



David Richardson, the co-founder of Elephant Energy, leans on a condenser placed on the roof during the installation of a heat pump in an 80-year-old rowhouse in a neighborhood Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, in northwest Denver.

Associated Press

Biden's next climate hurdle: Enticing Americans to buy green

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden persuaded Democrats in Congress to provide hundreds of billions of dollars to fight climate change. Now comes another formidable task: enticing Americans to buy millions of electric cars, heat pumps, solar panels and more efficient appliances. It's a public relations challenge that could determine whether the country meets

Biden's ambitious goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. Relying on tax credits and rebates made the climate legislation — it was approved in August with only Democratic votes — more politically palatable than regulations that force wholesale changes in polluting industries.

Continued on Page 2

Minister Geoffrey Wever will continue exploring the introduction of a Fast Ferry between Aruba and Curaçao



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Biden's next climate hurdle: Enticing Americans to buy green

Continued from Front

But it also means the administration's battle against global warming will be waged "one household at a time," said Shannon Baker-Branstetter, who works on energy issues at the Center for American Progress, a liberal think tank closely aligned with the White House.

"It is very incremental," she said. "So it requires a very sophisticated communications strategy."

Biden acknowledged the hurdle during a recent Cabinet meeting as he talked about the incentives that are becoming available this year.

"Folks need to know how to take advantage of these benefits that we passed.



President Joe Biden drives a Cadillac Lyriq through the showroom during a tour at the Detroit Auto Show, Sept. 14, 2022, in Detroit. Associated Press

That's on all of us around the table here to make sure we get that message out clearly," he said.

The White House says it is piecing together a plan to partner with state govern-

ments, contractors, retailers and social media influencers to get the word out. "Lowering utility bills is going to be a key driver," said Josh Peck, a senior policy adviser on clean energy is-

sues.

It's also collaborating with Rewiring America, a non-profit focused on ways to electrify homes and businesses, and companies like Airbnb, Redfin and Lyft. As part of the effort, Rewiring America created an online calculator that shows what credits or rebates homeowners might be eligible for, depending on their ZIP code and income.

Buying a heat pump or installing solar panels is "a major expense line and a major opportunity for savings," said Ari Matusiak, the group's founder and CEO. "So it's really important to make sure people are aware of the resources they have available and the benefits they can unlock in terms of bringing energy bill savings."

But the White House faces an uphill battle.

Polling shows that while Americans support action to slow climate change, they are broadly unaware of the Inflation Reduction Act, the massive legislation that includes financial incentives to lower emissions, and skeptical of their own role in the climate crisis.

An AP-NORC poll released in September, one month after the law was signed, found that 61% of U.S. adults said they knew little to nothing about the legislation. And despite the multibillion-dollar investment in climate solutions, only a third said it would help climate change; about half said it wouldn't make a difference.

The White House says it's not rattled by the results. The goal is to make sure consumers know the financial benefits of energy efficient products at the moment that they're making key decisions on which products to buy, Peck said. "One of the challenges here is trying to meet consumers where they are when they make decisions about these purchases," he said.

Majorities of U.S. adults said they are unlikely to install solar panels or buy an electric vehicle in the next three years, according to the AP-

NORC poll. Among those, at least half said financial incentives would not make a difference in their decision.

Homeowners typically are reluctant to swap out furnaces or water heaters until they absolutely have to shell out the money for them.

"One day the heat won't turn on and it's negative 10 (degrees) outside and you say, 'Oh crap, I've got to get a furnace,'" said DR Richardson, co-founder of Elephant Energy, a Colorado company that helps homeowners install electric heat pumps and other appliances.

"So the biggest challenge from our perspective, and from a climate perspective, is to get people to think ahead of time about how to replace these assets."

Most homeowners don't understand what equipment qualifies for a rebate or a tax credit — and even contractors are not always aware, Richardson said. While some heat pumps qualify for a full rebate, others do not or are only eligible for partial rebates.

Not all of the incentives are ready either. While people can get a tax break on the cost of an electric car, solar panels or heat pump, rebates for low- and middle-income Americans seeking to make their homes more energy efficient are not yet available. The Energy Department is still developing the system to distribute that money.

Cecilia Muñoz, director of the White House Domestic Policy Council in the Obama administration, said she learned in her tenure that it's critical for government to invest in the delivery of policies.

"Too often we as advocates and policymakers applaud when policy gets enacted and then stop paying attention," she said. Instead, they need to design ways to target people directly to help them "understand the steps that they can take and the ways that the government is going to make it easy." □

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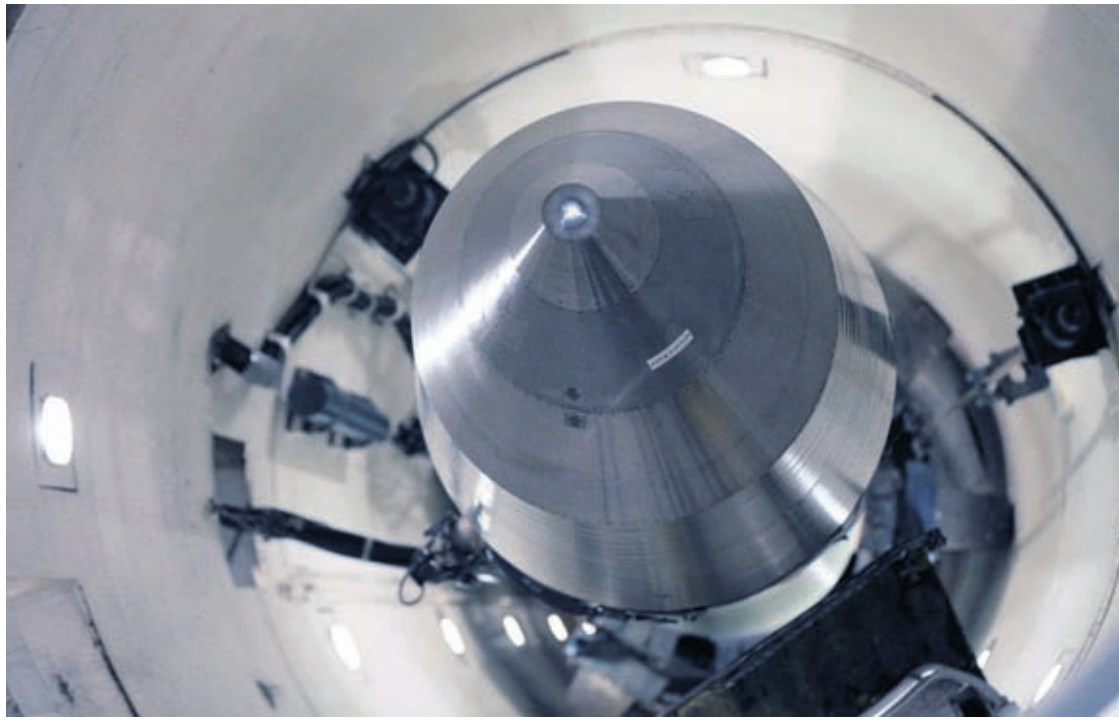
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AQUARIUS

Military probing whether cancers linked to nuclear silo work

By TARA COPP Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) —

Nine military officers who had worked decades ago at a nuclear missile base in Montana have been diagnosed with blood cancer and there are "indications" the disease may be linked to their service, according to military briefing slides obtained by The Associated Press. One of the officers has died. All of the officers, known as missileers, were assigned as many as 25 years ago to Malmstrom Air Force Base, home to a vast field of 150 Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile silos. The nine officers were diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, according to a January briefing by U.S. Space Force Lt. Col. Daniel Sebeck. Missileers ride caged elevators deep underground into a small operations bunker encased in a thick wall of concrete and steel. They remain there sometimes for days, ready to turn the launch keys if ordered to by the president. "There are indications of a possible association between cancer and missile combat crew service at Malmstrom AFB," Sebeck said in slides presented to his Space Force unit this month. The "disproportionate number



An inert Minuteman III missile is seen in a training launch tube at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., June 25, 2014. Associated Press

of missileers presenting with cancer, specifically lymphoma" was concerning, he said. Sebeck declined to comment when contacted by email by the AP on Saturday, saying the slides were "predecisional." In the slides, he said the issue was important to the Space Force because as many as 455 former missileers are now serving as Space Force officers, including at least four of the nine identified in the slides. In a statement to the AP, Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek said that "se-

nior leaders are aware of the concerns raised about the possible association of cancer related to missile combat crew members at Malmstrom AFB." Stefanek added: "The information in this briefing has been shared with the Department of the Air Force surgeon general and our medical professionals are working to gather data and understand more." Non-Hodgkin lymphoma, which according to the American Cancer Society affects an estimated 19 out of every 100,000

people in the U.S. annually, is a blood cancer that uses the body's infection-fighting lymph system to spread. For comparison, only about 3,300 troops are based at Malmstrom at a time, and only about 400 of those are assigned either as missileers or as support for those operators. It is one of three bases in the U.S. that operate a total of 400 siloed Minutemen III ICBMs, including fields at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota and F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming. The median age for adult

non-Hodgkin lymphoma is 67, according to the National Institutes of Health. The former missileers affected are far younger. Officers are often in their 20s when they are assigned duty watch; the officer who died, who was not identified, was a Space Force officer assigned to Schriever Space Force Base in Colorado with the rank of major, a rank typically achieved in a service member's 30s. Two of the others are in the same Space Force unit with the rank of lieutenant colonel, which is typically reached in a service member's early 40s.

It's not the first time the military has been alerted to multiple cancer cases at Malmstrom. In 2001 the Air Force Institute for Operational Health investigated the base after 14 cancers of various types were reported among missileers who had served there, including two cases of non-Hodgkin lymphoma. But the review found the base was environmentally safe and that "sometimes illnesses tend to occur by chance alone." The report lamented that the list of those diagnosed had been collected because it "perpetuates the level of concern." □

Feds deny emergency call to slow ships, ease whale strikes

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

The U.S. government has denied a request from a group of environmental organizations to immediately apply proposed ship-speed restrictions in an effort to save a vanishing species of whale. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is considering new rules designed to stop large ships from colliding with North Atlantic right whales. The whales number less than 340, and they are vulnerable to ship strikes and entanglement in fishing gear. The proposed rules would expand "slow zones" off

the East Coast and require more vessels to comply with those rules. The environmental groups had asked NOAA to immediately implement pieces of the proposed rule that would aid the whales this winter and spring, when the whales travel from their calving grounds off the southern states to feeding grounds off New England and Canada. The agency informed the conservation groups on Jan. 20 that it was denying the request on the basis that it is "focused on implementing long-term, substantive vessel strike risk reduction measures," according to documents ob-

tained by The Associated Press. NOAA also told the groups it was concerned the time needed to develop emergency regulations would prevent their quick implementation. Members of the conservation groups, including Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity and Massachusetts-based Whale and Dolphin Conservation, said they felt NOAA's decision was wrongheaded. Protecting the whales while they are on the move is especially important because mother whales and their young are at risk, said Regina Asmutis-Silvia, executive director of Whale and Dolphin Con-



A North Atlantic right whale feeds on the surface of Cape Cod bay off the coast of Plymouth, Mass., March 28, 2018. Associated Press

servation. "We know that the risk is there," Asmutis-Silvia said. "You can't recover the population unless you have kids, and we want to make sure the kids survive." The population of right whales has been declining in recent years, and that

has raised alarms among marine biologists, animal welfare activists and government regulators. Some scientists have said the warming of the ocean has caused the whales to stray outside of existing protected areas as they search for food. □

Four Oath Keepers convicted of Jan. 6 seditious conspiracy

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
and **ALANNA DURKIN RICH-
ER**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Four members of the Oath Keepers were convicted Monday of seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol attack in the second major trial of far-right extremists accused of plotting to forcibly keep President Donald Trump in power.

The verdict against Joseph Hackett of Sarasota, Florida; Roberto Minuta of Prosper, Texas; David Moerschel of Punta Gorda, Florida; and Edward Vallejo of Phoenix comes weeks after after a different jury convicted the group's leader, Stewart Rhodes, in the mob's attack that halted the certification of President Joe Biden's electoral victory.

It's another major victory for the Justice Department, which is also trying to secure sedition convictions against the former leader of the Proud Boys and four associates.

The trial against Enrique Tarrio and his lieutenants opened earlier this month in Washington and is expected to last several weeks.

The Washington jury deliberated for about 12 hours over three days before delivering their guilty verdict on the rarely used charge,



Members of the Oath Keepers extremist group stand on the East Front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

which carries up to 20 years in prison. The four were also convicted of two other conspiracy charges as well as obstructing an official proceeding: Congress' certification of the 2020 election. Minuta, Hackett and Moerschel were acquitted of lesser charges.

The judge didn't immediately set a date for sentencing. The judge denied prosecutors' bid to lock up the men while they await sentencing, finding them not to be a risk of flight. They were ordered to remain in home detention

with electronic monitoring. It was one of the most serious cases brought so far in the sweeping Jan. 6 investigation, which continues to grow two years after the riot. The Justice Department has charged nearly 1,000 people in the riot and the tally increases by the week.

Prosecutors told jurors that Oath Keepers leader Stewart Rhodes and his band of extremists began shortly after the 2020 election to prepare an armed rebellion to keep Trump in power. Messages show Rhodes

Associated Press and the Oath Keepers discussing the prospect of a "bloody" civil war and the need to keep Biden out of the White House.

"Our democracy was under attack, but for the defendants it was everything they trained for and a moment to celebrate," prosecutor Louis Manzo told jurors in his closing argument. Prosecutors alleged that the Oath Keepers amassed weapons and stashed them at a Virginia hotel for so-called "quick reaction force" teams that could quickly shuttle guns into

Washington to support their plot if they were needed. The weapons were never used.

Rhodes and Florida chapter leader Kelly Meggs were convicted of seditious conspiracy in the previous trial that ended in November. They were the first people in decades found guilty at trial of the Civil War-era charge. Three other Oath Keepers were cleared of the charge in that case but were found guilty of other serious crimes. They are all awaiting sentencing.

Defense attorneys sought to downplay violent messages as mere bluster and said the Oath Keepers came to Washington to provide security at events before the riot.

They seized on prosecutors' lack of evidence that the Oath Keepers had an explicit plan to storm the Capitol before Jan. 6 and told jurors that the extremists who attacked the Capitol acted spontaneously like thousands of other rioters.

Prosecutors argued that while there is not evidence specifically spelling out a plan to attack the Capitol, the Oath Keepers saw the riot as a means to an end and sprung into action at an apparent opportunity to help keep Trump in power. □

Hazing suit at Bowling Green ends with nearly \$3M settlement

By **JOHN SEEWER**

Associated Press

The family of a student who

died from alcohol poisoning while pledging a fraternity will receive nearly \$3



Shari Foltz, second left, speaks while her husband Cory Foltz, left, sits next to attorneys Rex Elliott, second right, and Sean Alto in a press conference where Elliott announced that the Foltz family will receive nearly \$3 million from Bowling Green State University to settle its lawsuit Monday, Jan. 23 2023, in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Associated Press

million from Bowling Green State University to settle its hazing-related lawsuit, according to an agreement announced Monday.

As part of the settlement, the family of Stone Foltz and the university both said they will work to address and eliminate hazing on college campuses. Foltz's parents have started a foundation focused on hazing education and have spoke to students at other universities about its dangers. "We can continue our fight saving lives," said Shari Foltz, whose son died of alcohol poisoning in March 2021.

A university investigation found that the 20-year-old

had attended a fraternity initiation event where there was a tradition of new members finishing or attempting to finish a bottle of alcohol, according to a university investigation.

Foltz, from Delaware, Ohio, was found unconscious after members of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity dropped him off at his apartment. He died three days after he was put on life support. Both sides said in a joint statement issued Monday that they will be forever impacted by his death. "This resolution keeps the Foltz family and BGSU community from reliving the tragedy for years to come in the courtroom

and allows us to focus on furthering our shared mission of eradicating hazing in Ohio and across the nation. Leading these efforts in our communities is the real work that honors Stone," the statement said. The settlement with the university is on top of more than \$7 million in payouts made to the family by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and those who had a role in the hazing, according to court documents.

Eight former fraternity members either pleaded guilty or were found guilty on various charges, including reckless homicide, hazing and giving alcohol to a minor. □

Senior UK Conservatives under fire over tax, finances

By JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak opened an investigation Monday into allegations that the chairman of the governing Conservative Party settled a multimillion-dollar unpaid tax bill while he was in charge of the country's Treasury.

It's one of multiple stories about secret loans and unpaid taxes causing discomfort for Sunak, who has faced scrutiny for his own personal wealth and family tax arrangements.

Party chairman Nadhim Zahawi has acknowledged a dispute with tax authorities over shares in YouGov, a polling company he co-founded. But he said that the error was "careless and not deliberate."

"So that I could focus on my life as a public servant, I chose to settle the matter and pay what they said was due, which was the right thing to do," he said in a statement.

The BBC and other British media reported that the tax bill, including a fine, came to almost 5 million pounds (\$6.2 million). They say the bill was settled when Zahawi was Treasury chief between July and



Britain's Conservative Party Chairman Nadhim Zahawi, center, leaves the Conservative Party head office in Westminster, central London, Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

September, during the final weeks of former Prime Minister Boris Johnson's tenure. Sunak said Monday he had asked his standards advisor, Laurie Magnus, "to investigate the matter fully and establish all the facts and provide advice to me on Nadhim Zahawi's compliance with the ministerial code."

"Integrity and accountability is really important to

me and clearly in this case there are questions that need answering," he said. Angela Rayner, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, said that the standards inquiry was a "pathetic attempt to pass the buck" on Sunak's part. "Rishi Sunak's vote of confidence in Nadhim Zahawi is yet another example of his weak leadership and appalling judgment," she

said. Sunak took office as U.K. leader in October, promising "integrity, professionalism and accountability" after a tumultuous few years that saw Johnson ousted by multiple scandals and his successor Liz Truss toppled within weeks of taking office after her policies rocked the U.K. economy. Johnson's financial arrangements are back in

Associated Press

the headlines after media revealed that in 2021, Canadian businessman Sam Blyth, a distant cousin, acted as guarantor for an 800,000-pound (\$993,000) line of credit for the then prime minister.

Sharp told the Sunday Times he had "simply connected" people and there was no conflict of interest. He said Monday that he had called an internal investigation at the publicly funded national broadcaster "to ensure that all the appropriate guidelines have been followed."

William Shawcross, the commissioner for public appointments, also said he would review Sharp's hiring to ensure it was done "fairly, openly and on merit."

Johnson told Sky News that Sharp "is a good and wise man, but he knows absolutely nothing about my personal finances. I can tell you that for 100% ding dang sure."

The stories are fuel for opponents who accuse Sunak — a former investment banker who is married to the daughter of an Indian billionaire — of leading a government of the wealthy that is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people. □

France is "very sexist," watchdog body says, sounding alarm

PARIS (AP) — Five years into the #MeToo movement, French society "remains very sexist in all of its spheres," a government-created equality watchdog said in an annual report Monday that also sounded the alarm about double-digit rates of sexual violence reported by women.

The High Council for Equality between Women and Men called for a national "emergency plan" to combat what it described as "the massive, violent and sometimes lethal consequences" of sexism against women.

In a survey commissioned by the council, one-third of women reported hav-

ing been badgered by their partners into sexual acts that they didn't want. Around one in seven of the survey's women respondents said men had forced sex on them, and a similar number reported having been hit and shoved by their partners, the council said.

The council's president, Sylvie Pierre-Brossolette, expressed particular concern about sexism among younger men "bathed in social media, digital (technology), pornography." She said sexism must be "fought from the youngest of ages." The council will present its findings to French President Emmanuel Macron on Wednesday,

she added.

"Young people, in particular, are brought up digitally on these scenes of mundane violence, of relations between men and women that are completely of domination and dominated, and that has impregnated society," Pierre-Brossolette said, speaking to broadcaster France Inter.

"Uprooting sexism is very hard," she added.

The council's proposed 10-point plan of action included a call for tougher regulation of online content. Other suggestions included making training against sexism obligatory in workplaces and banning adverts that suggest some children's toys are for boys



French President Emmanuel Macron speaks a joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023 at the Elysee Palace in Paris.

Associated Press

and others for girls.

France has made significant progress in some areas. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne is only its sec-

ond woman to hold the post and parliament's lower house also has its first-ever woman president, Yaël Braun-Pivet, since June. □

Lights out in Pakistan as energy-saving move backfires

By **MUNIR AHMED**

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Most of Pakistan was left without power Monday as an energy-saving measure by the government backfired. The outage spread panic and raised questions about the cash-strapped government's handling of the country's economic crisis. It all started when electricity was turned off during low usage hours overnight to conserve fuel across the country, officials said, leaving technicians unable to boot up the system all at once after daybreak. The outage was reminiscent of a massive blackout in January 2021, attributed at the time to a technical fault in Pakistan's power generation and distribution system. Many major cities, including the capital of Islamabad, and remote towns and villages across Pakistan were without electricity for more than 12 hours before engineers partially restored power across much of the country.

As the outage continued into Monday night, authorities deployed additional police at markets around the country to provide security.



Shopkeepers and workers wait for electric power at a market following a power breakdown across the country, in Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

Associated Press

Earlier, the nationwide electricity breakdown left many in this country of some 220 million people without drinking water as pumps powered by electricity failed to work. Schools, hospitals, factories and shops were without power amid the harsh winter weather. Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir told local media Monday that engineers were working to restore power across the country

and tried to reassure the nation that power would be fully restored within the next 12 hours.

According to the minister, electricity usage typically goes down overnight during winter unlike summer months when Pakistanis turn to air conditioning, seeking a respite from the heat.

"As an economic measure, we temporarily shut down our power generation sys-

tems" Sunday night, Dastgir said. When engineers tried to turn the systems back on, a "fluctuation in voltage" was observed, which "forced engineers to shut down the power grid" stations one by one.

Dastgir insisted the outage did not constitute a major crisis and that electricity was being restored in phases. In many places and key businesses and institutions, including hospitals, military

and government facilities, backup generators kicked in.

By late afternoon Monday, Dastgir told reporters at another press conference that Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif ordered a probe into the outage.

"We are hoping that the supply of electricity will be fully restored tonight," he said.

Karachi, the country's largest city and economic hub, was without power as were other key cities, such as Quetta, Peshawar and Lahore.

In Lahore, a closing notice was posted on the Orange Line metro stations, with rail workers guarding the sites and trains parked on the rails. It was unknown when the metro system would be restored.

Imran Rana, a spokesperson for Karachi's power supply company, said the government's priority was to restore power to strategic facilities, including hospitals and airports.

Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org said network data showed a significant decline in internet access in Pakistan that was attributed to the power outage. □

Study: Puerto Rico should go solar to meet clean energy goal

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— A U.S. government study has determined that with little room on the island for large-scale solar farms or

wind generators, Puerto Rico should aim to reach its clean-energy goals by installing solar panels on all suitable rooftops, along with airports, brownfields and industrial areas.



A technician installs a solar energy system at a home July 24, 2018, in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

The two-year study began last year after the U.S. pledged to help modernize Puerto Rico's disintegrating power grid by looking at wind and solar resources on the island, land availability and power consumption. Government officials vowed to ramp up from 3% to 40% renewable energy by 2025, and 60% by 2040. "This is so utterly important," said Jennifer Granholm, U.S. Energy Secretary, during a webinar Monday to talk about the study's preliminary results. "We have set out to cut through bureaucracy and get federal funding moving."

Amid the threat of powerful hurricanes, Puerto Rico has suffered from chronic power outages blamed on

a disintegrating power grid following decades of neglect and lack of maintenance. The island's current power generation system is 97% based on fossil fuels.

More than 600 participants joined the webinar, including solar companies eager to secure a stake in upcoming projects and disgruntled Puerto Ricans who questioned the reality of implementing solar panels on an island where more than 40% of the population lives below the poverty line. "These systems are too costly, and truly hardly anyone can afford them because it's a debt impossible to pay over many years," wrote one participant named Wanda Trinidad in the chat. Another, Wanda

Ríos, said that while the government has helped some businesses transition to renewable energy, she hasn't been able to get a response about how communities might be able to obtain financial help.

"We want to have a solar community, but there is (no) program available for us!" she wrote.

A senior official at the U.S. Department of Energy said the \$1 billion approved by U.S. Congress in December to help restore Puerto Rico's grid is not sufficient. U.S. President Joe Biden had sought \$3 billion, and federal lawmakers had requested \$5 billion for solar rooftop panels and storage installations. □

Minister Geoffrey Wever will continue exploring the introduction of a Fast Ferry between Aruba and Curaçao



Oranjestad - The Minister of Economics, Communication and Sustainable Development Mr. Geoffrey Wever has announced that the exploration of the economic potential of a Fast Ferry between the two Islands will continue.

By petition, together with the Minister of Transport,

Ursell Arends, the counsel of Minister will give their approval to explore the introduction of a maritime route between Aruba and Curaçao. The impact of the pandemic of coronavirus as well as the increase in costs of shipments and transport on the economy of Aruba has highlighted the need to create new

markets and expand existing markets through the maritime sector. Development in the maritime sector will stimulate more commerce, investments and will expand the options of products for the consumers. This will be beneficial to the economic development of Aruba.

Exploration of the introduction of a Fast Ferry will be conducted by an expert in the maritime area, Ton Jansen. Jansen has expertise and a wide experience in the introduction of Fast Ferries in the Caribbean. Ton Jansen was part of the introduction of a Fast Ferry between Saba and Saint Eustatius in 2021.

Both Ministers Ursell Arends and Geoffrey Wever believe that the maritime sector plays an essential role in the growth and diversification of the economy of Aruba. For this reason it is of utmost importance to explore if its beneficial and possible to introduce a Fast Ferry between. □

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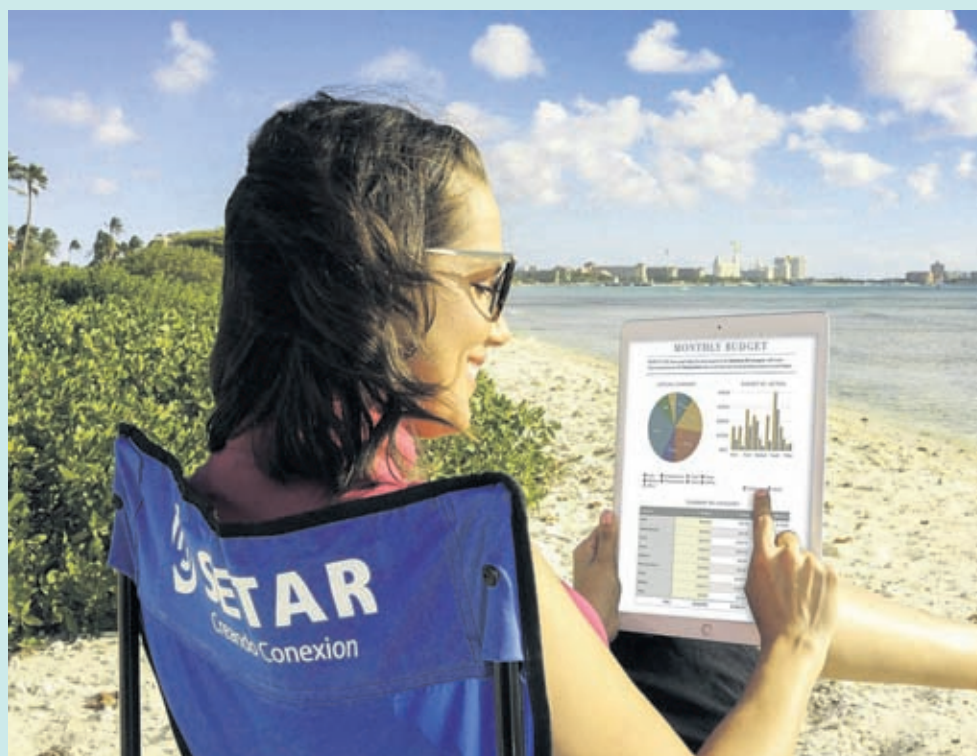
They wrote to us saying; "Aruba for me is HEALING. We have



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Purchase of two new state-of-the-art Ambulances approved

ORANJESTAD – On January 9, 2023, the Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber, and the AZV announced that they have agreed to purchase two new state-of-the-art ambulances equipped with the latest technology that should eventually replace the existing fleet.

In 2018, they only acquired one ambulance, and the two new ones will be of the same model. With the

acquisition of the two new ambulances, there will be three state-of-the-art ambulances for emergency responses. It is a very positive gain for the medical services in Aruba.

The year 2022 was very challenging for public health, in which the Government had to cut various budgets. With the introduction of the Exit Strategy, Aruba experienced an accelerated economic re-

covery that surpassed all expectations.

This prerequisite gave the AZV the financial space to finance the purchase of these two new ambulances. If everything goes according to the plans, the two new ambulances will arrive in Aruba in the third quarter of 2023.

The Minister thanked the ambulance and ImSan personnel for their essential duties of saving lives. □



Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back and 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

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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.

For today we received a lovely message from Michael McIntosh from Marlton, New Jersey.

He wrote to us saying; "Aruba to me is the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow."

Thank you for sending us this awesome message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

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History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing,

using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather



steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. They have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



National Archaeological Museum of Aruba invites you to celebrate Dia di Betico and learn about our cultural heritage!

ORANJESTAD – MANA, the National Archaeological Museum of Aruba invites everyone to visit on Dia di Betico, January 25 between 10am to 2pm. Permanent exhibition rooms are open to the public. Archaeologist Raymundo Dijkhoff will be giving a presentation on “Antique Artifacts of Oranjestad” and there will be creative activities for children in a family atmosphere. Entry, presentation and activities for children are free!

At 11am, archaeologist Dijkhoff will give a presentation focusing on findings in 2010, where Plaza Daniel Leo is situated and where the old house of the Governor used to be located. This was the first time that there were archaeological findings in the city center. He will also be giving information regarding archaeological findings done afterwards in Havenstraat, Royal Plaza, Arubus, Colishi and Fort Zoutman. These findings cover a span of over a thousand years of history of Aruba, from the



period of the Indians and the European period of the past 300 years. He will elaborate of the uses of the city center of Oranjestad in pre-history and the period after 1700, including the name of “Playa” and “Oranjes-

tad”, thus a very interesting presentation with a different view of Oranjestad.

Before and after the presentation there will be an educational short movie called “Un les pa Maiky” (in Papiamentu) by Stichting Monumentenfonds Aruba for the children in the auditorium. In the garden of the museum, kids can make crafts and receive an “Indian stamp” while parents relax and enjoy a drink. In the permanent exhibition room, people can appreciate artworks by Osaira Muyale and an old mirror that used to belong to the Ecury family.



Everyone is invited to enjoy these free experiences at MANA with the opportunity to learn something new and interesting about our cultural heritage.

MANA is situated in

Schelpstraat 42, in the Ecury complex consisting of monumental and modern buildings. Due to maintenance and restoration works being carried out, entrance is currently through the glass building on the side. □

We celebrate our National Hero Betico Croes

ORANJESTAD – The island of Aruba has a special day coming up Tomorrow, January 25th. The island will explode with lots of festivities that honor the late pro-autonomy political leader **Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes**. He helped the island attain the Status Aparte – the status of autonomous

country within the kingdom of the Netherlands, separate from the other islands of the Antilles.

Aruba was allowed to function as a commonwealth within the Dutch Kingdom and Betico is honored for this outcome since 1989 by celebrating the Dia di Betico. The official holiday normally features performances, sporting events and games throughout the island.

Croes himself was not able to enjoy the results of his ongoing struggle; he was involved in an accident on December 31, 1985, and went into a coma. He passed away on November 26, 1986. For the Aruban people, his words will never be forgotten. He

told his people: “Si mi cay na caminda, gara e bandera y sigui cu e lucha” which means “If I fall along the way, grab the flag and continue the struggle.”

Active man

Betico was born on January 25, 1938. Croes had four children: two sons—Glenbert Croes and Gilberto Junior Croes and two daughters—Glendeline Croes and Guisette Croes. Both of Croes' sons served as Ministers and Glenbert is currently in office as Minister of Labor. Betico was also the uncle of Aruba's current Prime Minister, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes.

The father of the Aruban nation or the Liberator (Liberador) as he is called often, was an active man in



Caribbean organizations while he studied in the Netherlands. Betico was a social man, participated in sports and the social and cultural community. He worked as a teacher and instituted the official seal, flag and hymn for the island. During the Round table Conference of 1981, he was responsible for formally setting the date for Aruba's independency. Betico also became leader of the political party Movimiento Electoral di Pueblo (MEP), now the main party

that forms the current government that was elected in September 2021. There were two stages in which the Independence was formed: the first one was set for 1986, the second was set for ten years later and enhanced the independence from the Netherlands. However, it never came to a total independence of Aruba in 1996; it was dropped in 1990. The Status Aparte within the Kingdom of the Netherlands was to be a permanent one. □



CROSSWORD

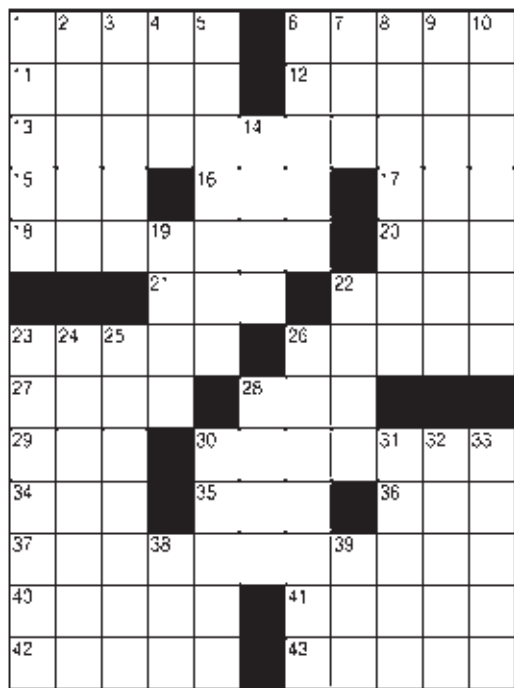
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 False friend
 - 40 Top story
 - 41 Fragment
 - 42 Lab work
 - 43 Civil wrongs

- DOWN**
- 1 Hungry, probably
 - 2 Like Thor and Odin
 - 3 Pop stars
 - 4 Wallet bill
 - 5 Art lover
 - 6 Jeer at
 - 7 Coffee dispenser
 - 8 Tourists' cars
 - 9 Patella
 - 10 City ways
 - 14 Quite un- common
 - 19 Hangs low
 - 22 Beach cover
 - 23 Circus star
 - 24 Time of delivery, perhaps
 - 25 Facets
 - 26 Adjust to new conditions
 - 28 Crooked shapes
 - 30 Brake
 - 31 Cavalry weapon
 - 32 Put in office
 - 33 Grows weary
 - 38 Young fox
 - 39 Life story, for short



Yesterday's answer



1-24

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.

I-24 CRYPTOQUOTE
Y D U X Y Y L V S H D X I M Y T V

R T K H N — Z S U D H V S H V K P Y T.

P Y T E U W D Y J I H D. — M Y M

R I Q W U P

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FOR WHATEVER WE LOSE (LIKE A YOU OR A ME), IT'S ALWAYS OUR SELF WE FIND IN THE SEA. — E.E. CUMMINGS

Is tipping getting out of control? Many consumers say yes

By HALELUYA HADERO
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Across the country, there's a silent frustration brewing about an age-old practice that many say is getting out of hand: tipping.

Some fed-up consumers are posting rants on social media complaining about tip requests at drive-thrus, while others say they're tired of being asked to leave a gratuity for a muffin or a simple cup of coffee at their neighborhood bakery. What's next, they wonder, are we going to be tipping our doctors and dentists, too?

As more businesses adopt digital payment methods, customers are automatically being prompted to leave a gratuity many times as high as 30% at places they normally wouldn't. And some say it has become more frustrating as the price of items has skyrocketed due to inflation, which eased to 6.5% in December but still remains painfully high.

"Suddenly, these screens are at every establishment we encounter. They're popping up online as well for online orders. And I fear that there is no end," said etiquette expert Thomas Farley, who considers the whole thing somewhat of "an invasion." Unlike tip jars that shoppers can easily ignore if they don't have spare change, experts say the digital requests can produce social pressure and are more difficult to bypass. And your generosity, or lack thereof, can be laid bare for anyone close

enough to glance at the screen including the workers themselves.

Dylan Schenker is one of them. The 38-year-old earns about \$400 a month in tips, which provides a helpful supplement to his \$15 hourly wage as a barista at Philadelphia café located inside a restaurant. Most of those tips come from consumers who order coffee drinks or interact with the café for other things, such as carryout orders. □

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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



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Sundance goes wild for sexy corporate thriller 'Fair Play'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**

AP Film Writer

PARK CITY, Utah (AP) — The fire emoji was a common sight in tweets about the new corporate thriller "Fair Play," which debuted Friday at the Sundance Film Festival.

The movie follows two ambitious analysts at a cut-throat hedge fund, played by "Bridgerton's" Phoebe Dynevor and "Solo's" Alden Ehrenreich, who are also in a passionate and secret relationship. Several steamy scenes had some declaring the return of the erotic thriller.

Film historian Karina Longworth, whose podcast "You Must Remember This" recently delved into the erotic thriller moment of the 1980s, tweeted that "It does for the 2020s what 'Fatal Attraction' did for the late 80s."

Chloe Domont, who wrote and directed the film, said she didn't set out to make an erotic thriller, per se.

But "I did set out to make a thriller about gender power dynamics within a relationship that happens to be highly sexual," Domont told The Associated Press on Saturday in Park City. "I think the execution of that intention ended up flipping the erotic thriller genre on its head."

Dynevor, in only her second film role, said that when she read Domont's script, she saw herself and a lot of women she knows



Phoebe Dynevor, left, Chloe Domont and Alden Ehrenreich attend the premiere of "Fair Play" at the Library Center Theatre during the 2023 Sundance Film Festival on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023, in Park City, Utah.

in her character, Emily, who seems to be the sole female at the company. She's made even more aware of this when she gets promoted over Ehrenreich's Luke.

"How she navigates work life in a very male-dominated industry and how she navigates her relationship and, you know, in many ways has to make herself smaller in order to make other people feel comfortable, I could relate to that," Dynevor said.

Ehrenreich's character comes from a more privileged background than Emily. He's Ivy League-educated and expects a

certain amount of success. But he also rolls his eyes at the casual misogyny of his co-workers and, at least at first, is supportive of Emily's ascent.

"I think he's a little at remove from the rest of the office. He's not quite in that boy's club," Ehrenreich said.

"One of the things that I really liked about the movie that I think sometimes is lacking from stories that take on issues like this is understanding the background and the system and the culture that all of that is taking place in," he continued. "It's not on one individual being a good per-

son or a bad person. We're all highly influenced by our environment and the ambitions that we have within that environment."

The film has already stirred up a gender debate among those who have seen it as Domont makes sure to never go the cliché route with her characters. Audience sympathies may even shift between Luke and Emily from scene to scene.

Dynevor was firmly on Emily's side in reading the script and during filming, but when she watched the finished product, something changed.

"I kind of saw it more as him

and her being a culprit of the society and a victim of the society, as opposed to, like anyone was a baddie or a goodie," she said.

"Fair Play," which is up for acquisition at the festival, is Domont's directorial debut on the large screen. But high-finance drama is not new for her: She's helmed episodes of Showtime's "Billions" too.

"My interest in that world starts from, you know, 'Wall Street' and 'Working Girl' and like those movies," Domont said. "But for me it's the stakes. You have high stakes, you have drama."

"You make money one day, you lose money the next day. ... You're either living on a high high and you think you're the (expletive), or the next day you think you're a worthless piece of (expletive)," Domont added. "What that does to a person, the fluctuating between those highs and lows, I relate to that in the film industry. ... I related to what that environment does to a person." Serbia plays New York in the film, which came together rather quickly, but the three key players made sure to carve out time to establish an authentic intimacy between Ehrenreich and Dynevor.

"We did a few days of rehearsal that I thought were really valuable, and it's so rare you get to do that," Ehrenreich said. □

Associated Press

Jeremy Renner says he broke 30-plus bones in snowplow mishap

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor Jeremy Renner says he broke more than 30 bones in a snowplow accident on New Year's Day.

Renner, 52, said earlier that he is recovering at home from what Nevada authorities say were serious chest injuries he suffered when he was run over by his 7-ton Pistenbully snow groomer while helping free a relative's car on a private road near Lake Tahoe.

In social media posts Saturday, Renner expressed

"much love and appreciation" to people for their "messages and thoughtfulness."

"These 30 plus broken bones will mend, grow stronger, just like the love and bond with family and friends deepens," he wrote. He also said "morning workouts, resolutions all changed this particular new years Spawned from tragedy for my entire family, and quickly focused into uniting actionable love."

Earlier, in a response to a Twitter post Monday about his Paramount+ series "Mayor of Kingstown," Renner said that "Outside my brain fog in recovery, I was very excited to watch episode 201 with my family at home."

The two-time Oscar nominee also plays Hawkeye in Marvel's "Avengers" movies and has a recurring role in the "Mission Impossible" franchise. □



Jeremy Renner arrives at the premiere of "Avengers: Endgame," at the Los Angeles Convention Center on April 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Shelton, Paul give U.S. 3 men in quarters at Australian Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Ben Shelton's concerns leading into his first Australian Open had less to do with playing tennis and more to do with everything else associated with the trip.

His first time outside of the United States. His first time using a passport. The jet lag. The time difference. The food. The driving on the left side of the road. And, oh, yeah, the whole part about keeping up with on-line classwork as he begins a new semester this week while pursuing a business degree.

Shelton, you see, is still just 20. A year ago at this time, he was attending classes and competing in college tennis at the University of Florida, where his dad, a former pro himself, coaches the men's team. As of Monday, when he edged J.J. Wolf 6-7 (5), 6-2, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (4), 6-2 at John Cain Arena, Shelton is, suddenly and stunningly, a Grand Slam quarterfinalist one of three American men to make it that far at Melbourne Park, the most for the country since 2000.

"Definitely a surprise. I got



Ben Shelton of the U.S. reacts as he waits to return a shot to compatriot J.J. Wolf during their fourth round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 23, 2023.

on the plane with no expectations," Shelton, who won the 2022 NCAA singles championship, said of his performance at the second major tournament of his nascent professional career. "It maybe has helped me a little bit, kind of not having that expectation or the feeling that I have to perform, but being able to just go out there, be myself and play free. I think that's

been a big contribution to my success."

Now the 89th-ranked Shelton meets yet another unseeded American, 35th-ranked Tommy Paul, who eliminated No. 24 seed Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain 6-2, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5.

Their matchup will be the first Slam quarterfinal between two men from the U.S. since 2007, when Andy Roddick beat Mardy Fish in

Melbourne. Roddick's title at the U.S. Open 20 years ago remains the last major singles championship for a man from the country.

"It's like every person's dream when they start playing tennis to play the big matches at the Slams," said Paul, a 25-year-old from New Jersey. "I'm really excited to get out there on Wednesday. We know there's going to be

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an American in the semis, so I'm really excited about that, too."

Completing the trio is Sebastian Korda, who plays his quarterfinal Tuesday against No. 18 Karen Khachanov of Russia. Like Shelton and Paul, Korda has made it this far at a major for the first time. And like Shelton, Korda's Dad played tennis: Petr Korda won the 1998 Australian Open.

There is nothing new about all of this, of course, for Novak Djokovic, the 21-time Grand Slam champion who looked indomitable during a 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 win over No. 22 seed Alex de Minaur of Australia and declared that his bothersome left hamstring is no longer an issue.

"I didn't feel anything today," Djokovic said, noting that he has been taking "a lot of" anti-inflammatory pills. Djokovic, who couldn't play in last year's Australian Open because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID-19, moved a step closer to a record-extending 10th championship in Melbourne by never facing a break point and by claiming a half-dozen of de Minaur's service games. □

AP source: Lakers acquiring Rui Hachimura from Wizards



Washington Wizards forward Rui Hachimura (8) smiles after scoring against the Orlando Magic during the second half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **TIM REYNOLDS**

AP Basketball Writer

The Los Angeles Lakers are acquiring former lottery pick Rui Hachimura from the Washington Wizards in exchange for Kendrick Nunn and a package of second-round draft picks, a person familiar with the negotiations said Monday. The person, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade has not been finalized and approved by the NBA, said the teams are working under the expectation that the deal will be completed later Monday.

Hachimura and the Wizards did not agree on a rookie extension before

the season started, which prompted speculation that the Japanese power forward wouldn't be in their long-term plans.

And it would make sense that the Lakers would be seeking help. At 22-25, they're in 12th place in the Western Conference, but entered Monday just two games behind the Los Angeles Clippers for the No. 6 spot and four games back of the New Orleans Pelicans for No. 4 in the West with LeBron James averaging nearly 30 points per game and a belief that Anthony Davis will be back from injury sooner than later.

"I just want to be somewhere that wants me as a basketball player,"

Hachimura told reporters last week. "And I want to be somewhere that likes my game. ... I just want to be somewhere that believes in me and I can be myself.

That's my goal."

Hachimura has appeared in 30 games for the Wizards this season, all off the bench, averaging 13.0 points on 49% shooting from the floor and 34% from 3-point range. He was the No. 9 pick in the 2019 draft. Nunn is in his fourth NBA season, his second with the Lakers, though he missed all of last season with a knee problem. He has averaged 6.7 points in 39 games this season, 37 of them in a reserve role. □

Analysis: Defense still wins in the NFL playoffs

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Defense stills wins in the playoffs.

The San Francisco 49ers and Cincinnati Bengals advanced to the conference championship games with excellent defensive performances on Sunday.

The Philadelphia Eagles also had a standout defensive effort Saturday night.

While high-flying offenses led by star quarterbacks get most of the attention, defense matters.

It was evident in the NFL divisional round this weekend.

Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo's aggressive unit forced two turnovers in the fourth quarter, helping Kansas City beat Jacksonville 27-20 in the first game.

"We focused throughout the week, especially on the week we had off, focused on maybe punching the ball a little bit more or hop on the ball or just catching the ones that they give us," Chiefs linebacker Nick Bolton said. "I dropped one early, but it's one of those things you kind of have to keep going on, and in playoffs, you understand that they count times two when you get them."

Jalen Hurts and the Eagles' offense were unstoppable, especially dominating the Giants on the ground with 268 yards rushing. But Philadelphia's defense, which



Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott (21) is tackled by San Francisco 49ers linebacker Fred Warner during the first half of an NFL divisional round playoff football game in Santa Clara, Calif., Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023.

was No. 2 in the league this season, was downright nasty in a 38-7 rout over New York.

Coming off an impressive 301-yard passing game in an upset over 13-win Minnesota, Daniel Jones had no chance against Haason Reddick and Philly's ferocious D.

Jones was sacked five times, threw a pick, completed just 55.6% of his passes and looked lost. The Eagles held the Giants to only 227 total yards.

"Jonathan Gannon puts these guys in great positions," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said of his defensive

coordinator. "Obviously, we have great players. ... But this guy is an unbelievable coordinator. ... He's going to be a head football coach in the National Football League because of what he does. This guy is a stud. He's a stud."

Cincinnati's defense had the most impressive all-around game of all, considering its opponent. The Bengals shut down Josh Allen and Buffalo's dynamic offense in a 27-10 win. The Bills were only 4 for 12 on third downs, went three-and-out three times and managed just a field goal in the second half.

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Defensive coordinator Lou Anarumo put the Bengals in position to constantly pressure Allen and knock him out of rhythm. Allen had only one turnover late in the game, but he misfired on some throws and didn't click with his receivers. Allen kept his head down and didn't look up when wide receiver Stefon Diggs approached him on the bench and yelled a few times in his direction midway through the fourth quarter.

"He wants the ball," Allen said of Diggs, who had just four receptions for 35 yards. "And whatever it was that

we couldn't get him the ball tonight, we're going to have to learn from."

The Bengals will meet the Chiefs again in a rematch of last year's AFC championship game that was won by Cincinnati. Burrow is 3-0 against Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs.

In the final game of the weekend, the 49ers' top-ranked defense flustered Dak Prescott throughout a 19-12 victory, forcing two interceptions and holding the Cowboys to just 282 total yards. San Francisco had a few more opportunities at turnovers but couldn't hang on to a couple of picks.

Niners defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans, a candidate for several head coaching vacancies, improved his case with another stellar game plan.

"I'm pretty sure DeMeco is gonna have a head coaching job after this year," Niners defensive back Jimmie Ward said. "You see it with the play calling. We went out there and shut down a playoff team and one of the best teams in the league this year."

Next up for the 49ers is a trip to Philadelphia to face one of the league's most well-rounded offenses in the NFC championship game.

"Get ya popcorn ready, man," Ward said. "Heavy-weight fight right there. Get ready. It's gonna be a good show." □



Lifeguard Luke Shepardson wins Hawaii surfing "Super Bowl"

(AP) — Luke Shepardson was declared the winner in one of the world's most prestigious and storied surfing contests held in Hawaii over the weekend for the first time in seven years. Shepardson was declared the winner of The Eddie Aikau Big Wave Invitational Sunday, while John John Florence—the winner of the event in 2016, the last time it happened—was named runner-up. Shepardson, a Honolulu Ocean Safety lifeguard, scored

89.1 points out of a possible 90 to edge out defending champion Florence, the Star-Advertiser reported. Mark Healey took third place and Billy Kemper took fourth. The competition also featured female surfers for the first time in its 39-year history, and six competed. Andrea Moller made history as the first female to ride a competitive wave at "The Eddie," the newspaper reported. The one-day contest held

in Waimea Bay on Oahu's North Shore goes forward only when the surf is consistently large enough during the winter big-wave surfing season from mid-December through mid-March.

Before this year, it had only been held nine times since the initial competition in 1984.

The competition honors legendary Native Hawaiian waterman Eddie Aikau for his selflessness, courage and sacrifice. □