



Support for legal abortion has risen since Supreme Court eliminated protections, AP-NORC poll finds

By CHRISTINE FERNANDO and AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A solid majority of Americans oppose a federal abortion ban as a rising number support access to abortions for any reason, a new poll finds, highlighting a politically perilous situation for candidates who oppose abortion rights as the November election draws closer.

Around 6 in 10 Americans think their state should generally allow a person to obtain a legal abortion if they don't want to be pregnant for any reason, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. That's an increase from June 2021, a year before the Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to the procedure, when about half of Americans thought legal abortion should be possible under these circumstances.

Americans are largely opposed to the strict bans that have taken effect in Republican-controlled states since the high court's ruling two years ago.



Dr. Paul Isaacson speaks as Arizona abortion-rights supporters gather for a news conference prior to delivering over 800,000 petition signatures to the capitol to get abortion rights on the November general election ballot Wednesday, July 3, 2024, in Phoenix.

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Support for legal abortion has risen since Supreme Court eliminated protections, AP-NORC poll finds

Continued from Front

Full bans, with limited exceptions, have gone into effect in 14 GOP-led states, while three other states prohibit abortion after about six weeks of pregnancy, before women often realize they're pregnant. They are also overwhelmingly against national abortion bans and restrictions. And views toward abortion — which have long been relatively stable — may be getting more permissive. Vincent Wheeler, a 47-year-old Republican from Los Angeles, said abortion should be available for any reason until viability, the point at which health care providers say it's possible for a fetus to survive outside the uterus.

"There's so many reasons as to why someone may want or need an abortion that it has to be up to that person of what they have to do in that specific circumstance," Wheeler said, acknowledging that some fellow Republicans might disagree.

Likely Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has declined to endorse a nationwide abortion ban, saying the



Demonstrators protest outside the Wisconsin Capitol, May 3, 2022, in Madison, Wis.

Associated Press

issue should be left up to the states. But even that stance is likely to be unsatisfying to most Americans, who continue to oppose many bans on abortion within their own state, and think Congress should pass a law guaranteeing access to abortions nationwide, according to the poll. Seven in 10 Americans think abortion should be legal in all or most cases, a slight increase from last year, while about 3 in 10 think abortion should be illegal in all or most cases.

Robert Hood, a 69-year-old from Universal City, Texas,

who identifies as an "independent liberal," has believed that abortions should be allowed for any reason since he was an 18-year-old high school senior, because "life is full of gray situations." He recalls reading stories as a teenager about women who died trying to get an abortion before the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision provided a constitutional right to the procedure.

"Pregnancy is complicated," he said. "Women should make the choice with the advice of their doctor and family, but at the end of the

day it's her choice and her body and her life."

He said he would support national protections for abortion rights. Views on abortion have long been nuanced and sometimes contradictory. The new AP-NORC survey shows that even though the country is largely antagonistic to restrictions on abortion, a substantial number of people hold opinions and values that are not internally consistent. About half of those who say a woman should be able to get an abortion for any reason also say their state should not allow abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy and about one-quarter say their state should not allow abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

But the vast majority of Americans — more than 8 in 10 — continue to say abortion should be legal in extreme circumstances, such as when a patient's life would be endangered by continuing the pregnancy. About 8 in 10 say the same about a pregnancy caused by rape or incest or when a fetal anomaly would prevent the child from surviving outside the womb.

National bans on abortion are broadly unpopular: Around 8 in 10 Americans say Congress should not pass a federal law banning abortion. About three-quarters say there should not be a federal law banning abortion at six weeks, and 6 in 10 oppose a federal law banning abortion at 15 weeks.

Most Republicans — about two-thirds, according to the survey — say a nationwide abortion ban should not happen.

On the campaign trail, Trump has courted anti-abortion voters by highlighting his appointment of three Supreme Court justices who helped overturn Roe. But his strategy on abortion policy has been to defer to the states, an attempt to find a more cautious stance on an issue that has become a major vulnerability for Republicans since the 2022 Dobbs decision.

Despite Trump's statements, Penny Johnson, 73, from Sherman Oaks, California, said she is still afraid Republicans might pursue a national abortion ban if they win the White House and Congress in November. □



Vice President Kamala Harris takes a photo with Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, left, and others, in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, May 17, 2022, during a reception to celebrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's reelection

campaign is launching its formal outreach campaign to

Vice President Kamala Harris leads new campaign effort to reach out to Asian American voters

Asian American voters, putting Vice President Kamala Harris at the forefront of the effort with events in Nevada and Pennsylvania this week. AANHPIs for Biden-Harris (AANHPI stands for Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander) will kick off with an event in Las Vegas on Tuesday with former "Top Chef" host Padma Lakshmi. Harris is the first person of South Asian descent to serve as vice president, and the spotlight on her has only

grown since Biden's stumbling debate performance last month raised questions about whether he would withdraw his candidacy and Harris would take his place. Harris will also deliver a keynote address Saturday at a town hall in Philadelphia hosted by APIAVote, an advocacy group focused on mobilizing Asian American voters.

"We need to make sure that AA and NHPI voices are heard at the ballot boxes

around our country, just as we need to make sure that those voices are represented in all levels of government," Harris said in a video released by the campaign Tuesday. "Asian Americans must be in the rooms where the decisions are being made."

The fresh effort focusing on Asian American voters comes after the Biden campaign had already launched coalition groups focusing on Black voters and Latino voters. □

'This is break glass in case of emergency stuff': Analysts alarmed by threats to U.S. data gathering

By MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Inadequate funding and controversial measures in a budget bill could threaten what Americans know about themselves through federal data gathering, statisticians and demographers warn in a new report and a letter to U.S. congressional leaders.

"Our bottom-line assessment is that federal statistics are at risk," says the report released Tuesday by the American Statistical Association in partnership with George Mason University.

The report says a majority of the 13 principal U.S. statistical agencies have lost more than 14% of their purchasing power in the last 15 years, limiting their ability to innovate.

Better protections against political meddling also are needed for the agencies that calculate everything from the monthly unemployment rate to the once-a-decade head count that determines the distribution of political power and \$2.8 trillion in government funding, according to the report.

Ahead of the 2020 census, for instance, the Trump administration tried to add a citizenship question to the census questionnaire. Even though it was stopped by the U.S. Supreme Court, some experts believe the controversy contributed to an almost 5% undercount of the Hispanic population during the nation's head count.

Meanwhile, other advocates and users of federal data are worried about an appropriations bill being considered by the GOP-controlled House Committee on Appropriations on Tuesday.

The bill would omit people in the country illegally from the count used to redraw political districts even though the 14th Amendment requires "counting the whole number of persons" in each place.

And it would limit how many times a respondent can be contacted by agencies seeking their participation



A census taker's briefcase is visible as she knocks on doors, Aug. 11, 2020, in Winter Park, Fla.
Associated Press

in surveys and the census. "This is 'break glass in case of emergency' level stuff," said Allison Plyer, chief demographer at The Data Center, a research non-profit based in New Orleans. The measure omitting people in the country illegally is unconstitutional, and placing limits on how many times respondents can be contacted would have a "devastating" impact on data quality by missing many more people, the leaders of the Census Project, a coalition of business, civil rights and local government groups said in a letter last week to leaders of the House Committee on Appropriations.

During Tuesday's House hearing, Democratic lawmakers tried to remove the language omitting people in the country illegally but the amendment failed. While defending the measure, U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde, R-Ga., said including them in the apportionment count "is just wrong."

The language in the appropriations bill would restrict contact by agencies to no more than two times for the census and surveys including the American Community Survey and the Current Population Survey, which helps determine the monthly unemployment rate.

The American Community Survey is the most comprehensive survey of American life, providing the basis for

countless economic decisions by gathering information on such things as commuting times, internet

access, family life, income and education levels.

It typically requires more than three follow-up contacts to get a response. The Current Population Survey takes about 2.5 follow-up contacts.

If the 2020 census had been limited to only two invitations to respondents to participate, the nation's head count would have missed 17 million households, the Census Project said in its letter.

"If the Census Bureau is constrained in the number of contacts it can make, the data will become completely unreliable," Plyer said. "Data doesn't grow on trees. It doesn't magically come to us. This bed-rock information cannot be replicated." □

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Views toward China diverge between rich and middle-income nations, Pew report shows

By DIDI TANG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Global views toward China appear to be divided between high-income and middle-income countries, and the gap apparently is the widest among China's neighbors in the Indo-Pacific region, according to a newly released poll from the Pew Research Center that surveyed people in 35 countries.

Fifteen out of the 18 high-income countries surveyed expressed unfavorable views toward China, with Japan and Australia leading the pack with more than 8 in 10 in those countries viewing China negatively. By comparison, 14 of the 17 middle-income countries had rosier views of China, and Thailand held the most favorable views of China, with 80% of adults having a positive view toward China, according to Pew. The report was released Tuesday as the leaders of NATO nations were convening in



People have dinner behind Chinese lantern displayed at a restaurant in Beijing, China, Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Washington to discuss the war in Ukraine but also to express concerns over China. The Western military alliance is expected to deepen cooperation with its four Indo-Pacific partners Japan, South Korea, Australia

and New Zealand at a time of intensifying competitions between Washington and Beijing over global governance. In the Indo-Pacific region, Washington is forging alliances and partnerships

with like-minded governments to push back at Beijing's expanding influences. According to the Pew report, many countries surveyed in the region were very or somewhat concerned about China's ter-

ritorial disputes.

The Philippines, locked in a dispute with China over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea, was the most worried, with about 9 in 10 Filipinos expressing concerns. A similar share of those in South Korea and Japan were concerned, and about 8 in 10 in Australia were. All three countries are members of an informal grouping of four NATO partners in the Indo-Pacific. The fourth one, New Zealand, was not part of the Pew survey. The three countries plus India were also among the least likely of those surveyed in the Asia-Pacific region to describe China as contributing to global peace and stability.

Thailand, which has no territorial dispute with China, was the least worried. About 4 in 10 expressed concerns over China's territorial disputes, and 80% of Thai people said China contributes to peace and stability around the world. □

Associated Press

U.S. disrupts Russian government-backed disinformation campaign that relied on AI technology

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian internet propaganda campaign backed by the Kremlin that spread disinformation in the United States and relied on artificial intelligence has been disrupted, the Justice Department said Tuesday in announcing the seizure of nearly 1,000 bogus social media accounts.

Officials described the operation as part of an ongoing effort to sow discord in the U.S. through the creation of fictitious social media profiles that purported to belong to legitimate users but were actually designed to advance the aims of the Russian government, including by spreading disinformation about its war with Ukraine.

U.S. officials said the scheme was organized in 2022 by a senior editor at

RT, a Russian-state funded media organization that has registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent. It received the support and financial approval of the Kremlin, with an officer of Russia's Federal Security Service or FSB leading a private intelligence orga-

nization that promoted disinformation through social media. An email to RT was not immediately returned Tuesday. The disruption of the so-called social media bot farm comes as U.S. officials have raised alarms about the potential for AI technol-

ogy to impact American elections and amid ongoing concerns that foreign influence campaigns by adversaries could shape the opinions of unsuspecting voters, like an elaborate plot by Russians to disrupt the 2016 presidential election through a huge but hidden social media trolling campaign aimed in part at helping Republican Donald Trump defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

"Today's actions represent a first in disrupting a Russian-sponsored Generative AI-enhanced social media bot farm," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement.

"Russia intended to use this bot farm to disseminate AI-generated foreign disinformation, scaling their work with the assistance of AI to undermine our partners in Ukraine and influence geopolitical narratives favor-

able to the Russian government."

Among the fake posts, according to the Justice Department, was a video that was posted by a purported Minneapolis, Minnesota resident that showed Russian President Vladimir Putin saying that areas of Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania were "gifts" to those countries from liberating Russian forces during World War II.

As part of the disruption, the Justice Department seized two domain names and 968 accounts on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

The FBI and the Cyber National Mission Force also worked with the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security and law enforcement in the Netherlands on a joint cybersecurity advisory about the social media bot farm. □



This May 4, 2021 file photo shows a sign outside the Robert F. Kennedy Department of Justice building in Washington.

Associated Press

In a diplomatic quirk, Russia chairs a U.N. meeting decrying its strike on a Ukraine kids' hospital

By JENNIFER PELTZ

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

U.N. Security Council members confronted Russia on Tuesday over a missile strike the previous day that destroyed part of Ukraine's largest children's hospital, pouring out condemnations at an emergency meeting chaired by Moscow's own ambassador. Russia denies responsibility for the strike at the hospital, where at least two staffers were killed.

France and Ecuador asked for the session at the Security Council, but Russia led it as the current holder of the council's rotating presidency, putting Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia on the receiving end of the criticism. "Mr. President, please stop this war. It has been going on for too long," Slovenian Ambassador Samuel Zbogar appealed.

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told colleagues that they were there "because Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council, current rotational president of the Security Council, attacked a children's hospital."

"Even uttering that phrase



Gurneys are seen outside the Okhmatdyt children's hospital after it was hit by Russian missiles on Monday, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Associated Press

sends a chill down my spine," she added.

Nebenzia characterized the slew of criticism as "verbal gymnastics" from countries trying to protect Ukraine's government. He reiterated Moscow's denials of responsibility for the hospital attack, insisting it was hit by a Ukrainian air defense rocket.

"If this had been a Russian

strike, there would have been nothing left of the building," Nebenzia said, adding that "all the children and most of the adults would have been killed, and not wounded."

The strike on the Okhmatdyt children's hospital was part of a massive daytime barrage in multiple cities, including the capital of Kyiv. Officials said at least

42 people were killed. The attack also damaged Ukraine's main specialist hospital for women and hit key energy infrastructure.

At Okhmatdyt, "the ground shook and the walls trembled. Both children and adults screamed and cried from fear, and the wounded from pain," cardiac surgeon and anesthesiologist Dr. Volodymyr Zhovnir told

the Security Council by video from Kyiv. "It was a real hell."

Later, he heard people crying out for help from beneath the rubble. Most of the over 600 young patients had been moved to bomb shelters, except those in surgery, Zhovnir said. He said over 300 people were injured, including eight children, and two adults died, one of them a young doctor.

Acting U.N. humanitarian chief Joyce Msuya stressed to the Security Council that intentionally attacking a hospital is a war crime. She called Monday's strikes "part of a deeply concerning pattern of systematic attacks harming health care and other civilian infrastructure across Ukraine."

Since Russia's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, the U.N. World Health Organization has verified 1,878 attacks affecting health care facilities, personnel, transport, supplies and patients, she said.

Even against that backdrop, several council members pronounced Monday's strike shocking. □

Haitian police say they have taken largest hospital back from gang control

By EVENS SANON

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) —

Haiti's newly selected Prime Minister Garry Conille and Haiti's police chief visited the capital's largest hospital on Tuesday, after authorities said they took control of the medical institution over the weekend from armed gangs.

Haitian police chief Normil Rameau told a news conference Monday that police took control of the Hospital of the State University of Haiti, known as the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, on Sunday night after months of escalating attacks from armed groups. Haitians will "wake up one morning and find the op-

eration done, the bandits stopped, and neutralized," Normil said at the briefing, but did not take questions from the media. He was accompanied by Kenyan officer Godfrey Otunge, who said that the U.N.-backed contingent of Kenyan police intends to work closely with Haitian authorities as well as local and international partners dedicated to rebuilding Haiti.

The attacks from criminal groups have pushed Haiti's health system to the brink of collapse and the escalating violence has led to a surge in patients with serious illnesses and a shortage of resources to treat them. Gangs have been looting, setting fires, and destroy-

ing medical institutions and pharmacies in the capital, where they control up to 80% of the area.

Haiti's health care system, already struggling before the violence, faces additional challenges from the rainy season, which is likely to worsen conditions and increase the risk of water-borne diseases.

Poor hygiene conditions in camps and makeshift settlements have heightened the risk of diseases like cholera, with over 84,000 suspected cases in the country, according to a UNICEF report.

Besides the hospital, gunmen have seized police stations, attacked the main international airport (which

was closed for nearly three months), and stormed Haiti's two largest prisons.

According to a report from

the U.N. migration agency, the violence in Haiti has displaced nearly 580,000 people since March. □



Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille, center, is surrounded by security as he arrives at the General Hospital in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Associated Press

An Israeli strike in Syria kills a former bodyguard of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader, official says

By **BASSEM MROUE** and **KAREEM CHEHAYEB**
Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — An Israeli strike in Syria on Tuesday killed a former bodyguard of the leader of the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, an official with the group said. An Israeli man and woman were killed in a retaliatory Hezbollah strike on Israel.

Hours earlier, an Israeli drone hit a car in Syria near the border with Lebanon, according to a war monitor and the Syrian pro-government radio Sham FM. The Hezbollah official spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The Britain-based pro-opposition war monitor Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said two Hezbollah members in the car were killed in the strike, while a Syrian driver was critically wounded. There was no immediate comment from Syrian authorities or from the Israeli military.

Hezbollah later identified the militant as Yasser Nemr Qranbish, although it did not disclose the circumstances of his death as is standard practice for Hezbollah combatants who are not in leadership roles. Hezbollah supporters



Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, right, escorted by his bodyguard Yasser Nemr Qranbish, waves to his supporters during a rally, in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon, on Sept. 22, 2006.

Associated Press

mourned his death on social media, calling him the "shield of the Sayyed," in reference to his tenure as a bodyguard of Hezbollah's leader Hassan Nasrallah. Later Tuesday, Hezbollah announced that in retaliation for the killing, it fired tens of Katyusha rockets targeting an Israeli military base in the Golan Heights. Israeli police said in a statement that a man and a woman were killed in the rocket barrage. The MADA

rescue service said they were civilians.

Qranbish had been mainly active in Syria over the recent years and involved in weapons shipments for Hezbollah, said an official with an Iran-backed group, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose the information. Hezbollah launched attacks against Israel after the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza on Oct. 7 with the attack on south-

ern Israel by the Palestinian militant Hamas group that rules the Gaza Strip. Hamas is an ally of Hezbollah.

Since then, Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon have killed over 450 people, mostly Hezbollah fighters but also more than 80 civilians and non-combatants. On the Israeli side, 17 soldiers and 13 civilians have been killed since the war in Gaza began. Tens of thousands of people on both sides of the tense Lebanon-Israel fron-

tier have been displaced in the monthslong war.

For years, Israel has launched frequent strikes on targets in Syria linked to Iran, its powerful regional backer, but rarely acknowledges them. The strikes have escalated over the past five months against the backdrop of the war in Gaza and ongoing clashes between Hezbollah and Israeli forces on the Lebanon-Israel border.

Hezbollah's attacks have gradually escalated, with the group introducing new weapons. Hezbollah maintains it will stop its attacks once there is a cease-fire in Gaza. Israel has also struck deeper into Lebanon.

The targeting of Qranbish appears to be part of an ongoing Israeli military strategy of taking out key Hezbollah operatives aimed at weakening its military capabilities "before any major escalation that might" follow, said Charles Lister of the Washington-based Middle East Institute think tank. "That it occurred in Syria will serve as another potent reminder of Israel's clear penetration of the 'resistance axis' there," Lister told The Associated Press, referring to the regional network of Iran-backed groups. □

Mexico's efforts to seize U.S.-bound fentanyl drop sharply, while seizures of meth soar



This photo released by Mexico's National Security Commission shows bags of illegal drugs, including 100 pounds (45.5 kilograms) of fentanyl, according to authorities, inside a sports utility vehicle after police stopped the car for a missing front license plate near Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, Jan. 25, 2018.

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Even as Mexican-made fentanyl continues to flood into the United States, Mexico's efforts to seize the drug have declined dramatically, according to figures released Tuesday by the Defense Department.

Figures for the first half of 2024 show that Mexican federal forces seized only 286 pounds (130 kilograms) of fentanyl nationwide between January and June, down 94% from the 5,135 pounds (2,329 kilograms) seized in 2023.

The synthetic opioid has been blamed for about 70,000 overdose deaths annually in the United States, and U.S. officials have tried to step up efforts to seize it as it comes over the border, often in the form of counterfeit pills made in Mexico.

But rather than join in the effort, Mexico's Army and National Guard appeared to have refocused their attention far more toward seizing methamphetamines, which are much more widely consumed domestically in Mexico than fentanyl.

Mexico seized a record of over 400 tons of meth in 2023, more than 12 times what it seized in 2022. That pace appeared to continue in the first half of 2024, with 168 tons of methamphetamines seized.

While Mexican meth is exported widely to the United States and also causes huge addiction problems there unlike fentanyl, a huge amount of meth is also sold inside Mexico.

Mexico's Defense Department did not explain why seizures of the two drugs have changed so dramatically. Some observers say the uptick in meth seizures may be the result of increasing internal disputes between the "Mayitos" and "Chapitos" factions of the Sinaloa cartel, the largest producer of meth in Mexico. □



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Project "Aruba Happy One Pass" (AHOP) is in its final phase

Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber's goal and vision is to continue innovating and using modern technologies to facilitate services and processes for travelers visiting Aruba.

The travel industry worldwide is being transformed to ease travel processes through the implementation of technology. Aruba is keeping pace and today is set to have a system of "facial recognition" and Digital Travel Credentials to verify passenger identities upon entry and exit, which will provide a unique and swift service for our visitors. Aruba can be proud to be the first in the Caribbean to start a digital platform, and together with our partners;

SITA, Indicio, Aruba Immigration, and the Aruba Tourism Authority, we are the first to be able to use the AHOP system here in Aruba by the end of 2024. Aruba began this project in 2022. On November 5, 2023, a pilot program was launched demonstrating how travelers can present their information via a Facial Recognition system and Digital Travel Credentials (DTC). Information is stored on the traveler's mobile phone, and the traveler will give consent to share their information with Aruba's immigration, without any data retention in any third-party database. Upon arrival in Aruba, the immigration system will use biometric control to complete the border control process.

This way, travelers can go through a rapid process via an "E-Gate Machine" which verifies all credentials in accordance with immigration requirements.

This project has been recognized as the first in the world, according to Aruba's first video documentation. To date, more than 500 travelers have requested to participate in the pilot program. Aruba is on the path to implementing AHOP for entry and exit from our island by the end of 2024.

Aruba calls on Curacao to show interest in a similar travel credential project as it aligns with the evolving direction of the travel industry. However, Aruba emphasizes the importance of having a system-



atic method that works together within the islands. Aruba hopes to maintain its leadership in this area and thanks all travelers who have participated in the project and had the opportunity to experience the convenience of travel that Aruba offers.

Minister Dangui Oduber is surely proud that the "Aru-

ba Happy One Pass" project is becoming a reality. Once again, Aruba will be a "trendsetter" and leader in innovation in the Caribbean. Travelers to Queen Beatrix Airport will soon be able to use advanced technology that will position Aruba as a pioneer in innovation, marking progress for the entire tourism and hospitality industry. □

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close



to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass. The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the wa-

ter, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of

beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea

glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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SETAR, the island's premier Telecom provider, is a pioneer in shaping connectivity in Aruba. SETAR has become indispensable to Aruba's vibrant tech landscape by delivering lightning-fast networks to local communities and visitors. The island is transforming with SETAR's ambitious project to convert the entire island to fiber, revolutionizing how Aruba stays connected, and marking a significant leap in innovation and firmly establishing Aruba as one of the most technologically advanced islands in the Caribbean.

With stores around the island and services designed to keep all visitors connected, whether they're coming for vacation or work, SETAR ensures you stay in touch effortlessly. Revel in the high speed Internet on Aruba's exceptional Fixed and Mobile Networks, ensuring you're connected wherever your adventure takes you.

Are you eager to start your experience? Start by purchasing your SETAR Tourist SIM at the TeleKiosk in the Arrival Hall of Aruba's Airport.

Tourist SIM

Paradise awaits in Aruba, and SETAR, is here to enhance your tropical adventure with our exclusive

Tourist Bundles! Stay connected, share the magic, and make the most of your Aruban escape with seamless communication.

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- 200 Minutes on-net to Fixed and Mobile
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- For only \$30

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- Valid for 14 Days
- For only \$50

When purchasing the bundle for the first time at one of our stores, the Tourist SIM card is FREE and is tailored for visitors staying a few weeks in Aruba.

For visitors staying longer on the island, SETAR offers a flexible Prepaid option that allows you to buy credit conveniently at any Tele-shop, gas station, minimarket, or supermarket. This prepaid credit

provides you the freedom to call anytime or choose from the different Prepaid bundles SETAR offers: Data Bundles: Stay connected with high-speed Internet and choose from various data options to suit your needs.

One Bundle: Enjoy the convenience of bundled SMS, Voice, and Data in one package. SETAR ensures you have the best communication experience during your time in Aruba.

Makes your Workcation in Paradise Effortless

Are you planning a trip to Aruba that blends business with leisure, or perhaps seeking a remote work setup? Whether you're coming to Aruba for business or to embrace a 'workcation,' SETAR has tailored solutions to ensure seamless and uninterrupted connectivity during your stay.

Stay productive while enjoying the beauty of Aruba. SETAR designed flexible plans and reliable services to cater to your needs, providing you with the connectivity required for work and play. Go to the TeleKiosk in the Arrival Hall of Aruba's Airport and ask for the Prepaid Wireless Home Internet for seamless connectivity. Enjoy the fastest Internet speeds with our Wireless Home Internet Prepaid

plans without worrying about additional charges and you can use it anywhere on the island. It is easy to use and access. Choose the bundle that suits your budget and needs.

Explore the options that best suit your Workcation in Aruba:

1 Day Plan:

- 10GB Data
- Valid for 1Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$5.55

1 Week Plan:

- 50GB Data
- Valid for 7Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$20

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- 75GB Data
- Valid for 30Day or upon depletion of your bundle
- \$55.50

Imagine strolling along the Aruban beaches after a productive workday or unwinding with a picturesque sunset as your backdrop to a successful day's work. Experience the ideal blend of work and relaxation in Aruba, supported by SETAR's seamless connectivity. Let us make your stay in Aruba an experience like no other. □

Aruba Tourism Authority honors loyal visitors at Renaissance Ocean Suites!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing distinguished Visitors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with a certificate acknowl-

edging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Distinguished Visitors
Mr. Nick Feasel & Mrs. Carroll Feasel from the United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Renaissance Ocean Suites bestowed the honor certification to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's great weather.
- Aruba's wonderful food options.
- Aruba's activities.
- Aruba makes us feel safe.
- Aruba's beaches.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for his continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—Today we celebrate Valentine's Day, and what can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset. Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest point easily accessible to locals and tourists,

the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch

along the entire western coast of the island starting from behind Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort up to the Amsterdam Manor roundabout. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!*

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for



miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple hue.

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this

incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.

Editor's note: This spot may be my personal favorite, if you couldn't already tell... □



Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by

hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked.

The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area

and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley

departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center— it is free for all! □





Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



“Horcan”

Every week, Etnia Nativa presents a new episode about cultural heritage and native knowledge. This week, it is about hurricanes. The recent onset of the 2024 hurricane season serves as a constant reminder and frequent topic of conversation. However, we can be grateful that our “privilege” close location to the South American continent spares the island from their devastating effects, and what we can get in Aruba is a lot of rain and thunderstorms.

When European sailors anchored their ships in the Caribbean Sea, they did not know what natural phenomena threatened the region. They only knew that the meteorology of the place presented different characteristics, so much so that ignorance and lack of experience were the main causes of the shipwrecks that occurred in the first years of intercontinental voyages.

However, the civilizations that inhabited these places knew very well that, during certain times of the year and following the position of the stars, a superior natural force on their way was capable of destroying everything and menacing their survival. These Caribbean populations shared a word in common that identified the aggressive spirit behind the storms, known as huracan. Aruban Caquetian ancestors called it “horcan,” a word still used in our Papiamentu language, meaning hurricane. They were animists,

believing in the power of natural spirits that had a good or a bad effect on their existence in the form of rain, wind, sun, stars, and other natural forces that could do them good but also evil and so influence directly their lives: like when fears of winds show their anger, destroying their houses,*cunucos (agricultural fields), and tearing down huge trees.”

Some of these native communities represented the hurricane in the form of a spiral or a snake with swirling shapes. To interpret the movement of the hurricane's rotation and its calm central part, which was its eye, surrounded by powerful winds that swirled counter-clockwise, rotation creates the idea that it was a living entity that or mysteriously moved through supernatural forces, spinning from one cardinal point to the next. Once in a while, it barely advances its trajectory by a few kilometers and sometimes is static, attacking and devouring its victims.

The hurricane, just as it currently still does today, affects the economies of the towns it reaches. In most cases, those affected are not only dependent on tourism but also on agriculture for their existence. It is an unfortunate phenomenon that reoccurs every year and will continue to influence daily life in the Caribbean.

We need rain and gentle wind for the natural balance of our environment and cannot move or change our geography, but rather know, understand, and overcome the attacks of this phenomenon by building back better. Our ancestors sought explanations for the devastating phenomenon of observing the stars, the clouds, the sounds of some animals, or the strange calm that sometimes radiates from the Caribbean Sea before a storm.

There is controversy over whether the origin of the word hurricane is Taíno, Mayan, or Caquetio. For the Mayans, the hurricane was the god of the wind, and its syllables mean “hu-wind, ra-energy that gives shape, can-center,” translating the word as “wind concentrator.” For the Tainos and the Caquetios, the word hurricane simply meant “storm.” The word came to the English language directly from Spanish, when Spanish explorers took it from the Taínos and later from the Caquetios. It was quickly incorporated into many old-world languages since winds as strong as those of the Caribbean hurricanes were an unusual phenomenon

Episode CCLXI - 261



for them.

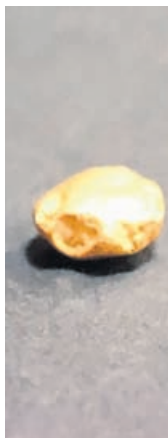
At the time the Spanish language adopted this word, h was pronounced as f. So the same word in Portuguese became furacão, and in the late 16th century, the English word was sometimes spelled “forcane.” Many other spellings were used until the word became firmly established when Shakespeare used the spelling “hurricane” to refer to a waterspout. In Spanish and English, the word can be used to figuratively refer to anything that is powerful and causes confusion. In Spanish, hurricane can also be used to refer to a particularly impetuous person.

If you are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, book a visit to Etnia Nativa, home of our chief cultural columnist, who has been a trend setter since 1994, having the honor to participate in the realization of the island's projects such as the National Park and Archaeological Museum, among others. Actually, he continues to share the culture of Aruba, providing valuable knowledge to his visitors.

This private museum sets itself apart by offering a personal native touch and providing the opportunity to enjoy a diverse array of artworks, objects, artifacts, dead dissected animals, plants, colonial furniture, unique old photos, etc. Your opportunity to dive to the navel of Aruba! Whats App +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, 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 specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. 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.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

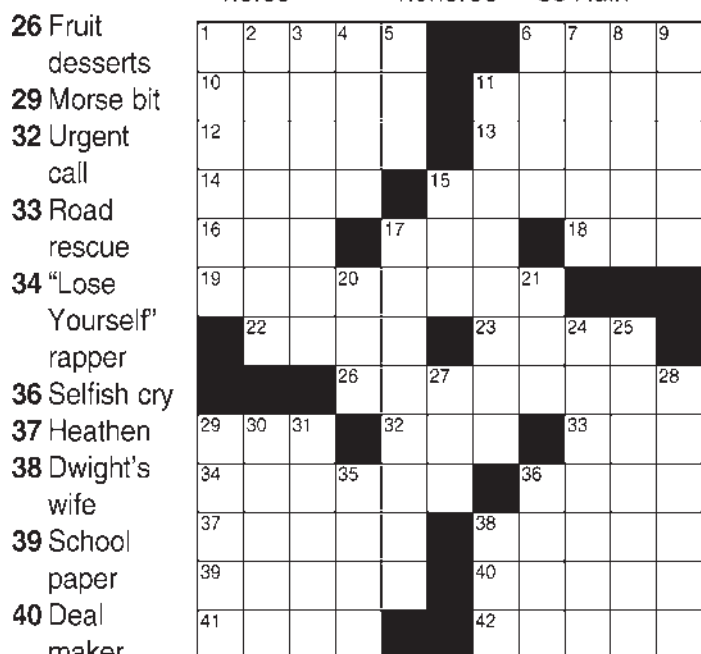
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 41 Fast
1 Nonsense runner
6 "— bien!" 42 Gets up

10 Boxing ring
border
11 Flour source
12 Let up
13 Kitchen cooker

DOWN
1 Like "Hamlet"
2 Peter Weller film role
3 Beach in a 11 News-paper reports
4 Fountain of jazz 15 Suitable 30 Nebraska city
5 Jargon suffix 17 Lamp fuel 20 Snap 31 Bengal cat
6 Compared with 21 Hit show letters 35 New-born's need
7 Of the kidneys 24 Now and then
8 National symbol 25 Like a pride 36 Star followers
9 Spirited horse 27 May honoree 38 Ruin



4-17

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.

4-17 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

LZ TZG BRCZFW ZT ZGSWIF

VSDG NZQ NZQIFWAP LZ TZG

LWFB IW. — MZTPQMBQF

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF YOU WANT TO SHINE LIKE A SUN, FIRST BURN LIKE A SUN.
— A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM

Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	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.

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.

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.

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 occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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Price range: \$9,500.00

WEEK 27
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Price range: \$3,600.00 - \$7,000.00
Presidential suites
(two bedrooms)
Price range: \$7,200.00 - \$8,500.00

WEEK 28
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Melissa Etheridge connects with incarcerated women in new docuseries 'I'm Not Broken'

By **BROOKE LEFFERTS**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Melissa Etheridge realized two career dreams with her new docuseries "Melissa Etheridge: I'm Not Broken": performing for incarcerated women and recording the concert for a live album. The singer-songwriter grew up in Leavenworth, Kansas, an area home to a well-known federal penitentiary and other state and military prisons, and when she was starting out, she found a receptive audience in people incarcerated there. Inspired by Johnny Cash's famous prison concerts, the two-time Grammy winner won permission for a live show at the Topeka Correctional Facility, a Kansas women's prison, with a film crew documenting the process. In the series, which starts streaming on Paramount+ this week, Etheridge meets and corresponds with several people in the prison, learning how they ended up there. Their stories inspired her to write her new song, "A Burning Woman." Many of the women had experienced drug addiction, and Etheridge said she connected with them after her 21-year-old son's 2020 opioid-related death.



This image released by Paramount+ shows Melissa Etheridge, foreground and Linda Wallem during the filming of the docuseries "Melissa Etheridge: I'm Not Broken."

Associated Press

Etheridge, 63, spoke to The Associated Press recently about her emotional 2023 performance and the new album. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity. **AP:** How was the experience of meeting the inmates and hearing their stories? **ETHERIDGE:** When I went and heard their stories, I was blown away that they were all mothers. That just really broke my heart. And then just how relat-

able. This could be my sister. This could be my friends. There but for the grace of God go I. **AP:** How was realizing your dream of recording a live album? **ETHERIDGE:** When I grew up in the '60s and '70s, live albums were it. I mean, "Frampton Comes Alive!" That's what you do if you can get to a point as a rock 'n' roll artist. I always wanted to and by the time I got there in the '90s,

they were like, "No, there's no live albums." So finally! And I love this. It's a really special concert. The setlist was curated for them. It had the few hit songs in it, but it had really deep tracks that really dealt with that longing and guilt and pain. **AP:** You performed the new song at the live concert and it echoes some of the pain you heard in the inmates' stories. How did it feel to see their

supportive response?

ETHERIDGE: It was even more than I thought it would be. That they jumped right on the call-and-response, and that they've got footage of the women saying "I'm not broken!" means everything. Because just saying "I'm not broken," just saying "I'm worth it," that was the whole intention for it. I hope people love it because it's a rockin' song. It's a Melissa Etheridge song. I really like that.

AP: In the series, you play the new song for your wife, TV writer-producer Linda Wallem for feedback. Do you often solicit her opinion on new music?

ETHERIDGE: I love living with a creative woman. I love being married to someone whom I really trust their taste, because she doesn't like a lot of things. She's in entertainment — she's been a director, a producer. She's really used to telling people, "Hey, you might be able to do it a little better" — very famous people. So I know she's not pulling any punches for me. And when she likes (the work) it means a lot to me because I don't really have a lot of people that I can trust and be so raw with. I'm blessed to have a partner like that. □

Viola Davis and James Patterson to collaborate on novel set in the contemporary, rural South

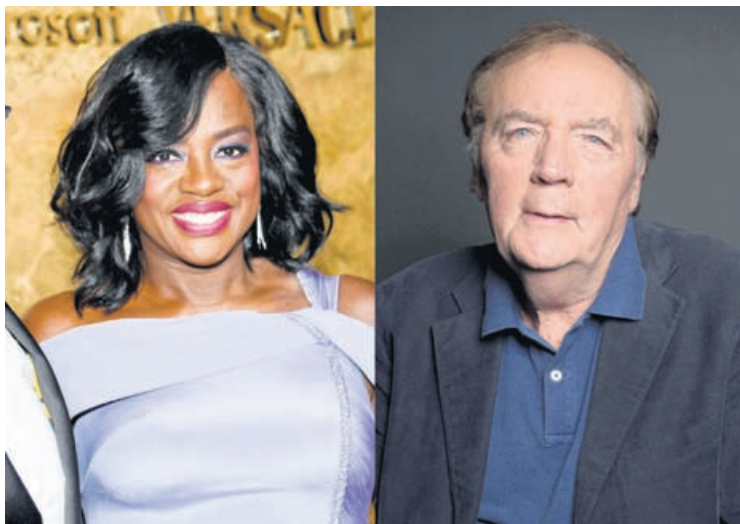
By **HILLEL ITALIE**

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — An upcoming thriller about a female judge in the contemporary, rural South will have two very famous, and very different, authors: Oscar winner Viola Davis and mega-selling novelist James Patterson. Little, Brown and Company announced Tuesday that Davis and Patterson are collaborating on a novel, currently untitled and scheduled for 2025 or 2026, in which the "dynamic and brilliant" Judge Mary Stone faces "a decision with seismic repercussions for her small county, and potentially the whole nation." It will be the first work of

adult fiction for Davis, whose previous books include the memoir "Finding Me" and the picture story

"Corduroy Takes a Bow." It's the latest high-profile partnership for Patterson, whose previous co-authors



Viola Davis appears at The Albies at the New York Public Library on Sept. 28, 2023, left, and author James Patterson poses for a portrait in New York on Aug. 30, 2016.

Associated Press

range from Bill Clinton to Dolly Parton. The novel "Eruption," for which Patterson completed a manuscript left behind by the late Michael Crichton, is one of the summer's most popular books. "James's ability to weave compelling narratives with depth and suspense is unparalleled, and I am honored to work alongside him," Davis said in a statement. "Writing about a character as compelling as Judge Mary Stone has been an extraordinary experience, and I believe readers will be deeply moved by her journey." Patterson, who came up with the idea after reading

"Finding Me" and contacting Davis, said in a statement that the actor has a "gift for storytelling" and a "generous spirit."

"I could not have asked for a better partner than Viola," Patterson said.

Additional details about the book, including film rights, were not immediately available.

Financial terms were not disclosed.

The project was handled by Little, Brown; Patterson's representatives, Robert Barnett and Deneen Howell of Williams & Connolly, and JVL Media, a "full-service media packaging firm and independent publisher" that Davis helped found. □

Daniil Medvedev beats Jannik Sinner at Wimbledon and faces defending champ Carlos Alcaraz next

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Jannik Sinner felt ill. He was dizzy. Hadn't slept well the night before. Wimbledon's top-seeded man, who recently attained the No. 1 ranking, definitely did not want to quit playing against Daniil Medvedev in the quarterfinals, but things were not looking good.

Sinner was treated by a trainer and left the court during the third set Tuesday, then briefly surged before faltering again down the stretch, eventually losing to a more-aggressive-than-usual Daniil Medvedev 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-3.

"I was struggling physically," said Sinner, who had won his past five matches against Medvedev, including a five-setter in the final of the Australian Open in January. "It was not an easy moment. I tried to fight with that what I had today."

It wasn't enough.

Not against the crafty Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion who now will face Carlos Alcaraz in the semifinals at the All England Club for the second consecutive year.

"Was a bit up-and-down match, in a way, from both sides," Medvedev said.

Alcaraz, the defending champion and No. 3 seed,



Daniil Medvedev of Russia plays a forehand return to Jannik Sinner of Italy during their quarterfinal match at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Associated Press

took a bit of time to get going in his quarterfinal, but once he did, there was no stopping him during a 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 victory over No. 12 Tommy Paul at No. 1 Court. Alcaraz is coming off a title at the French Open last month and is seeking his fourth Grand Slam trophy.

Over at Centre Court, it was not immediately clear what was wrong with Sinner, who leaned back in his sideline chair, rested his head in a hand and had his heart rate checked before heading to the locker room.

During a later changeover, Sinner draped a towel over his head.

While he did regain his usual verve, particularly on his booming forehand, and pushed the match to a fifth set the 36th this fortnight and the most at any Grand Slam tournament in the Open era, which dates to 1968 Sinner could not get over the line.

Even though he won more points (164-160), accumulated more winners (61-56), made fewer unforced errors (49-45), hit more aces (17-15) and finished with far

fewer double-faults (11-4). "It's a tough one to swallow," Sinner said.

Medvedev, a 28-year-old from Russia, began playing closer to the baseline than he often does. He found the space to deliver more winners, compiling 13 in the closing set alone, broke for a 3-1 lead in the fifth, and was on his way back to the semifinals.

"Today," Medvedev said, "a lot of tactical things worked well."

After eliminating the 22-year-old Sinner, Medvedev now goes up against

the 21-year-old Alcaraz, back-to-back tests against the two new young stars of men's tennis.

In the women's quarterfinals, Donna Vekic reached the final four at a major for the first time in her 43rd Slam, defeating qualifier Lulu Sun 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, and French Open runner-up Jasmine Paolini eliminated No. 19 Emma Navarro 6-2, 6-1 in less than an hour.

Navarro got past four-time major champion Naomi Osaka and reigning U.S. Open champ Coco Gauff earlier in the tournament.

Vekic, a 28-year-old from Croatia, pondered quitting the sport on multiple occasions including as recently as right before play began at Roland Garros in May.

"I didn't have any energy, any motivation to keep practicing, keep pushing, because I felt like the last couple months I've given everything for tennis, and I wasn't getting the results that I kind of expected," Vekic said.

"Now I'm the semifinals," Vekic said. "Not just in tennis, (but) in life, things can turn pretty fast."

Sinner was a Wimbledon semifinalist a year ago and carried a nine-match winning streak into Tuesday, including a grass-court title at Halle, Germany, last month. □

Philipsen finally triumphs in sprint finish on Stage 10 of Tour de France

SAINT-AMAND-MONTROND, France (AP) — Jasper Philipsen edged a thrilling sprint to win his first stage of this Tour de France on Tuesday after finishing runner-up twice last week.

Biniam Girmay, winner of two stages already, was runner-up a second time, and Pascal Ackermann was third.

The overall leaders stayed the same. Tadej Pogacar retained the yellow jersey with the same 33 second gap on Remco Evenepoel and more than a minute on two-time defending champion Jonas Vingegaard. The 10th stage from Orléans to Saint-Amand-Montrond in central France was a flat 187 kilometers (116 miles) without classified climbs, and set the stage for a mass sprint.

Philipsen, the Belgian rider known for his powerful finishes, finally capitalized. This was his seventh career stage in the last three Tours.

"Today everything worked according to plan," Philipsen said. "We came to the Tour de France with the goal of winning at least one stage. I'm really happy that we can now tick that box and go further in the Tour with more confidence in the team."

Following the first rest day, the race unfolded without major disruptions despite intermittent showers. The peloton enjoyed a picturesque route, passing the 500-year-old Château de Chambord.

Stage 11 on Wednesday will get the riders back climbing again in the Massif Central mountains. □



Belgium's Jasper Philipsen celebrates as he crosses the finish line ahead of Germany's Pascal Ackermann, second left, Eritrea's Biniam Girmay, wearing the best sprinter's green jersey, and Belgium's Wout van Aert, third right, to win the tenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 187.3 kilometers (116.4 miles) with start in Orleans and finish in Saint-Amand-Montrond, France, Tuesday, July 9, 2024.

Associated Press

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With Tiger Woods' approval, Keegan Bradley locks in Ryder Cup captaincy — perhaps even as a player

By **RYAN KRYSKA**
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Keegan Bradley was just as shocked as anyone when Zach Johnson told him he'd been selected as the 2025 U.S. Ryder Cup captain.

It was two weeks ago on a Sunday night — the children had just been put to bed, and Bradley was ready to kick his feet up and relax after three weeks on the road. Then came the phone call. "I don't think I'll ever be more surprised of anything in my entire life," Bradley said Tuesday as he was introduced as the captain at NASDAQ headquarters in New York. "I had no idea. It took awhile for it to sink in."

"I wasn't fully comfortable with some of the people that were passed over. I have a lot of respect for the people that came before me and people that deserve to be in this position, so that was a heavy thought and moment."

Once Bradley composed himself, he realized he had



Keegan Bradley participates in a news conference in New York, Tuesday, July 9, 2024. Bradley was introduced as the U.S. Ryder Cup captain for 2025.

Associated Press

his own phone call to make. It was to Tiger Woods.

"I've been grateful — before I accepted this job I needed to talk to Tiger and I wanted to make sure I — I wanted to hear from him," Bradley said. "We had a great conversation. I certainly need his input."

Woods was widely viewed as the heir to the captaincy, but after considering his current obligations, he decided it was in the PGA's best inter-

est to go with someone else. The PGA read a statement from Woods at Bradley's introductory news conference. "With my new responsibilities to the tour and time commitments involved I felt I would not be able to commit the time to Team USA and the players required as a captain," Woods said in the statement. "That does not mean I wouldn't want to captain a team in the future. If/when I feel it is the right time, I will

put my hat in the ring for this committee to decide."

With Woods out, the PGA of America had to look in a different direction to succeed Johnson, the previous captain who is on the Ryder Cup committee.

They decided to go with the 38-year-old Bradley, the youngest U.S. Ryder Cup captain since a 34-year-old Arnold Palmer in 1963.

Bradley competed in the Ryder Cup in 2012 and 2014, both losses for the Americans. He has long talked about wanting to redeem those results, famously holding onto his packed 2012 bag and vowing not to open it until he's a Ryder Cup winner.

After two PGA Tour victories, a runner-up finish and six top-10s last season, including in the Tour Championship, Bradley was considered a candidate for the 2023 team. But he was not selected by Johnson. That devastated Bradley, whose reaction to being rejected was captured on the Netflix

golf documentary series "Full Swing." Now the team captain, Bradley still believes he's got what it takes to qualify for the team. He is No. 19 in the world ranking, after all. And he was clear in his intention to do just that, a feat that would make him the first U.S. Ryder Cup playing captain since Palmer in '63 if he could pull it off.

"I feel as though I'm still in the prime of my career and can make this team," Bradley said.

Bradley is perhaps the most familiar American player with the 2025 course, Bethpage Black on Long Island. He grew up playing there in college, where he attended St. John's University. He even joked about skipping class to play at Bethpage.

"I'm not going to pick myself," Bradley said. "The only way that would happen is if the team was insisting it but even if they did I don't see that happening. I want to make the team on points, otherwise I'm going to be the captain." □



Former NFL football quarterback Brett Favre speaks with reporters prior to his induction to the Mississippi Hall of Fame, Aug. 1, 2015, in Jackson, Miss.

Associated Press

By **KEVIN MCGILL**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lawyers for retired NFL quarter-

back Brett Favre asked a federal appeals court Tuesday to revive a defamation lawsuit Favre filed against

Brett Favre is asking an appeals court to reinstate his defamation lawsuit against Shannon Sharpe

a fellow Pro Football Hall of Fame member, former tight end Shannon Sharpe, amid the backdrop of a Mississippi welfare scandal that is one of the state's largest public corruption cases.

A federal judge in Mississippi threw out the lawsuit in October, saying Sharpe used constitutionally protected speech on a sports broadcast when he criticized Favre's connection to the welfare misspending case.

Favre's lawyer, Amit Vora,

told three 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judges in New Orleans that the lawsuit should be revived, arguing that Sharpe accused Favre, who has not been charged with a crime, of theft.

Sharpe said during a September 2022 broadcast of the Fox Sports show "Skip and Shannon: Undisputed" that Favre was "taking from the underserved," that he "stole money from people that really needed that money" and that someone

would have to be a sorry person "to steal from the lowest of the low."

"That's actionable defamation, because that reasonable listener is taking the word steal literally and not figuratively," Vora said.

Sharpe's attorney, Joseph Terry, told the judges that Sharpe's remarks were clearly an opinion offered when he was asked about a news report on the Mississippi welfare scandal and how the reports will affect Favre's legacy. □