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Page 7



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Hegseth boasts about ending 'woke' program on women and security. Trump signed it into law

By **TARA COPP** and **FARNOUSH AMIRI**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth boasted on social media Tuesday that he had dismantled a program supporting women on security teams, an initiative that he called "woke" but actually was signed into law by

his boss, President Donald Trump. In a post on the social platform X, Hegseth called the "Women, Peace & Security" program at the Defense Department "a UNITED NATIONS program pushed by feminists and left-wing activists. Politicians fawn over it; troops HATE it."

It was, in fact, biparti-

san legislation that Trump signed into law in 2017 that recognized the role women have in achieving security goals, especially overseas when their male counterparts may not be able to question or have direct access to women for cultural or religious reasons.

It's the latest controversial




President Donald Trump listens as Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth speaks at a cabinet meeting in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Thursday, April 10, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

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ARUBA ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY

move from Hegseth as the Pentagon works to nix programs or content seen as promoting diversity, equity or inclusion. After Trump ordered federal agencies to purge DEI content, the Pentagon issued a broad edict to the military services that ignited public outcry when online images of national heroes like Jackie Robinson were briefly removed.

A spokesman for Hegseth did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the secretary's post.

Some of Trump's Cabinet officials supported the Women, Peace and Security program when it was moving through the legislative process.

And Gen. Dan Caine, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Congress this month that the program had helped troops in battle.

"When we would go out into the field after concluding an assault, we would have female members who would speak with those women and children who were on the objective, and they would help us to

understand the human terrain in a new and novel way," Caine said during his April confirmation hearing. Trump met and became endeared to Caine when Caine was serving in Iraq, part of the reason Trump nominated him to the chairmanship.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, while representing South Dakota in Congress, wrote the House version of the 2017 Women, Peace and Security Act with Democratic Rep. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois. Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who as a senator co-sponsored the Senate version of that bill, said this month that it was "the first law passed by any country in the world focused on protecting women and promoting their participation in society."

The legislation stemmed from a resolution unanimously endorsed by the U.N. Security Council, the most powerful U.N. body, in October 2000, aimed at including women in peace-building efforts because women and girls have historically borne the brunt of global conflict. □

More than 50,000 Los Angeles County workers take to picket lines demanding higher pay

By JAIMIE DING

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — More than 50,000 Los Angeles County workers demanding higher pay were on strike again Tuesday, and the walkout caused closures or disruptions at libraries, healthcare clinics and administrative offices across the nation's most populous county.

The two-day strike that began Monday evening followed failed negotiations with the county for a new contract after the last one expired in March, according to the Service Employees International Union Local 721.

The union represents employees including public health professionals, social workers, parks and recreation staff, custodians, clerical workers and others serving a county of 10 million residents. It's the first time all of its about 55,000 members are on strike, the union said.

Marchers wore purple and hoisted signs reading "We are the safety net!" More than 1,000 workers marched through downtown LA streets while pickets were planned at dozens of sites countywide, including Harbor-UCLA Medical Center and offices of the Department of Children and Family Services. Hannah Sowers, an eligibility case worker for the homeless, said she attended the rally to fight for the staff in her department who were living paycheck-to-paycheck. "We're helping serve hundreds of people weekly, so we're shoveling out hundreds of thousands of dollars. If we could do that, we deserve to have ... fair raises," Sowers said.

The work stoppage caused short staffing that led to long lines at the county's Department of Public Social Services. Staff members on hand said they could print some paperwork and process documents but couldn't give out case updates or handle other issues usually dealt with by social workers



Los Angeles County workers rally to demand higher wages Tuesday, April 29, 2025, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

participating in the strike.

Michael Euring, 54, said he couldn't pick up his mail or a new public assistance card. He didn't know why the strike was happening but was frustrated by the disruption in services.

"I have a 7-month-old son, and I'm a single father," Euring said. "The mail that I need is here. I can't get an EBT card, can't access my benefits to feed my child." Lauren Punch, a supervising clerk at the office who joined the walkout, called the situation "100% preventable." She wants a salary increase as well fewer people to supervise.

"It's disrespectful to the community that we're charged to take care of," Punch said. "It's a shame that there are people out here with disabilities that we're not able to service fully."

The labor action is set to last until 7 p.m. Wednesday. Until then members of the public could experience closures or delays at libraries, some healthcare clinics, beach bathrooms and public service counters at the Hall of Administration. Services in the medical examiner's office and public works department may also be affected, according to the county. But hospitals and most county offices will remain open.

"This is the workforce that got LA County through emergency after emergency: the January wildfires, public health emergencies, mental health emergencies, social service emergencies and more," union leader David Green said in a statement. "That's why we have had it with the labor law violations and demand respect for our workers."

The union has accused the county of 44 labor law violations during contract negotiations, including surveillance and retaliation against workers engaging in union activity and contracting out work that's supposed to be done by union members. □

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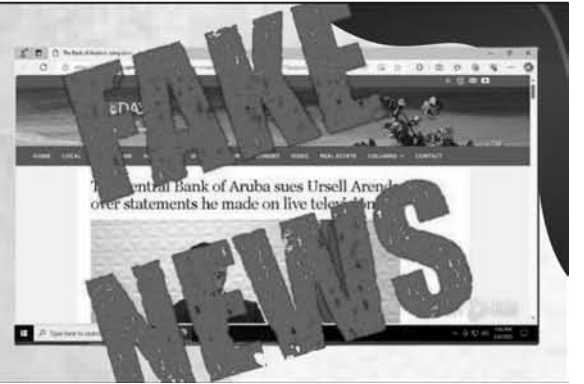
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Former school athletic director gets 4 months in jail in racist AI deepfake case

By LEA SKENE A
ssociated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A former high school athletics director accused of using artificial intelligence to create a racist and antisemitic deepfake of a Maryland principal has been sentenced to four months in jail as part of a plea deal for disrupting school operations.

Dazhon Darien, 32, accepted the deal Monday in Baltimore County Circuit Court, records show. He entered an Alford plea to the single misdemeanor charge, which means he acknowledged the evidence against him without directly admitting guilt. His original charges included theft, stalking and retaliating against a witness.

According to police and prosecutors, Darien used AI software to generate a fake recording of former



Signage is shown outside on the grounds of Pikesville High School, May 2, 2012, in Baltimore County, Md.

Associated Press

Pikesville High School principal Eric Eiswert's voice expressing frustration with Black students and their test-taking abilities. The

recording, which was disseminated throughout the school community and shared widely on social media last January, also

purported to capture the principal disparaging Jewish people, authorities said. Not long before the recording surfaced, Eiswert

had informed Darien that his contract wouldn't be renewed the following semester because of concerns over poor job performance, according to court documents. The concerns included allegations that Darien paid his roommate \$1,900 in school funds under the pretense of coaching the girls' soccer team, police said.

Experts who analyzed the recording concluded it was AI-generated.

Despite receiving a relatively short sentence, Darien could remain incarcerated longer as he faces a separate federal case in which he's accused of sexual exploitation of children and possession of child sexual abuse material. Authorities said they discovered evidence of those crimes while searching Darien's phone and other devices. □

New York lawmakers agree on plan for 'bell-to-bell' school cellphone ban



A student uses their cell phone after unlocking the pouch that secures it from use during the school day at Bayside Academy, Aug. 16, 2024, in San Mateo, Calif.

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York state would ban cellphones in public schools "bell to bell" beginning with the next school year under an agreement announced late Monday by Gov. Kathy Hochul.

"We've protected our kids before from cigarettes, alcohol, and drunk driving, and now we're protecting them from addictive technology designed to hijack their attention," Hochul said in announcing the plan as part of a tentative budget agreement with state lawmakers.

Hochul, a Democrat, did not immediately detail plans for the ban. Her office has previously said that schools would have some flexibility over how to implement it, with districts deciding how to store students' devices during the school day. There would be exemptions for students who need access for medical reasons, to help with learning disabilities or because they don't speak fluent English, she has said.

If approved, New York would join at least eight states — California, Florida, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Ohio, South Carolina and Virginia — that have enacted measures banning or restricting students' use of cellphones in schools. Nationally, most schools say they prohibit cellphone use except for academic purposes, but educators say the rules are difficult to enforce when students are allowed to have the devices in hallways and at lunch.

"Bell-to-bell" bans like the one Hochul described are meant to remove the distraction altogether by restricting access during school hours, often over the objection of parents who say they want to be able to reach their kids during emergency situations.

New York City, which has the largest school district in the country, last year abandoned discussions for a cellphone ban because of parent concerns. □

Canadian company turns to Trump for permission to mine international waters, bypassing a U.N. agency

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — A Canadian company announced Tuesday that its U.S. subsidiary submitted applications to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to mine the seafloor, sparking outrage by bypassing a U.N. agency that regulates deep international waters. The Metals Company said it was seeking two exploration licenses and a commercial recovery permit, marking the first time a company applies to commercially mine the seabed. The filing is expected to spark a complex legal battle since the Jamaica-based International Seabed Authority, a U.N. agency that regulates international deep-sea waters, has the power to authorize exploitation permits. "Any commercial exploitation outside of national jurisdiction carried out without the authorization of ISA would constitute a violation of international law," the authority said in late March after The Metals Company announced its intention to seek permission from the U.S. government to start deep-sea mining in interna-



The view of Golfo Dulce and the Pacific Ocean is seen from a rainforest on the Osa Peninsula near Cabo Matapalo, Costa Rica, March 20, 2023.

tional waters.

There are currently no regulations in place to oversee such mining as scientists warn that extracting minerals from vital ecosystems that help regulate climate change could cause permanent damage.

Filing follows Trump directive The filing comes less than a week after U.S. President Donald Trump issued an executive order that directs the Secretary of

Commerce to expedite the review and issuance of exploration and commercial recovery permits, among other things.

"With these applications, we are offering the United States a shovel-ready path to new and abundant supplies of nickel, copper, cobalt, and manganese critical metals for energy, infrastructure and defense," Gerard Barron, chairman and CEO of The Metals

Company, said in a statement.

Environmentalists and activists decried the move, saying that ISA has the sole power to authorize exploitation permits.

"This unilateral American effort to carve up the Pacific Ocean already faces fierce international opposition," said Ruth Ramos, Greenpeace's international senior campaigner. "Governments around the

world must now step up to defend international rules and cooperation against rogue deep-sea mining."

For years, members of the authority's council have debated how and if to allow deep-sea mining. So far, the authority has only issued exploration licenses, with most of the current exploratory activity concentrated in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone, which covers 1.7 million square miles (4.5 million square kilometers) between Hawaii and Mexico. At least 17 of 31 licenses have been issued for this zone, with exploration occurring at depths ranging from 13,000 to 19,000 feet (4,000 to 6,000 meters).

UN convention ratified by dozens of countries but not US. The International Seabed Authority was created in 1994 by the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, which is ratified by more than 165 nations but not the United States.

The Metals Company has argued that the U.S. seabed mining code would allow it to start operations in international waters, since it's not a member of the authority and therefore not bound by its rules. □

Associated Press

Large fires are burning on the slopes of South Africa's famous Table Mountain

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Helicopters dropped water on large fires burning on the slopes of South Africa's Table Mountain on Tuesday as police investigated whether arson was the cause.

Table Mountain National Park first reported the fires on Friday. It said in a statement it believed that three fires were started deliberately. Police said they had arrested one person on suspicion of arson.

The city of Cape Town said the latest fires were partly under control but there were fears over more flare-ups. Wildfires there are often fanned by strong coastal winds that can cause them to move swiftly and burn out of control again.

No injuries were reported and no private residences had been damaged, city official JP Smith said. He said four vehicles and a motorcycle in a car park had been destroyed and other cars were dam-

aged.

Authorities closed roads and hiking trails. Nearly 200 people, including some in nursing homes, were evacuated on Sunday but later returned to their residences, the park said.

Table Mountain is susceptible to wildfires in the hot, dry months between November and April. The last major fire on the mountain was in February.

The park estimated that 3,000 hectares (11 square miles) of vegetation have been burned this time. The fires were burning on the back slopes of the mountain and not the famous flat-topped part that overlooks Cape Town's city center.

Around 250 firefighters have responded to the fires, the park said.

Smith said fire crews made progress overnight by using thermal imaging drones to identify the direction the fires were moving. □



Wildfires burn on the slopes of Table Mountain in Cape Town, South Africa, Monday, April 28, 2025.

Associated Press

At least 10 dead in Syria after sectarian clashes in Druze suburb of Damascus

By OMAR SANADIKI

Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — At least 10 people were killed on Tuesday after clashes broke out in a suburb of the Syrian capital between local gunmen belonging to the minority Druze sect and pro-government fighters, a war monitor and an activist group said.

Syrian Druze gunmen have clashed in recent weeks with government security forces and pro-government gunmen in the southern Damascus suburb of Jaramana.

Late Tuesday, government representatives and Jaramana dignitaries reached an agreement to end the fighting, compensate victims' families and work on bringing perpetrators to justice, according to a copy of the deal circulated in Jaramana and seen by The Associated Press.

It was not immediately clear if the truce will hold for a long time as similar deals in the past collapsed afterward.

The latest round of fighting broke out around midnight Monday after an audio clip circulated on social media of a man criticizing Islam's



Druze gunmen stand next to a checkpoint a day after clashes between members of the minority Druze sect and pro-government fighters left at least four people dead in the southern suburb of Jaramana, Damascus, Syria, Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Associated Press

Prophet Muhammad. The audio was attributed to a Druze cleric. But cleric Marwan Kiwan said in a video posted on social media that he was not responsible for the audio, which angered many Sunni Muslims. "I categorically deny that the audio was made by me," Kiwan said. "I did not say that, and whoever made it is an evil man who

wants to incite strife between components of the Syrian people."

The Interior Ministry said in a statement it was investigating the audio clip, adding that its initial probe showed the cleric was not responsible. The ministry urged people to abide by the law and not to act in a way that undermines security. The Druze religious lead-

ership in Jaramana condemned the audio but blasted the "unjustified armed attack" on the suburb. It urged the state to publicly clarify what happened. "Why does this keep happening every now and then? It's as if there's no state or government in charge. They need to establish security checkpoints, especially in areas

where there are tensions," said Jaramana resident Abu Tarek Zaaour.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 10 people were killed, four of them attackers and six Jaramana residents. The activist media collective Suwayda24 said 11 people were killed and 12 were wounded.

Rayan Maarouf, editor-in-chief of Suwayda24, said gunmen were holding the attacker's bodies and talks are on the way to hand them over.

In late February, a member of the security forces entered the suburb and started shooting in the air, leading to an exchange of fire with local gunmen that left him dead. A day later, gunmen came from the Damascus suburb of Mleiha to Jaramana, where they clashed with Druze gunmen leaving one Druze fighter dead and nine other people wounded.

On March 1, Israel's Defense Ministry said the military was instructed to prepare to defend Jaramana, asserting that the minority it has vowed to protect was "under attack" by Syrian forces. □

Mexico's attorney general says ranch was used for cartel training, but no mass graves found

By FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A ranch in the western Mexican state of Jalisco was used for cartel recruitment and training, but federal investigators found

no evidence of bodies being burned there, Attorney General Alejandro Gertz Manero said Tuesday. Gertz Manero said it was "absolutely proven" that the ranch had been used

by the Jalisco New Generation Cartel for recruitment and training since 2021. In March, relatives searching for missing family members inspected the ranch and reported finding hundreds of pieces of clothing and numerous bone fragments. They alerted that it could have been a mass killing site. Gertz Manero said Tuesday that besides the initial body found by authorities last September, he could not confirm that there were others. The Jalisco Search Warriors group visited the ranch in Teuchitlan, about 37 miles (60 kilometers) from Guadalajara that was originally found by National Guard troops last September. At that time, authorities said

10 people were arrested, two hostages were freed and a body was found. They described it as a cartel training site.

The state prosecutor's office went in with a backhoe, dogs and devices to find inconsistencies in the ground, but then the investigation inexplicably stalled.

The search group had gone to the Izaguirre ranch in March after receiving an anonymous call.

Inside they went to work with simple tools picks, shovels and metal bars doing the work that state investigators supposedly had done six months earlier.

What they found embarrassed state authorities and shook Mexico: dozens

of shoes, heaps of clothing and what appeared to be human bone fragments. Eventually, the Jalisco state prosecutor's office published photos of the shoes and other clothing items found at the site on a web page where families searching for relatives could see them.

Following the uproar, the federal government took over the case.

Gertz Manero said his office would make those pieces of evidence available to those looking for missing relatives. He said the state Human Rights Commission had formally told local authorities about the ranch in 2021, but nothing was apparently done. □



Police stand guard outside the entrance of the Izaguirre Ranch where skeletal remains were discovered in Teuchitlan, Jalisco state, Mexico, March 13, 2025.

Associated Press



Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □



The Shoco Boulevard: Strengthening the protection of our owls



(Oranjestad)—This past Sunday marked another milestone for the Aruba Birdlife Conservation and a win for our local burrowing owls, "Shoco". At Iberostar Joia, ABC inaugurated its second artificial burrows for the shocos that live in that area.



A part of their National Shoco Conservation Plan, this new artificial burrow represents the dedication of both local foundations and stakeholders in Aruba's tourism to deepen cooperation and protect what is most precious on the island: Our wildlife.

The first artificial burrow was installed by ABC back in 2019 in Tiera del Sol. Subsequent-

ly in late 2024, the first owl sanctuary was established there. In this next endeavor for conservation, ABC has plans to collaborate with other hotels and stakeholders on the island to create green corridors or mini-hubs where our local Shocos can live. □

Photo credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

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Moratorium = Higher Condominium Prices

By Alberto Perret Gentil



Just a few weeks into office, the new government has already started to shape the future of Aruba's tourism and real estate landscape. A central piece of their plan is a proposed moratorium on new hotel and condominium developments, particularly in the high-traffic tourist zones. This

aligns with their broader tourism strategy: prioritizing quality over quantity.

However, the door isn't entirely closed. Exceptions are being made for boutique hotels and condo-hotels, especially in downtown Oranjestad and San Nicolas—areas that are ripe for revitalization.

Naturally, when supply is capped while demand continues to grow, prices tend to rise. That's exactly what we're witnessing in the ocean-view condo market. Limited inventory is pushing values up, and as foreigners find fewer condo options, many are turning their eyes toward single-family homes—adding upward pressure on that segment too.

On a macroeconomic note, the Trump tariff is likely to lead to slower growth and higher inflation in the U.S., at least in the short term. This could soften American buying power. But we're also seeing new demand from other countries. Canadian buyers, having cashed out of their South Florida vacation properties at record highs, are increasingly looking to Aruba. Interest from Brazil-



ian and Argentinian investors is also ticking up. It's worth noting: Aruba's real estate remains competitively priced when compared to other Caribbean destinations, especially given its political stability, modern infrastructure, and beach-front access.

All things considered, we remain bullish on Aruba's real estate fundamentals—especially properties near the ocean. The combination of limited supply, solid international interest, and a still-undervalued market makes for an appealing investment outlook.

Just my two cents. □

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!



(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many

ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort

and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren,

Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into

the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

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Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all

bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about

Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still

fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously.

"People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.



Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto.





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Rediscovering Balance: Pal'i Siya Cora

On our small island, balance has always been more than just a concept—it has been a way of life. From the rhythms of the sea and trade winds to the slow, sun-soaked pace of our colonial past, Aruba has long thrived on a delicate harmony between people, nature, and tradition. A blend of indigenous roots and European influence shaped our identity into something wholly unique, yet now increasingly threatened by the pressures of modern life.

Today, we face a crossroads. The same sun that once warmed our ancestors now beats down on overflowing garbage dumps and congested roads. Over-tourism and over-migration have pushed our limited resources to their brink. Biodiversity is declining, traffic snarls our daily lives, and our cultural memory fades beneath the strain of economic growth without ecological or historical stewardship.

In response to these imbalances, we offer a platform rooted in preservation, education, and reconnection.

Our goal is to rediscover and share the true spirit of being an Aruban—through our history, our cultural practices, and our native plants and landscapes that have sustained us for generations.

During this episode we introduce you to a living symbol of both cultural heritage and environmental resilience: *Bursera simaruba*—locally known as Pal'i Siya Cora—is one of the Caribbean's most remarkable native trees. Also called gumbo-limbo, tourist tree, copper wood, almacigo, and chaca, this adaptable species stretches across the Neotropics, from South Florida to Brazil. However, this tree has become very scary on our island due to many adverse man-provoked factors.

Easily recognized by its reddish, peel-

ing bark—likened to sunburned tourists—this tree has long been valued for both its hardiness and its healing properties. It is one of the most wind-tolerant trees in the tropics and thrives in the calcareous, salty soils that dominate Aruba's coastal and dry forest landscapes. Able to grow in degraded soil and withstand long droughts, it plays a vital role in reforestation and erosion control, while its fruit feeds birds and small mammals.

Economically and ecologically useful, *Bursera simaruba* is often used as a living fence post or windbreak for crops and roads. A simple branch planted in fertile soil can grow into a sizable tree in just a few years. In folk medicine, its resin is known to treat inflammation, respiratory conditions, and skin ailments, connecting us once again to ancestral knowledge.

This remarkable tree is a reminder of nature's capacity to adapt and heal—but also of the need to protect the native species that protect us in return.

Etnia Nativa is where Aruba's spirit lives on. To experience the deeper currents of Aruba's heritage, people alike are encouraged to connect with Etnia Nativa, the only living museum of its kind in the Caribbean. Since 1994, Etnia Nativa has stood as a guardian of the island's spiritual and cultural roots. As co-founders of Aruba's National Park and the Archaeological Museum Aruba, and longtime members of several artisan and environmental foundations, our mission is clear: to bridge the past and the present, offering a profound and immersive journey into the heart of Aruba's identity. □

At Etnia Nativa, history is not behind glass. It lives in the stories we tell, the crafts we make, the plants we grow, and the knowledge we share. It is a place where balance—between old and new, nature and culture—is not just taught, but felt.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702 or
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

Don't wait for the last day of your trip to connect with the soul of Aruba. Discover what it truly means to belong to this island, and why the time to act—for our culture, for our nature—is now.



Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple



Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or

uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge



consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine



Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year

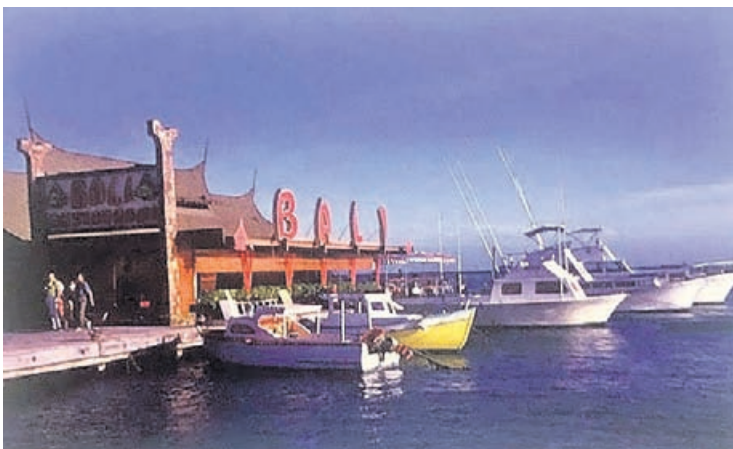
round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis. □

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.

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! □

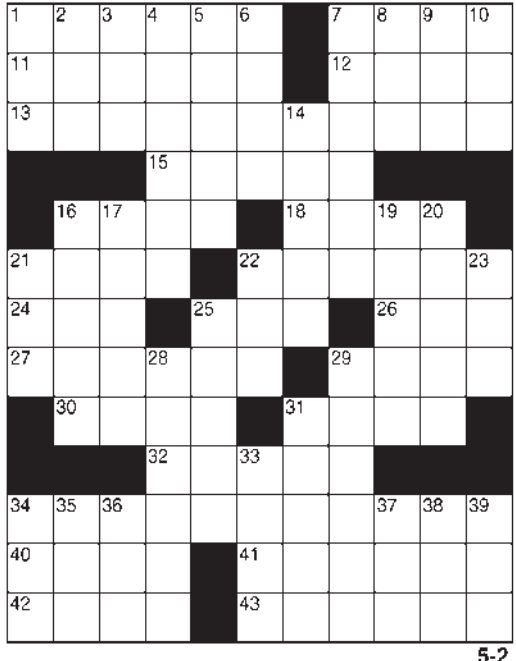
Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.



CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 43 Swift
- 1 Looks forward to
- 7 Labyrinth
- 11 Malay island
- 12 Weary sigh
- 13 Face a difficulty
- 15 Casts a ballot
- 16 Prayer ender
- 18 Turn to slush
- 21 Recipe instruction
- 22 Singer Harry
- 24 Old calamity
- 25 Halloween cry
- 26 Director Spike
- 27 Tickled
- 29 Ore source
- 30 Rigging support
- 31 Wagers
- 32 Fancy parties
- 34 Begin fighting
- 40 Heaps
- 41 "Search me"
- 42 Like lawns in the morning
- DOWN**
- 1 Jackson 5 hit
- 2 Court
- 3 Sleeve filler
- 4 Indignant cry
- 5 Wyo-ming's — Range
- 6 Chimney grime
- 7 Squishy and wet
- 8 Boxing great
- 9 Ray-gun sound
- 10 Snaky shape
- 14 Influence
- 16 Molecule's makeup
- 17 Confusion
- 19 Dole out
- 20 Hoe targets
- 21 Massage setting
- 22 Lawn material
- 23 Notice work
- 25 Floppy top
- 28 Protection knot
- 29 Caron of "Gigi"
- 31 Jazz style
- 33 Heaps
- 34 Scoundrel
- 35 Bullfight cry
- 36 Do a yard job
- 37 Exalted
- 38 Tie the
- 39 Utter

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F E R N M O O
T O O L S H E D
U N D O R A T E D
S T O W S S Y R I A
K O R E A N F U N D
R O O T L E S S
V A T T R I O
A L I T O A W A R E
S T E A M R E C U R
T O R R E A R E N A



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.

5-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

X M A G E H M S V X N D L H G E K T U D .

I X V ! — H G ' C X I D X P G H Q P K

V D X K . — D V D F H K K X S X C C D
Cryptoquote: A PARTY WITHOUT
CAKE IS REALLY JUST A MEETING. — JULIA
CHILD

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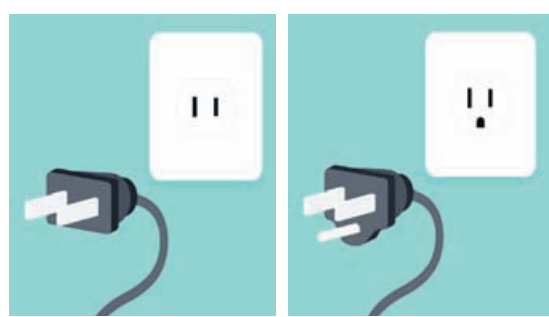
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	22	CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	23	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	24	NORWEGIAN GEM	08.00	20.00	C	1
FRI	25	NORWEGIAN GETAWAY	11.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	27	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	11.59	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	29	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY REFLECTION	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	30	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

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 occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



Amazon is not planning to break out tariff costs online

By **WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS** and **JOSH BOAK**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon says it's not planning to display added tariff costs next to product prices on its site despite a report that sparked speculation the e-commerce giant would soon show the new import charges, and the White House's fiery comments denouncing the purported change.

The Trump administration's reaction appeared to be based on a misinterpretation of internal plans being considered by Amazon, rather than a final decision made by the company. And even those talks were limited.

Only Amazon's Haul service its recently launched, low-cost storefront "considered the idea" of listing import charges on certain products, company spokesperson Tim Doyle said in a statement sent to The Associated Press. But this "was never approved and is not going to happen."

Earlier Tuesday, Punch-bowl News had reported that Amazon planned to start showing how much of each product's cost derived from tariffs "right next to" its total listed price, cit-

ing an anonymous source familiar with the matter. The Trump administration was quick to criticize news of the potential move. □

ARUBA TODAY

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Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
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2 Bed Garden view \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$30,000

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1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

'Nowhere to turn': Small businesses dependent on imports from China are feeling more desperate

By **MAE ANDERSON**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major orders canceled. Containers of products left stranded overseas. No roadmap for what comes next.

The Trump administration raised tariffs on goods from China to 145% in early April. Since then, small business owners who depend on imports from China to survive have become increasingly desperate as they eye dwindling inventory and skyrocketing invoices. President Donald Trump seemed to back down somewhat last week when he said he expected the tariffs to come down "substantially." That helped set off a rally in the stock market. But for small businesses that operate on razor-thin margins, the back and forth is causing massive upheaval. Some say they could be just months from going out of business altogether.

The Massachusetts family-owned game company

Game makers are particularly susceptible to the tariffs since the majority of games and toys sold in the U.S. are made in China, according to The Toy Association.

WS Game Co., based in Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts, is a family-owned business that licenses Hasbro board games like Monopoly, Candy Land and Scrabble and creates deluxe versions of them. Its most popular line of games come in boxes that look like vintage books and sell for \$40.

The company's games were featured in Oprah's Favorite Things list in 2024 and sold in 14,000 stores in North America, from big national chains to mom-and-pop stores, said owner Jonathan Silva, whose father founded the company in 2000.

All of WS Game's production is done in China. The tariffs have brought the past 25 years of healthy growth to a screeching halt.

Over the past three weeks, WS Game has had three containers of finished

games, worth \$500,000, House offers mid-range ar- nearly 18 years and sells tea



Owner Lisa McDonald packages loose leaf tea orders at the TeaHaus Thursday, April 24, 2025, in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Associated Press

stranded in China. It lost orders from three of the largest U.S. retailers totaling \$16 million in business. And there's not much Silva can do about it.

"As a small business, we don't have the runway or the capabilities to move manufacturing on a whim," said Silva, who has 22 employees. He said the tariffs have "disrupted our business and put us on the verge of insolvency" and estimates he has about a four-month runway to stay afloat if nothing changes. "We're really hoping that cooler heads prevail," he said.

Artificial flowers in Kentucky

Jeremy Rice co-owns House, a home-décor shop in Lexington, Kentucky, that specializes in artificial flower arrangements for the home. About 90% of the flowers his business uses are made in China.

Rice uses dozens of vendors. The largest are absorbing some of the cost of the tariffs and passing on the rest. One vendor is raising prices by 20% and another 25%. But Rice is expecting smaller vendors to increase prices by much higher percentages.

tificial flowers. A large hydrangea head will retail for \$10 to \$16, for example. China is the only place that manufacturers higher quality silk flowers. It would take a vendor years to open a factory in a different country or move production somewhere else, Rice said. Rice ordered his holiday décor early this year. But even after stocking up ahead of the tariffs, he only has enough everyday floral inventory in to last two to three months.

"After that, I don't know what we're going to do," he said.

Rice is concerned that the trade war will wipe out a bunch of mom-and-pop stores, similar to what happened in the Great Recession and the pandemic.

"There's nowhere to turn, there's nothing to do," he said.

Tea in Michigan

A tea shop in a Michigan college town is also caught in the middle of the ongoing tariff fight.

"It's basically just put a big pit in my stomach," said Lisa McDonald, owner of TeaHaus, located in Ann Arbor, home to the University of Michigan. McDonald has owned TeaHaus for

to customers across the U.S. Americans drank about 86 billion servings of tea in 2024, according to the Tea Association of the U.S.A.. Almost all of that is imported since tea isn't grown in the U.S. at scale, due to factors ranging from climate to cost.

McDonald imports loose-leaf tea from China, India, Kenya, Sri Lanka and other countries.

She says her customer base is "from all over the U.S. and the world." But she worries there is a limit to what they'll spend. Her premium teas can cost up to \$33 for a 50-gram bag.

"I don't think I can charge \$75 for a 50-gram bag of tea, no matter how amazing that tea is," she said.

McDonald understands Trump's rationale for wanting to use tariffs to spur U.S. manufacturing but says it doesn't apply to the tea industry.

"We can't grow tea in the U.S. to the extent that we need. We can't just flip the industry and 'make tea great again' in America. It just can't happen," she said.

Car accessories in Oklahoma

Jim Umlauf's business,

4Knines, based in Oklahoma City, makes vehicle seat covers and cargo liners for dog owners and others. To do so, he needs raw materials such as fabric, coatings and components from China.

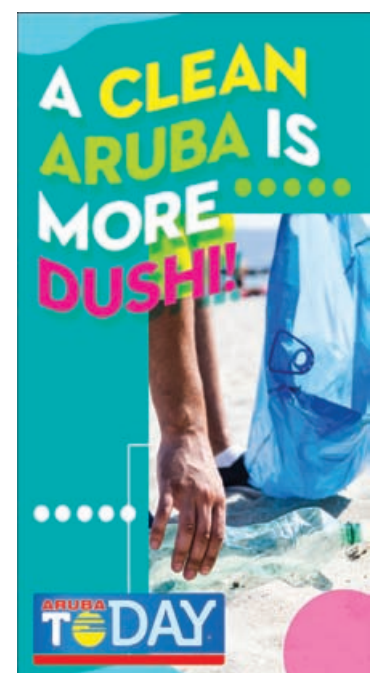
Umlauf has explored manufacturing in countries other than China since 2018, when Trump first instituted a 25% tariff on goods from China, but has run into complications. In the meantime, 4Knines absorbs the extra cost, which Umlauf says has limited its growth and squeezed its margins.

Now, the new tariffs make it nearly impossible to do business. The demand is there, but the company can't afford to bring over more products.

"We only have a limited amount of inventory left, and without some relief, we'll run out soon," Umlauf said.

As a small business owner who has worked hard to develop a high-quality brand, create jobs and contribute to the community, Umlauf is frustrated. He has tried to contact the White House and other decision-makers to ask for small business support. But he's gotten zero response.

"It's time for policymakers to consider the full impact of trade policies not just on stock prices or global competitiveness, but on the real people running small businesses," he said. □





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SETAR

Rob Manfred says he discussed Pete Rose's status with Donald Trump and will rule on reinstatement

By JAKE SEINER
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said he discussed Pete Rose with President Donald Trump at a meeting two weeks ago and he plans to rule on a request to end the sport's permanent ban of the career hits leader, who died in September.

Speaking Monday at a meeting of the Associated Press Sports Editors, Manfred said he and Trump have discussed several issues, including Manfred's concerns over how Trump's immigration policies could impact players from Cuba, Venezuela and other foreign countries. Manfred is considering a petition to have Rose posthumously removed from MLB's permanently ineligible list. The petition was filed in January by Jeffrey Lenkov, a Southern California lawyer who represented Rose prior to the 17-time All-Star's death at age 83. "I met with President Trump two weeks ago,



MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred speaks at the SBJ CAA World Congress of Sport, Tuesday, April 22, 2025, in Nashville, Tenn.

I guess now, and one of the topics was Pete Rose, but I'm not going beyond that," Manfred said. "He's said what he said publicly, I'm not going beyond that in terms of what the back

and forth was." Trump posted on social media Feb. 28 that he plans to issue "a complete PARDON of Pete Rose." Trump posted on Truth Social that Rose "shouldn't have been

gambling on baseball, but only bet on HIS TEAM WINNING." It's unclear what a presidential pardon might include. Trump did not specifically mention a tax case in which Rose pleaded

guilty in 1990 to two counts of filing false tax returns and served a five-month prison sentence.

The president said he would sign a pardon for Rose "over the next few weeks" but has not addressed the matter since.

Rose had 4,256 hits and also holds records for games (3,562) and plate appearances (15,890). He was the 1973 National League MVP and played on three World Series winners.

An investigation for MLB by lawyer John M. Dowd found Rose placed numerous bets on the Cincinnati Reds to win from 1985-87 while playing for and managing the team. Rose agreed with MLB on a permanent ban in 1989.

Lenkov is seeking Rose's reinstatement so that he can be considered for the Hall of Fame. Under a rule adopted by the Hall's board of directors in 1991, anyone on the permanently ineligible list can't be considered for election to the Hall. □

Associated Press

USA Volleyball tabs 3-time Olympic medalist April Ross to head beach coach with L.A. Games looming

By JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

USA Volleyball has named three-time Olympic medalist April Ross as head of coaching for the beach national teams, turning to one of the country's most successful beach volleyball players after the Americans had their first-ever medal shut-out in Paris. The national governing body said the southern California native will work to improve the performance of "our top American athletes on the international stage" as it looks ahead to hosting the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

"I'm honored to join USA Volleyball in this new role and look forward to working with our coaches and athletes to continue the legacy of success on the international stage," Ross said. "I've always believed in

the power of collaboration, and I'm excited to be part of a team that shares that vision."

Ross, 42, won a silver medal in London, a bronze in Rio de Janeiro and a gold medal in Tokyo with three different partners; she also won back-to-back NCAA indoor volleyball titles at Southern California.

"April brings a unique combination of elite-level experience, deep technical knowledge, and a passion for mentoring," said Sean Scott, director of beach national teams. "She's competed at the highest levels and understands what it takes to succeed. I'm excited to work alongside her as we continue to build a world-class coaching culture that supports our athletes' growth and prepares them to win at the highest level." □



April Ross, of the United States, dives for the ball during a women's beach volleyball Gold Medal match against Australia at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Friday, Aug. 6, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.

Associated Press

Elliott to celebrate NAPA's 100th anniversary with gold car. Credits company for his NASCAR career

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

Chase Elliott, son of a NASCAR Hall of Famer and the sport's most popular driver, has 19 career Cup Series wins and championship titles in both the Cup and Xfinity Series.

But if not for one critical partnership, Elliott is convinced he may not have ever made it as a professional racer.

That pairing is with sponsor NAPA Auto Parts, which this Sunday will celebrate its 100th year as a company with gold cars at Texas Motor Speedway to commemorate its anniversary. NAPA joined Elliott in 2014 when he raced in the Xfinity



This image provided by Hendrick Motorsports shows a gold car Chase Elliott will run at Texas Motor Speedway in honor of Napa's 100th anniversary.

Associated Press

ity Series for JR Motorsports and has been his primary sponsor ever since.

NAPA was his primary sponsor in the races where he clinched his Xfinity and Cup championships, and for all but six of his Cup Series wins. If not for the company taking a chance on the then-18-year-old son of Bill Elliott, he's not sure what path his career might have taken.

"NAPA has defined my entire career, I've said it a lot," Elliott told The Associated Press. "I've tried to express my appreciation for them, but if they don't come on board, I don't think 2014 happens. You're essentially looking at the Xfinity championship never happening. We were going to run a handful of races had NAPA not signed on.

We were talking about a part-time season and going full-time wasn't going to be possible without that money, without that deal coming. So, yeah, it was more than a little career defining."

Although NAPA is a 100-year old company, its involvement in race car sponsorships didn't begin until 2001 when it joined Dale Earnhardt Inc. with Michael Waltrip. Waltrip won his debut race with the brand the Daytona 500 in which Earnhardt was killed on the final lap.

NAPA stayed with Waltrip through his time at DEI and then moved with him when he started his own team. The brand then shifted to Michael Waltrip Racing driver Martin Truex Jr., but cut its ties after MWR was involved in a 2013 late-season cheating scandal.

That made the company available for a new NASCAR driver and settled on unproven Elliott, who is from Georgia, where NAPA is headquartered.

Jeff Gordon, now vice chairman at Hendrick Motorsports, wasn't involved in Rick Hendrick's courtship of turning NAPA into the largest supplier of Hendrick Automotive and also a NASCAR sponsor. □



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