give them values and the tools to help them become a better person while they grow with the desire to help others.

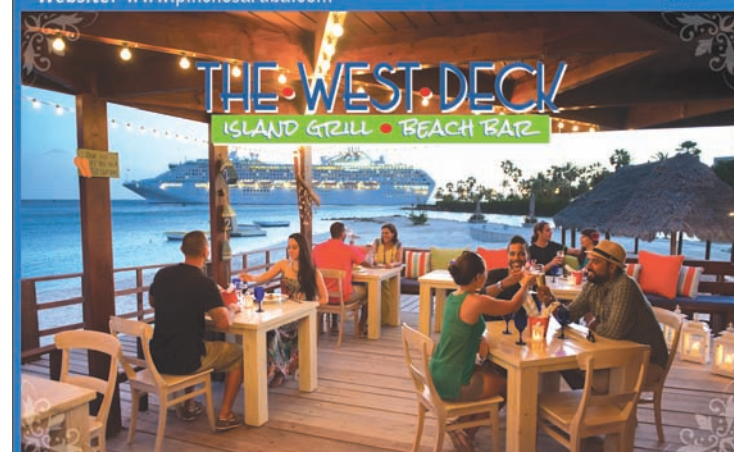
The Way To Happiness is a

moral code, not religious, based completely on common sense. It's author is L.Ron Hubbard and it was published originally in 1981 to help the society by restoring trust and honesty.

To learn more about The Way To Happiness for yourself, your family or your organization contact the office of Port Captain of The Freewinds by e-mail at portcaptain@freewinds.org or through Whatsapp at +1-727-301-0721.



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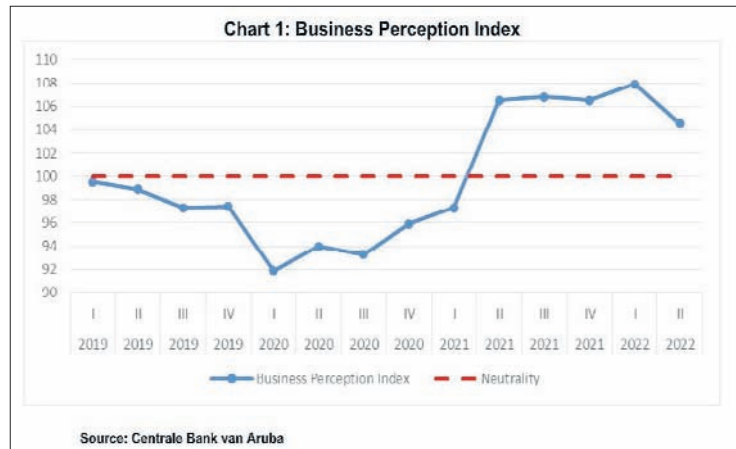


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Business sentiments less optimistic in the second quarter of 2022

Results for the second quarter of 2022



The Central Bank of Aruba (CBA) concluded its Business Perception Survey (BPS) for the second quarter of 2022. The BPS assesses the economic sentiments of local businesses.

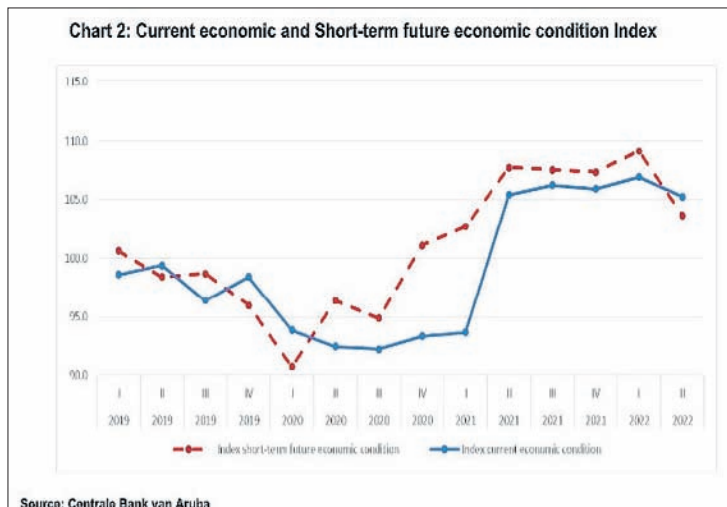
The current economic condition index withered by 1.7 index points to 105.2, down from 106.9 in the first quarter of 2022. The short-term future economic condition

index dropped by 5.4 index points, i.e., from 109.1 in the first quarter of 2022 to 103.7 in the second quarter of 2022 (See Chart 2). Likewise, the percentage of respondents expecting positive economic growth in the next 12 months decreased by 15.4 percentage points to 34.6 percent.

The complete report of the Business Perception Survey is available on the website of the CBA (<https://www.cbaruba.org/>).

Source: Centrale Bank van Aruba. □

In the second quarter of 2022, the Business Perception Index (BPI), comprising the current and short-term economic conditions, dropped by 3.3 index points to 104.6, reflecting less optimistic business sentiments. The downturn in business sentiments resulted from decreases in both short-term future and current economic conditions (See Chart 1).



Can I have a ..., please?

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a homemade hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the locals. Try apastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball.

Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served. □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while

enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and

where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.



"My dream became a reality"

Faritah Luidens presented her theatre play 'Friends Forever'



Sofia's mother's last wish was for her ashes to be spread in the country where she was born. Together with her four friends, Sofia decides to fulfill her mother's wishes, and sets out on a trip to Colombia. The trip that starts out pleasant doesn't go as planned. The friends find themselves confronted with various challenges that test their friendship and their courage.

This Papiamentu play, titled 'Amiganan pa Semper' (Friends Forever), was written, produced and directed by Faritah Luidens. Luidens is known in the world of art and theatre in Aruba as a singer, comedian, actress and writer, with an artistic career since she was barely 17 years old.

Luidens began singing and then went into the world of theatre. Many people on the island know Luidens as the humorous character, 'Tica Basha Abao', but her dream was also to write theatre plays. Not only with the goal of promoting theatre, but also to invite others to follow their dreams and contribute to art and culture on Aruba. After two years dedicating herself to

her dream, her first play, 'Friends Forever', is ready to be presented in September.

Luidens explained during a press conference that it took her a year to write this play. She chose the title 'Friends Forever' because she belongs to a group of friends that gave her the idea. She chose Colombia, because she travels to this country regularly, and some of the things she went through here and there became the experiences she combined to add into the play.

Luidens herself is directing and producing the play, and as an actress, she knows the importance of a good cast. A cast that has been practicing and preparing the play for around a year, and from the beginning have been dedicated to it. The cast consists of Nilka Franka, Lilian Pieters, Amy Richards, Faridi Daou, Meredith Rafael, Edjean Semeleer, Israel Luidens and Jason Croes.

"I couldn't go to sleep without thinking this has to happen, and I said I wanted the crème de la crème. I started looking for those I

consider to be phenomenal actors and that is the cast that we have. It is a completely different play, it was everything and that's why I say it's something completely different. It's about time to support our own people, and we have phenomenal actors on this island", she says.

Cast member Edjean Semeleer says that the experience was completely different for him and took him way out of his comfort zone. "The first times it was very uncomfortable to do it, but what I saw the protagonists displaying, I found fantastic. The play itself, the way it's put together, you can relate to a lot of those situations", he says.

Semeleer commented that 'Friends Forever' is a theatre play in which humor stands out a lot and the public will experience a lot

of emotions, like anger and nostalgia, but humor will prevail during this play.

Semeleer says that in the moments where he's not acting, he can sit and enjoy the fantastic acting of the protagonists. "For me as an artist, it's an honor to take part in this play. I am sure the public will enjoy and feel inspired and motivated to see that there are initiatives taken to promote theatre on our island."

Rayenne Hernandez, director of UNOCA – cultural fund that cofinances Art & Cultural Projects in Aruba – was also present during the press conference. For UNOCA, she mentioned they are very proud to present and take part in such a project.

Hernandez emphasized that often international presentations or theatre

plays receive a lot of support from the local community, and UNOCA believes that the local plays, Aruba's artists, also have talent to present on an international level, and this is one the reasons why UNOCA decided to financially support Luidens' project.

UNOCA believes in developing art, culture, and for theatre we see that in recent years it has not been given the value it deserves, is not receiving the commercial support, and we a decided, together with other partners, to support this project to see our own local talents also on the stage and for the community of Aruba to enjoy.

The play 'Friends Forever' will present on the 2nd and 3rd of September at Cas di Cultura. The play is in the Papiamentu language.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Yesterday's answer

10 Increase	27 Golfer
12 Grove	Hogan
makeup	28 Social ser-
17 Twice uno	vice
19 Line of	30 Reside
symmetry	31 Monopoly
22 Continen-	cards
tal coin	33 Cruising
24 Legendary	Paul
25 Ashen	37 Flock
26 News star	father

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	40						41		

8-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

8-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

Q H C I R L I V I J T A Z V F D

L Q G D T J Q I V , C I R U Z C D V L R E

S A D G D C I R Z G D A D Z L Q V F .

— W Z I J P R

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THE RIGHT PATH AND YOU'RE WILLING TO KEEP WALKING, EVENTUALLY YOU'LL MAKE PROGRESS. — BARACK OBAMA

'Stray' cat video game brings some benefits to real cats

By THALIA BEATY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The virtual cat hero from the new video game sensation "Stray" doesn't just wind along rusted pipes, leap over unidentified sludge and decode clues in a seemingly abandoned city. The daring orange tabby is helping real world cats as well.

Thanks to online fundraising platforms, gamers are playing "Stray" while streaming live for audiences to raise money for animal shelters and other cat-related charities. Annapurna Interactive, the game's publisher, also promoted "Stray" by offering two cat rescue and adoption agencies copies of the game to raffle off and renting out a New York cat cafe. Livestreaming game play for charity isn't new, but the resonance "Stray" quickly found from cat lovers is unusual. It was the fourth most watched and broadcast game on the day it launched on Twitch, the streaming platform said. Viewers watch as players navigate the adventurous feline through an aging industrial landscape doing normal cat stuff: balancing on railings, walking on keyboards and knocking things off shelves to solve puzzles and evade enemies.

About 80% of the game's development team are "cat owners and cat lovers" and a real-life orange stray as well as their own cats helped inspire the game, one creator said.

"I certainly hope that maybe some people will be inspired to help actual strays in real life knowing that having an animal and a companion is a responsibility," said producer Swann Martin-Raget, of the BlueTwelve gaming studio in Montpellier, in southern France.

When Annapurna Interactive reached out to the Nebraska Humane Society to partner before the game's launch on July 19, they jumped at the chance, marketing specialist Bren-



In this image provided by Annapurna Interactive, the "Stray" video game, developed by BlueTwelve Studio and released on July 19, 2022, is seen.

Associated Press

dan Gepson said. "The whole game and the whole culture around the game, it's all about a love of cats," Gepson said. "It meshed really well with the shelter and our mission." The shelter got four copies of the game to give away and solicited donations for \$5 to be entered into a raffle to win one. In a week, they raised \$7,000, Gepson said, with the vast majority of the 550 donors being new to them, including people donating from Germany and Malta. The company also donated \$1,035 to the shelter. "It was really mutually beneficial," Gepson said. "They got some really good PR out of it and we got a whole new donor base out of it."

Annapurna also bought out Meow Parlour, the New York cat cafe and adoption agency, for a week-end, as well as donating \$1,000. Visitors who made reservations could buy "Stray" themed merchandise and play the game for 20 minutes while surrounded by cats. (The game also captivates cats, videos on social media show.)

Jeff Legaspi, Annapurna Interactive's marketing director, said it made sense for the game's launch to do something "positively impactful and hopefully bring more awareness to adopting and not shopping for a new pet."

Annapurna declined to disclose sales or download figures for the game, which is available on PlayStation

and the Steam platform. However, according to Steam monitor SteamDB, "Stray" has been the No. 1 purchased game for the past two weeks.

North Shore Animal League America, which rescues tens of thousands of animals each year, said it hadn't seen any increase in traffic from the game but they did receive more than \$800 thanks to a gamer.

In a happy coincidence, the shelter had just set up a profile on the platform Tiltify, which allows nonprofits to receive donations from video streams, the week the game launched. The player channeled donations to the shelter, smashing her initial goal of \$200.

"We are seeing Tiltify and livestreaming as this whole new way for us to engage a whole different audience," said Carol Marchesano, the rescue's senior digital marketing director. Usually, though, organizations need to reach out to online personalities to coordinate livestreams, which can take a lot of work, she said.

About nine campaigns on Tiltify mention the game "Stray," the company's CEO Michael Wasserman said.

JustGiving, which also facilitates charity livestreams, said it identified two campaigns with the game.

For his part, Gepson from Nebraska reached out to an Omaha resident who goes by the name Trey-Day1014 online to run a charity livestream. □

Australia to protect Barrier Reef by banning coal mine



In this photo provided by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, a green turtle swims in waters of Ribbon Reef No 10 near Cairns, Australia, Jan. 26, 2019.

Associated Press

By **ROD McGUIRK**

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— Australia's new government announced on Thursday it plans to prevent development of a coal mine due to the potential impact on the nearby Great Barrier Reef.

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek said she intends to deny approval for the Central Queensland Coal Project to be excavated northwest of the Queensland state town of Rockhampton.

The minority Greens party has been pressing the center-left Labor Party government, which was elected in May, to refuse approvals of coal or gas projects, to help reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions. "Based on the information available to me at this stage, I believe that the

project would be likely to have unacceptable impacts to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, and the values of the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and National Heritage Place," Plibersek said in a statement.

The marine park manages the network of more than 2,500 reefs that cover 348,000 square kilometers (134,000 square miles) of seabed off the northeast Australian coast. The World Heritage Area, designated by the United Nations and Australia's National Heritage List, includes natural, historic and Indigenous places of outstanding significance to the nation.

UNESCO, the U.N. cultural organization, is considering downgrading the Great Barrier Reef's World Heritage status mainly because rising ocean temperatures

are killing coral.

The mine's proponents have 10 business days to respond to the proposed refusal before the minister makes her final decision. The Greens welcomed the news and urged the minister to reject another 26 planned coal mines.

"Now we need an across-the-board moratorium on all new coal and gas projects," Greens leader Adam Bandt said in a statement. The proposed decision was announced after the House of Representatives passed a bill that would enshrine in law the government's ambition to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by the end of the decade.

The bill was passed 89 votes to 55.

The previous government's target had been a reduction of between 26%-28%, set at the Paris climate conference in 2015.

A proposed Greens' amendment that would have acknowledged no new coal, oil or gas projects could be started if Australia were to achieve its net-zero emissions target by 2050 was defeated on Thursday. □



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Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Oranjestad 527 3140
Noord 527 3200
Sta. Cruz 527 2900
San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulancia 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900
Prof. Taxi 588 0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport 524 2424
American Airlines 582 2700
Avianca 588 0059
Jet Blue 588 2244
Surinam 582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

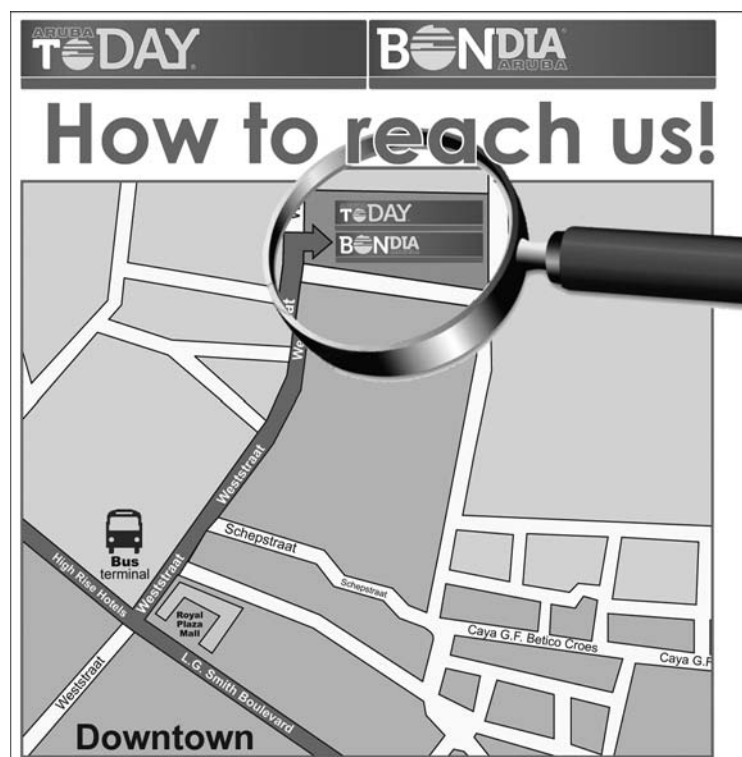
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



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Alyssa Farah Griffin, Ana Navarro join 'The View' as cohosts

By DAVID BAUDER

AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — ABC's "The View" has named two Republicans — Alyssa Farah Griffin and Ana Navarro as regular panelists on the daytime talk show, and neither are fans of former President Donald Trump. Farah Griffin fills the chair left empty when Meghan McCain quit last summer after four years on the show. Farah Griffin is a communications strategist who worked as a spokesperson at the Pentagon and for Trump and Vice President Mike Pence during the last administration. Navarro, a familiar face as a frequent guest host at "The View" since 2015, was also officially named as an addition to the show's group of five hosts on Thursday.

McCain was a magnet for controversy and attention during her time at "The View," where she often fought onscreen with her more liberal co-hosts, and complained after she left of a toxic work environment. "The View" took its time replacing her, spending a year with conservative guest hosts in informal on-air tryouts. Farah Griffin appeared 29 times. "If there's one thing that I believe, it's that there's more that unites this country than divides it," Farah Griffin said. "I think we can



This combination of images shows Alyssa Farah Griffin, left, and Ana Navarro, newly named cohosts for "The View."

demonstrate at this table what our elected leaders often can't, which is disagreeing but doing so respectfully and doing so in a fact-based manner. We don't need any of these conspiracies and lies that have taken up so much of news."

Farah Griffin, who is also a CNN contributor, quit the Trump administration in December 2020. She publicly turned against her old boss following the Jan. 6, 2021,

insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and spoke to the House committee investigating the event. She said the last two years have been turbulent for her, including dealing with death threats.

"I worked for an administration that I ended up speaking out against fervently and continue to do so daily," she said. "It changes a lot in your life. I lost a lot of friends. I'm estranged from family mem-

bers, but I have to say this: I am so proud to have found my voice."

Not everyone has been quick to turn the page, and there's a social media campaign to boycott "The View" because of her hiring, with some fans unwilling to forgive the new host's service to Trump.

"The View" discusses the day's "hot topics" on its show and is seen by many politicians as an important conduit to women voters

during national campaigns. Yet it's also a target: Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' office recently turned down an invitation to appear on the show, and publicly pointed to hostile comments made by the show's hosts about him.

Led by veterans Whoopi Goldberg and Joy Behar, the show is generally dominated by its liberal hosts. Goldberg refuses to even say Trump's name.

Farah Griffin told her cohosts, who also include Sunny Hostin and Sarah Haines, that she knew it was "going to get sporting sometimes." "It's going to get more than sporting," Hostin replied.

Navarro has worked for GOP figures John McCain and Jeb Bush. She had a Twitter tiff with the former president's son last September; after Donald Trump Jr. made an online comment about Navarro's weight, she called him a dimwit.

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She had a Twitter tiff with Donald Trump Jr. last September; after he made an online comment about Navarro's weight, she called him a dimwit.

She said she was pleased to be joining the show officially, even if it means a commute from her home in Miami.

"We're finally putting a ring on it," she said. □

Associated Press

Ellen Pompeo cutting back on her 'Grey's Anatomy' episodes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Dr. Meredith Grey will be cutting back her workload on

"Grey's Anatomy."

Series star Ellen Pompeo is set to appear in eight episodes of the hospital drama about a third of the usual per-season number when the ABC show returns for its 19th season on Oct. 6.

Pompeo is reducing her commitment as she prepares to star in an untitled, limited series based on the real-life story of a tangled 2010 adoption involving a U.S. couple. It's for the streaming service Hulu, a Disney corporate sibling to ABC.

The network declined comment. Pompeo's spokeswoman didn't respond to

an email request for comment.

There will be newcomers to help pick up the slack at fictional Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital in Seattle. Alexis Floyd, Niko Terho and Harry Shum Jr. will be among those joining the show as interns.

Pompeo is one among the few original remaining cast members, which include Chandra Wilson and James Pickens Jr. The series was created by producer-writer Shonda Rhimes, a TV powerhouse whose credits include "Bridgerton" and "Scandal."

Pompeo will retain her du-



This image released by ABC shows Ellen Pompeo as Meredith Grey in a scene from "Grey's Anatomy."

Associated Press

ties as an executive producer and narrator for "Grey's Anatomy," said

Deadline Hollywood, which reported the story Wednesday. □

ARUBA
CLEAN

IS MORE
DUSHI

Judge shortens road to decide NFL racial discrimination suit

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge on Thursday made it likely she'll rule in weeks rather than months whether NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell gets to decide the merits of racial discrimination claims made by Black coaches against the league and its teams, saying an effort to gather more evidence seems like "an impermissible fishing expedition."

U.S. District Judge Valerie Caproni said in a written ruling that lawyers for coaches Brian Flores, Steve Wilks and Ray Horton cannot gather additional evidence from defendants to support their arguments that the lawsuit in Manhattan federal court should remain in court rather than be sent to arbitration.

Her ruling makes it likely that a decision on whether to move the case to arbitration or let it remain in Manhattan federal court will be decided in weeks rather than months.

"Because Plaintiffs should know whether they entered into any other contracts or agreements that would affect their agreement to arbitrate, the Court can only assume that they are attempting to embark on an



Pittsburgh Steelers senior defensive assistant Brian Flores, right, watches as the team goes through drills during an NFL football practice on May 31, 2022, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

impermissible fishing expedition," Caproni wrote.

Still, the judge said lawyers for the coaches may well be able to argue that the proposed arbitrator is so biased against them that the motion to compel arbitration should not be granted, but they do not need discovery to do so. In legal cases, "discovery" references evidence such as emails and text messages that lawyers try to get from their opponents to strengthen their arguments. Flores, who was fired in

January as head coach of the Miami Dolphins and is now an assistant coach with the Pittsburgh Steelers, filed the lawsuit in February, saying the league was "rife with racism" even as it publicly condemns it. The other coaches later joined the lawsuit, which sought unspecified damages and class-action status.

The NFL and six of its teams say the lawsuit they maintain is "without merit" is required to go to arbitration, where Goodell would be the arbitrator, according

to the terms laid out in employment contracts and the NFL's constitution.

Caproni wrote that courts have not historically allowed lawyers to gather evidence prior to deciding whether a case is required to go to arbitration.

"An agreement to arbitrate is binding on the parties unless the agreement is invalid under state contract law," she wrote. "Thus, on a motion to compel arbitration, the Court's analysis is generally limited to determining whether there is

a valid agreement to arbitrate, whether one party has failed to perform its duties under that agreement, and whether the agreement, properly interpreted, encompasses the dispute at hand."

Attorneys Douglas H. Wigdor and John Elefterakis, representing Flores, said in a statement that they are "confident that we will defeat the efforts of the NFL to move this matter into a private and confidential arbitration behind closed doors." "It is obvious that the NFL is trying to hide behind this process and avoid public scrutiny of the racial discrimination and retaliation claims we have brought.

If they are confident in their defenses, they should let the process play out in court so the general public can see," the lawyers said. In Thursday's ruling, Caproni instructed lawyers for the coaches to submit written arguments against arbitration by Aug. 19 and told the NFL and its teams to respond by Aug. 26. Her decision came just days after the NFL released the results of its investigation into allegations by Flores that Dolphins owner Stephen Ross offered \$100,000 a game to purposely lose games. □

Unvaccinated Novak Djokovic pulls out of Montreal tournament

MONTREAL (AP) — Novak Djokovic withdrew from the upcoming hard-court tournament in Montreal on Thursday because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19 and is therefore not allowed to enter Canada. By the same reason, as things stand now, he also will not be able to compete in the U.S. Open later this month.

Djokovic, a 35-year-old from Serbia, has said he won't get the shots, even if that means he can't go to certain tournaments. He missed the Australian Open in January after being deported from that country and needed to sit out two events in the United States earlier this year.

He did play in the French

Open, where he lost in the quarterfinals to Rafael Nadal, and at Wimbledon, which Djokovic won last month for his 21st Grand Slam title one behind the men's record held by Nadal. Unvaccinated foreign citizens can't go to Canada or the U.S., so Djokovic pulled out of Montreal a day before the draw is scheduled to take place for the tournament and is expected to have to sit out the U.S. Open, which starts in New York on Aug. 29.

Last weekend, Djokovic posted on social media that he was holding out hope of getting the chance to play in the U.S. Open, writing: "I am preparing as if I will be allowed to compete, while I await to hear if there is

any room for me to travel to US. Fingers crossed!"

After beating Nick Kyrgios in the Wimbledon final on July 10, Djokovic said he "would love" to participate in the last Grand Slam tournament of the year at Flushing Meadows, but also acknowledged, "I'm not planning to get vaccinated."

Djokovic is a three-time champion at the U.S. Open. His loss to Daniil Medvedev in last year's final there prevented Djokovic from becoming the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win a calendar-year Grand Slam. Oscar Otte also withdrew from Montreal on Thursday; Kyrgios and Benjamin Bonzi moved into the bracket.

Four wild-card berths went



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, wipes the sweat off during a training session at the Mutua Madrid Open tennis tournament in Madrid, Spain, on April 30, 2022.

Associated Press

to three-time major champion Andy Murray, David Goffin, Vasek Pospisil and Alexis Galarneau. Nadal, who pulled out of

Wimbledon before the semifinals because of a torn abdominal muscle, is still scheduled to play in Montreal. □

Pirates rally by scuffling Brewers once again in 5-4 victory

By WILL GRAVES

AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Milwaukee Brewers insist they're not suffering from sort of a Josh Hader hang-over.

Sure looks like it though.

Bryan Reynolds raced home on a wild pitch with one out in the 10th inning, lifting the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 5-4 victory on Thursday to complete a three-game sweep of Milwaukee.

Reynolds led off the bottom of the 10th by tying the game with a ground-rule double to right field that scored rookie Tucupita Marcano. Reynolds advanced to third on a fly ball to right by Ke'Bryan Hayes and scored when a 0-2 curveball by Milwaukee reliever Matt Bush (2-2) skipped by catcher Victor Caratini.

"I'm trying to bury it but obviously not that much," Bush said. "It just got away from me a little bit."

The Brewers fell to 0-3 since trading Hader, their four-time All-Star closer, to San Diego on Monday. Milwaukee failed to hold on to multiple-run leads in all



Pittsburgh Pirates' Greg Allen, left, scores past the tag of Milwaukee Brewers catcher Victor Caratini (7) on a hit by Ben Gamel in the seventh inning the a baseball game, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022, Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

three games at PNC Park, though starter Brandon Woodruff downplayed the idea that Hader's departure played a role in getting swept at PNC Park for the first time in two years.

"When you come to the baseball field, regardless

of who is in this room, this is our team and we've got a dang good team," Woodruff said. "We're here for each other, we're going to play for each other and we can't do anything about (who is in the room and who is not) other than go-

ing out and doing our job." Milwaukee took the lead in the top of the 10th when Duane Underwood Jr. (1-3) hit Kolten Wong with the bases loaded and two outs.

Leftfielder Ben Gamel then made a diving grab on

a sinking liner by Hunter Renfroe to escape further damage, and the Pirates responded in the bottom of the inning behind Reynolds, who hit a walk-off home run leading off the bottom of the ninth in an 8-7 win on Wednesday.

"It says a lot about this team and how close we are to really (being contenders)," said Pittsburgh first baseman Michael Chavis. "We've got some impactful players. You catch us on the right day and things are going to kind of fall into place."

Reynolds, Gamel, Marcano and catcher Jason Delay had two hits each for Pittsburgh. The victory snapped a six-game losing streak in extra-inning contests by the Pirates. Pittsburgh has won three straight following a seven-game slide that briefly dropped the club into last in the NL Central. "I don't think we've swept them since I've been up," said Pirates third baseman Ke'Bryan Hayes, who made his major league debut in September 2020. "We're headed in the right direction." □

Nootbaar's game-ending single lifts Cardinals over Cubs 4-3



St. Louis Cardinals' Lars Nootbaar celebrates after hitting a walk-off single to score Nolan Arenado during the ninth inning in the first game of a baseball doubleheader against the Chicago Cubs Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

By WARREN MAYES

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Lars Nootbaar hit a tying sacrifice fly in the seventh inning and a game-ending RBI single in the ninth, sending the St. Louis Cardinals to a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Thursday in the opener of a split doubleheader.

St. Louis trailed 3-0 before rallying in the seventh against Marcus Stroman. Nolan Gorman and Paul Goldschmidt hit back-to-back homers before Nolan Arenado doubled and scored on Nootbaar's fly-ball to center.

"When it all clicks, we're

able to string together some quality at-bats," St. Louis manager Oliver Marmol said. "Those guys there definitely made an adjustment on Stroman and made some really hard contact. Classic third time through the lineup."

Arenado and Paul DeJong walked with one out in the ninth against rookie Erich Uelmen (0-1). Nootbaar then drove in Arenado with a liner to right on a 2-2 pitch.

"He's taking some really professional at-bats," Marmol said about Nootbaar. "He's making a lot of hard contact. He's confident in what he's doing right now." Nootbaar said he thought Arenado would be able to score the winning run. Arenado's slide beat the tag by catcher Willson Contreras.

"He's not the fleetest afoot. I'd never seen him move

that fast before," Nootbaar said with a laugh. "But he's a smart baserunner. I had a pretty good idea he would score there. I made him run a little harder than he needed to. I owe him."

Ryan Helsley (6-1) got three outs for the win, helping the Cardinals pull within a half-game of Milwaukee for the NL Central lead.

Contreras homered for Chicago, which dropped its fourth straight game. Stroman was charged with three runs and five hits in 6 2/3 innings.

"I thought he had command of both sides of the plate. He was sharp," manager David Ross said. "It was a really nice performance today I thought."

The doubleheader was scheduled after Wednesday night's game was postponed by rain. St. Louis improved to 5-2 in its four doubleheaders this season,

and Chicago dropped to 1-8 in its five doubleheaders.

Contreras, who was the subject of trade rumors ahead of Tuesday's deadline, hit a solo drive in the first for his 15th homer.

"I just wanted that to be over and clear my mind to play baseball," Contreras said of the deadline. "I need to keep my focus on baseball and I don't have to worry about something else any more. It feel more relaxed. It took a lot of weight off my shoulders."

The Cubs added two more in the sixth against Miles Mikolas. Contreras doubled and scored on Seiya Suzuki's single, and Patrick Wisdom added a sacrifice fly. Mikolas allowed seven hits, struck out six and waked one in 6 1/3 innings. Rafael Ortega had three hits for Chicago, and Nico Hoerner went 2 for 4. □