



Visit Aruba's National Park: Arikok



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

Happy Hour
12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10

FRIDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

**PREMIUM
BRANDS**
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SATURDAY:

EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

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Senate passes bill that would increase penalties for fentanyl traffickers

By STEPHEN GROVES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate on Friday passed a bill that would result in more prison sentences for fentanyl traffickers as both Republicans and Democrats seek to show they can act to rein in distribution of the deadly drug.

The bill passed the Senate on an 84-16 vote, with all the nay votes from Democrats. It next heads to the House, where a similar version of the bill has already passed with significant Democratic support, showing many in the party are eager to clamp down on fentanyl distribution following an election in which Republican Donald Trump harped on the problem. House Republicans passed a similar bill in 2023 with dozens of Democrats joining in support, but it languished in the Democratic-held Senate.

Critics say the proposal repeats the mistakes of the so-called "war on drugs," which imprisoned millions of people addicted to drugs, particularly Black Americans.

Now, with Republicans in control of the Senate, Majority Leader John Thune



A homeless woman smokes fentanyl in a park June 28, 2024, in downtown Portland, Ore.

Associated Press

has prioritized the legislation.

Thune said this week the legislation "gives law enforcement a critical tool to go after the criminals bringing this poison into our country and selling it on our streets."

Called the HALT Fentanyl Act, the bill would permanently place all copycat versions of fentanyl alterations of the drug that are often sold by traffickers on the U.S. Drug Enforcement

Administration's list of most dangerous drugs, known as Schedule 1. The drugs had already been temporarily placed on the list since 2018, but that designation was set to expire at the end of the month. The move would mean an increase in criminal convictions for distributing fentanyl-related substances, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The legislation also seeks to make it easier to research

the drugs.

A similar version of the bill passed the House last month with 98 Democrats and every Republican except Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky in support. Law enforcement groups have also supported the bill.

"This is bipartisan because, frankly, fentanyl is a bipartisan problem," said Sen. Bill Cassidy, the Louisiana Republican who has sponsored the bill.

Both Democrats and Re-

publicans in Congress have found agreement on trying to halt the flow of fentanyl into the United States, where it is blamed for tens of thousands of overdose deaths every year. Trump has said that halting the illicit flow of fentanyl is one of the top goals of his on-again-off-again tariff threats against Mexico, Canada and China.

But some progressive Democrats said the bill was missing an opportunity to tackle root causes of addiction or to focus on stopping the drug from entering the U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat, said in a statement that support for the bill was "enabling a political stunt at the expense of real solutions."

The bill will "do little to actually solve the fentanyl crisis but will make it harder to research addiction and overdose reversal medication, disrupt communities and families by incarcerating rather than treating addiction, and divert resources from methods that work to disrupt the flow of fentanyl in the United States to strategies from the outdated War-on-Drugs solutions that do not work," Markey added. □

More than 50 universities face federal investigations as part of Trump's anti-DEI campaign

By COLLIN BINKLEY
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 50 universities are be-

ing investigated for alleged racial discrimination as part of President Donald Trump's campaign to end diversity,

equity and inclusion programs that his officials say exclude white and Asian American students.

The Education Department announced the new investigations Friday, one month after issuing a memo warning America's schools and colleges that they could lose federal money over "race-based preferences" in admissions, scholarships or any aspect of student life.

"Students must be assessed according to merit and accomplishment, not prejudged by the color of their skin," Education Secretary Linda McMahon said in a statement. "We will not yield on this commitment."

Most of the new inquiries are focused on colleges' partnerships with the PhD Project, a nonprofit that helps students from underrepresented groups get degrees in business with the goal of diversifying the business world.

Department officials said that the group limits eligibility based on race and that colleges that partner with it are "engaging in race-exclusionary practices in their graduate programs."

The group of 45 colleges facing scrutiny over ties to the PhD Project include major public universities such as Arizona State, Ohio State and Rutgers, along with prestigious private schools

like Yale, Cornell, Duke and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A statement from Ohio State said the university "does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity or any other protected class, and our PhD programs are open to all qualified applicants."

A message sent to the PhD Project was not immediately returned.

Six other colleges are being investigated for awarding "impermissible race-based scholarships," the department said, and another is accused of running a program that segregates students on the basis of race. □



The headquarters of the U.S. Department of Education, March 12, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Democratic Party fractures in government shutdown fight, with anger running high

By STEPHEN GROVES, MATT BROWN and STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic Party was fracturing Friday as a torrent of frustration and anger was unleashed at Senate Democrats, led by Sen. Chuck Schumer, who faced what they saw as an awful choice: shut the government down or consent to a Republican funding bill that allows President Donald Trump to continue slashing the federal government. After Schumer announced Thursday that he would reluctantly support the bill, he bore the brunt of that anger, including a protest at his office, calls from progressives that he be primaried in 2028 and suggestions that the Democratic Party would soon be looking for new leaders.

Since their election losses, Democrats have been hunkered against a barrage of Trump's early actions in office, locked out of legislative power and left searching for a plan to regain political momentum. But as Schumer prepared to let pass one of the rare moments when the party might regain leverage in Washington, the Democratic Party erupted in a moment of anger that had been building for months. Many in the party felt the New York Democrat was not showing sufficient fight, arguing that a government shutdown would force Trump and Republicans to the negotiating table. Yet for Schumer, who has led Senate Democrats since Trump took office in 2016, the choice ultimately came down to preventing a shutdown that he believed would only hand Trump more power and leave his



Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., listens as President Donald Trump addresses a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, March 4, 2025.

Associated Press

party with the blame for disruptions to government services. "A shutdown would allow DOGE to shift into overdrive," Schumer warned on the Senate floor Friday morning, referring to the Department of Government Efficiency effort led by Elon Musk.

Still, as the Senate headed for a crucial vote on the government funding bill, hardly any Democrats were speaking up in support of Schumer's strategy. It was a remarkable turn for the longtime Democratic leader, leaving him standing practically alone.

Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi, his longtime ally and partner in funding fights of the past, said in a statement, "Let's be clear: neither is a good option for the American people. But this false choice that some are buying instead of fighting is unacceptable." Pelosi added that the senators

should listen to the women who lead appropriations for Democrats, Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut and Sen. Patty Murray of Washington. They had proposed a 30-day stopgap plan instead of the Republican proposal that would provide funding until September. The Republican bill would trim \$13 billion in non-defense spending from the levels in the 2024 budget year and increase defense spending by \$6 billion. As House Democrats, who almost all voted against the bill earlier this week, concluded a retreat in northern Virginia Friday, they also called for their Senate colleagues to show more fight. House Democratic leadership rushed back to the Capitol to hold a news conference and urge their Senate colleagues to vote against the bill.

"We do not want to shut down the government.

But we are not afraid of a government funding show-down," Jeffries said.

He also repeatedly declined to answer questions about whether he had confidence in Schumer.

Other Democrats, such as Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, who is seen as a potential presidential candidate in 2028 and also visited the Democratic retreat, called for a broader movement. He mentioned the recent 60th anniversary of peaceful civil rights protests in Selma, Alabama, and argued that Democrats need to find "collective courage."

"When those individuals marched, there wasn't one voice," Beshear said. "There was a collective courage of that group that changed the world. That day opened up the eyes of the country to what was really going on." Some were ready to start marching.

"We're ready to get out of this building and head back to the Capitol at any moment and prevent the government from shutting down," said Rep. Greg Casar of Texas, chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus.

"But now is the moment for Democrats to draw a line in the sand and say that we stand very firmly on the side of working class people and against the ultra-rich that are trying to corrupt our government for themselves," he added.

Meanwhile, some of the nation's most influential progressive groups warned of serious political consequences for Senate Democrats and predicted a fierce backlash when members of Congress return home next week.

Ezra Levin, co-founder of Indivisible, which has organized hundreds of protests across the nation, said that nearly 8 in 10 of the group's activists support primary challenges against "Senate Dems who cave on the GOP bill." He wrote on social media that the vast majority of those Democratic activists plan to express their anger at town halls or other public events next week. MoveOn, another progressive group that claims nearly 10 million members nationwide, predicted that its activists would also demand answers from Democratic officials in the coming days.

"Clearing the way for Donald Trump and Elon Musk to gut Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid is unacceptable. It's past time for Democrats to fight and stop acting like it's business as usual," said Joel Payne, a spokesperson for MoveOn. □

Judge finds frozen embryos are not divisible property in cancer survivor's case against ex-husband

By OLIVIA DIAZ

Associated Press/Report for America

FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — A northern Virginia judge determined embryos are not property that can be divided up, rejecting a previous analysis by the court saying such fertilized eggs could be considered divisible "goods or chattel" based on 19th-century slave law. Nearly 10 months after closing arguments, Fairfax Circuit Court Judge Dontaè L. Bugg wrote in an opinion letter earlier this month that he would dismiss a cancer survivor's partition lawsuit against her ex-husband a legal action that one property owner can take against another. The former wife, Honeyline Heidemann, sued Jason Heidemann over access to two embryos they froze during a 2015 cycle of in vitro fertilization but agreed to leave in storage during their divorce three years later. In the bench trial, Honeyline Heidemann testified the embryos were her last chance to conceive another biological child after



The Fairfax County, Va., Courthouse, is seen, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Associated Press

a cancer treatment. Jason Heidemann's attorney argued he did not want to become a biological father to a child by force, even if he wasn't required to be a parent. The dispute attracted national attention in 2023

when Judge Richard E. Gardiner who is no longer assigned to the case for unrelated reasons referenced slavery-era law when overruling Jason Heidemann's pleading that the state's partition statute did not include the embryos. Bugg

wrote in his March 7 letter that he took issue with Gardiner's reliance on state law predating the passage of the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery. Bugg wrote that Virginia lawmakers have since

1865 removed references to slavery to "excise a lawless blight from the Virginia Code, the institution of slavery applicable to fellow citizens, which removal supports that human beings, and by extension embryos they have created, should not as a matter of legislative policy be subject to partition."

Bugg's dismissal of the case comes during a growing national debate on whether fetuses are human. Seven states have defined embryos, fertilized eggs or fetuses as a "person," "human being" or "another" in their homicide code, according to Pregnancy Justice's unpacking fetal personhood report from last September.

In 2024, the Alabama Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos are people. And later that year, U.S. Senate Republicans blocked legislation that would make it a right nationwide for women to access in vitro fertilization and other fertility treatment after then-Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer forced a vote on the issue. □

Helicopter route permanently closed on route near Washington airport where 67 died in midair crash

By JOHN SEEWER and TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Helicopters will be permanently restricted from flying near Washington, D.C.'s airport on the same route where a passenger jet and an Army helicopter collided in midair, killing 67 people, the Federal Aviation Administration said Friday. The move comes just days after federal investigators looking into the cause of the crash recommended a ban on some helicopter flights, saying a string of near misses in recent years showed that the current setup "poses an intolerable risk."

The FAA, which manages the nation's airspace and oversees aviation safety,

has come under criticism after the National Transportation Safety Board said there had been an alarming number of near

misses in recent year in the congested skies around Ronald Reagan National Airport.

The closure of the helicop-

ter route near the airport makes permanent the restrictions put in place after Jan. 29 midair collision. The FAA order will allow a few exceptions for helicopter use, including presidential flights along with law enforcement and lifesaving missions. The FAA also said it is studying cities with airports where there are a high number of different types of aircraft sharing the same space, including eight metro areas with busy helicopter routes: Boston, New York, Baltimore-Washington, Detroit, Chicago, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles.

It also is looking at offshore helicopter operations along the Gulf Coast. The Army supports the FAA's efforts to improve

aviation safety around the nation's capital and will use "alternative routes to mitigate impacts on training and readiness," spokesman Matt Ahearn said Friday. Before the collision, there were 28 government agencies authorized to fly helicopters near Reagan National, including the Department of Defense, military services, law enforcement, and emergency medical services.

The Army Black Hawk involved in the January crash belonged to the 12th Aviation Battalion based at Davison Army Air Field at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. That unit has a classified mission to ensure continuity of government by getting certain officials to safety in case of an attack. □



National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairwoman Jennifer Homendy speaks about the recent mid-air collision of an American Airlines flight and a Black Hawk helicopter near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, at a news conference in Washington, Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Associated Press

Head of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has been killed, Iraqi prime minister says

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — The head of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria has been killed in Iraq in an operation by members of the Iraqi national intelligence service along with U.S.-led coalition forces, the Iraqi prime minister announced Friday. "The Iraqis continue their impressive victories over the forces of darkness and terrorism," Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani said in a statement posted on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Abdallah Maki Mosleh al-Rifai, or "Abu Khadija," was "deputy caliph" of the militant group and as "one of the most dangerous terrorists in Iraq and the world," the statement said.

A security official said the operation was carried out by an airstrike in Anbar province, in western Iraq. A second official said the



Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shaybani, left, speaks during a news conference with his Iraqi counterpart Fouad Hussein following their meeting, in Baghdad, Iraq, Friday, March 14, 2025.

Associated Press

operation took place Thursday night but that al-Rifai's death was confirmed Friday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

The announcement came on the same day as the first visit by Syria's top diplomat to Iraq, during which the two countries pledged to work together to combat IS.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Fouad Hussein said at a news conference that "there are common challenges facing Syrian and Iraqi society, and especially the terrorists of IS." He said the offi-

cials had spoken "in detail about the movements of ISIS, whether on the Syrian-Iraqi border, inside Syria or inside Iraq" during the visit. Hussein referred to an operations room formed by Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon at a recent meeting in Amman to confront IS, and said it would soon begin work.

The relationship between Iraq and Syria is somewhat fraught after the fall of former Syrian President Bashar Assad.

Al-Sudani came to power with the support of a coalition of Iran-backed factions, and Tehran was a major backer of Assad. The current interim president of Syria, Ahmad al-Sharaa, was previously known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani and fought as an al-Qaida militant in Iraq after the U.S. invasion of 2003, and later fought against Assad's government in Syria. □

Guatemala steps up patrols along border as U.S. extends border security goals south

OCOS, Guatemala (AP) — As the United States government works to effectively extend its border security objectives south into Central America, countries like Guatemala have come under renewed scrutiny and pressure to step up their own border enforcement.

On Thursday, a Guatema-

lan army unit patrolled the Suchiate river that forms the western end of the Guatemala-Mexico border. The patrol was part of stepped up border operations since January, said Col. Juan Ernesto Celis. President Bernardo Arévalo has said migration is a right, but in a regulated fashion.

The soldiers on patrol are looking to stop illegal arms, drug and human trafficking across Guatemala's borders. At this border, they frequently coordinate with their Mexican counterparts.

Ann Marie Argueta, spokes-

woman for Guatemala's defense department, said Thursday that the military wants to not only protect against crimes that threaten the population, but also prevent "incursions into national territory by transnational organized crime."

When U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Guatemala in February, Arévalo announced that Guatemala would form a new border security force to patrol its borders with Honduras and El Salvador as well. □



Guatemalan soldiers patrol the shared border with Mexico as part of the Ring of Fire operation, aiming to strengthen border control, at the mouth of Suchiate River in Ocos, Guatemala, Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Associated Press



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U.N. report warns Iran is stepping up electronic surveillance of women to enforce headscarf laws

By JAMEY KEATEN and JON GAMBRELL

Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Iran is increasingly relying on electronic surveillance and the public to inform on women refusing to wear the country's mandatory headscarf in public, as hard-liners push for harsher penalties for those protesting the law, a United Nations report released Friday found. The findings of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Islamic Republic of Iran come after it determined last year that the country's theocracy was responsible for the "physical violence" that led to the death of Mahsa Amini.

The 22-year-old's death led to nationwide protests against the country's mandatory hijab laws and the public disobedience against them that continues despite the threat of violent arrest and imprisonment.

"Two and a half years after the protests began in September 2022, women and girls in Iran continue to face systematic discrimination, in law and in practice, that permeates all aspects of their lives, particularly with respect to the enforce-



Sara Hossain, Chair of the Iran Fact-Finding Mission, speaks during a press conference about the launch of the Iran Fact-Finding Mission's latest report, at the European headquarters of the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, March 14, 2025.

ment of the mandatory hijab," the report said.

"The state is increasingly reliant on state-sponsored vigilantism in an apparent effort to enlist businesses and private individuals in hijab compliance, portraying it as a civic responsibility," it added.

Iran's diplomatic missions to the U.N. in New York and Geneva did not respond to a request for comment on the findings of the 20-

page report. Mission chair Sara Hossain cited two new areas of investigation this year: One involved "the disturbing pattern" of deaths of some protesters, including girls, which the state dismissed as cases of suicide. Families faced "judicial harassment" such as being prevented from mourning loved ones who died, she said. The mission was also looking at the use of mock executions. "We

found that detainees men, women and children had been held in some cases at gunpoint or had nooses put around their necks in a form of psychological torture," Hossain told reporters in Geneva. The team found that "chronic impunity" exists for those responsible for the repression, she added. Drones, surveillance cameras monitor women. The investigators outlined how Iran increasingly relies

on electronic surveillance. Among the efforts include Iranian officials deploying "aerial drone surveillance" to monitor women in public places. At Tehran's Amirkabir University, authorities installed facial recognition software at its entrance gate to find women not wearing the hijab, it said. Surveillance cameras on Iran's major roadways also are believed to be involved in searching for uncovered women. U.N. investigators said they obtained the "Nazer" mobile phone app offered by Iranian police, which allows the public to report on uncovered women in vehicles, including ambulances, buses, metro cars and taxis.

"Users may add the location, date, time and the license plate number of the vehicle in which the alleged mandatory hijab infraction occurred, which then 'flags' the vehicle online, alerting the police," the report said. "It then triggers a text message (in real-time) to the registered owner of the vehicle, warning them that they had been found in violation of the mandatory hijab laws, and that their vehicles would be impounded for ignoring these warnings."

Associated Press

Police arrest man in fatal knife attack on a YouTuber during livestreaming on Tokyo street

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Police in Japan said Friday that they had arrested a suspect in the fatal stabbing of a YouTuber while she was livestreaming on a downtown Tokyo street.

Tokyo metropolitan police said they had arrested Kenji Takano, 42, on the spot on suspicion of attempted murder Tuesday. He has since been sent to the prosecutors but has not been charged yet.

The victim, Airi Sato, 22, was rushed to a hospital with critical injuries after the attacker stabbed her

repeatedly in her upper body, police said, and was

later pronounced dead. Witnesses and livestream



Japanese police investigators work near the scene of a stabbing of a woman in the Shinjuku district of Tokyo, Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

Associated Press

viewers said that they heard her screaming for help, and the stream suddenly went black.

The suspect told police that he got to know Sato through her livestreaming and had seen her in person a number of times, and that they had a financial dispute, according to media reports, including the Asahi newspaper. Broadcast NHK reported that Takano had lent Sato a large sum of money and that she did not pay him back despite a court order to do so.

Takano traveled from the Oyama city, about 100 ki-

lometers (60 miles) north of Tokyo, to carry out the attack after Sato announced the livestream and tracked down her location by watching the footage, media reports said, quoting police.

He told police he did not intend to kill her.

Violent crimes are still rare in Japan, where gun control is extremely strict, but there have been a number of high profile knife attacks and others using hand-made guns in recent years amid a bleak wage and employment outlook.

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



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

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

Did you know that four of the in total seven species

of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, lo-

cated at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters



(617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

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

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

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

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

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

adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

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



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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 be-

comes 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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Create museum memories

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fun-

dacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in



downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumen-

tal buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of

the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

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Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.

Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the Anchor

Size
It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas

the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba;

Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam

Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

Forgotten gems Open air movie theaters

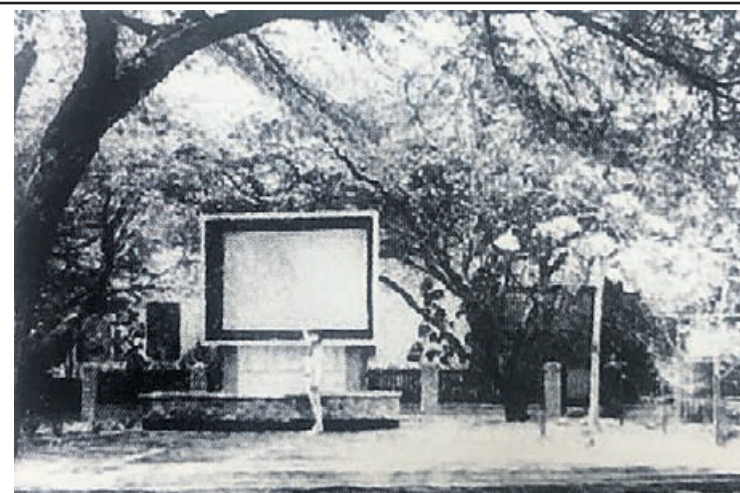
(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theatres. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned

by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.



American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.



In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price

that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

Learn about the history of the famous town hall!

(Oranjestad)—If you've ever taken a stroll through main street Oranjestad, you may have stumbled upon a big green house with beautiful colonial design. This legendary house, now used as a town hall for civil marriages, was once owned by a wealthy doctor and formed part of the elite neighborhood in Oranjestad.

Jacobo Eloy Arends was an Aruban physician, and in lived in Oranjestad during the 1920s. In 1922, he married Maria Monica Lacle, the daughter of well-known business man at the time, Adriaan Lacle. The two lived a posh life in the city center, and their mansion—once the center for neighbor-

hood parties—now serves as a public town hall for civil marriages and is a cultural monument on the island.

The house was designed by architect Chibi Wever, and constructed under the leadership of famous master carpenter, Dada Picus, who was famous at the time for his construction of beautiful buildings.

The construction of the house started once Jacobo and Maria got engaged. It is said that during the time of construction, Maria was not allowed to see the building nor be anywhere near the construction site. It wasn't until after her honeymoon that she saw the completed mansion for the first time, furnished entirely by her sisters-in-law.

The mansion also contained the doctor's office, as well as a pharmacy. After the death of Jacobo, the house was inherited by his son, an Aruban dentist, who converted Jacobo's office into his own dental practice. Over the years, the house was rented and used by third parties, but eventually fell into disrepair, as the maintenance cost became too high to cover.

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situated behind—the Aruban census office.

Jacobo and Maria's mansion was situated in front



of another famous mansion, owned by Jacobo's brother Frederico Maximiliaan (Machi) Arends. Frederico was married to Veneranda (whom the mansion was named after). Their house was also constructed by Dada Picus, utilizing Veneranda's design vision that was inspired by a house she saw in Cartagena, Colombia.

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the Aruban government recently announced its official restoration, with plans to convert this monument into a governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad. □

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

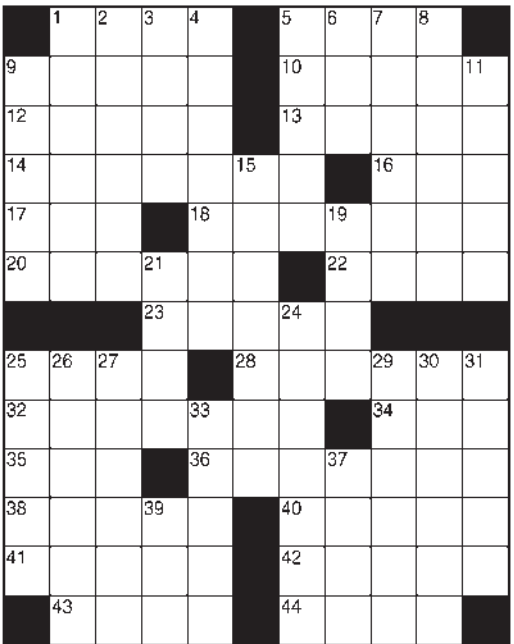
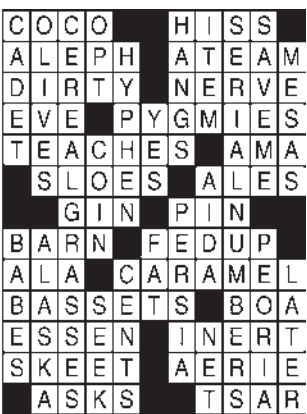
ACROSS

- 1 Flock fathers
5 "Shucks!"
9 Copycat's cry
10 Less cordial
12 Distant
13 Pound parts
14 First aid kit item
16 Beat walker
17 Season on the Seine
18 Colorful kerchief
20 Reduce
22 Tennis's Roddick
23 Award for mystery writers
25 Church area
28 Campaign tactics
32 Old Western villain
34 Finger count
35 Quarter-back Manning
36 Irish wailer
38 Uses a VCR
40 Fielder's aid
41 Martin of movies

- 42 Mesopotamian region
43 Serpent's spot
44 Casual tops

DOWN

- 1 Feel empathy
2 Makes amends
3 State of mind
4 Guest's sack
5 Turn red, maybe
6 Serving feat
7 Part of a primitive phone
8 Minute part
9 "Only Murders in the Building" role
11 Settle, as a debt
15 Rap style
19 Be bold
21 Canary snack
24 In the middle of
25 Aids illegally
26 Sense of taste
27 Made malicious remarks
29 Comfortable
30 "John Wick" star
31 Display disdain
33 "Ghosts" playwright
37 Turn
39 Planning time



3-16

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

3-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

WN NWL TJJELSFTHLB HGL QLEU

B J L S F T K Z L W F P B N Y U N P E

SNWQLEBTHFNW TB T VNZ VNLB.

— SGEFBHJGLE XNEKLU

Cryptoquote: MARCH BUSTLES IN ON WINDY FEET AND SWEEPS MY DOORSTEP AND MY STREET. — SUSAN REINER

Cruise ship Schedule: March 15 - 21 2025

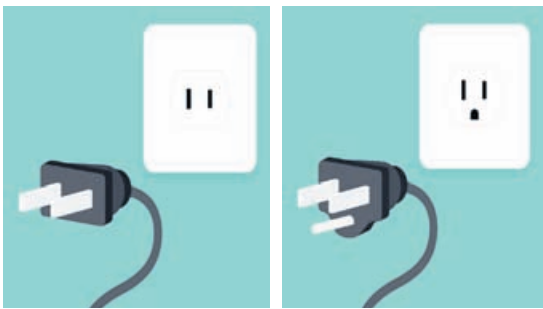
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SAT	15	EMERALD PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	B	1
		EXPLORER OF THE SEAS	16.30	****	C	1
		STAR PRIDE	06.00	18.00	F	1
SUN	16	EXPLORER OF THE SEAS - Dept.	****	17.00	C	-
		SILVER MOON	08.00	23.00	B	1
MON	17	AIDAPERLA	08.00	18.00	B	1
		RESILIENT LADY	09.00	23.59	C	1
		NORWEGIAN GEM	07.00	17.00	I	1
TUE	18	MSC DIVINA	08.00	22.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1
WED	19	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	10.30	23.00	C	1
THU	20	WIND STAR	10.00	23.00	G	1
		ROTTERDAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
FRI	21	NORWEGIAN JEWEL	11.30	20.30	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 basicbut important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

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



Drinking water

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



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



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.



Gold rises to new heights as anxiety grips markets. Here's what you need to know



Gold bars are shown stacked in a vault at the United States Mint on July 22, 2014 in West Point, N.Y.

Associated Press

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amid widespread economic turmoil, the price of gold has soared to levels never seen before.

Gold futures surpassed the \$3,000 per troy ounce for the first time this week. The price to buy gold on the spot market in New York is following closely behind. Interest in buying gold can rise sharply in times of uncertainty, as anxious investors seek safe havens for their money. Gold prices are spiking higher now as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariff policies have kicked off an international trade war that has roiled financial markets and threatened to reignite inflation for families and businesses alike.

If trends continue, analysts say gold's price could continue to climb in the months ahead.

But precious metals are also volatile assets and so the future is never promised.

Here's what to know.

What's the price of gold today?

The going price for New York spot gold closed Thursday at record \$2,988 per troy ounce the standard for measuring precious metals, which is equivalent to 31 grams per FactSet. That's over \$825 higher than gold's spot price one year ago.

Gold futures surpassed the \$3,000 mark Thursday. But as of midday Friday, fell to just over \$2,990.

The price of spot gold is up nearly 14% since the start of 2025, per FactSet. By

contrast, the stock market has tumbled. The benchmark S&P 500 has tumbled more than 5% this year with even blue-chip stocks fading. Apple, for instance, just had its worst week in five years.

Why is the price of gold going up?

A lot of it boils down to uncertainty. Interest in buying gold typically spikes when investors become anxious and there's been a lot of economic turmoil in recent months.

Today, the heaviest uncertainty lies with Trump's escalating trade war. The president's on-again, off-again new levy announcements and retaliatory tariffs from some of the nation's closest traditional allies have created a sense of whiplash for both businesses and consumers who economists say will foot the bill through higher prices. Confidence began to slide at the start of the year for

both U.S. households and businesses due to fears of inflation and tariffs.

Those worries seem to only be worsening, according to a preliminary survey released Friday by the University of Michigan.

Its measure of consumer sentiment sank for a third straight month due mostly to concerns about the future. □



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3 Bed Ocean view	\$30,000

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1 Bed Ocean front	\$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View	\$17,000

GOLD SEASON

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Sting and Shaggy offer a new reggae song as musical medicine for a fractured world

By BROOKE LEFFERTS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The affection between Sting and Shaggy is palpable from the moment they sit down together. When the two prolific recording artists are asked where the chemistry comes from, Shaggy simply says they make each other laugh.

The pals have worked together on several projects, including their Grammy-winning reggae album "44/876" in 2018 and on Shaggy's 2022 album "Com Fly Wid Mi," where Sting encouraged Shaggy to depart from his trademark "toasting" on reggae/dancehall hits to sing Frank Sinatra songs.

Their latest collaboration is "Til A Mawnin" an upbeat reggae track showcasing some of the pair's playfulness released Feb. 27. Sting, 73, and Shaggy, 56, spoke to The Associated Press recently about the new song and finding friendship and musical inspiration in each other. Answers have been edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did this friendship come about?

STING: You know, you meet people sometimes and you



Sting, left, and Shaggy pose for a portrait on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

recognize them immediately. I don't know, chemistry maybe, but I recognized him as a kindred spirit. And yeah, we're both students. We're both curious about music. We're both dads.

SHAGGY: Husbands!

STING: Good citizens!

AP: Describe this new song and what you were aiming for.

STING: The first time I heard it, I started to smile. There's

a lot of joy in this song, and I feel it's kind of necessary at this time in the world. ... The world is fractured and so we need music to be a medicine. We need something that makes us smile.

SHAGGY: It's a feel-good track. But it's a little deeper for me. There's a cultural undertone here with this song.

The original riddim track was from an old Yellow-

man song, "I'm Getting Married," produced by a legendary producer by the name of (Henry) "Junjo" Lawes. He's arguably the guy that was responsible for a whole genre, which is dancehall, because he did reggae music, but he voiced "toastmasters" on these reggae beats.

And what he did was sound system music, which is these huge speakers they

used to block the streets, and that sound system music was part of a deep part of the ghetto sound. Culturally, it's the soundtrack to almost every inner-city person's life in Jamaica.

AP: How have reggae fans received the song?

SHAGGY: The reggae community and the Jamaican communities have embraced this track solid and they're very, very proud of it. I like the fact that it's going beyond just the range. There's a lot of international eyes on it and ears on it. You know, people are really sending their comments in and you could feel it. There's an energy with this record that we haven't felt in a long time, and it's just sunshine and joy.

AP: Sting, you stretched your voice in a different way for this song. Is it fun to still do that at this point in your career?

STING: Absolutely. I like him am a student of music. I will be until my dying day and I'm here to learn. So I could teach him something and he can teach me something.

SHAGGY: And he's taught me a lot. I'm a singer now. □

'Ted Lasso' is coming back

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

Jason Sudeikis' mustache is making a comeback. "Ted Lasso," the dramedy about a fiercely optimistic American soccer coach in London, is set to return for a fourth season, Apple TV+ announced Friday.

The streamer did not say when the new episodes would become available or where they are in the production process. In a statement, Sudeikis, the show's star and an executive producer, hinted the new episodes would be about taking chances.

"In season four, the folks at AFC Richmond learn to LEAP BEFORE THEY LOOK, discovering that wherever they land, it's exactly

where they're meant to be."

Ted Lasso the character was first introduced by Sudeikis in 2013 to promote NBC Sports' coverage of the England Premier League. In a short film, Lasso was the coach of London's Tottenham Hotspur Football Club. It was quickly clear that he knew little if anything about soccer. "They're gonna play hard for all four quarters," Lasso said of the players in a mock press conference. "Do we have any goals this season? Absolutely. We're gonna win a lot of games and we're gonna get in the playoffs."

"There's no playoffs" a reporter corrected from the audience. The bit was so

popular that Sudeikis was tapped to reprise the character again the following year.

The idea came up to write a show around the character but it didn't come to fruition until Bill Lawrence ("Scrubs," "Cougar Town") helped get it picked up by Apple TV+. "Ted Lasso" debuted in August 2020, in the middle of the pandemic lockdown. This version of Lasso was the new coach of a fictional soccer team in London called AFC Richmond. Lasso's cheery disposition allowed him to win over even the surliest of soccer fans, not to mention viewers tired of staying indoors.

"He's the version of me that I wish I could be," Su-



Jason Sudeikis arrives at the season three premiere of "Ted Lasso" on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at Regency Village Theatre in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

deikis told the AP ahead of its debut. "He has highs and lows like anyone. But he's eternally optimistic and hopeful and sincere." "Ted Lasso" has won seven Primetime Emmy Awards,

including outstanding comedy series for its first two seasons. It made stars out of its supporting cast, including Brett Goldstein, Hannah Waddingham and Juno Temple. □

Stephen Curry becomes first player in NBA history to make 4,000 3-pointers

By JANIE McCAULEY

AP Sports Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

Stephen Curry's shooting range and accuracy from way back have long stood alone whether with a defender or two in his face or when letting it fly from the logo.

Now, the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers has reached new territory from beyond the arc: Golden State's star guard is the first player in league history to reach 4,000 3s.

He did it a day before his 37th birthday.

His 4,000th came from the right wing and under pressure off a pass from Moses Moody with 8:19 left in the third quarter, on his fourth attempt of the night.

Fans jumped to their feet and roared when Curry made it, and a tribute played on the big screen during a timeout shortly after. It included a congratulatory message from former Warriors big man Andris Biedrins of Latvia who dished out the assist on Curry's first 3.

"I actually had I'd call it an emotional moment on the bench when I saw him. They didn't tell me that they found him and got a



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) reacts after making a 3-point basket during the first half of an NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings, Thursday, March 13, 2025, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

video message from him. That was my vet when I was here my rookie year," Curry said. "I would love to have quizzed our team on the the bench and see if anybody knew who that was because that was such a long time ago. ... Really cool to kind of think back how far I've come from the first one to 4,000, which is crazy."

The two-time NBA MVP

needed two more from deep coming into Thursday night's game against the rival Sacramento Kings at Chase Center. He hit his first from the left wing with 5:35 remaining in the opening quarter.

Smothered by Keegan Murray or DeMar DeRozan, Curry missed on his second attempt from near the top of the arc after teammate Draymond Green scored

the first six points on a pair of 3s and 7-footer Quinten Post also had two 3s.

Curry hit the front rim with his next try, a 30-footer four minutes before half-time. He could sense how everybody in the building couldn't wait.

"I could feel the energy and the buzz from the beginning of the game after I made my first 3, even the second one I shot and

missed it was an adrenaline rush, and they were with me every moment of the game tonight," Curry said. "When that second one went in I knew there was a lot of game left so I tried to not get too ahead of myself. But it was a special moment to feel that energy and allow them to enjoy that milestone and accomplishment with me." How might the team celebrate Curry's latest milestone and birthday?

"What do you get for the guy who has everything? Maybe I'll give him a day off," coach Steve Kerr said with a smile.

Every player received a special black T-shirt hanging in his locker commemorating the accomplishment.

Curry hit five 3s in Monday's 130-120 win against Portland. His first career 3 came on Oct. 30, 2009, at Phoenix.

Kings coach Doug Christie remembers when Reggie Miller's numbers seemed astronomical.

"It was (2,560) with Reggie Miller and it was like, 'Whoa, that's out of control,'" Christie said before the game, then praised Curry. □

Micah Parsons starts social media spat after DeMarcus Lawrence says Cowboys can't win Super Bowl



Seattle Seahawks defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence speaks to the media Thursday, March 13, 2025, at the NFL football team's facilities in Renton, Wash.

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Star pass rusher Micah Parsons of the Cowboys and now-former teammate DeMarcus Lawrence traded barbs on social media after Lawrence said he chose Seattle in free agency in part because he was never going to win a Super Bowl with Dallas.

"This is what rejection and envy look like! This some clown (stuff)," Parsons wrote on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter, before adding a clown emoji.

"Calling me a clown won't change the fact that I told the truth," Lawrence responded. "Maybe if you spent less time tweeting and more time winning, I wouldn't have left."

The reaction from Parsons was prompted by an interview posted on X in which Lawrence said, "Dallas is my home. ... But I know for sure I'm not going to win a Super Bowl there."

The Cowboys haven't even reached an NFC championship game since winning

the franchise's fifth Super Bowl title to cap the 1995 season.

Lawrence, who agreed to a three-year deal with the Seahawks, was a second-round draft pick by Dallas in 2013 and signed the biggest contract for a defensive player in club history six years later after consecutive seasons with double-digit sacks.

Lawrence never had more than 6 1/2 sacks after signing the big contract, while the Cowboys made it to the divisional round four times in his 11 seasons. He said the Cowboys didn't offer him a contract this offseason.

The 32-year-old was limited to four games by a sprained foot in 2024 and missed at least half the season in two of the past four years.

Parsons is the fourth player in NFL history to record at least 10 sacks in each of his first four seasons. The other three are in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. □

Min Woo Lee and Akshay Bhatia grab early lead at Players Championship

By DOUG FERGUSON AP
Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.
(AP) —

Min Woo Lee and Akshay Bhatia shared the lead at The Players Championship with vastly different finishes Friday morning on a TPC Sawgrass course that didn't let anyone get too far ahead of the pack. Lee hit his stride when he made the turn, with four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the front nine, missing out only on the easier par 5. But he ran into trouble on the par-5 ninth and took bogey for a 6-under 66.

Bhatia looked to be stymied by a tree on the par-5 ninth about an hour later, only to play a smart wedge around the branches of a tree to set up birdie for a 66. They were at 11-under 133 and waiting to see if anyone from the afternoon could catch them.

But no one was too far away.

J.J. Spaun had a 68 and was one shot behind. Rory McIlroy was at the top of the leaderboard at various points of another beautiful March day, mainly because he was able to play from the short grass instead of the rough and pine straw. He had a 68 and was two behind.

But there is trouble lurking. McIlroy discovered that with a pulled drive on the



Min Woo Lee yells after hitting his second shot on the ninth hole during the second round of The Players Championship golf tournament Friday, March 14, 2025, in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Associated Press

sixth and hitting the trees with his second shot on the ninth, both leading to bogey.

"I think I hit more fairways in six holes today than I did in 18 yesterday," McIlroy said. "Got it in play much better and then from there was able to give myself some opportunities and obviously make some birdies early. Couldn't quite continue that on to the back nine, but it was much better off the tee."

Also two shots behind was Collin Morikawa, the run-

ner-up last week at Bay Hill who chipped in twice among his nine birdies in a round of 65.

"I can't say I drove it great and hit the ball amazing, but I really just took advantage of when I did hit good shots," Morikawa said. "I putted really nicely. Also I didn't try fighting it too much.

I knew it wasn't quite exactly how I was hitting it, and you just make due."

Two-time defending champion Scottie Scheffler had to settle for a 70 and was

six shots behind, still very much in the mix considering he rallied from about that much on one day last year.

The biggest fear Friday was what to expect on Saturday, with wind in the forecast on a course that can punish even in calm conditions.

The opening rounds were the time to score. Some players, such as Lee, Bhatia and Morikawa, filled up their scorecards with birdies to atone for the handful of mistakes. Billy Horschel re-

mained in the mix with only two birdies and just one bogey.

The previous day, Horschel had nine birdies and four bogeys.

"Even though I made a lot of birdies, I'll take today's round of golf because the way I felt out there the way mentally I played I committed to a lot more golf shots that I did yesterday," Horschel said. "I made nine birdies yesterday. Yeah, it's not bad. But I put four bogeys in there which were just really uncommitted shots."

That's what Sawgrass demands above all commitment.

The attention turned to the cut line at the \$25 million tournament, the richest in golf. Xander Schauffele, who has made 59 consecutive cuts on the PGA Tour, finished with a two-putt birdie on the troublesome ninth hole for a 71 that left him on the bubble.

Schauffele, who only returned last week from two months of letting a rib injury heal, has made only seven birdies in two rounds and was not the least bit impressed.

"Not hitting it close enough, to duffing chips, to missing every fairway, to hitting fairways, to missing greens. It's pretty gross, to be completely honest," he said. □

Olympic candidate Coe backs athletes calling for climate issues to be a priority in global sports



Candidate to the presidency of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Sebastian Coe speaks during a press conference following a presentation before their fellow IOC members in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Jan 30, 2025

Associated Press

By GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

GENEVA (AP) — The impact of climate change on the global sports calendar will be a priority issue for Sebastian Coe if he wins the IOC's presidential election, the former runner said Friday

"If I'm successful next week that is very high in my in-tray," Coe told reporters in an online call ahead of the vote in Greece next Thursday, where he is one of seven candidates to succeed IOC President Thomas Bach.

Coe said he stood "full square" with the 400 Olympic athletes who on Friday urged the IOC candidates to treat climate change as a priority.

"There is for me an unmistakable need to have a really sensible revisit of what the global calendar looks like," said the two-time Olympic gold medalist, who leads track and field body World Athletics.

There is a broad consensus among the Olympic body's leadership candidates to be more flexible in scheduling future Summer Games and other international events while continuing to promote sustainable environmental policies.

The next Summer Olympics are in July 2028 in Los Angeles, which was ravaged by deadly wildfires in January, though Olympic venues were spared. □