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Trump's tariffs in his first term did little to alter the economy, but this time could be different

By Josh Boak

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump loved to use tariffs on foreign goods during his first presidency. But their impact was barely noticeable in the overall economy, even if their aftershocks were clear in specific industries.

The data show they never fully delivered on his promised factory jobs. Nor did they provoke the avalanche of inflation that critics feared.

This time, though, his tariff threats might be different. The president-elect is talking about going much bigger on a potential scale that creates more uncertainty about whether he'll do what he says and what the consequences could be.

"There's going to be a lot more tariffs, I mean, he's pretty clear," said Michael Stumo, the CEO of Coalition for a Prosperous America, a group that has supported import taxes to help domestic manufacturing. The president-elect posted on social media Monday that on his first day in office



President-elect Donald Trump speaks at meeting of the House GOP conference, Nov. 13, 2024, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon, File)

he would impose 25% tariffs on all goods imported from Mexico and Canada until those countries satisfactorily stop illegal immigration and the flow of illegal drugs such as fentanyl into the United States.

Those tariffs could essentially blow up the North American trade pact that Trump's team negotiated

during his initial term. But on Wednesday, Trump posted on social media that he had spoken with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum and she had agreed to stop unauthorized migration across the border into the United States.

Trump also posted on Monday that Chinese imports would face additional

tariffs of 10% until Beijing cracks down on the production of materials used in making fentanyl.

Democrats and business groups warn of risks from Trump's tariff threats

Business groups were quick to warn about rapidly escalating inflation. House Democrats put together legislation to strip a presi-

dent's ability to unilaterally apply tariffs this drastic, warning that they would likely lead to higher prices for autos, shoes, housing and groceries.

Sheinbaum initially said Wednesday that her administration is already working up a list of possible retaliatory tariffs "if the situation comes to that." Similarly, the Canadian government has also started to explore retaliatory tariffs if Trump takes action.

House Democrats on Tuesday introduced a bill that would require congressional approval for a president to impose tariffs due to claims of a national emergency, a largely symbolic action given Republicans' coming control of both the House and Senate.

"This legislation would enable Congress to limit this sweeping emergency authority and put in place the necessary Congressional oversight before any president Democrat or Republican could indiscriminately raise costs on the American people through tariffs," said Rep. Suzan DelBene, D-Wash. □

New Mexico man awarded \$412 million medical malpractice payout for botched injections

By Susan Montoya Bryan

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Jurors in New Mexico have awarded a man more than \$412 million in a medical malpractice case that in-

volved a men's health clinic that operates in several states.

The man's attorneys celebrated Monday's verdict, saying they are hopeful it will prevent other men from

falling victim to a scheme that involved fraud and what they described as dangerous penile injections. They said the punitive and compensatory damages total the largest amount to ever be awarded by a jury in a medical malpractice case in the U.S.

"It's a national record setting case and it's righteous because I don't think there's any place for licensed professionals to be defrauding patients for money. That is a very egregious breach of their fiduciary duty," said Lori Bencoe, one of the lawyers who represented the plaintiff. "That's breach of trust and anytime someone is wearing a white coat, they shouldn't be allowed to do

that."

The award follows a trial held in Albuquerque earlier this month that centered on allegations outlined in a lawsuit filed by the man's attorneys in 2020. NuMale Medical Center and company officials were named as defendants.

According to the complaint, the man was 66 when he visited the clinic in 2017 in search of treatment for fatigue and weight loss. The clinic is accused of misdiagnosing him and unnecessarily treating him with "invasive erectile dysfunction shots" that caused irreversible damage.

Nick Rowley, another attorney who was part of the plaintiff's team, said the out-of-state medical corporation set up a "fraudu-

lent scheme to make millions off of conning old men." He provided some details in a social media post, saying clinic workers told patients they would have irreversible damage if they didn't agree to injections three times a week.

NuMale Medical Center President Brad Palubicki said in a statement sent Wednesday to The Associated Press that the company's focus is on continuing to deliver responsible patient care while maintaining strict safety and compliance standards at all of its facilities.

"While we respect the judicial process, due to ongoing legal proceedings, we cannot comment on specific details of the case at this time," he said. □



A sign for NuMale Medical Center is displayed outside a building in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024. (AP Photo/Susan Montoya Bryan)

The outlook is uncertain for AI regulations as the US government pivots to full Republican control

By Dan Merica and Ali Swanson

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With artificial intelligence at a pivotal moment of development, the federal government is about to transition from one that prioritized AI safeguards to one more focused on eliminating red tape.

That's a promising prospect for some investors but creates uncertainty about the future of any guardrails on the technology, especially around the use of AI deepfakes in elections and political. President-elect Donald Trump has pledged to rescind President Joe Biden's sweeping AI executive order, which sought to protect people's rights and safety without stifling innovation. He hasn't specified what he would do in its place, but the platform of the Republican National Committee, which he recently reshaped, said AI development should be "rooted in Free Speech and Human Flourishing."

It's an open question whether Congress, soon to be fully controlled by Republicans, will be interested in passing any AI-related legislation. Interviews with a dozen lawmakers and industry experts reveal there is still interest in boosting the technology's use in national security and cracking down on non-consensual explicit images.

Yet the use of AI in elections and in spreading misinformation is likely to take a backseat as GOP lawmakers turn away from anything they view as potentially suppressing innovation or free speech.

"AI has incredible potential to enhance human productivity and positively benefit our economy," said Rep. Jay Obernolte, a California Republican widely seen as a leader in the evolving technology. "We need to strike an appropriate balance between putting in place the framework to prevent the harmful things from happening while at the same time en-



Elizabeth Kelly, Director of the U.S. AI Safety Institute, listens to speakers at the convening of the International Network of AI Safety Institutes at the Golden Gate Club at the Presidio in San Francisco, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024. (AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

abling innovation."

Artificial intelligence interests have been expecting sweeping federal legislation for years. But Congress, gridlocked on nearly every issue, failed to pass any artificial intelligence bill, instead producing only a series of proposals and reports.

Some lawmakers believe there is enough bipartisan interest around some AI-related issues to get a bill passed.

"I find there are Republicans that are very interested in this topic," said Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, singling out national security as one area of potential agreement. "I am confident I will be able to work with them as I have in the past."

It's still unclear how much Republicans want the federal government to intervene in AI development. Few showed interest before this year's election in regulating how the Federal Election Commission or the Federal Communications Commission handled AI-generated content, worrying that it would raise First Amendment issues at the same time that Trump's campaign and other Republicans were using the technology to create political memes.

The FCC was in the middle of a lengthy process for developing AI-related regulations when Trump won the presidency. That work has since been halted under long-established rules covering a change in administrations.

Trump has expressed both interest and skepticism in artificial intelligence.

During a Fox Business interview earlier this year, he called the technology "very dangerous" and "so scary" because "there's no real solution." But his campaign and supporters also embraced AI-generated images more than their Democratic opponents. They often used them in social media posts that weren't meant to mislead, but rather to further entrench Republican political views.

Elon Musk, Trump's close adviser and a founder of several companies that rely on AI, also has shown a mix of concern and excitement about the technology, depending on how it is applied.

Musk used X, the social media platform he owns, to promote AI-generated images and videos throughout the election. Operatives from Americans for Responsible Innovation, a nonprofit focused on arti-

cial intelligence, have publicly been pushing Trump to tap Musk as his top adviser on the technology.

"We think that Elon has a pretty sophisticated understating of both the opportunities and risks of advanced AI systems," said Doug Calidas, a top operative from the group.

But Musk advising Trump on artificial intelligence worries others. Peters argued it could undercut the president. "It is a concern," said the Michigan Democrat. "Whenever you have anybody that has a strong financial interest in a particular technology, you should take their advice and counsel with a grain of salt."

In the run-up to the election, many AI experts expressed concern about an eleventh-hour deepfake a lifelike AI image, video or audio clip that would sway or confuse voters as they headed to the polls. While those fears were never realized, AI still played a role in the election, said Vivian Schiller, executive director of Aspen Digital, part of the nonpartisan Aspen Institute think tank.

"I would not use the term that I hear a lot of people using, which is it was the dog that didn't bark," she said of AI in the 2024 elec-

tion. "It was there, just not in the way that we expected."

Campaigns used AI in algorithms to target messages to voters. AI-generated memes, though not lifelike enough to be mistaken as real, felt true enough to deepen partisan divisions.

A political consultant mimicked Joe Biden's voice in robocalls that could have dissuaded voters from coming to the polls during New Hampshire's primary if they hadn't been caught quickly. And foreign actors used AI tools to create and automate fake online profiles and websites that spread disinformation to a U.S. audience.

Even if AI didn't ultimately influence the election outcome, the technology made political inroads and contributed to an environment where U.S. voters don't feel confident that what they are seeing is true. That dynamic is part of the reason some in the AI industry want to see regulations that establish guidelines.

"President Trump and people on his team have said they don't want to stifle the technology and they do want to support its development, so that is welcome news," said Craig Albright, the top lobbyist and senior vice president at The Software Alliance, a trade group whose members include OpenAI, Oracle and IBM. "It is our view that passing national laws to set the rules of the road will be good for developing markets for the technology."

AI safety advocates during a recent meeting in San Francisco made similar arguments, according to Suresh Venkatasubramanian, director of the Center for Tech Responsibility at Brown University.

"By putting literal guardrails, lanes, road rules, we were able to get cars that could roll a lot faster," said Venkatasubramanian, a former Biden administration official who helped craft White House principles for approaching AI. □

US economy grows at 2.8% pace in third quarter on consumer spending, unchanged from first estimate

By Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American economy expanded at a healthy 2.8% annual pace from July through September on strong consumer spending and a surge in exports, the government said Wednesday, leaving unchanged its initial estimate of third-quarter growth. U.S. gross domestic product the economy's output of goods and services slowed from the April-July rate of 3%, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday.

But the GDP report still showed that the American economy the world's largest is proving surprisingly durable. Growth has topped 2% for eight of the last nine quarters.

Within the GDP data, a category that measures the economy's underlying strength rose at a solid 3.2% annual rate from July through September, up from 2.7% in the April-June quarter. This category includes consumer spending and private investment



In this image taken with a drone, Jason Kwapi operates a combine, at left, during soybean harvesting on the Voss farm near Palo, Iowa, Oct. 2, 2024.

(Nick Rohlman/The Gazette via AP, File)

but excludes volatile items like exports, inventories and government spending.

Still, American voters exasperated by high prices were unimpressed by the steady growth and chose this month to return Donald Trump to the White House to overhaul the nation's economic policies. He will be supported by Republican majorities in the House

and Senate.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of U.S. economic activity, accelerated to a 3.5% annual pace last quarter, up from 2.8% in the April-June period and fastest growth since the fourth quarter of 2023. Exports also contributed to the third quarter's growth, increasing at a 7.5% rate, most in two years. Still, the

third-quarter growth in both consumer spending and exports was lower than the Commerce Department initially estimated.

But growth in business investment slowed sharply on a drop in investment in housing and in nonresidential buildings such as offices and warehouses. By contrast, spending on equipment surged.

When he takes office next month, President-elect Trump will inherit an economy that looks broadly healthy.

Growth is steady. Unemployment is low at 4.1%. Inflation, which hit a four-decade high 9.1% in June 2022, has fallen to 2.6%. That is still above the Federal Reserve's 2% target, but the central bank felt satisfied enough with the progress against inflation to cut its benchmark interest rate in September and again this month. Most Wall Street traders expect the Fed to cut rates again in December.

Wednesday's report also contained some encouraging news on inflation. The Federal Reserve's favored inflation gauge called the personal consumption expenditures index, or PCE rose at just a 1.5% annual pace last quarter, down from 2.5% in the second quarter.

Excluding volatile food and energy prices, so-called core PCE inflation was 2.1%, down from 2.8% in the April-June quarter. □

Arizona executions to resume, breaking 2-year pause during review of state death penalty procedures

By Anita Snow
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Executions will resume in Arizona following a two-year pause, the state's top prosecutor says.

Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said in a statement sent to The Associated Press on Wednesday that she will soon seek an execution warrant for Aaron Brian Gunches, who is on death row after being convicted of killing his girlfriend's ex-husband.

Mayes said her office had been preparing to resume the use of the death penalty in Arizona since earlier this year as it worked with state corrections officials to review and improve procedures. Gov. Katie Hobbs had promised not to carry

out any executions until there was confidence the state can do so without violating any laws. The attorney general's office had said it would not seek

a court order to carry out the death penalty while a review was underway. The review Hobbs had ordered effectively ended this month when she dismissed

the retired federal magistrate she had appointed earlier to head the review. The governor's spokesman, Christian Slater, said Hobbs "remains committed to upholding the law while ensuring justice is carried out in a way that's transparent and humane."

Corrections officials "conducted a thorough review of policies and procedures and made critical improvements to help ensure executions carried out by the State meet legal and constitutional standards," Slater said.

The attorney general said in May that executions could resume by early 2025, after the review was completed. Mayes said that in line with that timeline she will ask the Arizona Supreme Court

in the coming weeks to issue an execution warrant for Gunches, who was sentenced to death for the murder of Ted Price.

Gunches had been set to be put to death in April 2023. But Hobbs' office said the state wasn't prepared to enforce the death penalty because it lacked staff with expertise to carry out executions. At the time, it also said it could not find an IV team to carry out the lethal injection and didn't have a contract with a pharmacist to compound the pentobarbital needed for an execution.

Gunches had pleaded guilty to a murder charge in the shooting death of Price, who was his girlfriend's ex-husband, near the Phoenix suburb of Mesa. □



Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes pauses during an interview with The Associated Press, Nov. 21, 2024, in Philadelphia.

(AP Photo/Matt Slocum, File)

Bill to legalize assisted dying in England and Wales faces heated parliamentary debate

By Brian Melley
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British lawmakers are expected to vote Friday on a law proposed to help terminally ill adults end their lives. The contentious bill would allow adults expected to have fewer than six months to live to request and be provided with help to end their life, subject to safeguards and protections. Members of Parliament (MPs), who have been holding emotional meetings with constituents and searching their souls, are due to debate the issue that crosses political lines. Supporters say the law would provide dignity to the dying and prevent unnecessary suffering. Opponents say it would put vulnerable people at risk, fearing that some would be coerced to end their lives and that some elderly or disabled people may opt for death so they don't become a burden. A vote in favor of the bill would send it to another round of hearings. A vote against it would kill it. Here's a look at what's in the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill and the next



A small demonstration by people advocating assisted dying hold a protest outside the Houses of Parliament as a bill to legalise assisted dying is to be put before lawmakers in London, England, Oct. 16, 2024.

(AP Photo/Alberto Pezzali, File)

steps:

What is happening?

The House of Commons hasn't debated an assisted dying bill since 2015 when a similar measure failed. Debate is scheduled for five hours and more than 150 members have reportedly signed up to speak. It is expected to be followed by a close vote. Although the current bill

was proposed by a member of the ruling center-left Labour Party, it is an open vote with no pressure from the government on supporting it. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has previously supported assisted dying, said the government will remain neutral and he wouldn't reveal how he would vote. Some members of his cabi-

net have said they will support the bill, while others are against it. Former Labour Prime Minister Gordon Brown, along with three former Conservative prime ministers Boris Johnson, Liz Truss, and Theresa May have publicly opposed the bill, though they are no longer in the House of Commons and can't vote. Former Tory Prime

Minister David Cameron supports it.

If the bill passes the first stage in the House of Commons, it will face further scrutiny and votes in both Houses of Parliament. If ultimately approved, any new law is unlikely to come into effect within the next two to three years, supporters say.

What does the bill propose?

Under the proposed legislation, only those over 18 years old in England and Wales and who are expected to die within six months can request assisted dying. They must have the mental capacity to make a choice about the end of their life and will be required to make two separate declarations about their wish to die. Labour lawmaker Kim Leadbeater, who proposed the bill, said the law has robust safeguards built in and contains "three layers of scrutiny" — two independent doctors and a High Court judge will have to sign off on any decision. Anyone found guilty of pressuring, coercing or dishonestly getting someone to make a declaration that they wish to die will face up to 14 years in prison. □

Avocados, tequila and other iconic Mexican products are jeopardized by Trump's tariff threats

By Armando Solis
Associated Press

URUAPAN, Mexico (AP) — Mexicans are worried that threats by Donald Trump to impose 25% tariffs could affect a wide range of iconic Mexican products and threaten entire regional economies. In western Mexico, no crop supplies an income for so many small growers as avocados. But avocado growers, pickers and packers worry that U.S. consumers, faced with 25% higher prices, may just skip the guacamole. "I think that when there is an increase in the price for any product, demand declines," said avocado

grower Enrique Espinoza. Orchards like his are the economic lifeblood in the western Mexico state of Michoacan. "It would be a tragedy if they closed down (the border) on us," he said. Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration when he said he would impose tariffs couldn't come at a worse time: It's around when Mexico starts shipping crates of the green fruit north for Super Bowl Sunday, the annual peak of consumption. José Luis Arroyo Sandoval, a manager at an avocado packing house in Michoacan, says the economy would be affected. "Work for us could de-

crease because it won't be quite so attractive to export," Arroyo said, "because avocados would get expensive, and avocados are already expensive." It may not just be Mexican producers who are affected; U.S. consumers may also be howling. Mexican business leader Gina Diez Barroso told a news conference Tuesday that one U.S. agriculture official told her he had never had as many complaints as when the U.S. government halted import inspections on Mexican avocados in 2022. "Never in his life had he had so much chaos in his office, because they halt-

ed Mexican avocados," Diez Barroso said. Espinoza agrees that consumers are likely to share the pain.

"The gringos need avocados, it is a good product, and I don't think they are going to stop consuming it," he said. □



Workers sort avocados at a packing plant in Uruapan, Mexico Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024.

(AP Photo/Armando Solis)

A social media ban for under-16s passes the Australian Senate and will soon be a world-first law

By Rod McGuirk

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— A social media ban for children under 16 passed the Australian Senate Thursday and will soon become a world-first law.

The law will make platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram liable for fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (\$33 million) for systemic failures to prevent children younger than 16 from holding accounts.

The Senate passed the bill 34 votes to 19. The House of Representatives on Wednesday overwhelmingly approved the legislation by 102 votes to 13.

The House has yet to endorse opposition amendments made in the Senate. But that is a formality since the government has already agreed they will pass.

The platforms will have one year to work out how they could implement the ban before penalties are enforced.

Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook and Instagram, said the legislation had been "rushed."

Digital Industry Group Inc., an advocate for the platforms in Australia, said questions remain about the law's impact on children, its technical foundations and



A teenager uses his mobile phone to access social media, Sydney, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024. (Dean Lewins/AAP Image VIA AP)

scope.

"The social media ban legislation has been released and passed within a week and, as a result, no one can confidently explain how it will work in practice – the community and platforms are in the dark about what exactly is required of them," DIGI managing director Sunita Bose said in a statement.

The amendments bolster privacy protections. Platforms would not be allowed to compel users to provide government-issued identity documents including passports or driver's licenses, nor

could they demand digital identification through a government system.

The House is scheduled to pass the amendments on Friday. Critics of the legislation fear that banning young children from social media will impact the privacy of users who must establish they are older than 16. While the major parties support the ban, many child welfare and mental health advocates are concerned about unintended consequences.

Sen. David Shoebridge, from the minority Greens party, said mental health

experts agreed that the ban could dangerously isolate many children who used social media to find support.

"This policy will hurt vulnerable young people the most, especially in regional communities and especially the LGBTQI community, by cutting them off," Shoebridge told the Senate.

Opposition Sen. Maria Kovacic said the bill was not radical but necessary. "The core focus of this legislation is simple: It demands that social media companies take reasonable steps to identify and remove under-

age users from their platforms," Kovacic told the Senate.

"This is a responsibility these companies should have been fulfilling long ago, but for too long they have shirked these responsibilities in favor of profit," she added. □

Online safety campaigner Sonya Ryan, whose 15-year-old daughter Carly was murdered by a 50-year-old pedophile who pretended to be a teenager online, described the Senate vote as a "monumental moment in protecting our children from horrendous harms online."

"It's too late for my daughter, Carly, and the many other children who have suffered terribly and those who have lost their lives in Australia, but let us stand together on their behalf and embrace this together," she told the AP in an email.

Wayne Holdsworth, whose teenage son Mac took his own life after falling victim to an online sextortion scam, had advocated for the age restriction and took pride in its passage.

"I have always been a proud Australian, but for me subsequent to today's Senate decision, I am bursting with pride," Holdsworth told the AP in an email. □

UK police investigate more than 5 people over alleged abuse by former Harrods boss Al Fayed

By Pan Pylas

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's biggest police force has launched an investigation into more than five people who may have assisted the former boss of top-end department store Harrods, Mohamed Al Fayed, carry out more than 100 alleged acts of sexual abuse, including rape, on women and girls.

In an update on its investigation late Wednesday, London's Metropolitan Po-

lice said it is looking at unidentified individuals who could have enabled Al Fayed between 1977 and 2014. Allegations against Al Fayed have grown since the BBC broadcast claims by several former Harrods employees in September.

The Met said another 90 potential victims have come forward, bringing the total to 111. Lawyers representing more than 400 women have come forward, and the number is increasing daily, police said.

The Met also confirmed that an internal review is being carried out into how the force handled claims about Al Fayed while he was alive. Al Fayed, who was never prosecuted, died in 2023, aged 94.

"To anyone who suffered at the hands of Mohamed Al Fayed or others who may not yet have come forward, I know there may be many reasons why you have not felt able to report the crimes committed against you," said Met

Commander Steve Clayman. He said the investigation is ostensibly about "giving survivors a voice" but that it is "now pursuing" individuals suspected to have been "complicit" in Al Fayed's offending.

Al Fayed was questioned by detectives in 2008 over the alleged sexual abuse of a 15-year-old, and in 2009 and 2015 police passed files of evidence about him to prosecutors. He was never charged. "We are aware that past events may have

impacted the public's trust and confidence in our approach, and we are determined to rebuild that trust by addressing these allegations with integrity and thoroughness," said Clayman.

The Egypt-born businessman moved to Britain in the 1960s and bought Harrods in the mid-1980s. Al Fayed sold Harrods in 2010 to a company owned by the state of Qatar through its sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority. □

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 water, 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! □

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located in what is now the Renaissance Marina, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of

Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970 still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was



also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972. After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests

enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various

leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today still reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be apart of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers. □

LOCAL



Craving a late-night snack? We got you covered!



(Oranjestad)—After a night out it's custom to grab yourself a late-night snack on the road. Here in Aruba, there are dozens of food trucks that you can visit to enjoy a late-night bite. Here are a few that can be found in the down town/hotel area.

Chalo burger

Chalo burger is a favorite among locals, and it's due to its popularity that it has branched out to different parts on the island.

One of its main locations is in Palm Beach, near the hotel area. Chalo offers a variety of fast-food meals, like hamburgers, hotdogs, loaded fries and more! A popular dish among locals is the Salchipapa: loaded fries with sausages, cheese and a mix of sweet and savory sauce. Perfect for those late-night cravings! Chalo is open Wednesdays through Mondays from 7pm to 12 am (Fridays till 1am), and is located at



Palm Beach 178 (a little past the roundabout near the Piazza Gianni's). Other Locations include Tanki Leendert and Savaneta.

Julio's Corner

Situated in a nice little corner off the highway, Julio's Corner has a huge menu comprised of different dishes and snacks, all made with a Venezuelan twist! From arepa's to chicken wings, to pizzas and burgers, Julio's Corner has it all to satisfy your taste! Editor's choice for what to get at Julio's Corner is the quesadilla, which comes with a side of fries. Julio's Corner is open Mondays through Saturday



from 6pm to 2am (Fridays and Saturdays up to 4am), and is located in the parking lot of the Eagle Bowling Palace, right on the other side of the road from the Sasaki gas station.

Habibi Express

Habibi Express is a Lebanese food truck stand, one

of very few food trucks on the island to sell Mediterranean food. Located right at the entrance of The Local Market near the cruise ship port, here you can fill your stomach (and heart) with a variety of options like shawarmas, doners, kapsalons and more, all 100% halal. When asked, the chef there recommends all foodies to try their lamb shawarma, as it's a favorite among guests.

Habibi Express is open every day from 5pm to 12am. While you're there, how about a picture with the genie? ☐

Aruba to me



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

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

For today we received a lovely message from Erzsebet and Tamas from Hungary.

They wrote to us saying: "We are from Hungary which is a landlocked country in the heart of Europe, so for us swimming in a salty warm water means more than a winter escape. This is our 5th holiday in Aruba and we hope not the last one.

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

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Aruba to me

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its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Beth Elyn Rosenthal.

She wrote to us saying: "What Aruba means to me is azure blue tranquility away from a crazy world.

I bought my timeshare at Caribbean Palm Village in



1989. I have come every year except for pandemic 2020. But I came twice in 2021! That's 35 years.

I count the days until I can

come back to MY happy island. I love the sparking blue-green waters where I exercise daily. The soft white sand, where I read a book. Malmok Boardwalk,

where I walk the three miles every day it doesn't rain. Surfside Beach, where I watch the planes arrive right overhead.

My son Austin is an accomplished chef. We live at Super Foods, C Mart and SaveMore. We cook like locals.

This is a month away from the craziness of our American lives. We give thanks this American Thanksgiving for Aruba.

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

Anniversary lunch celebrates Playa Linda's tremendously talented associates

PALM BEACH - All year round, Playa Linda Beach Resort receives rave reviews for the high level of guest care offered by its tremendously talented and dedicated associates. It is for this reason that the Resort's annual "thanksgiving" celebration provides well-deserved appreciation for its hospitality professionals marking a work anniversary, not only on every five-year mark, but also by each three-year period from three to twelve years. Expanding the anniversary categories was only appropriate in recognition of the level at which individual contributions have resulted in Playa Linda's unique family feel and its ability to deliver an overall, excellent vacation experience.



At the three-year mark, Playa Linda honored relatively new, but no less important employees Misnelly Maduro Rojas, Celia Douglas, Jaidivy Estrada Lozano and Sherlise Giel.

The largest category this year are those employees marking five years with the Playa Linda, including Adriano Sanao, Mitchel van Gool, Junior Lawrence, Gina Adonis, Rafael Lacle, Eileen Peterson and Rosanna Luperon.

With seven years of experience at Playa Linda are

Jeff Gario, July Catachunga, Aida Keyter and Ingrid Camacho.

A decade in, valued employees marking 10 years are Mario Tromp, Reidson Costa, Aldrick Krozendijk and Laura Wever Sanchez. At twelve years, special appreciation goes to Aldemar Nuñez and Sulaika Kelly.

As a true testament to how a quality vacation experience grows out of a quality work environment, the Playa Linda honored several employees that fall within the upper range of the five-year increments of work anniversaries. At 15 years is Jomar Abian, and at 20 years are Nigaima Ascencion and Pedro Partidas. Impressively, Playa Linda also

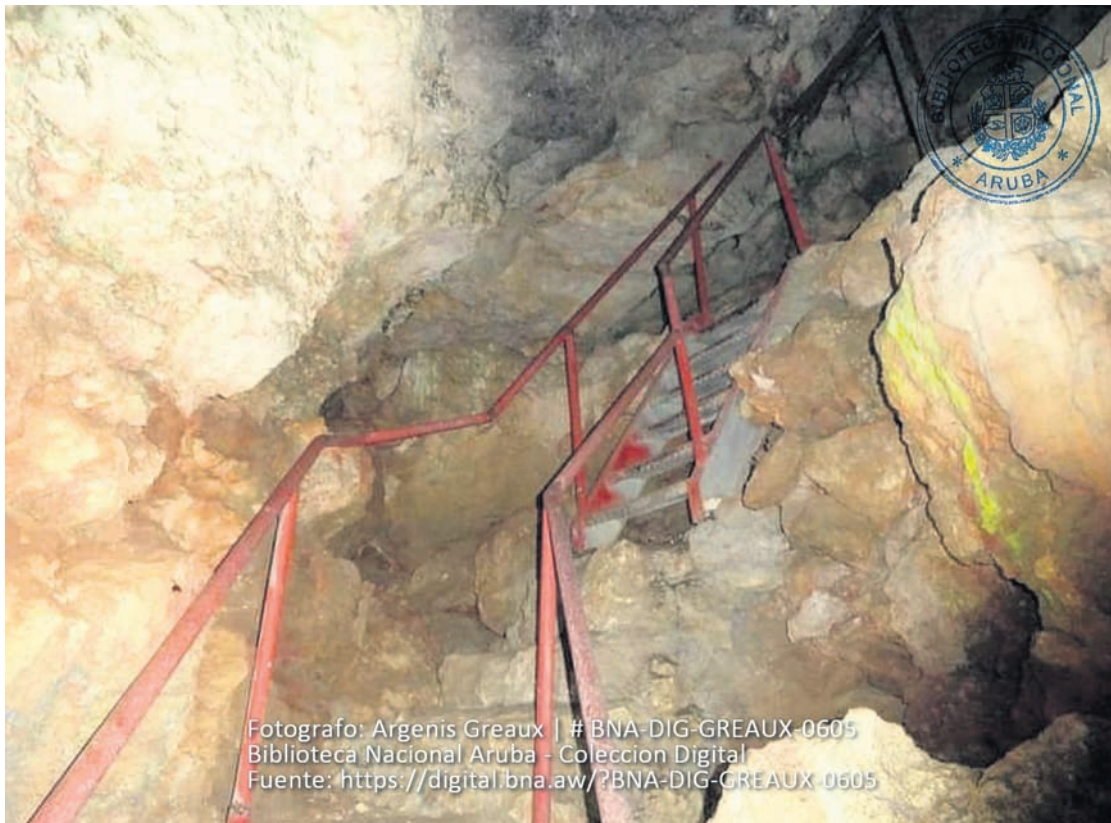
celebrated twenty-five-year veterans Maria Matos and Santo Rodriguez, and marking an incredible 35-year anniversary are Maira Ridderstaat and Jolanda Roza.

The years of experience represented among all employees, among the full range of departments and career levels, is extraordinary and makes it easy to understand how Playa Linda Beach Resort creates a truly personalized stay for its members and guests.

A feeling of family among employees, and shared with visitors, grows exponentially with each passing year and each individual work anniversary.

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Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave
Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or an-

cient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the

Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped.

This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently

closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!☐

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the time, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the subsistence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small



boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experienced by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate

for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island in the mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth

on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broad-

cast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness within the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/Dera Gai (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

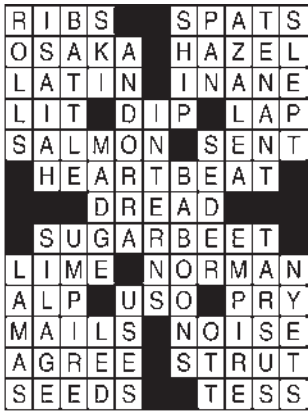
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

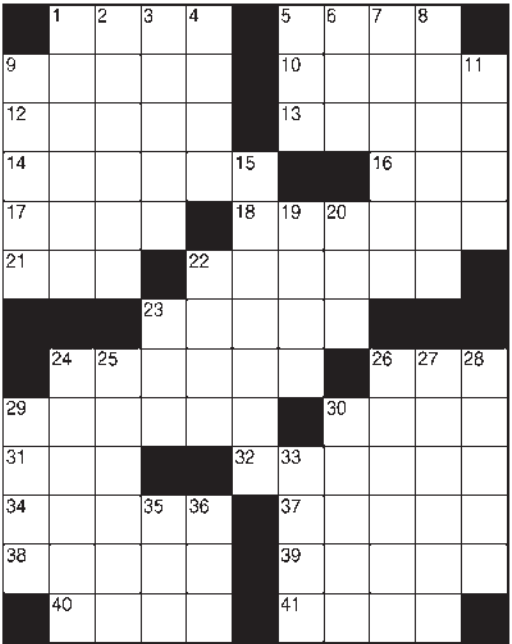
- 1 Kismet
5 Angel's topper
9 Whoop it up
10 Geriatrics study
12 Portents
13 Bulgaria's capital
14 Poland's capital
16 Spinning toy
17 Different
18 Greece's capital
21 Ruby of film
22 Isn't color-fast
23 Hold up
24 Some tournaments
26 Ewe's mate
29 Austria's capital
30 Domesticated
31 Neither Dem. nor Rep.
32 Czech Republic's capital
34 France's capital
37 Celeb roster
38 Un-adorned
39 Parking penalties

DOWN

- 40 Not at home
41 Luggage attachments
1 Like mares and fillies
2 Reluctant
3 Keyed up
4 Snow Queen in "Frozen"
5 Possesses
6 In the past
7 Raised
8 Burger toppers
9 Did galley work
11 Apertures
15 Geography class prop
19 Pekoe and oolong
20 "You there!"
22 Noggin
23 Singer Henley
24 Toy-filled target
25 Change, as boundaries
26 Furious
27 Entertains
28 Gets together
29 Bigwigs
30 Shire of "Rocky"
33 Flat floater
35 S&L offering
36 Cloud setting



Saturday's answer



5-6

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.

5-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

AJQ, AUMH ZDJT JTQ UZDHM

AUTZD UK ZDH QHJM, LJTZF

RF ZU KHHB AUFZ JBYIH.

— KHTTHB DRCFUT

Saturday's Cryptoquote: YOU MUST LEARN TO BE STILL IN THE MIDST OF ACTIVITY AND TO BE VIBRANTLY ALIVE IN REPOSE. — INDIRA GANDHI

Cruise ship Schedule: November 22 - 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
FRI	22	OCEANIA INSIGNIA	07.00	13.00	C	1
SAT	23	ROYAL CLIPPER AIDAPERLA	10.00 09.00	18.00 22.00	B C	1 1
SUN	24	JEWEL OF THE SEAS EURODAM FREEWINDS - DEPT.	07.00 08.00 ****	17.00 17.00 22.15	C B E	1 1 -
TUE	26	CELEBRITY REFLECTION CARNIVAL HORIZON WIND STAR MSC DIVINA FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 06.00 08.00 06.00	21.00 22.00 15.00 22.00 ****	B C G I E	1 1 1 1 1
WED	27	SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR OCEANIA INSIGNIA EMERALD PRINCESS	10.00 07.00 09.00	22.00 16.00 22.00	I B C	1 1 1
SAT	30	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS CORAL PRINCESS	16.30 08.00	**** 17.00	C B	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

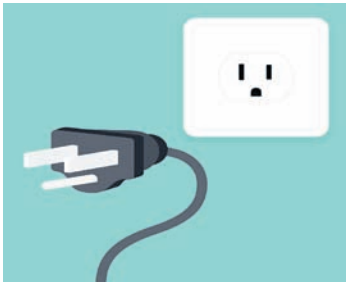
Supermarket hours



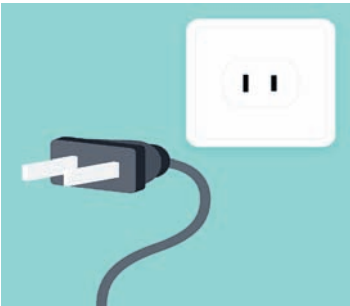
(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

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



Drinking water



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

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

Why retailers still see Black Friday as the high point of the holiday shopping season

By Anne D'Innocenzio
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — After weeks of plugging increasingly inviting discounts, retailers in the United States and several other countries are preparing for prime time: Black Friday, the bargain bonanza that still reigns as the unofficial kickoff of the holiday shopping season even if it's lost some luster.

Department stores, shopping malls and merchants big and small see the day after Thanksgiving as a way to energize shoppers and to get them into physical stores at a time when many gift-seekers are content to do their browsing online. There are enough traditionalists that Black Friday remains the biggest day of the year for retail foot traffic.

In the U.S., analysts envision a solid holiday shopping season, though perhaps not as robust as last year's, with many shoppers under financial pressure and cautious with their discretionary spending despite the easing of inflation.

Retailers will be even more under the gun to get shoppers in to buy early and in bulk since there are five fewer days between Thanksgiving and Christmas this year.

Mall of America, in Bloomington, Minnesota, is giving



Shoppers pass a Christmas tree at the Bergdorf Goodman store on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2024, in New York.
(AP Photo/Anne D'Innocenzio)

the first 200 people in line at the center's north entrance a \$25 gift card. Target is offering an exclusive book devoted to Taylor Swift's Eras Tour and a bonus edition of her "The Tortured Poets Department: The Anthology" album that only will be available in stores on Black Friday before customers can buy them online starting Saturday.

Best Buy has introduced an extended-release version of the doorbuster, the limited-time daily discounts that for years were all the rage and sometimes the

spark for actual brawls before the coronavirus pandemic. The nation's largest consumer electronics chain has released doorbuster deals on its app, online and in stores every Friday since Nov. 8 and plans to continue the weekly promotion through Dec. 20.

Impulse purchases and self-gifting are a potential area for big sales growth, and business isn't going to increase without them, Cohen said. Shoppers are three times more likely to buy on impulse at a physical store than online, ac-

cording to Circana research. Shoppers stepped up their spending at American retailers in October, the Commerce Department said. □



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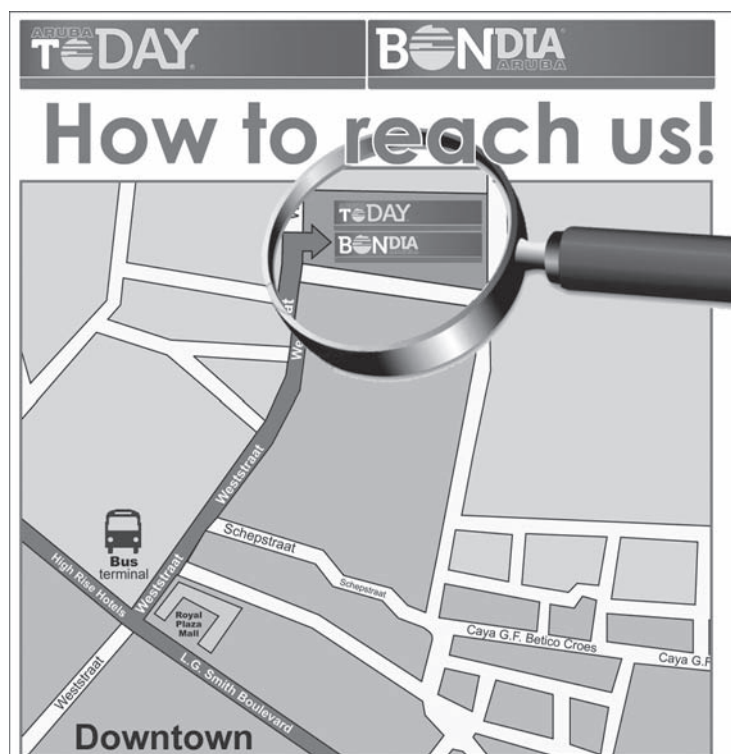
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Oranjestad	527 3140
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Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
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Relacional Tel. 583 5400
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Police deny sitting on evidence as Netflix doc brings renewed attention to JonBenet Ramsey's killing

By Colleen Slevin
Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Amid renewed interest in the killing of JonBenet Ramsey triggered in part by a new Netflix documentary, police in Boulder, Colorado, refuted assertions this week that there is viable evidence and leads about the 1996 killing of the 6-year-old girl that they are not pursuing. JonBenet Ramsey, who competed in beauty pageants, was found dead in the basement of her family's home in the college town of Boulder the day after Christmas in 1996. Her body was found several hours after her mother called 911 to say her daughter was missing and a ransom note had been left behind. The details of the crime and video footage of JonBenet competing in pageants propelled the case into one of the highest-profile mysteries in the United States. The police comments came as part of their annual update on the investigation, a month before the 28th anniversary of JonBenet's killing. Police said they released it a little earlier because of the increased attention on the case, apparently referring



A police officer sits in her cruiser, Jan. 3, 1997, outside the home in which 6-year-old JonBenet Ramsey was found murdered in Boulder, Colo., on Dec. 26, 1996.

(AP Photo/David Zalubowski, File)

to the three-part Netflix series "Cold Case: Who Killed JonBenet Ramsey." In a video statement, Boulder Police Chief Steve Redfearn said the department welcomes news coverage and documentaries about the killing of JonBenet, who would have been 34 this year, as a way to generate possible new leads. He said the department is committed to solving the case but

needs to be careful about what it shares about the investigation to protect a possible future prosecution. "What I can tell you though, is we have thoroughly investigated multiple people as suspects throughout the years and we continue to be open-minded about what occurred as we investigate the tips that come into detectives," he said. The Netflix documentary

focuses on the mistakes made by police and the "media circus" surrounding the case. JonBenet was bludgeoned and strangled. Her death was ruled a homicide, but nobody was ever prosecuted. Police were widely criticized for mishandling the early investigation into her death amid speculation that her family was respon-

sible. However, a prosecutor cleared her parents, John and Patsy Ramsey, and brother Burke in 2008 based on new DNA evidence from JonBenet's clothing that pointed to the involvement of an "unexplained third party" in her slaying. The announcement by former district attorney Mary Lacy came two years after Patsy Ramsey died of cancer. Lacy called the Ramseys "victims of this crime." John Ramsey has continued to speak out for the case to be solved. In 2022, he supported an online petition asking Colorado's governor to intervene in the investigation by putting an outside agency in charge of DNA testing in the case. In the Netflix documentary, he said he has been advocating for several items that have not been prepared for DNA testing to be tested and for other items to be retested. He said the results should be put through a genealogy database. In recent years, investigators have identified suspects in unsolved cases by comparing DNA profiles from crime scenes and to DNA testing results shared online by people researching their family trees. □

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade: Big balloons, wet weather and 21 protesters arrested

NEW YORK (AP) — The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was drenched in rain Thursday and briefly dis-



Pro-Palestinian protesters demonstrate on Sixth Avenue during the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, Thursday, Nov. 28, 2024, in New York.

(AP Photo/Julia Demaree Nikhinson)

rupted by Pro-Palestinian demonstrators. New York City police said they arrested 21 people after protesters sat down on the parade route with Palestinian flags and a "Don't Celebrate Genocide" banner. People protesting Israel's war in Gaza also interrupted last year's parade. Thanks to the wet weather, this year's parade saw lots of ponchos and umbrellas along with the usual lineup of giant balloons, floats and star-studded performances. The latest edition of the annual holiday tradition featured new Spider-Man and

Minnie Mouse balloons, zoo and pasta-themed floats, an ode to Big Apple coffee and bagels, performances from Jennifer Hudson, Idina Menzel and Kylie Minogue, and more. The lineup was a far cry from the parade's initial incarnation a century ago, which featured floats showing scenes from Mother Goose, Red Riding Hood and the Wolf, Miss Muffet and the Spider, and other fairy tales. Some things remained the same, though. As in 1924, there are plenty of marching bands and lots of clowns, followed by the grand finale of Santa Claus riding through Manhattan

and ushering in the holiday season. This year's parade featured 17 giant, helium-filled character balloons, 22 floats, 15 novelty and heritage inflatables, 11 marching bands, 700 clowns, 10 performance groups, award-winning singers and actors, and the WNBA champion New York Liberty. Other highlights included reality TV star Ariana Madix, hip-hop's T-Pain, country duo Dan + Shay, The War and Treaty, The Temptations, Jimmy Fallon & The Roots, Broadway veteran Lea Salonga, and "Glow" actor and Macy's spokesperson Alison Brie. □

Five-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek accepts a one-month suspension in doping case

By Howard Fendrich
Associated Press

(AP) - Five-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek accepted a one-month suspension after testing positive for the banned substance trimetazidine, a heart medication known as TMZ, the International Tennis Integrity Agency announced Thursday.

Swiatek failed an out-of-competition drug test in August, and the ITIA accepted her explanation that the result was unintentional and caused by the contamination of a non-prescription medication, melatonin, that Swiatek was taking for issues with jet lag and sleeping.

It was determined her level of fault was "at the lowest end of the range for no significant fault or negligence," the ITIA said.

"This experience, the most difficult in my life so far, taught me a lot," Swiatek, a 23-year-old from Poland, said in a video she posted on social media.

"The whole thing will definitely stay with me for the rest of my life. It took a lot to return to training after the situation nearly broke my heart, so there were many tears and lots of sleepless nights," Swiatek said, speaking in Polish with an English translation scrolling across the top of the post. "The worst part of it was the



Poland's Iga Swiatek shows her bronze medal after the Women's Singles tennis final at the Roland Garros stadium at the 2024 Summer Olympics, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024, in Paris, France. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez, File)

uncertainty. I didn't know what was going to happen with my career, how things would end or if I would be allowed to play tennis at all."

This is the second recent high-profile doping case in tennis: The top-ranked man, Jannik Sinner, failed two tests for a steroid in March and was cleared in August, right before the start of the U.S. Open, which he went on to win for his second Grand Slam title of the season. Sinner did not miss any competition; the World Anti-Doping Agency has appealed the ruling that exonerated him.

Swiatek reached No. 1 in the WTA rankings for the first time in April 2022, and she remained there much of the time since but is now at No. 2 after being overtaken by Aryna Sabalenka in October.

Swiatek won the French Open in June for her fourth title there and fifth major championship overall, then took home a bronze medal at the Paris Olympics in early August. "The WTA fully supports Iga during this difficult time. Iga has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to fair play and upholding the principles of clean sport,

and this unfortunate incident highlights the challenges athletes face in navigating the use of medications and supplements," the women's tennis tour said in a statement. "The WTA remains steadfast in our support for a clean sport and the rigorous processes that protect the integrity of competition. We also emphasize that athletes must take every precaution to verify the safety and compliance of all products they use, as even unintentional exposure to prohibited substances can have significant consequences."

Swiatek formally admitted

the anti-doping rule violation on Wednesday and accepted her penalty. TMZ is the drug at the center of the case involving 23 Chinese swimmers who remained eligible despite testing positive for performance enhancers in 2021. Swiatek said she was "shocked" by her test result and had never heard of TMZ. She said she's been using melatonin "for a long time," adding that "all my traveling, jet lag and work-related stress mean that sometimes without it, I couldn't fall asleep."

She already was provisionally suspended from Sept. 22 to Oct. 4, missing three tournaments during the post-U.S. Open hard-court swing in Asia the Korea Open, the China Open and the Wuhan Open.

That provisional ban was ended after her appeal showed that her test result came inadvertently from contaminated melatonin. Because the ultimate agreement was for a month suspension, she will serve the remaining eight days now, while there's no competition, and be cleared to return to play as of Dec. 4.

"I can start my new season with a clean slate, focused on what I've always done simply playing tennis," said Swiatek, who hired Wim Fissette as her coach in October. □

Lucas Herbert on top at the Australian Open, Cameron Smith two strokes behind

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Lucas Herbert shot an 8-under 63 Thursday at a soggy Victoria Golf Club, including an eagle on his last hole, to take the first-round lead at the Australian Open, with fellow Australian and 2022 British Open champion Cameron Smith two strokes behind.

The Australian Open and Women's Australian Open are being held concurrently using alternating tee times and with level prize money for the second consecutive year at two Melbourne sand-belt courses, the par-72 Kingston Heath (par-73 for the Women's Open) and par-71 Victoria.

Japanese amateur Rintaro Nakano and American Ryggs Johnston shot 65s at Kingston Heath and were tied for second,

with Smith tied for fourth after his 65, including six birdies in a row, at Victoria in the men's event which is co-sanctioned with the European Tour.

Pumps worked well into the morning to clear lakes of water left by another overnight Melbourne rainstorm, and preferred lies were in play.

Herbert said it was "sacrilegious" that players could spin their balls back to flags on greens used to being "concrete" on the famed sand belt in southeast Melbourne.

"It's great condition-wise, it's just soft and slow, which I know they wouldn't want here," he said. "It's probably sacrilegious to come to the sand belt and try and land it past the hole, it's just not the way these courses are designed to be played." □



Joaquin Niemann of Chile plays a second shot on the 7th hole during the second round of World Tour Golf Championship in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, Nov. 16, 2024.

(AP Photo/Altat Qadri)



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NATO summit in the Netherlands threatens to derail 2025 Dutch cycling season

By Samuel Petrequin
Associated Press

(AP) - A NATO summit with Donald Trump next June is putting at risk a big chunk of the cycling season in the bike-crazy Netherlands. The Hague will host heads of state and government of the 32-member organization amid intense security measures at the World Forum from June 24-26. The Dutch cycling federation said this week that, because of the police deployment required, less forces than usual are temporarily available for other tasks until the end of the summer.

"The impact of the NATO summit on the 2025 cycling calendar is disastrous," the federation said. "From Jan. 1, 2025 to Aug. 31, 2025,



The pack passes a windmill near the village of Beek during the 50th edition of the Amstel Gold cycling race over 258 kilometers (160 miles) with start in Maastricht and finish in Valkenburg, southern Netherlands, Sunday, April 19, 2015. (AP Photo, File)

there will be no capacity available for motorcycle police to supervise cycling races."

The federation says races organized in the Netherlands have been under pressure for several years because of a lack of specialized motorbike police officers whose expertise is needed to supervise cycling races on public roads. Over the past five years, the number of competitions which required police escorts has been reduced. To make up for the lack of police officers, the Dutch cycling federation is working on a new scheme that would allow in the future the deployment of civilian motorcycle traffic controllers at races. □

Valtteri Bottas nears a return to Mercedes as F1 reserve after Mick Schumacher leaves

LUSAIL, Qatar (AP) — Valtteri Bottas says he is nearing an agreement to return to Mercedes as its reserve driver for next year after Mick Schumacher, son of

seven-time champion Michael Schumacher, announced he was leaving.

"We're talking and it's going well. Still a bit of work to do but we're talking,"

Bottas said ahead of this weekend's Qatar Grand Prix.

Bottas won 10 Formula 1 races over five seasons at Mercedes as Lewis Hamilton's teammate from 2017-21 but hasn't scored a point this season with Sauber. Bottas added he still needs to "finalize some things" on a possible return but feels he could be a mentor to 18-year-old Andrea Kimi Antonelli, who will partner George Russell at Mercedes next year. Antonelli is stepping up from Formula 2 to replace Hamilton when the British driver heads to Ferrari for 2025.

"If I end up there, I think I would have a lot to give for a rookie driver who has not raced in Formula 1 yet," Bottas said. "That would

be, for sure, one part of my role, to give my input and try to share my knowledge as much as I can."

Bottas is without a seat for 2025 after Sauber replaced him and Zhou Guanyu with a new lineup of the experienced Nico Hulkenberg and Brazilian newcomer Gabriel Bortoleto, ahead of rebranding as the Audi works team in 2026.

The new Cadillac team backed by General Motors is also on Bottas' radar before it joins the series in 2026 as the 11th team on the grid. "It's interesting to me, and I think it's great for F1. It's a great brand and GM is a big backer behind, so for sure, it's an interesting project," Bottas said. He indicated he would seek to speak with Cadillac about

possible opportunities.

Schumacher is moving on from his Mercedes reserve driver role after two years as he seeks a full-time racing role elsewhere.

It's "tough" to watch F1 cars race without being able to take part, he said in a Mercedes statement.

"I want to get back to focusing 100% on racing. I want to be fully committed to the sporting side of motorsport. Ultimately, it is racing that you want to do as a driver, it is racing that gives you that feeling you love," he added.

Schumacher raced in F1 with Haas in 2021 and 2022 and has been competing this year with Alpine in the world endurance championship alongside his Mercedes duties. □



Kick Sauber driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland, walks around the paddock of the Interlagos race track ahead the first free practice for the Brazilian Formula One Grand Prix in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Friday, Nov. 1, 2024.

(AP Photo/Ettore Chiareguini)