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McCarthy's last-ditch plan to keep the government open collapses, making a shutdown almost certain

Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP)

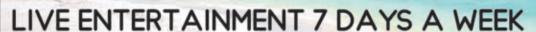
House Speaker Kevin Mc-Carthy's last-ditch plan to keep the federal government temporarily open collapsed in dramatic fashion Friday as a robust faction of hard-right holdouts rejected the package, making a shutdown almost certain. McCarthy's rightflank Republicans refused to support the bill despite its steep spending cuts of nearly 30% to many agencies and severe border security provisions, calling it insufficient. The White House and Democrats rejected the Republican approach as too extreme. The vote was 198-232, with 21 hard-right Republicans voting to sink the package. The Democrats voted against it.

Continued on Page 2



Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., speaks to the media about efforts to pass appropriations bills and avert a looming government shutdown, at the Capitol in Washington, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

Associated Press



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McCarthy's last-ditch plan to keep the government open collapses, making a shutdown almost certain

Continued from Frontt

The bill's complete failure a day before Saturday's deadline to fund the government leaves few options to prevent a shutdown that will furlough federal workers, keep the military working without pay and disrupt programs and services for millions of Americans.

A clearly agitated McCarthy left the House chamber. "It's not the end yet; I've got other ideas," he told reporters.

The outcome puts McCarthy's speakership in serious jeopardy with almost no political leverage to lead the House at a critical moment that has pushed the government into crisis. Even the failed plan, an extraordinary concession to immediately slash spending by one-third for many agencies, was not enough to satisfy the hard right flank that has upturned his speakership.

Republican leaders planned to convene behind closed doors late Friday to assess next steps.

The federal government is heading straight into a shutdown after midnight Saturday that would leave 2 million military troops without pay, furlough federal workers and disrupt government services and programs that Americans rely on from coast to coast. Congress has been un-



The Capitol is seen late Tuesday night, Sept. 26, 2023, in Washington, as lawmakers work to advance appropriations bills on the House floor.

Associated Press

able to fund the agencies or pass a temporary bill to keep offices open.

The Senate was pushing ahead Friday with its own plan favored by Republicans and Democrats to the government open while also bolstering Ukraine aid and U.S. disaster accounts. But that won't matter with the House in political chaos.

The White House has brushed aside McCarthy's overtures to meet with President Joe Biden after the speaker walked away from the debt deal they brokered earlier this year that set budget levels.

"Extreme House Republicans are now tripling down on their demands to eviscerate programs millions of hardworking families count on," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

said.

Jean-Pierre said, "The path forward to fund the government has been laid out by the Senate with bipartisan support — House Republicans just need to take it." Catering to his hard-right flank, McCarthy had returned to the spending limits the conservatives demanded back in January as part of the deal-making to help him become the House speaker.

His package would not have cut the Defense, Veterans or Homeland Security departments but would have slashed almost all other agencies by up to 30% steep hits to a vast array of programs, services and departments Americans routinely depend on.

It also added strict new border security provisions that would kickstart building the wall at the southern border with Mexico, among other measures. Additionally, the package would have set up a bipartisan debt commission to address the nation's mounting debt load. Ahead of voting, the Republican speaker all but dared his hold-out colleagues to oppose the package a day before Saturday's almost certain shutdown. The House bill would have kept operations open through Oct. 31.

"Every member will have to go on record where they stand," McCarthy said.

Asked if he had the votes, McCarthy guipped, "We'll see."

But as soon as the floor debate began, McCarthy's chief Republican critic, Rep. Matt Gaetz of Florida, announced he would be voting against the package, urging his colleagues to "not surrender."

The hard right, led by Gaetz, has been threatenina McCarthy's ouster, with a looming vote to try to remove him from the speaker's office unless he meets the conservative demands. Still, it's unclear if any other Republican would have support from the House majority to lead the party. Gaetz said afterward that speaker's bill "went down in flames as I've told you all week it would."

He and others rejecting the temporary measure want the House to instead keep pushing through the 12 individual spending bills needed to fund the government, typically a weekslong process, as they purtheir conservative priorities.

Some of the Republican holdouts including Gaetz are allies of Donald Trump, who is Biden's chief rival in 2024. The former president has been encouraging the Republicans to fight hard for their priorities and even to "shut it down."

The margin of defeat shocked even Republican members.

Rep. Mike Garcia, R-Calif., said, "I think what this does, if anything, I think it's going to rally people around the speaker and go, 'hey the dysfunction here is not coming from leadership in this case. The dysfunction is coming from individuals that don't understand the implications of what we're doing here."

Garcia said, "For the people that claim this isn't good enough, I want to hear what good enough looks like."

Another Republican Rep. Ralph Norman of South Carolina, a member of the Freedom Caucus who supported the package, suggested the House was losing its leverage with the failed vote: "We control the purse strings. We just ceded them to the Senate."



A sign outside the Internal Revenue Service building is seen on May 4, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST **Associated Press** WASHINGTON (AP) — A

former contractor for the Internal Revenue Service was charged Friday with

IRS contractor charged with leaking tax return information of wealthy people

leaking tax information to news outlets about a government official and thousands of the country's wealthiest people.

accused of stealing the tax return information and giving it to two different news outlets between 2018 and 2020, the Justice Department said in a statement. Littlejohn declined to comment when reached by The Associated Press, which

also left a message for his richest people legally pay attorney, Lisa Manning.

Both organizations published numerous articles about the tax information, Charles Edward Littlejohn, some of which dated back declined to comment on 38, of Washington, D.C., is more than 15 years, charg- the charges, adding that ing documents state.

> The outlets are not named in charging documents, but the nonprofit investigative journalism organization ProPublica reported in 2021 on a trove of tax-return data about the wealthiest Americans. It found the 25

a smaller share of their income in taxes than many ordinary workers do.

A spokesman for the outlet ProPublica reporters have previously said they don't know the identity of the source. The stories sparked calls for reform and for an investigation into the leak of tax information, which has specific legal protections.



The Navy will start randomly testing SEALs and special warfare troops for steroids

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Navy will begin randomly testing its special operations forces for steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs beginning in November, taking a groundbreaking step that military leaders have long resisted.

Rear Adm. Keith Davids, commander of Naval Special Warfare Command, announced the new program Friday in a message to his force, calling it necessary to protect their health and military readiness. The Navy will be the first to begin random testing, but Army Special Operations Command said it will soon follow suit, although no start date has been set.

The Army and Navy have the largest and most well known special operations forces, including the Navy SEALs and Army's Delta Force, Green Berets and Ranger Regiment. They are often called on to do the military's most sensitive and dangerous missions. The physical and mental challenges of getting through their selection and training programs and the pressures of the risky missions can lead to some to use performance-enhancing drugs, although officials say the numbers are small. The use of these drugs has been a somewhat limited but persistent problem across the military, but leaders have balked at increased testing because it is highly specialized, costly and requires contracting with the few labs that do such work. The military services have done occasional tests when they perceive a problem with an individual service member, but they must get special permission from the Pentagon to do routine, random testing.

The Air Force and the Marine Corps special operations commands said they have not yet requested a similar policy change.



Enlisted sailors line up and wait to march on the field at Sun Life Stadium before the NFL football game in Miami, Nov. 13, 2011, between the Washington Redskins and Miami Dolphins.

Associated Press

According to the Navy command, four units will be randomly selected each month, and 15% of each will be tested. That will amount to as many as 200 sailors monthly, and those testing positive face discipline or removal.

A driving factor in the announcement, which has been in the works for months, was the death of a Navy SEAL candidate early last year.

Kyle Mullen, 24, collapsed and died of acute pneumonia just hours after completing the SEALs' grueling Hell Week test. A report concluded that Mullen, from Manalapan, New Jersey, died "in the line of duty, not due to his own misconduct." Although tests found no evidence of performance-enhancing drugs in his system, a report by the Naval Education and Training Command said he was not screened for some steroids because the needed blood and urine samples were not available, and that multiple vials of drugs and syringes were later found in his car.

The NETC's broader investigation into SEAL training flagged the use of performance-enhancing drugs as a significant problem among those seeking to become elite commandos and recommended far more robust testing.

Investigations in 2011, 2013 and 2018 into suspected steroid use by SEAL candidates led to discipline and requests for enhanced testing. The use of hair follicle testing was denied at least twice by Navy leaders over that time, and random testing for steroids wasn't authorized by the Defense Department.

Davids requested the policy change to allow the

screening, and in January, the Pentagon undersecretary for personnel approved an exemption authorizing random testing within the Naval Special Warfare force. The testing only affects the roughly 9,000 active-duty military personnel and reservists on active-duty orders in the command. Civilians are not included.

The, random force-wide testing initiative, Davids said, is a commitment to the long-term health of every member of the Naval Special Warfare community.

Lt. Col. Mike Burns, spokesman for Army Special Operations Command, said it also has been approved for random testing and is working on developing a program.

The Navy has provided \$225,000 to fund the testing contract through the end of this month, and it's expected to cost about \$4.5 million per year for the next two years.





Last living suspect in 1996 drive-by shooting of Tupac Shakur indicted on murder charge

By RIO YAMAT and KEN RIT-TER

Associated Press

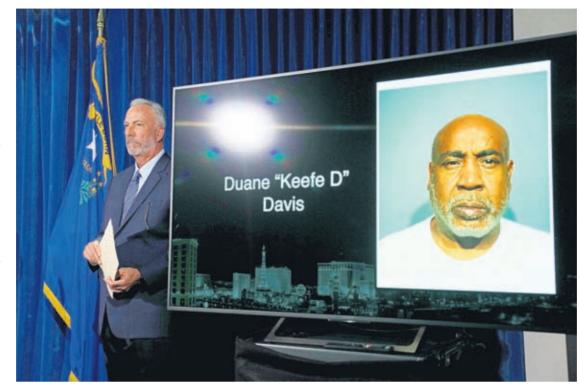
LAS VEGAS (AP) — A man who prosecutors say orchestrated the 1996 driveby shooting of rapper Tupac Shakur was arrested and charged with murder Friday in a long-awaited breakthrough in one of hiphop's most enduring mysteries.

Duane "Keffe D" Davis, 60, has long been known to investigators as one of four suspects identified early in the investigation. He isn't the accused gunman but was described as the "shot caller" by authorities Friday at a news conference and in court.

Davis himself admitted in interviews and in his 2019 tell-all memoir, "Compton Street Legend," that he provided the gun used in the drive-by shooting.

Police homicide Lt. Jason Johansson said Davis' own public comments revived the investigation by providing police with "admissible evidence."

Davis was arrested early Friday while on a walk near his home on the outskirts of Las Vegas, hours before prosecutors announced in court that a Nevada grand jury had indicted the self-



Clark County District Attorney Steve Wolfson stands beside a photo of Duane "Keefe D" Davis during a news conference on an indictment in the 1996 murder of rapper Tupac Shakur, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

one count of murder with a deadly weapon.

The grand jury also voted Tupac Shakur." to add a sentencing enhancement to the murder charge for gang activity that if he's convicted, could add up to 20 additional years.

The first-ever arrest in the case came more than two months after Las Vegas police raided Davis' home in the nearby city of

described "gangster" on Henderson for items they described at the time as "concerning the murder of

> It wasn't immediately clear if Davis has an attorney who can comment on his behalf. Prosecutors said they did not know if he had a lawyer and several local attorneys said they did not know who from Las Vegas would represent him. Phone and text messages to Davis and his wife on Friday and

in the months since the July 17 search weren't returned. "For 27 years the family of Tupac Shakur has been waiting for justice," Clark County Sheriff Kevin McMahill said at a news conference Friday. "While I know there's been many people who did not believe that the murder of Tupac Shakur was important to this police department, I'm here to tell you that is simply not the case."

Prosecutors said they have been in contact with the rapper's family and that they "are pleased with this news."

On the night of Sept. 7, 1996, Shakur was in a BMW driven by Death Row Refounder Marion "Suge" Knight. They were waiting at a red light near the Las Vegas Strip when a white Cadillac pulled up next to them and gunfire erupted.

Shakur was shot multiple times and died a week later at the age of 25.

Davis, in his memoir, said he was in the front passenger seat of the Cadillac and had slipped a gun into the back seat, from where he said the shots were fired.

He implicated his nephew, Orlando "Baby Lane" Anderson, saying he was one of two people in the backseat. Anderson, a known rival of Shakur, had been involved in a casino brawl with the rapper shortly before the shooting.

After the casino brawl, "Mr. Davis formulated a plan to exact revenge upon Mr. Knight and Mr. Shakur" in his nephew's defense, Clark County Chief Deputy District Attorney Marc Di-Giacomo said.

Chicago agency finds no wrongdoing in probe of officers' alleged sex misconduct with migrants



Migrants sheltering at the 9th District of the Chicago Police Department on S. Halsted Street in Chicago bring their belongings into the station as a light rain begins to fall on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago's police oversight agency said Friday it has closed an investigation after finding no wrongdoing by city officers followings allegations that they engaged in sexual misconduct with migrants housed at police stations.

The Civilian Office of Police Accountability said its investigators had not "substantiated any claim of sexual misconduct between members of the Chicago Police Department and any new arrivals." COPA added in a statement that "to date no victim or witness has come forward or been identified."

The agency said the case "will be closed without allegations or findings of misconduct" but said it has the authority to reopen the investigation if it receives "new material evidence."

Chicago is among the U.S. cities struggling to provide shelter and other help to hundreds arriving from the southern border, with families sleeping in police station lobbies. Migrants, largely from Central American countries, have been bused to Chicago and other major U.S. cities from Texas since the spring.

COPA opened its investigation in early July after a text message, circulated among police officers and other city employees, alleged that a 29-year-old field training officer assigned to the police department's Ogden District had engaged in a sexual relationship with a 17-year-old female migrant who was housed at the police station, the Chicago Tribune reported.



Southern E.U. nations urge for a new migration and asylum deal

By KEVIN SCHEMBRI OR-LAND

Associated Press VALLETTA, Malta (AP) —

Leaders of nine southern European countries called Friday for the EU to finalize a new migration and asylum deal, and to beef up efforts to prevent departures from North Africa as another shipwreck drama unfolded off Libya's coast.

A joint statement issued at the end of a one-day meeting in Malta said the needs of front-line countries such as Italy that receive the vast majority of migrants, must be "adequately met." It said the European Union as a bloc must strengthen its response by beefing up surveillance operations of Europe's external borders to prevent departures and break up human trafficking networks.

The one-day huddle included host Malta, as well as Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. Slovenia and Croatia, which have coastlines on the Adriatic Sea, were added to the so-called "Med Group" in 2021.

European Commission Pres-



Greece Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, Italy's Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Portugal's Prime Minister António Costa talk during family photo at Castille Square in Valletta, Malta, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

Associated Press

ident Ursula von der Leyen eo apparently showing a and European Council President Charles Michel also attended the meeting, which came ahead of next week's informal gathin Granada, Spain.

Meanwhile, the German humanitarian rescue group Sea-Watch released a vid- Aid groups and human recently inked a similar

Libyan coast guard boat nearing a migrant boat, and then some 50 people falling into the water. Sea-Watch said the Libyan ering of the EU's 27 nations coast guard "rammed" the migrant boat, and then took the survivors aboard another ship.

rights organizations have denounced the EU's deal with Libya to finance the Libyan coast guard so it can increase patrols to bring migrants back to Lib-

The U.N. has said abuses are rife at Libyan migrant detention camps. The EU

deal with Tunisia, which has taken over as the primary point of departure for smullers' boats.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni said she was pleased with the "convergence" of views at the summit, given recent differences over the migration dossier with France and Germany. And she said she hoped the Tunisia deal will soon get off the ground, with the first tranche of EU funding due to arrive next week.

"The summit repeats that the path to follow ... is the fight against illegal immigration, an all-out fight against traffickers and going to the cause of the migration phenomenon," Meloni said at the end of the summit.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said EU countries "need to determine on our own terms who enters" the 27-nation bloc.

"This is about us ... exercising what is a right that we can simply not outsource to smugglers," he said. "Currently it is the smugglers who decide who gets to enter the European Union and this must change."

Mexico's president slams U.S. aid for Ukraine and sanctions on Venezuela and Cuba

sanctions on Venezuela, as the first of two high-level U.S.-Mexico meetings got underway in Washington.

López Obrador issued a broad criticism of U.S. foreign policy, saying U.S. economic sanctions were forcing people to emigrate from Cuba, Venezuela and

The harsh comments came as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo and Trade Representative Katherine Tai met their Mexican counterparts at the State Department.

None of the officials, in-

MEXICO CITY (AP) — cluding Mexican Foreign Mexico's president on Fri- Secretary Alicia Bárcena day slammed U.S. aid for and Secretary of Econ-strengthen, to expand, Ukraine and economic omy Raquel Buenrostro, addressed or were asked Cuba and other nations about López Obrador's comments.

Instead they concentrated on expanded trade President Andrés Manuel and economic ties, hailing new cooperation on those fronts, and stressed their commitment to fight the surge of synthetic opioids like fentanyl into the U.S. delegation to Mexico next from Mexico.

> "By creating the right incentives and business environments and harnessing our two nations' respective strengths, we have a tremendous opportunity to make North America the most competitive, the most productive, the most dynamic region in the world,"

Blinken said.

"We're continuing to and diversify supply chains in emerging industries like electric vehicles and semiconductors," he said, noting that the U.S. and Mexico are launching a new initiative to produce semiconductors.

Although Friday's talks focused on commerce issues, Blinken will lead a U.S. week with Attorney General Merrick Garland and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas that will focus on border security and migration.

The State Department said in a statement that Blinken would be meeting López Obrador during the Oct. 4-5 trip.

management and political repression are largely and Cuba.

Experts say economic mis- López Obrador said the United States should spend some of the money sent to blame for the tide of mi- to Ukraine on economgrants leaving Venezuela ic development in Latin America.



Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks during a rally marking his fifth anniversary in office, at the Zocalo in Mexico City on July 1, 2023.

Associated Press



Algeria expands English-language learning as France's influence ebbs

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — More than a year after Algeria launched a pilot program to teach English in elementary schools, the country is hailing it as a success and expanding it in a move that reflects a widening linguistic shift underway in former French colonies throughout Africa.

Students returning to third and fourth grade classrooms this fall will participate in two 45-minute English classes each week as the country creates new teacher training programs at universities and eyes more transformational changes in the years ahead. Additionally, the country is strengthening enforcement of a preexisting law against private schools who operate primarily in French. "Teaching English is a strategic choice in the country's new education policy," Education Minister Abdelkrim Belabed said last week, lauding the move as an immense success.

English is the world's most widely spoken language, accounts for the majority of content on the internet and remains a lingua franca in business and science.



Schoolchildren wait in line in a school courtyard in in the Ben Omar district of Algiers, Algeria, on Sept.19, 2023.

Associated Press

And as France's economic and political influence wanes throughout Africa, Algeria is among a longer list of countries gradually transitioning toward English as their main foreign language.

This year, neighboring Mali changed its constitution to remove French from its list of official languages and Morocco made English classes compulsory in high schools.

Algeria has more French speakers than all but two nations France itself and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Nearly 15 million out of the country's 44 million people speak it, according to the International Organization of the French Language. Its officials frame English classes

as a practical rather than political shift, noting the language's importance in scientific and technical fields. But questions about French's position in Algerian society have long been polarizing, as teachers and former education policy officials acknowledge.

Retired high school principal Mohamed Arezki Ferdi believes Algeria should

have begun the shift to English decades ago. The current initiative was launched by Algerian President Abdelmadjid Tebboune, who came to power in 2019. Previous leaders also tried to expand Enalish but failed to overcome the French-educated who have long wielded power in the country. "We lost a lot of time," Ferdi said. "We should have introduced the English in primary schools when President (Abdelaziz) Bouteflika laid out his reform after coming to power in 1991. But at that time, French-speaking factions in Alaeria had a lot of decision-making power in institutions." The expansion of English language learning comes as tensions increasingly flare between France and Algeria.

The two share security interests over the political upheavals shaping contemporary West Africa. However, in recent years they have sparred repeatedly over immigration, extradition and how each country memorializes colonialism and the brutal war that resulted in Algeria's independence in 1962.

Africa's Eswatini, one of the last absolute monarchies, holds an election without political parties

By GERALD IMRAY **Associated Press**

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — The small southern African nation of Eswatini held elections Friday to decide part of the makeup of its Parliament, even as its extremely wealthy king retains absolute power, political parties are banned and elected representatives can merely advise a monarch whose family

Eswatini, wedged between South Africa and Mozambique, is the last absolute monarchy in Africa and one of the few remaining in the world. King Mswati III, 55, has been the mon18th birthday.

His father was king for 82 1968.

arch since 1986, when he years before him, although became ruler days after his Eswatini only gained independence from Britain in



Voters queue to cast their votes in Manzini, Eswatini, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

Associated Press

It was formerly known as Swaziland.

Parliamentary elections are held every five years. Candidates for the lower chamber, the House of Assembly, and for the Senate cannot belong to political parties, which were banned in 1973, and are nominated at a local level before they face a popular vote.

Mswati III appoints a minority of House of Assembly members, and the majority are elected. He appoints a majority of the Senate, the prime minister and other key members of the government.

As king, or the "Ngwenyama" which means lion Mswati III is sometimes ad-

vised by a council but has executive and legislative powers under law in the country of 1.2 million people and makes decisions by decree.

A little over 500,000 people were registered to vote in Friday's election, the electoral body said. The African Union and the regional Southern African Development Community bloc sent observers.

Mswati has taced increased pro-democracy protests in recent years, but activists demanding reform encountered a harsh crackdown from police and security forces under the king's control in June 2021, with dozens killed.



Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100 Police Tipline: 11141 Ambulance: 911 Fire Dept: 115

Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-

527-4000

San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water

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

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though,

most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

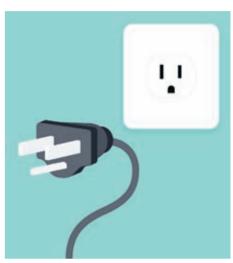
Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.





Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and



descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his ter-

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect.



Aruba to me

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Paseo Herencia Presents a Weekend Extravaganza: Live Shows, Pet-Friendly Fun, and More!

Oranjestad - Paseo Herencia, the premier shopping and entertainment destination in Palm Beach, is gearing up for an entertaining-packed weekend that promises to delight the community. On Saturday, September 30, the mall will come alive with a variety of events and activities suitable for all ages.

Special Offers for Pet Lovers

Bring your beloved pets along for a shopping adventure this weekend and treat them to some delightful surprises! When you spend \$175 at Beach N Flips, you'll receive a complimentary Corkcicle Dog Bowl. At Drunk's Denial, your furry friend can indulge in a free dog cupcake with the purchase of a mini bundt cake or a Drunken Crepe. Enjoy these exclusive pet-friendly perks while you shop!

Saturday Fun - Meet Paw Patrol Characters at the Caribbean Cinemas

On Saturday, the stars of 'Paw Patrol' will be making a special appearance at Caribbean Cinemas from 3:30pm to 7:00pm. Don't miss the chance to meet and take photos with your favorite characters before catching the new movie release of Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie.

Dog Fashion Show and Information Booths

Starting at 6:00 pm on the main stage, the mall will host a Dog Fashion Show with the animal organizations SGT Peppers and Aruba Animal Shelter. You can visit their information booths during the night to donate, buy merchandise, sign up to become a volunteer or apply to adopt a pet.

Universal Fantasy Costume Contest

Come and experience a Caribbean costume contest



with spectacular Carnaval costumes and live performances, hosted by Stichting Klein Aruba, on the Paseo Herencia stage starting at 6:30pm.

Free Parking with Any Purchase

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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.

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For today we received a lovely message from **Dr. Reginald and Stephani Patterson** who are visiting us from Patterson Chicago, Illinois.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is like a home away from home."

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

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is avail-

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (Sternula antillarum) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting

in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emergina.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartzdiorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.



broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4×4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

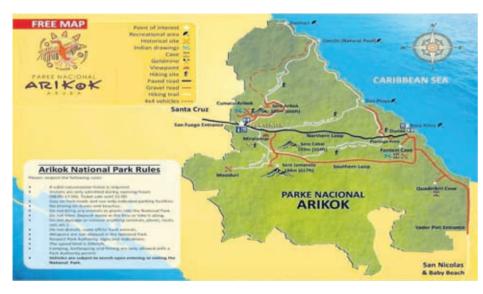
Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park

old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mudhouse. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas.



Episode 59: The domestic native American mute dogs

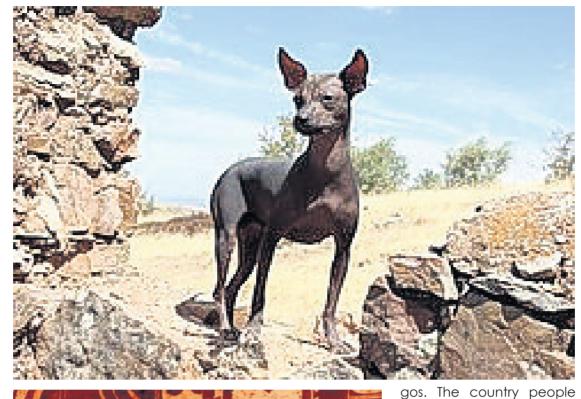
Their value in ancient native cultures is evidenced by their frequent appearance in art and artifacts. Archaeological evidence has been found in Mexico (Colima) dating similar dogs to over 3500 years ago. Long regarded as guardians and protectors of the upper world as well as in the underworld. Amerindians believed that the Xolo would safeguard the home from evil spirits as well as intruders.

Ceramic representations of the Xolo, known as Colima Dogs, have been found in hundreds of burial sites. In ancient times the Xolos were often sacrificed and then buried with their owners to act as guide to the soul on its journey to the underworld. They have been found in burial sites of both the Maya and the Toltec.

These dogs were considered a great delicacy, and were consumed for sacrificial ceremonies-including marriages and funerals. Most likely, these pre-European dogs originated as spontaneous hairless mutations of indigenous American dogs. Hairlessness may have conferred a survival advantage in tropical regions. Indigenous peoples of Mexico had Xolo dogs as home and hunting companions. These dogs have survived and today they are still very popular companion dogs. They are also the national dog of Mexico.

This same mithical atibutions are given to this canine the now officially recognized as a Peruvian Heritage, the Peruvian viringo, Peruvian hairless dog, Calato dog, chimú or viringo dog is a breed of hairless dog and usually used as a companion animal.

The National Institute of Culture of Peru ordered the location of Peruvian hair-



sites that have the necessary conditions that allow the natural development and breeding of this spe-

Representations of this specimen appear in ceramics of different pre-Inca cultures, such as Vicús, Mochica, Chancay, with Tiahuanaco influence, Sicán and Chimú.

ua they called theire dog "kaclla". The name viringo seems to be the original name used by the Moches or Mochicas, whose descendants to this day name them so.

These dogs played an important role in the customs and myths of the Incas. The chronicles of the time of the Spanish conquest and the Viceroyalty testified to less dogs in museums and The Incas way or in Quech- the presence of the Virin-

that it has warm skin that when it comes into contact with human skin can heat it, which has been the basis for attributing medicinal properties, for example to relieve rheumatism.

There are those who have attributed to the Peruvian dog the ability to avoid allergies, bronchial problems and asthma, since he has no hair that could cause respiratory problems, nor fleas or ticks, since they have nowhere to nest.

Evidance shows that these particular type of dogs where very popular, since it is believed that our natives also had their own hairless mute hunting dog, for hunting and for the protection against bad spirits and omens. I have seen local ceramic pieces that most probably are original Dabajuroide work that very much resable a hairless mute hunting dog. I have managed to take a few pictures in the 1990's of some small pieces from a local private collector and that served as inspiration for a work.



kept the dog without hair,

associated with their own

culture and used it for me-

dicinal purposes. Due to

the lack of hair, this breed

keeps your body warmer to

protect you from the envi-

Pedro Weiss points out in his

research that the hairless

dog of Peru genetically has

an ectodermal hypoplasia

syndrome, which means

ronment.





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Food culture in Aruba

(Oraniestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast. lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken stewed or fried—with fun-

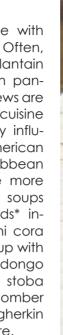
chi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can are largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably form Venezuela.



Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may eas-







ily find around the island. These include, Saco*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bo-cional Aruba

naire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives) *Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Na-





CROSSWORD ADEPT ACIRES By THOMAS JOSEPH SOCHI TON CRESTED **ACROSS** 42 Miniature E|S|T|A|T|E|S O|R 1 — avis map SIIMON ONES 5 Auction 43 Order to NOR MAL cry Spot PIGS HITCH 9 Whoop 44 Blissful AMP TENSPO it up place PALERMO 10 Ram in the sky DOWN LETON 12 Putting to SEND REED 1 Find a work Yesterday's answer new 13 Joust table for 9 Hicks 26 Stars need 2 Take wing 11 Intuit 27 Least 14 Some 3 Monthly 15 Make Quidditch spirited bill good players 29 Relaxed 4 Variable as new 16 Heavy 30 Deteriostudy weight 19 English 5 Tito rate 17 Put away county Puente's 31 Valuable 18 Lab array 21 Mideast music holding 20 Ranch ruler 6 — pro 33 Dark group 24 Draw nobis 22 Otherwise wood 7 Door announce-23 Morning, 37 Hawk ment topper in 39 Caffeine 8 Room 25 Treat Marseille designs badly source 25 Play start 28 Capital north of 10 Syracuse 32 Check recipients 34 Word after lean or set 35 Einstein's birthplace 36 Oregon 30 31 State team 32 38 Take care of 40 Make 38 fun of

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

42

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

9-30 CRYPTOQUOTE

41 Buddy of

Jones"

"Barnaby

NDLR ICR TYRRG OQIHN ICRHY

NRZLRG TCRQ X Z N NDXX.

RQSDOYZFR ICRW ID IYJ ZFZIIQ

QREI JRZY. — SCZT GOFF Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I LIKE TO SAY, TAKE THE SHOT, EVEN IF YOUR KNEES ARE SHAKING. ROBIN ROBERTS

804,000 long-term borrowers are having their student loans forgiven



Karin Engstrom, 82, poses for photos at home, Wednesday, Sept. 27. 2023, in Seattle.

Associated Press

By CORA LEWIS **Associated Press**

NEW YORK (AP) — Karin Engstrom thought she'd be paying off her federal student loans for the rest of her life. The 82-year-old was shocked when she logged on to check her balance ahead of payments resuming in October and found that more than \$175,000 in

debt had been erased. She's one of 804,000 borrowers who will have a total of \$39 billion forgiven under a one-time adjustment granted by the Biden administration. It's for people in income-driven repayment plans who have been paying back loans for 20 or 25 years but who never received credit for

late or partial payments. It also credits borrowers for periods before the pandemic when they were allowed to pause or reduce payments due to financial hardships.

To correct mistakes by loan servicers, the Department of Education is retroactively adjusting accounts, resulting in forgiveness. The department says 95% of those who qualify have now been informed of the cancellation. Engstrom didn't immediately believe it when she saw her balances had been erased, but she eventually found a letter from the Federal Student Aid office dated August 28 that confirmed the cancellation was real.

"Info: Your student loans have been forgiven," the letter read. "Congratulations! The Biden-Harris Administration has forgiven your federal student loan(s) listed below with Edfinancial Services in full."

Wonder Group buying meal kit company Blue Apron for about \$103

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN **AP Business Writer**

Wonder Group is buying meal kit company Blue



An example of a home-delivered meal from Blue Apron is displayed, Oct. 6, 2014

Associated Press



Apron for about \$103 million as the company looks to enhance its offerings.

Wonder Group, which was founded by e-commerce mogul Marc Lore, began with vans that would deliver meals to residences, making the final preparations curbside. But the company faced push back from some residents concerned about the environmental impact of the idling vans and also dealt with cost concerns.

It has since started opening some stores, moving away from the van delivery ser-

Blue Apron has built itself into a known name in the meal kit sector, but it's faced increased competition over the years from other meal kit businesses, like Hello Fresh, as well as restaurant and grocery delivery services and at home chefs.

The Supreme Court will decide if state laws limiting social media platforms violate the Constitution

By Mark Sherman **Associated Press**

(AP) — The Supreme Court agreed Friday to decide whether state laws that seek to regulate Facebook, TikTok, X and other social media platforms violate the Constitution.

The justices will review laws enacted by Republicandominated legislatures and signed by Republican governors in Florida and Texas. While the details vary, both laws aim to prevent the social media companies from censoring users based on their viewpoints. The court's announcement, three days before the start of its new term, comes as the justices continue to grapple with how laws written at the dawn of the digital age, or earlier, apply to the online world. The justices had already agreed to decide whether public officials can block critics from commenting on their social media accounts, an issue that previously came up in a case involving then-President Donald Trump. The court dismissed the Trump case when his presidential term ended in January 2021.

Separately, the high court also could consider a lower-court order limiting executive branch officials' communications with social media companies about controversial online posts. In all, the justices added 12 cases Friday that will be argued during the winter. They include:

— A dispute over the FBI's no-fly list. The appeal came from the Biden administration in a case involving an Oregon man who once was on the list, but had been removed years ago. A federal appeals court said he could continue his lawsuit because the FBI never disavowed his initial inclusion.

— A copyright case that involves a hit for the hiphop artist Flo Rida in which he made use of someone else's song from the 1980s. Music publishing companies that were sued for copyright infringement



The Supreme Court is seen in Washington, Sept. 25, 2023. The new term of the high court begins next Monday, Oct. 2. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

over the 2008 song "In the Ayer" are challenging a lower court ruling against

 A plea by landowners in southeast Texas who want the state to compensate them for effectively taking their property. Their lawsuit claims that a successful project to renovate Interstate 10 and ensure it remains passable in bad weather results in serious flooding on their properties in heavy rainfall.

The new social media cases follow conflicting rulings by two appeals courts, one of which upheld the Texas law, while the other struck down Florida's statute. By a 5-4 vote, the justices kept the Texas law on hold while litigation over it continues. But the alignment was unusual. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett voted to grant the emergency request from two technology industry groups that challenged the law in federal court.

Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Elena Kagan and Neil Gorsuch would have allowed the law to remain in effect. In dissent, Alito wrote, "Social media platforms have transformed the way people communicate with each other and obtain news."

Proponents of the laws, including Republican elected officials in several states that have similar measures, have sought to portray social media companies as generally liberal in outlook and hostile to ideas outside of that viewpoint, especially from the political right.

that the laws would prevent platforms from removing extremism and hate speech. "Online

services have well-established First Amendment right to host, curate and share content as they see fit," Chris Marchese, the litigation director for the industry group NetChoice, said in a statement. "The internet is a vital platform for free expression, and it must remain free from government censorship. We are confident the Court will agree."

The tech sector warned





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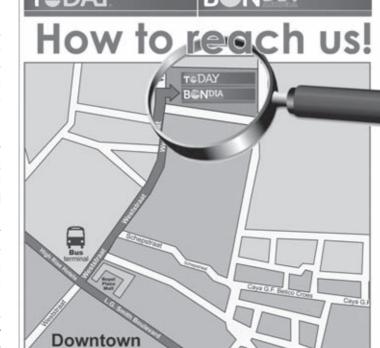
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Europe strikes back in Ryder Cup and ties record for largest lead

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
GUIDONIA MONTECELIO,
Italy (AP) — Europe swept
the opening session of
the Ryder Cup for the first
time in its history, a beating so thorough that none

And then somehow it got even worse for the Americans.

of the foursomes matches

reached the 18th hole.

Right when they were on the verge of escaping Friday with a manageable deficit, Europe delivered one punch after another on the 18th hole at Marco Simone. It left the Americans without a single win on opening day for the first time in Ryder Cup history, and it gave Europe a record-tying lead in its bid to regain the cup.

Three fourballs matches came to the 597-yard closing hole, all of them looking like a red American point on the board.

And then Viktor Hovland made a 25-foot birdie putt. Jon Rahm made a 35-foot eagle putt that slammed into the back of the cup. Justin Rose finished it with an 8-foot birdie putt, all those matches ending in a tie

For a moment, it looked like the day would end with Europe holding a 5-3 lead.

Instead, it was 6 1/2-1 1/2. The five-point lead matched the biggest margin after one day, last done by Europe at Oakland Hills in 2004 when it handed the Americans their worst loss.

"Historic day," European captain Luke Donald said "But we want it to be an historic week. So the job is certainly not done. We will all celebrate an amazing day, but we'll be back tomorrow morning with the goal of trying to win tomorrow morning's session."

U.S. captain Zach Johnson could only offer hope that the tide would turn. He offered no excuses other than a mysterious mention of a bug going through the U.S. team.

"It did not go in our favor today. Doesn't mean it can't tomorrow or Sun-



Europe's Justin Rose celebrates after putting to tie his match on the 18th green during his afternoon Fourballs match at the Ryder Cup golf tournament at the Marco Simone Golf Club in Guidonia Montecelio, Italy, Friday, Sept. 29, 2023.

Associated Press

day," Johnson said. "Tip my cap to the European team for playing great golf. Our time's coming."

Europe now needs only to win eight points from the remaining 20 matches to extend its winning streak at home that dates to 1993. Donald pushed all the right buttons by starting with foursomes, which he considered a European strength that would give him a hot start.

And then he let his stars do the work. Rory McIlroy was the only player to win both his matches, even if he rode the amazing play of Matt Fitzpatrick in fourballs. Fitzpatrick won five straight holes on the front nine in the only fourballs match that ended early.

Rahm twice holed big shots off the green in foursomes with Tyrrell Hatton and hit the pin with his tee shot on a par 3. In the afternoon, he made two eagles over the last three holes.

Hovland got this shot-making clinic started in the morning when he chipped in from 45 feet, off a tight lie on the fringe and over a ridge. He ended his day with that big birdie, a putt that paused ever so briefly before taking one final turn

into the cup.

"They are studs. They are three of the top four players in the world," Donald said. "You need your superstars firing. You need them playing well. Without that, it's really an uphill battle. They stepped up and did what they needed to do, and I'm so proud of them." Europe had the stars, all the pivotal shots and a delirious home crowd pushing them along the way. It was a rude welcome and a harsh reminder to the Americans why it has been 30 years since they last won the Ryder Cup away from home. The American stars fell flat. Xander Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay lost their foursomes match to "Fleetwood Mac" Mcllroy and Tommy Fleetwood. The American tandem had been 5-0 in foursomes at the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup.

Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth were undefeated in fourballs in three previous Ryder Cup matches. They had to settle for a a halve when Hovland made his big putt.

The lead was even bigger than the U.S. had over Europe at Whistling Straits two years ago, when Europe had hardly any fans because of travel restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A great day in front of some amazing home fans," McIlroy said.

There were plenty of American fans at Marco Simone. They just didn't make much noise because there was so little reason to cheer.

The final blow came from Rose, at 43 the oldest player at Marco Simone. He guided around Ryder Cup rookie Robert MacIntyre and delivered in the end, winning three of the last four holes to scratch out a halve in the final match on the course.

"I didn't want us to be the only one to let red on the board," Rose said, illustrating how ruthless Europe felt with a home crowd on its side.

"The 18th hole was incredibly kind to us, and the boys holed some unbelievable putts," Rose said. "Those three ties mean a lot, just for moral victory as much as obviously keeping the score as spread as possible.'

Europe has started the Ryder Cup at home with fourballs every time since 1993, which also was the last time

Europe lost at home. Donald felt his side statistically was stronger in foursomes and he wanted a fast start. McIlroy said Donald had Europe play three-hole matches in practice to develop a sense of urgency. Whatever the plan, it worked to near perfection. "All week, all we've been talking about is getting off to fast starts ... something Luke has drilled into us," McIlroy said. "We were ready to go from the first

Johnson also had a plan for the five sessions, only this beating was so bad it brought to mind what heavyweight Mike Tyson once said of Evander Holyfield: "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth."

tee shot, obviously, as you

can see in how everyone

played."

The Americans were bloodied, all right.

It took six hours and 25 minutes after the Ryder Cup began for the Americans to lead in any match.

Even so, the Americans were poised to keep the deficit at 5-3, which would salvage the day and perhaps swing momentum in their favor. And then Europe delivered in the clutch by flipping three matches late.

"It's not the start we wanted, but fortunately for us we've got a lot of golf left," Thomas said. "But tomorrow is important. We've put ourselves in a spot where every session is extremely important."





It looks like it'll take all 162 games to decide MLB's postseason races

By DAVID BRANDT **AP Baseball Writer**

PHOENIX (AP) — It might take all 162 games to decide the playoff races in both the National League and American League.

The epicenter of the wildcard chase this weekend is in Arizona at Chase Field. Thanks to some fortuitous interleague scheduling, the AL's Houston Astros face the NL's Arizona Diamondbacks in a three-game set crucial to races in both leagues.

Defending champion Houston is fighting for a berth after a September swoon. The Diamondbacks who have played better lately after their own second-half slide are trying to make the postseason for the first time since 2017.

"We know it's right in front of us," Arizona manager Torey Lovullo said after his team beat the White Sox on Wednesday. "We control our own destiny in this particular situation."

Here's a look at some of the other series this weekend that will decide the postseason field:

Rangers at Mariners: This is a big four-game set that actually began Thursday



Texas Rangers' Marcus Semien, right, celebrates his home run against the Los Angeles Angels with Adolis Garcia during the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023, in Anaheim,

Associated Press

night, with both teams fighting for position in the AL West and the AL wildcard race. The Rangers have played well over the past 1 1/2 weeks, opening a 2 1/2-game division lead. Texas probably is fine with a win or two in the series while Seattle might need to

Rays at Blue Jays: The Rays have already secured their berth and are locked into their playoff spot after the Orioles won the AL East on Thursday. The Blue Jays are fighting for an AL wild-card spot and winning at least two of three against Tampa Bay would go a long way toward securing that goal. Cubs at Brewers: The Cubs just finished a tough series against Atlanta and have lost nine times in September in games in which they led. The Brewers have won the NL Central.

Marlins at Pirates: The Marlins have been playing roughly .500 ball for the better part of a month. They'll need a big weekend against the Pirates possibly a sweep to have a chance at making the postseason.

Reds at Cardinals: The sur-

prising Reds have been sliding some in recent weeks. They'll likely need a sweep over the Cardinals to have much of a shot at sneaking into the postseason.

AWARDS RACES

The most intrigue still surrounds the NL Cy Young Award race, which has a handful of solid candidates in San Diego's Blake Snell, Chicago's Justin Steele, Arizona's Zac Gallen and Atlanta's Spencer Strider.

Strider's got a shot in his final start to become the majors only 20-game winner. Steele and Gallen will have one more chance to impress in the middle of the NL wild-card race.

Ronald Acuña Jr. recently created the 40-homer, 70-stolen base club after the Braves star became the first player to reach both those marks in the same season. With apologies to teammate Matt Olson and Dodgers standouts Mookie Betts and Freddie Freeman, he's still the favorite for the National League MVP.

Yankees star Gerrit Cole pitched a two-hit shutout against Toronto, clinching the AL ERA title and strengthening his Cy Young

NFL confirms Brazil and Spain site trips as international 'passion and demand' grows

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL touted the global demand for its product ahead of its five international games and confirmed Friday that cities in Brazil and Spain are under review as potential hosts in the future.

London hosts three games this season, beginning Sunday when the Jacksonville Jaguars play the Atlanta Falcons at Wembley Stadium. In November, two games will be played in Frankfurt, Germany, including a potential blockbuster when the Kansas City Chiefs face the Miami Dolphins.

The league has made an aggressive push interna-

game to the schedule to rights in various countries. facilitate games abroad

tionally by adding a 17th and give teams marketing "There is passion and de-



A general overall interior view as the Green Bay Packers take on the New York Giants during an NFL football game at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in London, Sunday, Oct. 9, 2022.

Associated Press

mand for our game and for the NFL outside the US, and that's why we're exploring it as fully as we are," said Peter O'Reilly, the NFL's executive vice president for club business, and international and league events, in a media call on Friday.

The first regular-season game in Germany last year was considered a success. Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the In a recent interview with Seattle Seahawks 21-16 in Munich.

"We've seen the impact of bringing a game to a new market like last vear in Germany, and the impact locally, the response from fans," O'Reilly said.

O'Reilly said there's no timeline on decisions for adding new cities. But he confirmed that league officials recently made site visits to Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in Brazil and Madrid in Spain where they were "building relationships, looking at the stadia there, looking at the operations partners, the infrastructure."

The Associated Press, NFL Head of Europe and UK Brett Gosper said 2024 hasn't been ruled out for a new host city: "We're examining that possibility along with years beyond that."



Weekly SPECIALS







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