

U.N. Security Council adopts a cease-fire resolution aimed at ending Israel-Hamas war in Gaza



Israeli soldiers move near the Israeli-Gaza border as seen from southern Israel, Monday, June 10, 2024.

Associated Press
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By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Monday approved its first resolution endorsing a cease-fire plan aimed at ending the eight-month war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

The U.S.-sponsored resolution welcomes a cease-fire proposal announced by President Joe Biden that the United States says Israel has accepted. It calls on the militant Palestinian group Hamas, which initially said it viewed the proposal "positively," to accept

the three-phase plan. Hamas responded to the adoption by saying it welcomed the resolution and was ready to work with mediators in indirect negotiations with Israel to implement it. The statement was among the strongest from Hamas to date but

stressed the group would continue "our struggle" to end the Israeli occupation and work on setting up a "fully sovereign" Palestinian state.

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U.N. Security Council adopts a cease-fire resolution aimed at ending Israel-Hamas war in Gaza

Continued from Front

The resolution — which was approved overwhelmingly with 14 of the 15 Security Council members voting in favor and Russia abstaining — calls on Israel and Hamas “to fully implement its terms without delay and without condition.”

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield said after the vote the council “sent a clear message to Hamas to accept the cease-fire deal on the table,” reiterating that Israel has accepted the deal which is supported by countries across the world.

“The fighting could stop today, if Hamas would do the same,” she told the council. “I repeat, this fighting could stop today.”

U.S. deputy ambassador Robert Wood told reporters earlier on Monday that the United States wanted all 15 Security Council members to support what he described as “the best, most realistic opportunity to bring at least a temporary halt to this war.” Whether Israel and Hamas agree to the three-phase cease-fire plan remains in question, but the resolution's strong support in the U.N.'s most powerful body puts added pressure on both parties to approve the proposal. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that Bi-



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres speaks during a Security Council meeting at the United Nations headquarters, April 18, 2024.

Associated Press

den presented only parts of the proposal and insisted that any talk of a permanent cease-fire before dismantling Hamas' military and governing capabilities is a nonstarter. Earlier Monday, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad leaders met in Qatar to discuss the proposed cease-fire deal and said later that any deal must lead to a permanent cease-fire, a full Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, an end to the Israeli siege of Gaza, reconstruction and “a serious exchange deal” between hostages in Gaza and

Palestinians held in Israeli jails. Algeria's U.N. Ambassador Amar Bendjama, the Arab representative on the council, said that while the text isn't perfect, “it offers a glimmer of hope to the Palestinians, as the alternative is (the) continuing killing and suffering of the Palestinian people.” “We voted for this text to give diplomacy a chance to reach an agreement that will end the aggression against the Palestinian people that has lasted far too long,” Bendjama said. The war was sparked by Ha-

mas' surprise Oct. 7 attack in southern Israel that killed about 1,200 people, mainly Israeli civilians, and saw about 250 others taken hostage. About 120 hostages remain, with 43 pronounced dead. Israel's military offensive has killed more than 36,700 Palestinians and wounded in excess of 83,000 others, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. It has also destroyed about 80% of Gaza's buildings, according to the U.N. The Security Council adopted a resolution on March 25 demanding a humanitarian

cease-fire in Gaza during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, with the U.S. abstaining, but there was no halt to the war.

Monday's resolution underscores “the importance of the ongoing diplomatic efforts by Egypt, Qatar and the United States aimed at reaching a comprehensive cease-fire deal, consisting of three phases.” It comes as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is on his eighth trip to the Middle East since Oct. 7 pursuing that goal.

Biden's May 31 announcement of the new proposal said it would begin with an initial six-month cease-fire with the release of hostages in exchange for Palestinian prisoners, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas in Gaza and the return of Palestinian civilians to all areas in the territory.

Phase one also requires the safe distribution of humanitarian assistance “at scale throughout the Gaza Strip,” which Biden said would lead to 600 trucks with aid entering Gaza every day.

In phase two, the resolution says that with the agreement of Israel and Hamas, “a permanent end to hostilities, in exchange for the release of all other hostages still in Gaza, and a full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza” will take place. □



People visit the exhibit, “Collecting Memories: Treasures from the Library of Congress,” during a media preview at the Library of Congress, Monday, June 10, 2024, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **ASHRAF KHALIL**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Library of Congress is unveiling an eclectic new exhibit

drawing on the institution's vast historical archives and designed to make the library a more popular and accessible destination for visitors

Library of Congress launches new ‘Collecting Memories’ exhibit in a bid to draw more tourists

and tourists.

“Collecting Memories” — which opens to the public on June 13 — is an intensely curated exhibit that brings together items as varied as ancient Hebrew religious texts, the contents of President Abraham Lincoln's pockets when he was assassinated in 1865, the first sketches of Spider-Man and videos of Carlos Santana in concert.

“These items are an expression of our collective history,” said Carla Hayden, the official librarian of Congress. “We want people to see themselves in our exhibit.”

The new exhibit is part of a campaign to make the Library of Congress more attractive to everyday tourists and school groups. David Rubenstein, the prominent local philanthropist who donated \$10 million to the initiative, said the goal was to make the Library of Congress a regular part of tourist itineraries along with the monuments and various museums. “You usually don't go to the Library of Congress because you don't know that the Library of Congress is more than just a library,” Rubenstein said.

Housed in the Thomas Jef-

erson Building, next door to the Supreme Court and across the street from the Capitol, the dimly lit exhibition hall bursts with images and antiquities. Slide shows play on the walls, and glass cases display vivid tapestries, ancient texts, photographs and historical curiosities like former President James Madison's crystal flute and Lincoln's pocketknife and wallet — including a Confederate \$5 bill. The life story of Omar Ibn Said, an African man abducted into American slavery, is told through his own autobiography, written in Arabic. □

A majority of Black Americans believe U.S. institutions are conspiring against them, a Pew poll finds

By **AYANNA ALEXANDER**
and **MATT BROWN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Black Americans say they've experienced racial discrimination regularly or from time to time, which colors how they view U.S. institutions like policing, the political system and the media, according to a study on conspiracy theories.

The study released Monday by the Pew Research Center examined the intersection of race and conspiratorial beliefs. It's the second installment in the research group's series on how Black Americans see success and failure.

The study defines racial conspiracy theories as ideas that Black Americans might have about "the actions of U.S. institutions" that aren't necessarily the stated goals of the institution. The study stresses that these are claims that Black Americans may have because of America's documented history of racist policies largely impacting Black communities. Pew examined claims including conspiratorial beliefs about how major institutions discriminate against Black



In this 1950's file photo released by the National Archives, a black man included in a syphilis study has blood drawn by a doctor in Tuskegee, Ala.

Americans and support for generational adages such as "you have to work twice as hard" to advance compared with white Americans. For instance, the study found that more than 8 in 10 Black Americans surveyed agreed with the statement that "Black people are more likely to be incarcerated because prisons want to make mon-

ey on the backs of Black people." And more than 6 in 10 Black adults surveyed agreed that institutions such as the criminal justice system, the country's economic system and policing are designed to hold Black people back.

Those sentiments exist alongside a reality that Black people were 32% of sentenced state and

federal prisoners in 2022, even though they make up just 12% of the overall U.S. population. By comparison, white people were underrepresented among prisoners at 31%, while Hispanic people were slightly overrepresented at 23% of prisoners, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Pew's study draws from a poll of Black Americans

conducted last September. Study authors say that views are unlikely to have shifted since the respondents were surveyed.

The study also explored why Black adults believe these narratives and allowed respondents to explain how they feel about discrimination and racial disparities in their own words, said senior Pew researcher and study author Kiana Cox.

She added that although the survey was released during an election year it does not focus on partisan politics. Rather, it showcases the feelings Black Americans have that can influence how the community views the nation but often go unheard or aren't taken seriously.

"There are anecdotal conversations among Black people about the system, the Man, the invisible hand, the agenda that is set out to create a situation where Black people can't advance. So, we wanted to explore that," Cox said. "We also wanted to figure out how many Black people are familiar with these narratives about the system being designed for their failure and how many Black people believe them." □

Associated Press

FDA and DOJ pledge more cooperation on illegal e-cigarettes ahead of congressional hearing

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal health regulators and law enforcement officials on Monday vowed to work more closely to stop sales of illegal electronic cigarettes, which have grown into a multibillion-dollar business in the U.S. while skirting government oversight.

The Food and Drug Administration said it would launch a new task force on this issue with the Department of Justice and several other agencies, including the U.S. Postal Service.

The FDA has authorized a handful of e-cigarettes for

adult smokers looking for alternatives to traditional cigarettes. The agency has rejected applications for millions of other proposed products.

But thousands of unauthorized vaping products continue to flow into the U.S., largely from China. They include major disposable vape brands like Elf Bar, which was the most popular e-cigarette among underage teens last year, according to federal data.

The FDA and Justice Department announcement comes two days before a Senate hearing scrutinizing the lack of government enforcement action against

makers and sellers of unauthorized e-cigarettes.

The multi-agency task force was proposed by outside experts in 2022 as part of a blistering critique of the FDA's tobacco program.

The experts channeled longstanding grievances from groups on opposing sides of the vaping issue. Public health groups want the FDA to more aggressively police illegal flavored e-cigarettes that appeal to teenagers. Tobacco companies complain that the FDA is unwilling to approve newer e-cigarettes that might help adults quit smoking.

The FDA has sent hundreds

of warning letters to vape shops and e-cigarette manufacturers in recent years, calling on them to

remove or discontinue their products. But the letters are sometimes ignored. □



This Oct. 14, 2015, file photo, shows the U.S. Food & Drug Administration campus in Silver Spring, Md.

Associated Press

Iowa defends immigration law that allows local officials to arrest people told to leave U.S.

By **SCOTT McFETRIDGE** and **HANNAH FINGERHUT**

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) —

Iowa defended its new immigration law on Monday and argued that the state's ability to file criminal charges against people did not infringe on federal authority over immigration because local officials would abide by all federal regulations.

Lawyers for the U.S. Department of Justice and a coalition of civil rights groups are seeking a temporary or permanent injunction of the law, which goes into effect July 1 unless it's blocked by the courts. The law is similar to one in Texas, which has been temporarily blocked, and another in Oklahoma that the DOJ is seeking to stop.

U.S. District Court Judge Stephen Locher said "I'll do my best" to rule quickly on the injunction request. Locher noted the likelihood his ruling would be appealed, calling it the "first



Opponents of an Iowa immigration law rally outside the federal courthouse on Monday, June 10, 2024, in downtown Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

step along this journey."

The Iowa law would allow criminal charges to be brought against people who have outstanding de-

portation orders or who previously have been removed from or denied admission to the U.S. Once in custody, migrants could

either agree to a judge's order to leave the U.S. or be prosecuted, potentially facing time in prison before deportation.

Patrick Valencia, Iowa's deputy solicitor general, told the judge that the state's law wouldn't establish new immigration rules but only allow state law enforcement and courts to apply federal law.

"We have a law that adopts the federal standard," Valencia said.

The lawyers seeking an injunction countered that the Iowa law, approved by state legislators in the last legislative session, said the new rules without question violate the federal government's sole authority over immigration matters.

"It's clearly a federal responsibility," said Christopher Eiswerth, a DOJ attorney.

Eiswerth and Emma Winger, representing the American Immigration Council, said the state law doesn't make exceptions for people who have been deported before but now are in the country legally, such as those seeking asylum. □

National bail fund exits Georgia over new law that expands cash bail and limits groups that help

By **R.J. RICO**

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The Bail Project, a national nonprofit that aids thousands of low-income people who are behind bars, announced Monday that it has closed its Atlanta branch due to a new Georgia law that expands cash bail and restricts organizations that post inmates' bonds as they await trial.

Senate Bill 63, which goes into effect next month, requires cash bail for 30 additional crimes, including 18 that are always or often misdemeanors, including failure to appear in court for a traffic citation.

It also limits people and organizations from posting more than three cash bonds in a year unless they meet requirements to become bail bond companies a process involv-

ing passing background checks, paying fees, holding a business license, securing the local sheriff's approval and establishing a cash escrow account or other form of collateral.

Cash bail perpetuates a two-tiered system of justice, where two people accused of the same offense get drastically different treatment those who can afford bail are released

while those who cannot often remain incarcerated for months on end awaiting court dates, The Bail Project's statement said.

"Across the nation, more than a dozen jurisdictions have eliminated or minimized cash bail, redirecting funds to services that prevent crime and enhance community safety," the organization said. "Georgia's lawmakers could have

adopted similar evidence-based policies, including speedy trial legislation to address court delays and investments in preventative services to reduce reliance on pretrial incarceration. Instead, they opted for a path that perpetuates more incarceration, racial inequity, trauma, and harm."

Republican Gov. Brian Kemp said during his signing ceremony last month that SB 63 would "ensure dangerous individuals cannot walk our streets and commit further crimes." The American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia has threatened to sue, calling it "cruel, costly, and counterproductive."

Democrats had urged Kemp to veto the measure, arguing that it will worsen overcrowding in jails and disproportionately hurt

poor, minority defendants. They called it a gift to for-profit bail bond companies and a betrayal of Kemp's predecessor, GOP Gov. Nathan Deal, who made criminal justice reform a hallmark of his legacy.

Since its launch in 2018, The Bail Project said it has paid \$81 million to free more than 30,000 people in more than 30 jurisdictions from pre-trial detention. That prevented nearly 1.2 million days of incarceration, and reduced collateral consequences such as loss of jobs, housing and child custody, the group said.

Those helped by The Bail Project returned to over 90% of their court dates, a statistic that, according to the nonprofit, lays "waste to the idea that cash bail is a necessary incentive to ensure a person's future court appearance." □



The Fulton County, Ga., Jail is seen, April 11, 2023, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Blinken meets with Netanyahu in Israel and urges Hamas to accept cease-fire proposal

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met Monday with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his latest trip to the Middle East, where America's top diplomat urged approval of a cease-fire proposal that faced new uncertainty following Israel's hostage rescue operation that killed many Palestinians and turmoil in Netanyahu's government.

With no firm public response yet from Hamas or Israel to the proposal they received 10 days ago, Blinken started his eighth visit to the region since the conflict began in October by meeting with President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi of Egypt, a key mediator with the militant Hamas group. He then flew to Israel for talks with Netanyahu and other Israeli officials. Blinken once again called on Hamas to accept the plan, which he said has wide international support. "If you want a cease-fire, press Hamas to say 'yes,'" he told reporters before leaving Cairo on the trip that also will take him to Jordan and Qatar. Blinken said Israel has accepted the proposal, though Netanyahu has expressed



Secretary of State Antony Blinken disembarks from a plane in Tel Aviv, Oct. 16, 2023, from Jordan. Associated Press

skepticism.

"I know that there are those who are pessimistic about the prospects," Blinken said, putting the onus on Hamas. "That's understandable. Hamas continues to show extraordinary cynicism in its actions, a disinterest not only in the well-being and security of Israelis but also Palestinians."

While President Joe Biden, Blinken and other U.S. officials have praised the rescue of four Israeli hostages on Saturday, the operation resulted in the deaths

of 274 Palestinian civilians and may complicate the cease-fire push by emboldening Israel and hardening Hamas' resolve to carry on fighting in the war that started with its Oct. 7 attack in Israel.

Blinken said the plan is the "single best way" to get to a cease-fire, release the remaining hostages and improve regional security.

In his talks with el-Sissi, Blinken also discussed plans for post-conflict governance and reconstruction in Gaza. "It's imperative that

there be a plan, and that has to involve security, it has to involve governance, it has to involve reconstruction," Blinken said.

Netanyahu and his government have resisted calls for any "day after" plan that would bar Israel from having some form of security presence in the territory. Blinken said he would urge Israel to come up with alternatives that would be acceptable.

"It would be very good if Israel put forward its own ideas on this, and I'll be

talking to the government about that," he said. "But one way or another, we've got to have these plans, we've got to have them in place, we've got to be ready to go if we want to take advantage of a cease-fire."

The three-phase plan calls for the release of more hostages and a temporary pause in hostilities that will last as long as it takes to negotiate the second phase, which aims to bring the release of all hostages, a "full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza" and "a permanent end to hostilities," according to an American-drafted resolution put before the U.N. Security Council. The third phase calls for reconstruction in Gaza.

The Security Council is to vote Monday on the resolution, which welcomes the proposal and urges Hamas to accept it.

But Hamas may not be the only obstacle.

Although the deal has been described as an Israeli initiative and thousands of Israelis have demonstrated to support it, Netanyahu has expressed skepticism, saying what has been presented publicly is not accurate and that Israel is still committed to destroying Hamas. □

The U.N. says more than 10 million people in Sudan have now fled their homes as war continues



South Sudanese who fled from Sudan sit outside a nutrition clinic at a transit center in Renk, South Sudan, May 16, 2023. Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The number of internally displaced people in Sudan has reached more than 10 million as war drives about a quarter of the population from their homes, the U.N. migration agency told The Associated Press on Monday.

More than 2 million other people have been driven abroad, mostly to neighboring Chad, South Sudan and Egypt, International Organization for Migration spokesman Mohammedali Abunajela said. The IOM said the internally displaced include 2.8 million who fled their homes before the current war began.

"Imagine a city the size of London being displaced.

That's what it's like, but it's happening with the constant threat of crossfire, with famine, disease and brutal ethnic and gender-based violence," IOM Director-General Amy Pope said in a statement.

Sudan's latest conflict began in April last year when soaring tensions between the leaders of the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces exploded into open fighting in the capital, Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

The war has wrecked Sudan, killing more than 14,000 people and wounding thousands of others, while pushing its population to the brink of famine.

Last month, the U.N. food agency warned the warring parties that there is a serious risk of widespread starvation and death in the vast western region of Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan if they don't allow in humanitarian aid. □

U.S. and Filipino forces end drills that tested their endurance in brutal heat and volatile weather

By **JIM GOMEZ**
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Hundreds of American and Filipino troops concluded Monday a new combat exercise in the northern Philippines that tested their endurance in more than a week of brutal heat and volatile weather, and braced them to respond to any threat in tropical jungles and on scattered islands, two U.S. and Philippine generals said.

The Biden administration has been strengthening an arc of military alliances in the Indo-Pacific to better counter China, including in any possible confrontation over Taiwan and other Asian flash points. The move has dovetailed with Philippine efforts to shore up its territorial defenses amid escalating disputes with Beijing in the South China Sea. The large-scale battle drills, which have been held in Hawaii in recent years under the U.S. Army's Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Center, have been introduced in the Philippines this year. There is also a version in Alaska. The exer-



U.S. troopers prepare to board U.S. Army CH-47s at Paredes Air Station at Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte province as it carries U.S. and Philippine troops during a joint military exercise in northern Philippines on May 6, 2024.

Associated Press

cises allow the U.S. Army, its allies and friendly forces to train in extreme conditions "where they are most likely to operate from archipelagos, jungles and heat in the tropics to high-altitude and extreme cold in the Arctic," said Maj. Adan Cazarez, a public affairs officer of the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Di-

vision.

The June 1-10 warfighting exercise began with an air assault on mock enemy forces to allow the deployment of U.S. and Filipino soldiers who secured an area, which served as a staging ground before a major offensive. When their communication lines for sup-

plies were threatened, top commanders decided to shift to a defensive assault and repelled the enemy attempt and successfully launched the offensive. Key aspects of the mock battle, including the planning, deployments, logistical preparations and contingency readiness, were

reviewed by military assessors for combat efficiency. The combat exercises, Cazarez said, were integrated in annual U.S.-Philippine army joint exercises called Salaknib for the first time this year. About 1,500 U.S. and Filipino soldiers participated in the new battle drills staged in a hinterland in Fort Magsaysay, a sprawling Philippine army camp in an agricultural region known for its scorching weather. The temperature this year had been exacerbated by the El Nino, an occasional warming of the Pacific that shifts global weather patterns.

"The terrain is without question some of the most difficult that our soldiers have ever had the experience to move into. The heat on a daily basis was well over 95 degrees (Fahrenheit; 35 degrees Celsius) and it challenged us from a sustainable perspective," Maj Gen. Marcus Evans, commander of the U.S. Army's Hawaii-based 25th Infantry Division, told The Associated Press in an online interview from the battle training site. □

A report says women were abused in Nigerian military cells after fleeing Boko Haram captivity

By **CHINEDU ASADU**
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Dozens of women and young girls have been unlawfully detained and abused in Nigerian military detention facilities after escaping captivity by Boko Haram extremists in the country's northeast, Amnesty International said in a new report on Monday.

Some of the women were detained with their children for years because of their real or perceived association with the extremists, the report said. It cited 126 interviews, mostly with survivors, over the 14 years since the Islamic extremists launched their insurgency. The report echoes past human rights concerns about

the Nigerian military, which in the past has been accused of extrajudicial killings and illegal arrests in one of the world's longest conflicts.

The report, however, noted the practice of prolonged and unlawful detentions has been less widespread in recent years.

Nigeria's army dismissed

the report as "unsubstantiated" and reiterated that it has continued to improve on its human rights record and holds personnel to account.

The conflict has spilled over borders and killed at least 35,000 people and displaced over 2 million. Women and young girls are often forcefully married or sexually abused in captivity.

But the conditions some women found themselves in after fleeing captivity were so "horrible" that some chose to return to Boko Haram, Niki Frederiek, crisis researcher with Amnesty International, said of the detention camps located in military facilities in Borno state.

At least 31 survivors interviewed said they were held illegally in the facilities, the report said, suggesting the practice had been more widespread.

"Some said soldiers insulted them, calling them 'Boko Haram wives' and accusing them of being responsible for killings. Several described beatings or abysmal conditions in detention, which amount to torture or other ill treatment," the report said.

"The Nigerian authorities must support these girls and young women as they fully reintegrate into society," said Samira Daoud, Amnesty International's regional director for West and Central Africa. □



Women and children who were held captive by Islamic extremists, and rescued by Nigeria's army, are seen upon arrival in Maiduguri, Nigeria, May 20, 2024.

Associated Press

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a fur-

ther search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.



Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that

involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa & gold-mineranch.com.



Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Weaver, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Weaver was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that

he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." □

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

Wind Creek Aruba Celebrates the Success of the 6th Annual Long Table Aruba Setting New Records in Community Impact and Island Giving

ORANJESTAD – [June 10, 2024] – The 6th Annual Long Table Aruba, a one-night-only culinary charity event hosted by Wind Creek Aruba, concluded with resounding success, marking another milestone in community impact and island giving.

Billed as "The only meal worth \$50,000 for Aruba," the highly anticipated event took place on Sunday, June 9th, featuring the iconic 1,000-foot-long table set for 1,000 guests outside Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort in downtown Oranjestad, overlooking the marina.

This year's event saw a tremendous turnout, with tickets selling out rapidly and raising substantial funds for Aruba-based charities. Since its inception in 2017, Long Table Aruba has raised over \$335,000, further solidifying its position as the marquee giving event for Wind Creek operations in Aruba.

"We are thrilled with the overwhelming support from the community and the success of this year's Long Table Aruba," said Mr. Paul Gielen, General Manager of Wind Creek Aruba. "The generosity and spirit of our guests were truly inspiring, and we are proud to contribute to such impactful causes."

Wind Creek Aruba's revamped charity selection process proved to be a highlight of the event. Ten carefully selected charities were invited to participate, each presenting compelling videos to vie for financial support. This year's selection emphasized aiding older people and supporting youth facing challenging circumstances. Community members played a crucial role in determining which organizations would benefit from the event's proceeds through an



online voting process.

The grand prize winner of \$15,000, Club Kibrahacha
The runners-up with \$10,000 each
Stichting Hunto Inloophuis
Fundashon Hospice Atardi
Sonrisa
Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional - FCVR

Given the overwhelming interest shown throughout the voting process, Wind Creek Aruba also selected 5 additional organizations who receive \$2,000 each, making this a total of \$65,000 in prizes.

The 5 organizations were:
ADRA Teen Mother Project
Ambiente Nobo
Give Me A Break
BUMP Aruba
Fundacion Biba Bou Guia

Gielen added, "It's heartwarming to see the community unite for such a meaningful cause. We're excited to continue building strong relationships with these chari-



ties and supporting their efforts to make a tangible difference in the lives of those in need."

The event provided an unforgettable dining experience and served as a platform for key community leaders to connect and collaborate. The evening was a celebration of giving back and reinforcing the bond within the community.

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The event was made possible thanks to the contribution and support of several esteemed organizations including Wind Creek Hospitality, Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort, Caribbean Overseas, Tropical Bottling, Arion Wine Company, Boma Aruba, Elite Production, Express Events & Party Rentals, and Bix Brandimport NV. Additional sponsors include: And-

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As Wind Creek Aruba looks to the future, the commitment to community impact and disaster relief remains a cornerstone of its operations. The success of the 6th Annual Long Table Aruba is a testament to the power of collective effort and the enduring spirit of giving. □



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Today Is Going To Be A Good Day

Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls



The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.arubanationalpark.org

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from



the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light. www.aruba-lighthouse.com will give you more information.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout -as it might get a little windy and rough-, you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. Its fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. There are several companies that offer kayak tours, we had good experience with The Shack Kayak Tours Aruba, find them on Facebook.



The Aruban Cunukero

From past to present



(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised

of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;

2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasant-ries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their his-

tory may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep live-

stock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henry E. red. □

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the



word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.
3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si"

and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins



According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Do-

mingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes fur-

ther south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two

graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 37 2011
- 1 Exploding stars #1 hit by Lady Gaga
- 6 Miser Marner
- 11 Make blank
- 12 Move with stealth
- 13 1977 Top 10 hit by Aerosmith
- 15 Seine summer
- 16 Light metal
- 17 Shark feature
- 18 Passes on, as a story
- 20 Snacked
- 21 Horse healer
- 22 "— bien!"
- 23 More rational
- 26 Garden pests
- 27 A party to
- 28 Sheep sound
- 29 Lawn coating
- 30 Speaks brusquely to
- 34 Angry rock
- 35 Belief, in brief
- 36 Freud topic

- DOWN**
- 1 More original
- 2 Make a speech
- 3 Man's servant
- 4 Inquire
- 5 Home-steader
- 6 Roulette rounds
- 7 Form 1040 org.
- 8 Airline enticement
- 9 Looked for
- 10 Cunning
- 14 Sword part
- 19 Smooth
- 22 Ship wood
- 23 Secondary quartz
- 24 Showy flower
- 25 Un-changed
- 26 Balmy
- 28 Wild party
- 30 Quick snacks
- 31 Conclude successfully
- 32 Banded
- 33 Trifled
- 38 Sister, of sorts
- 39 Utter

C	O	S	M	O		S	E	M	I	
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V	A	L	E	T		S	O	N	A	R
E	G	O		R	A	H		T	W	O
D	E	S	T	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
			R	A	N		W	O	R	E
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I	T	E	M		B	E	E			
D	E	S	P	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
A	R	T		V	O	W		S	U	E
I	N	A	W	E		A	L	A	N	S
R	A	T	O	N		R	E	A	C	T
	I	E	N	T		D	I	C	E	S

Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
- 1 More original
- 2 Make a speech
- 3 Man's servant
- 4 Inquire
- 5 Home-steader
- 6 Roulette rounds
- 7 Form 1040 org.
- 8 Airline enticement
- 9 Looked for
- 10 Cunning
- 14 Sword part
- 19 Smooth
- 22 Ship wood
- 23 Secondary quartz
- 24 Showy flower
- 25 Un-changed
- 26 Balmy
- 28 Wild party
- 30 Quick snacks
- 31 Conclude successfully
- 32 Banded
- 33 Trifled
- 38 Sister, of sorts
- 39 Utter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13					14				
15				16				17	
18			19					20	
			21				22		
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27					28				
29				30			31	32	33
34				35			36		
37			38				39		
40						41			
42						43			

3-19

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.

3-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

B O D F P Q F B P Z Y H D C ' B I Z X U J

B Z X F P Q , " W C Y ' B O Z D Y X ! "

— D U G F P I F W W F Z L B

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FORGIVE OTHERS, NOT BECAUSE THEY DESERVE FORGIVENESS, BUT BECAUSE YOU DESERVE PEACE. — JONATHAN LOCKWOOD HUIE

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - June 25 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	01	NORWEGIAN JADE	10.00	20.00	C	1
THU	06	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	11	SILVER SHADOW	08.00	23.00	B	1
		ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	12	CARNIVAL HORIZON	07.00	15.00	B	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	18	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
TUE	25	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

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.

lets 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.

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.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

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.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, 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.

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24/7

African elephants call each other by unique names, new study shows



In this undated photo, an African elephant matriarch leads her calf away from danger in northern Kenya.

Associated Press

By **CHRISTINA LARSON**
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — African elephants call each other and respond to individual names something that few wild animals do, according to new research published Monday.

The names are one part of elephants' low rumbles that they can hear over long distances across the savanna. Scientists believe that animals with complex social structures and family groups that separate and then reunite often may be more likely to use individual names.

"If you're looking after a large family, you've got to be able to say, 'Hey, Virginia, get over here!'" said Duke University ecologist

Stuart Pimm, who was not involved in the study.

It's extremely rare for wild animals to call each other by unique names. Humans have names, of course, and our dogs come when their names are called. Baby dolphins invent their own names, called signature whistles, and parrots may also use names.

Each of these naming species also possesses the ability to learn to pronounce unique new sounds throughout their lives a rare talent that elephants also possess.

For the study in Nature Ecology & Evolution, biologists used machine learning to detect the use of names in a sound library of savanna elephant vocalizations re-

corded at Kenya's Samburu National Reserve and Amboseli National Park.

The researchers followed the elephants in jeeps to observe who called out and who appeared to respond for example, if a mother called to a calf, or a matriarch called to a straggler who later re-joined the family group.

Analyzing only the audio data, the computer model predicted which elephant was being addressed 28% of the time, likely due to the inclusion of its name. □

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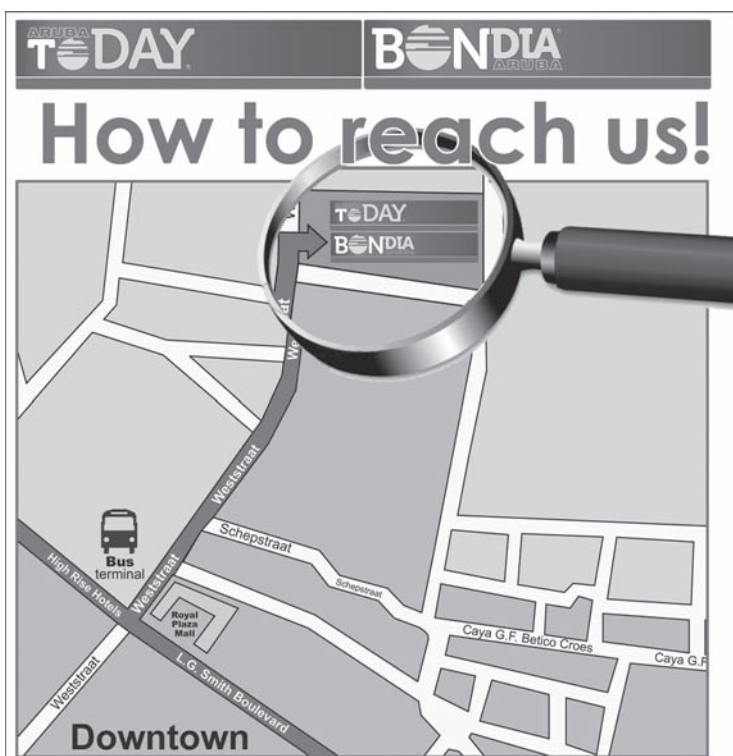
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Credit card delinquencies are rising. Here's what to do if you're at risk

By **CORA LEWIS**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Seriously overdue credit card debt is at the highest level in more than a decade, and people 35 and under are struggling more than other age groups to pay their bills. The share of credit card debt that's severely delinquent, defined as being more than 90 days overdue, rose to 10.7% during the first quarter of 2024, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. A year ago, just 8.2% of credit card debt was severely delinquent.

If you're experiencing delinquency, or at risk of it, experts advise speaking with a nonprofit credit counselor and negotiating with your creditors directly. Here's what you should know:

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I'M AT RISK OF DELINQUENCY?

Bruce McClary, senior vice president at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling, says that anyone at risk of delinquency should reach out as soon as possible for help from a nonprofit credit counselor, some of whom can be



A variety of credit cards are shown on Jan. 18, 2024, in Atlanta.

found through his organization. The consultation is free, and a non-judgmental counselor can give guidance towards a long-term solution. Nonprofits can also help create debt management plans that have lower interest rates, no late fees, and a single payment each month, McClary said. These plans may come with

maintenance fees, which vary, but the fees are offset by the overall savings on the debt. McClary urged borrowers to be careful of scammers and for-profit debt consolidation companies, which often charge much higher fees than nonprofit organizations. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has a helpful breakdown comparing

the two.

Martin Lynch, president of the Financial Counseling Association of America, echoed this advice.

"Taking that first step and contacting a counselor is difficult for many people," Lynch said. He emphasized that consumers in debt should do their best to "first, relax," and then to be as forthcoming as possible

about their circumstances with the counselor.

"You'll be talking to someone for free, who will listen to you describe your situation," he said. "You can share your concerns without being judged for falling into difficulty."

WHAT ABOUT NEGOTIATING WITH CREDITORS?

Both Lynch and McClary urge borrowers to reach out directly to credit card companies to negotiate interest rates, fees, and long-term payment plans, noting that it's in the companies' best interests if you pay before the debt goes into collections.

"The best thing to do is to reach out, give an honest assessment of your ability to pay over time, and ask what options are available to you both 'on and off-the-menu,'" McClary said. This kind of phrasing can give creditors an opening to offer more flexibility, he said.

McClary and other experts stress that most credit card companies and other lenders have hardship programs available for cases like these. □

Associated Press

Facebook owner Meta seeks to train AI model on European data as it faces privacy concerns

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Meta wants to use data from users in privacy-conscious Europe to train its artificial intelligence models, the social media giant said Monday as it faces concerns about data protection while battling to keep up with rivals like OpenAI and Google. The company, which owns Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp, said that in order to better reflect the "languages, geography and cultural references" of its users in Europe, it needs to use public data from those users to teach its Llama AI large language model.

Meta's AI training efforts are hampered by stringent European Union data

privacy laws, which give people control over how their personal information is used. Vienna-based group NOYB, led by activist Max Schrems, complained last week to 11 national privacy watchdogs about Meta's

AI training plans and urged them to stop the company before it starts training Llama's next generation.

AI language models are trained on vast pools of data that help them predict the most plausible next

word in a sentence, with newer versions typically smarter and more capable than their predecessors. Meta's AI assistant feature has been baked into Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp for users in the U.S. and 13 other countries, but notably not Europe.

"If we don't train our models on the public content that Europeans share on our services and others, such as public posts or comments, then models and the AI features they power won't accurately understand important regional languages, cultures or trending topics on social media," Stefano Fratta, global engagement director of Meta's privacy policy, said in blog post.

"We believe that Europe-

ans will be ill-served by AI models that are not informed by Europe's rich cultural, social and historical contributions."

Fratta said other companies including Google and OpenAI have already trained on European data. Meta won't use private messages to friends and family nor content from European users who are under 18, he said.

Since May 22, the company has sent 2 billion notifications and emails to European users explaining its plans and linking to an online form to opt out, Fratta said. The latest version of Meta's privacy policy is set to take effect on June 26, indicating that training for the next model will start soon after. □



The Meta logo is seen at the Vivattech show in Paris, France, Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

Associated Press

Jannik Sinner is No. 1 in the rankings for the first time and already is looking ahead to Wimbledon

By HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — As pleased as Jannik Sinner was to make his debut at No. 1 in the ATP rankings on Monday, he already was looking ahead to what comes next. So no big party to mark the significance of the occasion?

"Look, not really," Sinner said with a chuckle in a video interview with The Associated Press from his home base of Monte Carlo. "I am in the middle of the season. There are very important tournaments coming up there is Wimbledon. It's a great achievement, which I am going to celebrate with my loved ones, for sure, at some point. Obviously very happy; it's a dream come true. But in other ways, now new challenges are coming up."

The 22-year-old Sinner, who replaced the injured Novak Djokovic atop the ATP, is the first player from Italy to reach No. 1 since computerized rankings began in 1973.

Sinner will be the top-seeded man at the All England Club, where play begins July 1.

He figures his new status, along with his first Grand Slam trophy from the Aus-



Coco Gauff of the U.S., left, and Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic hold the trophy as they won the women's doubles final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Italy's Sara Errani and Jasmine Paolini at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, Sunday, June 9, 2024.

Associated Press

tralian Open in January mean opponents view him differently.

"They don't have nothing to lose anymore against me, and I have everything to lose, but this is the exciting part. And I like that. ... You have to work on having new solutions on the court, and this is going to be hopefully my next step," Sinner said.

"Trying to prepare myself

in a way of being more unpredictable on court. This is what I want to learn in the next months."

He is 33-3 in 2024 with three titles.

"In the beginning of the year, we said, 'We are going hunting, and then we'll see what we can catch.' And this now is still the same," Sinner said. "Every tournament is a great opportunity to show some-

thing new and to show, also, the (will) to win as much as we can. But you don't forget, also, the process. If you want to become a better tennis player, sometimes you have to miss. Sometimes you have to lose."

Two of his three defeats came against Carlos Alcaraz, the 21-year-old from Spain with whom Sinner is developing quite a rivalry.

One loss came Friday in five sets in the semifinals at the French Open, which Alcaraz went on to win by beating Alexander Zverev on Sunday.

"I hope he and I keep playing each other for the next 10 years," Alcaraz said about Sinner. "He makes me a better player. He makes me wake up in the morning and try to improve."

Alcaraz's third major title moved him up one place to No. 2, with Djokovic and Zverev next.

Djokovic was the defending champion in Paris and needed to return to the final to stay at No. 1 because of a lack of play this year and failure to reach a title match anywhere. He tore the meniscus in his right knee during a victory last week, withdrew before the quarterfinals and had surgery. It's unclear how long the 24-time major champion will be sidelined.

"I hope that Novak comes back as soon as possible. Hopefully he can, somehow, play Wimbledon," said Sinner, eliminated by Djokovic there each of the last two years, "because it would be a tough loss for Wimbledon not having him." □

Ernie Els wins 2nd straight PGA Tour Champions title, beating Steve Stricker in playoff in Wisconsin

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Ernie Els won for the second straight week on the PGA Tour Champions, winning the American Family Insurance Championship on Sunday when tournament host Steve Stricker missed a 2 1/2-foot putt on the first hole of a playoff. "He feels bad winning like that and I feel bad giving it to him like that," said Stricker, the winner last year in his hometown event. "But he played well."

Els and Stricker shared the second-round lead and each shot 3-under 69 in windy conditions to finish at 12-under 204 at University Ridge. They both birdied the par-5 16th and parred the final two holes.

"You've got to just play proper golf and you've got to make some putts at the end of the day," said Els, the 54-year-old Hall of Famer from South Africa. "I feel a lot better with my putting.

Playing with Steve Stricker, you feel like you don't putt very well."

The Principal Charity Classic winner last week in Iowa, Els became the first player to win two straight events on the 50-and-over tour since Stricker last year in the Regions Tradition and Senior PGA Championship. Els won for the fifth time on the senior tour. "I know I'm putting well, I'm striking it good," Els said. "I'm just hanging in there and trying to get my chances where they come."

Stricker has 18 Champions victories. He's winless this year and has gone nine starts without a victory, the longest drought of his senior career.

Cameron Percy of Australia was third third at 9 under after a 67. Doug Barron (66), Stephen Ames (67) and Thomas Bjorn (69) were 8 under. □



Ernie Els celebrates on the 18th green after winning the Champions Tour Principal Charity Classic golf tournament, Sunday, June 2, 2024, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

Dan Hurley turns down offer from Lakers, will stay at UConn to seek 3rd straight NCAA title

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
AP Basketball Writer

Dan Hurley is staying at Connecticut and has decided to turn down an offer to take over the Los Angeles Lakers, ending several days of speculation about his future and meaning he will try to guide the Huskies to a third consecutive NCAA championship.

"Our MVP Coach is staying in CT," Gov. Ned Lamont posted on social media.

ESPN first reported Hurley's decision on Monday, plus was first to report last week that he had emerged as a serious candidate for the Lakers' job. Hurley met with Lakers officials on Friday, then spent the weekend weighing his options.

And it seems likely that Hurley will soon be richly rewarded for staying at UConn: Shortly before the ESPN report of Hurley's decision to stay put, Lamont, who was in contact with Hurley throughout the weekend, said the state will "make sure he's the top-paid college coach" if he remains with the Huskies.

The only immediate comment from UConn was the university posting an image of Hurley with his hands in the air, and another post saying the team's 2 p.m. practice was underway. Assistant coach Luke Murray, who has worked with Hurley at Wagner, Se-



Conn head coach Dan Hurley calls towards his players during the first half of the Elite 8 college basketball game against Illinois in the men's NCAA Tournament, Saturday, March 30, 2024, in Boston.

Associated Press

ton Hall and UConn, also posted a video of Hurley lifting his arms in the air in celebration of the national title without a caption, probably because the post's meaning was clear enough. "Now let's get ready for a #3peat, because Connecticut knows champions are built here!" Lamont wrote. Hurley had the option of taking over one of the most famed franchises in pro sports, not to mention perhaps the chance to coach NBA all-time scoring leader LeBron James. But in the end, his

stay in the coaching version of the transfer portal was brief and he will remain at UConn, where he has gone 68-11 over the last two title-winning seasons.

On the way to those two titles, the fiery Hurley and the tough-as-nails Huskies have left no doubt 12-0 in NCAA tournament games, winning by a staggering average of 21.7 points per contest. UConn will try to become the second program to win three straight men's national titles; UCLA, the only men's program to do better than going back-to-

back, won seven in a row from 1967 through 1973.

Hurley will chase something rare by turning down the opportunity to something just as rare: leaving the reigning NCAA champions for the NBA. The last time a coach made such a move was after the 1987-88 season, when Kansas won the NCAA title and Larry Brown decided to leave for the NBA. He took over the San Antonio Spurs, and Roy Williams became coach of the Jayhawks.

The Spurs gave Brown \$3.5 million for five years, which

was enormous money at the time yet nothing compared to what Hurley would have commanded from the Lakers likely more than \$10 million per season, or about double what he currently makes at UConn. And Brown went on to become the only coach to win both an NCAA title and an NBA championship; he got that title with Detroit in 2004. Hurley had the chance to try to follow that same path. He may get the chance again one day but for now, at least, the NBA can wait.

Hurley is 141-58 in his six seasons at UConn and 292-163 overall in 14 seasons as a collegiate coach adding in his years at Wagner and Rhode Island.

He's gone through four losing seasons in that span; his first year at Wagner, his first two at Rhode Island and his first year at UConn. Once he gets it rolling, the wins just pile up: take away how those stops started, and Hurley's record is 241-90 a .728 winning percentage. And he's been rewarded for that success; last June, he signed a \$32.1 million, six-year deal. Another deal is almost surely on the way now, one that will come shortly after UConn signed women's coach Geno Auriemma last week to a five-year extension worth nearly \$19 million. □

Pacquiao looks for comeback title fight against Mario Barrios



Former Filipino boxer Manny Pacquiao, left, and Japanese mixed martial arts fighter Chihiro Suzuki pose during a press conference Monday, June 10, 2024, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Manny Pacquiao said Monday that a title fight against Mario Barrios is in the works, with details still being negotiated.

Pacquiao, a former world champion who retired in 2021, spoke in Japan on Monday to promote a three-round boxing exhibition on July 28 against Japanese MMA fighter Chihiro Suzuki.

"We're still in under negotiation," the 45-year-old Pacquiao said of the possible Barrios fight for the WBC welterweight title. "And, we're talking about that. The fight is not materialized yet. But that negotiation is ongoing."

He hinted any eventual fight would be in November or December. But he said his mind was on Suzuki.

"I just want to say to everybody. This is not an exhibition. This is a fight, a three-round fight," Pacquiao said. "We will be looking for a knockout for this fight. So you better watch, and it's going to be a lot of action in the ring. And, of course, I'll do my best to win by knockout. Thank you."

Pacquiao lost in the run for the presidency of the Philippines in 2022.

His career boxing record is 62 wins (39 KOs), 8 losses and 2 draws.

Suzuki knows he is up against a legend.

"In a way this is a challenge for me," he said. "It's a real honor to be able to fight against someone who has made history, so I will face him with respect. For me, it's one of the biggest challenges of my life and a test that I have to overcome." □