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NPR sues Trump administration over executive order to cut federal funding to public media

By **DAVID BAUDER**
AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — National Public Radio and three of its local stations sued President Donald Trump on Tuesday, arguing that his executive order cutting funding to the 246-station network violates their free speech and relies on an authority that he does not have.

Earlier this month, Trump instructed the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and federal agencies to cease funding for NPR and PBS, either directly or indirectly. The president and his supporters argue their news reporting promotes liberal bias and shouldn't be supported by taxpayers.

Retaliation is Trump's plain purpose, the lawsuit argues. It was filed in federal court in Washington by NPR and three Colorado entities Colorado Public Radio, Aspen Public Radio and KUTE, Inc., chosen to show



The headquarters for National Public Radio (NPR) is seen in Washington, April 15, 2013.

Associated Press

the system's diversity in urban and rural areas.

"By basing its directives on the substance of NPR's programming, the executive order seeks to force

NPR to adapt its journalistic standards and editorial choices to the preferences of the government if it is to continue to receive federal funding," Katherine Maher,

NPR's CEO, said Tuesday. Lawsuit says Trump is targeting a private nonprofit corporation. The lawsuit alleges that Trump is acting to contra-

vene the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, a private nonprofit corporation set up to distribute federal funding to NPR and PBS, which is intended to insulate the system from political interference. Congress has appropriated \$535 million yearly to CPB for 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In response to the lawsuit, White House deputy press secretary Harrison Fields said that CPB "is creating media to support a particular political party on the taxpayers' dime," so Trump was exercising his authority under the law. "The president was elected with a mandate to ensure efficient use of taxpayer dollars, and he will continue to use his lawful authority to achieve that objective," Fields said.

Trump hasn't hidden his feelings about NPR, calling it a "liberal disinformation machine" in an April social media post. □

Vessel's implosion can be heard on new video from expedition to Titanic wreckage



Debris from the Titan submersible, recovered from the ocean floor near the wreck of the Titanic, is unloaded from the ship Horizon Arctic at the Canadian Coast Guard pier in St. John's, Newfoundland, Wednesday, June 28, 2023.

Associated Press

By **HOLLY RAMER**
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — U.S. Coast Guard officials investigating the disappearance of an experimental submersible on its way to the Titanic wreckage in 2023 have released video recorded aboard its support ship from the moment the sound of its implosion reached the ocean's surface. The Titan vanished June 18, 2023, on its way to the wreck of the Titanic in the North Atlantic Ocean, setting off a five-day search that ended with authorities saying all five passengers had died when the vessel imploded.

On board were Stockton Rush, CEO of the company that built the Titan, along with British explorer Hamish Harding, veteran French diver Paul Henri Nargeolet, British-Pakistani businessman Shahzada Dawood

and his 19-year-old son, Suleman.

The implosion sparked international debate about the future of private deep-sea travel and an ongoing Coast Guard investigation. After holding public hearings in September, the Coast Guard last week released a two-and-a-half minute video showing Rush's wife, Wendy Rush, and an OceanGate employee monitoring the submersible's descent from the Polar Prince support ship.

The video shows Wendy Rush and Gary Foss sitting in front of a computer. After a faint sound like a closing door, Rush asks, "What was that bang?"

The Coast Guard says it believes it was the sound of the Titan's implosion reaching the surface of the ocean.

About 2 minutes later, Foss says, "We've lost tracking." □

COVID vaccines are no longer recommended for healthy children and pregnant women, Kennedy says

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. on Tuesday announced that COVID-19 vaccines are no longer recommended for healthy children and pregnant women a move immediately questioned by several public health experts. In a 58-second video posted on the social media site X, Kennedy said he removed COVID-19 shots from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recommendations for those groups. No one from the CDC was in the video, and CDC officials referred questions about the announcement to Kennedy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

No other details were released, and HHS officials did not immediately respond to questions about how the decision was made.

Some doctors and public health leaders called the move concerning and confusing.

"There's no new data or information, just them flying by the seat of their pants," said Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy.

U.S. health officials, following recommendations by infectious disease experts, have been urging annual COVID-19 boosters for all Americans ages 6 months and older.

The idea of changing the recommendations is not completely out of the blue. As the COVID-19 pandemic has waned, experts have increasingly discussed the possibility of focusing vaccination efforts on people 65 and older who are among those most at risk for death and hospitalization.

A CDC advisory panel is set to meet in June to make recommendations about the fall shots. Among its options are suggesting shots for high-risk groups but still



Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., left, and Education Secretary Linda McMahon attend a Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission Event in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, May 22, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

giving lower-risk people the choice to get vaccinated. But Kennedy, a leading anti-vaccine advocate before becoming health secretary, decided not to wait for the scientific panel's review.

He said that annual COVID-19 booster shots have been recommended for kids "despite the lack of any clinical data" to support that decision.

Some physicians and public health leaders expressed concern that HHS officials disregarded a scientific review process that has been in place for decades, in which experts in public meetings review current medical evidence and hash out the pros and cons of policy changes.

"It's a dangerous precedent. If you can start doing that with this vaccine, you can start doing that with any vaccine you want including mumps-measles-rubella," said Osterholm, referring to another vaccine that Kennedy has voiced doubts about.

He and others said the announcement raises an array of questions, including whether health insurance companies will keep covering COVID-19 vaccinations and how hard it will be now for people who want the shots to get them. "The reason we give vac-

cines to healthy people is to keep them safe," said Dr. Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.

More than 1.2 million people have died in the U.S. from COVID-19, most of them elderly. But children haven't been spared: The coronavirus has been the underlying cause in more than 1,300 childhood deaths since the pandemic began, according to CDC data.

Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr. Marty Makary and Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, head of the National Institutes of Health, appeared in the video with Kennedy. □

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A second crypto investor is charged with kidnapping and torturing a man in a posh NYC townhouse

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A second cryptocurrency investor surrendered to police Tuesday in the alleged kidnapping of a man who said he was tortured for weeks inside an upscale Manhattan townhouse by captors seeking the password to his Bitcoin account.

William Duplessie, 32, faces charges of kidnapping, assault, unlawful imprisonment and criminal possession of a weapon, according to police.

His arrest comes four days after the alleged victim a 28-year-old Italian national escaped, bloodied and barefoot, from a lavish townhouse where he said he had been severely beaten, drugged, shocked with electrical wires and threatened with death for nearly three weeks.

On Friday morning, shortly after the man's escape, the crypto investor John Woeltz, 37, was taken into



William Duplessie, right, is escorted out of the New York Police 13th Precinct after turning himself in on charges of kidnapping and false imprisonment, Tuesday, May 27, 2025, in New York.

Associated Press

custody and charged in the alleged kidnapping scheme.

Attorneys for Duplessie and Woeltz declined requests for comment.

The episode comes amid a

spike in crypto theft, including a recent wave of violence directed at wealthy holders of digital currency.

Both Duplessie and Woeltz appear to be entrepreneurs focused on crypto-

currency. In online profiles, Duplessie is listed as the co-founder and head of sourcing at Pangea Blockchain Fund and an investor in other blockchain-based companies. An email seek-

ing comment was sent to Pangea.

Woeltz has described himself in interviews as a blockchain investor who spent time in Silicon Valley before becoming involved in Kentucky's burgeoning crypto-mining industry.

Authorities said Duplessie and Woeltz lured the victim into an eight-bedroom townhouse in Manhattan's Soho neighborhood, one of the most expensive in the city, on May 6 to steal his Bitcoin fortune.

Over the next 17 days, the man told police he was bound by the wrists, shocked with electrical wires, pistol-whipped, cut on the leg with a saw and forced to smoke from a crack pipe. At one point, he said, he was dangled from the home's top flight of stairs.

Believing he would soon be killed, the victim said he agreed Friday morning to give the men access to the password. □

Judge temporarily blocks Trump from retaliating against New York over congestion toll

By PHILIP MARCELO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge in New York has temporarily prevented President Donald Trump from retaliating against the state over its Manhattan congestion toll.

Judge Lewis Liman on Tuesday issued a temporary restraining order blocking the federal government from withholding federal funds or taking other punitive actions against the state at least until June 9 while he weighs a lawsuit the state has filed against the federal government to keep the toll in place.

The toll on drivers entering the busiest part of Manhattan was approved under former President Joe Biden, but has been strongly opposed by Trump, a native New Yorker whose namesake Trump Tower and other properties are within the congestion zone.

The Republican administration rescinded federal approval in February, prompting the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the state agency overseeing the tolls, to challenge the decision.

In recent months, Trump officials have issued three ultimatums to New York, even

threatening to pull funding and approvals for transportation projects.

But New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has said the state will continue collecting the toll until a judge orders it to stop.

The Democrat touted Tuesday's ruling, which came after Liman heard argu-

ments from both sides in Manhattan federal court, as a "massive victory" for New York commuters.

"New Yorkers deserve to control our own traffic patterns, keep gridlock off our streets and protect our clean air," Hochul said in a statement.

"We need to make the massive investments necessary to support our transit system and prevent it from falling into disarray and disrepair. Congestion pricing is the right solution to get us there."

Halee Dobbins, a spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Transportation, said the administration will comply with the court order, stressing the judge's decision is only temporary and not on the merits of the case itself.

"We look forward to making our case in court against Hochul's illegal tolls as we work to protect working-

class Americans from being unfairly charged to go to work, see their families, or visit the city," she said.

The toll started in January and generally imposes \$9 on drivers entering Manhattan south of Central Park, though it varies depending on the kind of vehicle and time of day.

New York officials say the program is already helping to reduce traffic and will eventually pump billions of dollars into its subways, commuter trains and public buses.

Suburban commuters have pushed back against the toll, though, because it comes on top of existing ones for crossing bridges and tunnels into the city.

London, Stockholm and other big cities around the world have long had similar fees to reduce traffic congestion in their central business districts. □



Signs advising drivers of congestion pricing tolls are displayed near the exit of the Lincoln Tunnel in New York, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025.

Associated Press

Russia seizes Ukrainian border villages as its bombing campaign slows

By **KATIE MARIE DAVIES**
Associated Press

Russian forces have taken four border villages in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region, a local official said Tuesday, days after Russian President Vladimir Putin said he had ordered troops to establish a buffer zone along the border. Sumy borders Russia's Kursk region, where a surprise Ukrainian incursion last year captured a pocket of land in the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II. The long border is vulnerable to Ukrainian incursions, Putin said, and creating a buffer zone could help Russia prevent further cross-border attacks there. Meanwhile, a Russian bombing campaign that had escalated in recent days slowed overnight, with far fewer Russian drones targeting Ukrainian towns and cities. Moscow's invasion has shown no signs of stopping despite months of intense U.S.-led efforts to secure a ceasefire and get traction for peace talks. Since Russian and Ukrainian delegations met in Turkey on May 16 for their first direct talks in three years, a large prisoner exchange has been the only tangible



In this photo provided by Ukraine's 65th Mechanized Brigade press service, Ukrainian servicemen attend a military training in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine, Monday, May 26, 2025.

Associated Press

outcome, but negotiations have brought no significant breakthrough. The U.S. special envoy to Ukraine, Keith Kellogg, said Putin has not yet delivered a promised memorandum that the Russian leader told U.S. President Donald Trump in a phone call on May 19 would outline the framework for a possible peace agreement. The Kremlin has also ruled out the Vatican as a venue for negotiations, he said. "We would have liked to

have it at the Vatican and we were pretty set to do something like that, but the Russians didn't want to go there ... so I think Geneva may be the next stop," Kellogg told the Fox News Channel. Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said his country also was ready to host another round of peace talks. Between Friday and Sunday, Russia launched about 900 drones at Ukraine, officials said, amid a spate

of large-scale bombardments. On Sunday night, Russia launched its biggest drone attack of the 3-year-old war, firing 355 drones. From Monday to Tuesday, Russia fired 60 drones at Ukraine, the Ukrainian air force said. Russia's Defense Ministry said its defenses downed 99 Ukrainian drones overnight over seven Russian regions. The weekend surge in Russian bombardments drew a rebuke from Trump, who said Putin had gone "cra-

zy." That comment brought a sharp Kremlin reaction Monday, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov criticizing "emotional reactions" to events. He took a milder tone Tuesday, hailing U.S. peace efforts and saying that "the Americans and President Trump have taken a quite balanced approach." But Trump kept up the rhetorical pressure, saying in a social media post that Putin was "playing with fire!" "What Vladimir Putin doesn't realize is that if it weren't for me, lots of really bad things would have already happened to Russia, and I mean REALLY BAD," he said. In Sumy, Russian forces are trying to advance deeper after capturing villages, said Oleh Hryhorov, head of the Sumy regional military administration. Ukrainian forces are trying to hold the line, he said, adding that residents of the villages were evacuated earlier, and there is no immediate threat to civilians. Putin visited the Kursk region last week for the first time since Moscow claimed last month that it drove Ukrainian forces out of the area where they captured land last August. □

South Africa denies trying to bend the rules to give Musk's Starlink preferential treatment

By **MICHELLE GUMEDE**
Associated Press
JOHANNESBURG (AP) — South Africa's communications minister Tuesday denied accusations that a draft policy watering down Black ownership requirements for tech firms was proposed to benefit the Starlink business of white South African-born billionaire Elon Musk. Under South African law, foreign-owned companies are required to sell 30% of their subsidiaries to shareholders who are Black, or from other racial groups disadvantaged under the former apartheid system of white minority rule, in

order to acquire a license. However, Communications Minister Solly Malatsi on Friday proposed easing the requirement, prompting criticism from various political parties. The proposed change would allow Starlink and others to fulfill their empowerment requirements through things like investing in skills development and job programs and striking deals with local suppliers. The minister put forward the directive days after South African President Cyril Ramaphosa met with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House,

when Trump made baseless claims that white South African farmers were being systematically killed, raising eyebrows. A senior African National Congress lawmaker, Khusela Diko, questioned the timing of the directive and whether the country was bending over backward to accommodate Musk's Starlink satellite telecom business. The Association of Communications and Technology (ACT), an industry body, said the proposed changes could usher in "a new era" for the industry provided they are implemented consistently, fairly

and openly. "We advocate for smarter, scalable approaches that deliver meaningful impact

and restore policy clarity, consistency, and investor confidence," the ACT said in a statement. □



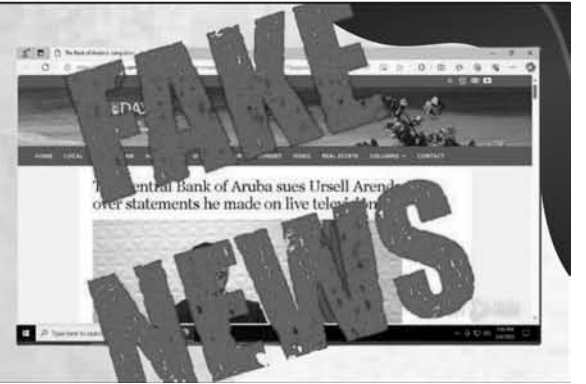
Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk speaks at the SATELLITE Conference and Exhibition, March 9, 2020, in Washington.

Associated Press

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Australia's new youngest senator elected at 21 with unexpected win

By **ROD McGUIRK**
Associated Press

A woman who turned 21 on the day of Australia's federal election in May has been declared the nation's youngest ever senator.

And like many female candidates who run for election in Australia, Charlotte Walker wasn't expected to win.

The former union official won the governing center-left Labor Party's third Senate seat for South Australia state in a complicated rank order voting system. A party's third choice rarely wins. She had the lowest vote count of the six newly elected senators for the state. The Australian Electoral Commission officially declared the poll Tuesday.

The new job will be a "big adjustment," said Walker, who starts her six-year term July 1. A federal law-



In this image made from video, newly elected Australian Senator Charlotte Walker speaks during an interview with Australian Broadcasting Corp., in Adelaide, Australia, Monday, May 26, 2025.
Associated Press

maker's base salary is more than 205,000 Australian dol-

lars (\$133,000) annually.

"There's a few feelings.

Obviously, there's a lot of pressure," Walker told Aus-

tralian Broadcasting Corp. after the results were announced late Monday.

"I want to do a good job for South Australians, but I also want to show young people, particularly young women, that this is achievable and this is something that they can do also. I'm also really excited. Not many people my age get to ... go to Canberra and have the ability to contribute in the way that I will," she added.

Previous young lawmakers Before Walker, the youngest senator was Jordon Steele-John of the Greens party, who was elected for Western Australia state in 2017 at the age of 23.

Australia's youngest-ever federal lawmaker was Wyatt Roy, who was elected to the House of Representatives in 2010 at the age of 20. □

Dutch intelligence agencies say Russian hackers stole police data in cyberattack

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press
THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — A previously unknown Russian hacker

group with suspected ties to the Kremlin was responsible for a cyberattack last year on the Dutch police and has also targeted

other Western nations that deliver military support to Ukraine, intelligence agencies announced Tuesday. The agencies said in a report that the group, which they called Laundry Bear, is actively trying to steal sensitive data from European Union and NATO countries and is "extremely likely Russian state supported."

"Laundry Bear is after information about the purchase and production of military equipment by Western governments and Western deliveries of weapons to Ukraine," Vice Adm. Peter Reesink, director of the military intelligence agency MIVD, said in a statement.

There was no immediate comment from Moscow

on the report.

The Netherlands has been a strong supporter of Ukraine's war effort since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022 and has given military equipment, including F-16 fighter jets to Kyiv.

The Russian hackers broke into a police account and accessed work-related contact details of all Dutch police officers in September last year, in a cyberattack that sent shockwaves through the force.

The Dutch intelligence agencies published a detailed analysis of methods used by the hacker group to break into computer networks and cloud services.

Erik Akerboom, chief of

the domestic intelligence agency AIVD, said that outlining the group's work means that "not only governments, but also manufacturers, suppliers and other targets can arm themselves against this form of espionage. This limits Laundry Bear's chances of success and digital networks can be better protected."

The attack discovered in the Netherlands is one of a growing number around the world.

Last week, the U.S. National Security Agency said that hackers working for Russian military intelligence targeted Western technology and logistics companies involved in shipping assistance to Ukraine. □



Erik Akerboom, director-general of the Dutch General Intelligence and Security Service, AIVD, attends a press conference in Zoetermeer, Netherlands, Tuesday, April 23, 2024.

Associated Press



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Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!

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

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

Hi! Bye!

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

The word "con" in Papi-

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

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

Greetings during the day

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

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to

"afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

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

Thanks man...

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



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Aruba Today on break for Ascension Day

(Oranjestad)—The Aruba Today team would like to inform our dearest readers that Aruba Today will be not published tomorrow, April 29th, in connection with the Ascension Day holiday.

We will be back on your newspaper stands Friday, April 30th.

We thank you dear reader for your understanding and apologize for any inconvenience. □



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Fred de Jong presents the Aruba Frank Sinatra Show live at The Cinemas



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York – New York" and more! Sing along to some of Sinatra's rendition of classic Christmas songs and take in the experience in The Cinemas VIP lounging theater for only \$40 per person.

De Jong invites you to be a part of

a classy, beautiful evening of jazzy swing classics each Thursday from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM at The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia. Seating is limited.

Book your seat now at arubasinatra.com/book. Food and drink not included.



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).

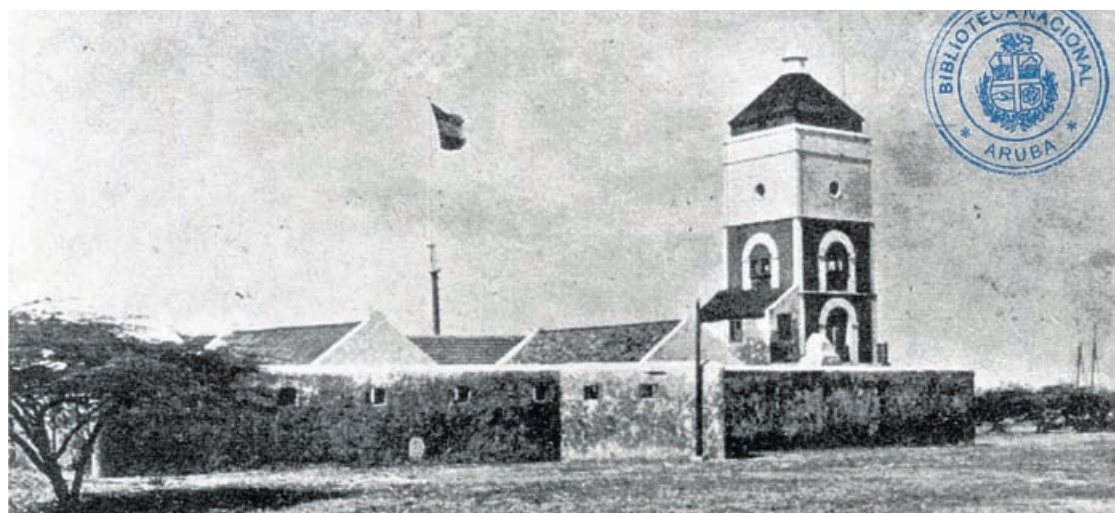
Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For

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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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

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

tively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

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

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Jon & Mrs. Cheri Grinberg from Parlin New Jersey, United States.

Distinguished Visitor

Mr. Anthony Grinberg from Topsfield Massachusetts, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott's Aruba

Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

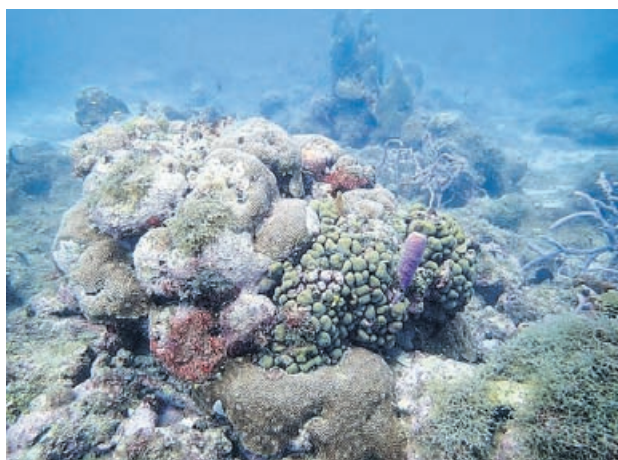
- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's restaurants.
- Aruba is safe.
- "The ability to have fun and do anything we want"

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

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from



the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an



incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □



Article by Etnia Nativa

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



White Clay and Ancestral Voices: Reclaiming Aruba's Cultural Soul

Episode CCCV-305

The narrative presented by Etnia Nativa—which translates to “Native Ethnicity”—emphasizes the importance of reclaiming the island’s cultural identity and heritage, often overshadowed by colonial history. The organization actively promotes the value of rediscovering native traditions, history, and identity, while encouraging a shift away from colonial legacies and toward cultural self-empowerment.

In this episode, we explore the origins of small white cylindrical fragments discovered during archaeological expeditions across various parts of our island. If you're involved in fieldwork or archaeology, you're likely to encounter many pale or white objects—some made from fish bones, shells, porcelain, or white clay.

Among these are materials used in the making of quipira, shell buttons with one or more holes, traditionally used for body ornamentation. These have been found at major Ceramic Period sites such as Savaneta, Sta. Cruz, and Tanki Flip. Such fragments help archaeologists date and contextualize excavation sites. Other small artifacts, including white perforated cylindrical tubes, also appear frequently. These are remnants from a different period in the island’s history and once formed part of the so-called Gouda pipes—white ceramic tobacco pipes widely used during the Dutch colonial era. Imported from the Netherlands beginning in the 17th century, they were manufactured in the city of Gouda, a major production hub. Though elegant, these pipes were fragile and prone to clogging with tobacco, leading users to discard them in commonly frequented areas. Today, their fragments serve as valuable historical clues. The concept of these pipes originally came from England and was brought to the Netherlands by English refugees, mercenaries, and craftsmen in the early 1600s. The first recorded reference to Dutch pipe making dates to 1611, involving a legal dispute between English pipe makers in Amsterdam.



Gouda pipes were made from fine white clay known as pijpaarde, or “pipe earth,” sourced from riverbeds such as the Thames in England and the Rhine and Maas in the Netherlands. Many of these pipes bear maker’s marks, which provide archaeologists with insights into their date and place of manufacture. These marks—typically embossed or engraved—were usually found on the base of the heel and fall into three categories: figural marks, letter marks, and number marks. By the late seventeenth century, a second branding method emerged in Gouda: embossed or relief marks on the side of the pipe bowl. These “side-mark” pipes, often made with shorter stems, were typically intended for peasant use. While the letter and num-

ber combinations are less visually compelling, the figural designs—depicting people, animals, and objects—are often quite striking.

The study of these artifacts has opened important avenues of archaeological research on both sides of the Atlantic. Researchers analyze the style and shape of the pipe bowl, the diameter of the stem, and the location and design of the maker’s mark.

Fragments of these pipes can still be found in areas like Alto Vista, Wela, and Balashi. Intriguingly, some of these broken pieces were later repurposed by indigenous communities into chokers and other decorative items, giving them a second life in local material culture. □



If you enjoyed reading our ancestral stories and are interested in learning more about the true identity of the Aruban people, we invite you to visit Etnia Nativa—the only living museum of its kind in the Caribbean. A fascinating destination and cultural trendsetter since 1994, Etnia Nativa has contributed to the founding of Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum of Aruba, and various artisan foundations, among other voluntary initiatives.

Etnia Nativa offers a unique experience that connects visitors with the spirit and soul of the island’s ancient heritage.

WhatsApp 297 592 2702
or etnianativa03@gmail.com

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

(Oranjestad)—Safe driving is an important part of any (off) road trip. That is why we want to offer you tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba. Today, we'll take a look at traffic signs.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum

speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may in-

crease your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily in-

habited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba.

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

CROSSWORD

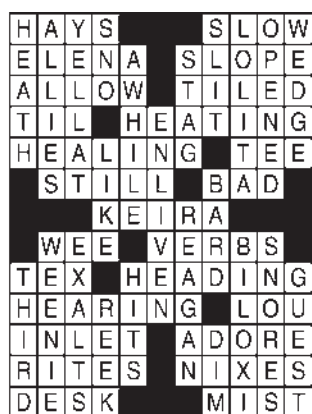
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

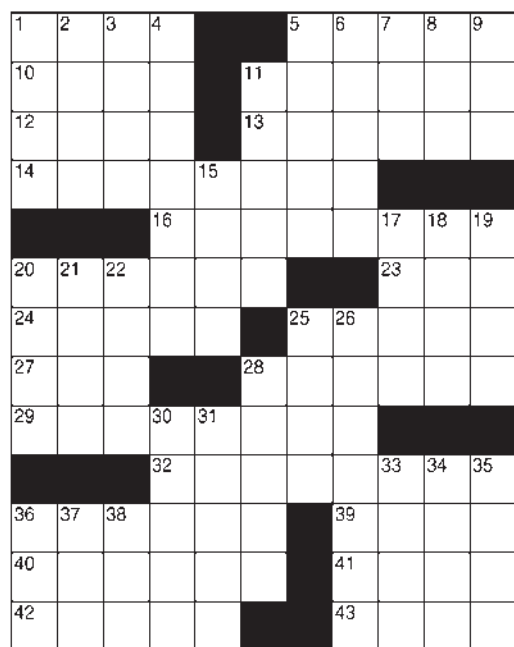
- 1 Weary word
- 5 Record company
- 10 River sediment
- 11 Greet a superior
- 12 Concept
- 13 Royal heir
- 14 Spiky flower
- 16 Bright flower
- 20 Optimally
- 23 Mine material
- 24 Strata
- 25 Spills the beans
- 27 Count start
- 28 Eye parts
- 29 Showy flower
- 32 Spring flower
- 36 Stand up to
- 39 Marine predator
- 40 Cave sounds
- 41 Strong smell
- 42 Frost creations
- 43 Flank

DOWN

- 1 "In your dreams!"



- 2 Beach resort
- 3 Baseball's Rodriguez
- 4 React to a punch
- 5 Tadpole, e.g.
- 6 Saucer pilot
- 7 Frank holder
- 8 List-shortening abbr.
- 9 Writer Harper
- 11 Cricket or crew
- 15 Minus
- 17 Charged particles
- 18 Goad
- 19 Base meal
- 20 Physics bit
- 21 Turner of music
- 22 Keg contents
- 25 Egotist's focus
- 26 Not alfresco
- 28 Barn areas
- 30 Figure of speech
- 31 Nebula makeup
- 33 Zwei follower
- 34 Tea type
- 35 Ontario, for one
- 36 Workout unit
- 37 Green prefix
- 38 That lady



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.

6-1

CRYPTOQUOTE

SRLRP RFONMGS — XDTP
YPGRSAK AD SDH SRRA GH
MSA XDTP RSRWGRK CDS'H
QRNGRLR XDT MSXCMX.
— RNQRPH VTQQMPA

Cryptoquote: EVERYTHING
YOU'RE SURE IS RIGHT CAN BE WRONG IN
ANOTHER PLACE. — BARBARA KINGSOLVER

Cruise ship Schedule: May 20 - 30 2025

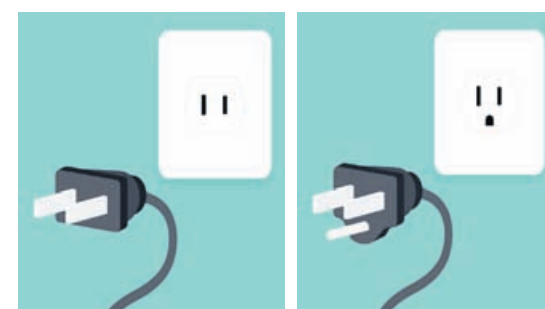
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	20	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	21	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	25	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	27	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	28	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
FRI	30	ISLAND PRINCESS	07.00	18.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of 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.



10 sources of emergency cash, ranked from best to worst



This Oct. 24, 2016 file photo shows dollar bills in New York.
Associated Press

Christine Benz of Morningstar

If unanticipated expenses exceed your emergency fund, here's a look at where to go next.

1. Your own emergency fund/short-term securities
Emergency funds should be held outside of tax-sheltered wrappers and include highly liquid investments like bank savings accounts, money market accounts, and so on.

2. Low-risk assets in taxable account

Next, look at other taxable holdings: investments in brokerage accounts, outside the confines of tax-sheltered vehicles.

When identifying possible securities that you could sell to raise funds, focus on liquidity, tax consequences, and any commissions

you'll owe.

3. Roth IRA contributions
It's never great to tap your retirement assets unless you absolutely need to, but the Roth IRA offers more flexibility and has fewer strings attached than other tax-sheltered retirement vehicles.

Specifically, you can withdraw any Roth IRA contributions at any time, without incurring penalties or tax but you'll have fewer retirement funds working for you.

4. Life insurance cash values
Cash values that have built up in your whole life insurance or variable universal life insurance policy can be another decent source of emergency cash. You can withdraw money outright and have it deducted

from your policy's face value.

Another possibility is to borrow from the cash value of your life insurance. You'll owe interest on the loan, and these rates can be reasonable but aren't always low.

5. 401(k) loan
A 401(k) loan is better than a hardship withdrawal because the interest you pay will get paid back into your account.

On the downside, borrowing from your 401(k) plan short shifts your retirement savings. Not only will you have less money working for you in the market, but having to pay the loan back with interest also means you're less likely to be able to make new contributions.

6. Home equity line of credit
If you must take out a loan, a home equity line of credit is one of the better options. □

Classifieds

Marriott surf club

Palm beach
Gold season
2 BR Garden View \$10,000
2 BR Ocean Side \$12,000
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3 BR 2 bath with 2 Appartments
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Call :011-297-630-1307

Condo for sale

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Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Dakota: Tel.588 7364
San Nicolas:
San Lucas:Tel.584 5119

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

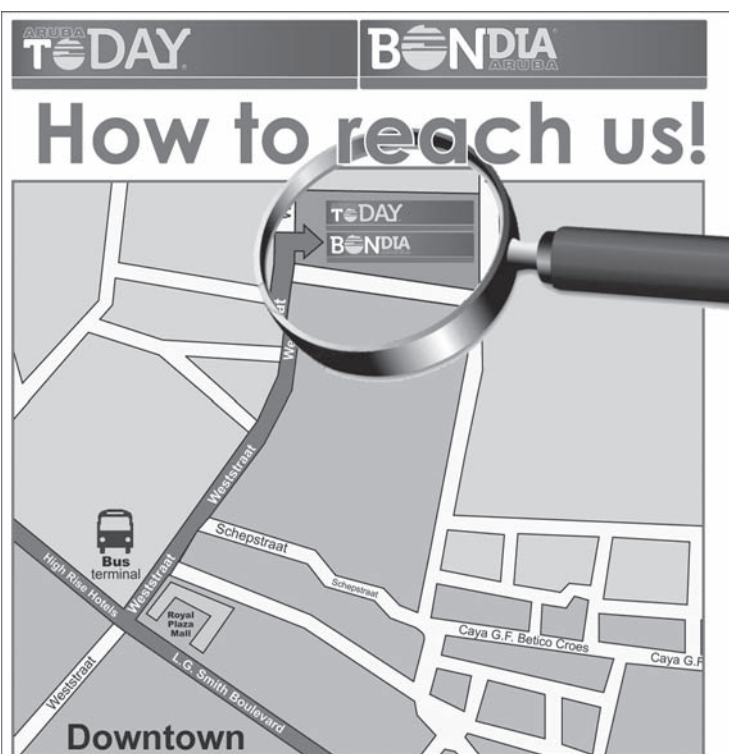
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Bruce Springsteen's lyrical view of America has long included politics even more so as he ages

By **TED ANTHONY**
AP National Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as his fame and wealth have soared over the decades, Bruce Springsteen has retained the voice of the working class' balladeer, often weighing in on politics most notably when he was a regular presence on Barack Obama's presidential campaign.

This month, though, his music and public statements have ended up as particularly pointed and contentious.

At a concert in Manchester, England, Springsteen denounced President Donald Trump's politics, calling him an "unfit president" leading a "rogue government" of people who have "no concern or idea for what it means to be deeply American."

"The America I love, the America I've written about that has been a beacon of hope and liberty for 250 years is currently in the hands of a corrupt, incompetent and treasonous administration," Springsteen said in words that he included on a digital EP he released a few days later. (A few more days later, he began another gig with the nonpolitical but saliently titled track "No Surrender.") Trump shot back and called Springsteen highly overrated. "Never liked him, never liked his music or his Radical Left Politics and, importantly, he's not a talented guy just a pushy, obnoxious JERK," he wrote on social media.

For decades, Springsteen has salted his songs with social and political commentary, and it's hardly surprising: One of his self-described musical heroes, the activist folk singer Woody Guthrie, played a guitar upon which was written, "This machine kills fascists." Here is a look at some Springsteen lyrics that ventured into current events and the plights of people caught up in them.

'Born in the USA'

LYRIC: Down in the shadow of the penitentiary, out by the gas fires of the refinery:



Bruce Springsteen performs at a campaign rally supporting Democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris, Oct. 28, 2024, in Philadelphia.

I'm 10 years burnin' down the road; nowhere to run, ain't got nowhere to go."

YEAR/ALBUM: 1984, "Born in the USA"

BACKSTORY: Springsteen's most misinterpreted song misread by Ronald Reagan and many politicians after him tells the tale of a Vietnam vet who lost his brother in the war and came home to no job prospects and a bleak future. The driving, catchy chorus composed primarily of the words from the song's title, which made misunderstanding it easier turned it into an anthem, albeit one that was not a burst of patriotism but a bitter description of veterans' circumstances.

'My Hometown'

LYRIC: "Now Main Street's whitewashed windows and vacant stores/Seems like there ain't nobody wants to come down here no more."

YEAR/ALBUM: 1984, "Born in the USA"

BACKSTORY: As he moved into his second decade of fame, Springsteen started touching on themes of economic distress more. "My Hometown" is about a 35-year-old man remembering how he used to ride proudly around his town with his father when he was little. But now, he laments, "they're closin' down the textile mill across

the railroad track. Foreman says, 'These jobs are goin', boys, and they ain't comin' back.'"

LYRIC: "No secret, my friend you can get killed just for living in your American skin."

YEAR/ALBUM: 2001, "Live in New York City."

BACKSTORY: A song written about the 1999 police killing of unarmed Guinean immigrant Amadou Diallo, who was standing in front of his apartment building in the Bronx when he was peppered with 41 bullets 19 of which went into his body. The case captivated and divided New York City, and the song's release alienated Springsteen from some of his fan base, which included cops (whose lives he had sometimes chronicled in earlier songs like "Highway Patrolman").

'The Ghost of Tom Joad'

LYRIC: "Shelter line stretchin' 'round the corner. Welcome to the new world order. Families sleepin' in their cars in the southwest no home, no job, no peace, no rest."

YEAR/ALBUM: 1995, "The Ghost of Tom Joad"

BACKSTORY: Keying in on the ethos and tone of Steinbeck's Depression-era classic "The Grapes of Wrath," Springsteen chronicles modern-day people at the fringes of society trying to

get by on the road. "The highway is alive tonight," he says, "but nobody's kiddin' nobody about where it goes."

'The Line'

LYRIC: "At night they come across the levy in the searchlight's dusty glow. We'd rush 'em in our Broncos and force 'em back down into the river below."

YEAR/ALBUM: 1995, "The Ghost of Tom Joad"

BACKSTORY: The tale of a lonely, widowed border patrol agent who falls for one of the illegal immigrants caught crossing the border. It leads him to confront his hypocrisy and leave the job, still searching for the woman he met fleetingly. Its companion song on the album, "Across the Border," was written from the perspective of a Mexican man dreaming of America ("For you I'll build a house high upon a grassy hill, somewhere across the border").

'The Rising'

LYRIC: "Lost track of how far I've gone how far I've gone, how high I've climbed. On my back's a 60-pound stone; on my shoulder a half-mile line."

YEAR/ALBUM: 2002, "The Rising"

BACKSTORY: Barely a year after "American Skin," Springsteen turned back to first responders in the

wake of 9/11, venerating them with a song that tells of a firefighter ascending the steps of one of the Twin Towers to save people and, presumably dying along the way. He sings of a "sky of blackness and sorrow, sky of love, sky of tears, sky of glory and sadness, sky of mercy, sky of fear." He takes no political position but in his typical way shows one of history's most political events through the lens of a regular person caught up in it.

'Jack of All Trades'

LYRIC: "The banker man grows fat, working man grows thin. It's all happened before and it'll happen again."

YEAR/ALBUM: 2012,

"Wrecking Ball"

BACKSTORY: A lament from an underemployed American man who can't get more than odd jobs after the financial crisis of 2007-2008. The work he does as a handyman sends him toward hopelessness, and he feels a lack of dignity. "You lose what you've got and you learn to make do. You take the old, you make it new," the protagonist sings. But, he also allows, "If I had me a gun, I'd find the bastards and shoot 'em on sight."

'Death to My Hometown'

LYRIC: "Send the robber barons straight to hell the greedy thieves who came around and ate the flesh of everything they found. Whose crimes have gone unpunished now, who walk the streets as free men now."

YEAR/ALBUM: 2012,

"Wrecking Ball"

BACKSTORY: Springsteen revisits the theme of a dying hometown, this time with more aggressiveness than lament, keying in on the financial crisis of 2007-2008. It functioned as a protest song and a rallying cry against greed and its carriers. The same album featured the song "Wrecking Ball," a defiant challenge to people who would tear down beloved parts of northern New Jersey in the name of "progress." □

French Open 2025: Novak Djokovic is bothered by the weather more than anything in 1st-round win

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Novak Djokovic experienced the lowest of lows pulling out of the French Open after tearing the meniscus in his right knee and the highest of highs winning a long-sought Olympic gold medal for Serbia at Roland-Garros last year. This trip to the site went smoothly, once he got going. Other than some first-set interruptions by, and lengthy discussions about, the windy, wet weather, the 24-time major champion was unbothered during a 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 victory over 98th-ranked Mackie McDonald of the United States at Court Philippe-Chatrier in the first round.

"He makes it seem like a video game, almost, for him," said McDonald, a 30-year-old Californian who played college tennis at UCLA and twice has been to the fourth round at Grand Slam tournaments. "He's able to just do so much. I don't even think he was playing his best tennis or his highest level. But if I pushed him to a different point, he would bring it up."



Serbia's Novak Djokovic returns the ball to Mackenzie McDonald of the U.S. during their first round match of the French Tennis Open, at the Roland-Garros stadium, in Paris, Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Associated Press

One example: When McDonald earned his first break points, getting to love-40 at 3-2 in the second set, Djokovic came up with three big serves, a 120 mph (193 kph) ace, a 123 mph (199 kph) ace and a 122 mph (197 kph) service winner.

Djokovic compiled 32 winners 18 more than McDon-

ald and just 20 unforced errors in a match that eventually was played with the lights on and the retractable roof closed.

"I'm a competitor, and losing stings," McDonald said, "but playing Novak on that court is something I'll remember."

Before Djokovic, who just turned 38 and won his 100th

career title last weekend, walked onto the playing surface, he was identified by the stadium announcer by his total number of Slam trophies, the three he's won at the French Open, and the Summer Games gold he won "here in Paris."

"I still remember last year's Olympic Games. It was the last time I was here,"

Djokovic said afterward. "The emotion is very strong."

The medal that means so much to him?

"I don't have the medal with me. But I have a picture of the medal in my bag," he said. "The medal is with my father. My dad likes trophies more than I do, so I gave him mine."

What else happened at the French Open on Tuesday? Once Coco Gauff found her rackets a relatively important piece of equipment for a tennis player all was well for her in the first round. Gauff showed up on court, opened her bag and peered inside to find it was missing her rackets. The start of the warmup was delayed, but then everything went Gauff's way, and the 2023 U.S. Open champion got past Olivia Gadecki 6-2, 6-2.

Other winners included the No. 3 seeds, Jessica Pegula and Alexander Zverev, and 18-year-old Mirra Andreva, but 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev, who was seeded 11th, lost to Cam Norrie 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 1-6, 7-5 across nearly four hours. □

Mexico's Del Toro just barely maintains Giro lead in 16th stage after Carapaz attacks

SAN VALENTINO, Italy (AP)

— Mexican rider Isaac Del Toro just barely maintained his Giro d'Italia lead during the grueling 16th stage Tuesday, when 2019 champion Richard Carapaz of Ecuador was the big mover in the overall standings.

When Carapaz, who also won gold at the 2020 Olympics, attacked on the finishing climb in the Dolomites, Del Toro had no response.

Del Toro's lead was reduced to 26 seconds ahead of British rider Simon Yates and 31 seconds ahead of Carapaz.

"In end I didn't have the best legs. They weren't bad but they weren't suf-

ficient. I was happy to make it to the finish," Del Toro said. "I hope it goes better the next few days."

Del Toro, who was wearing pink for the seventh consecutive stage, lost nearly two minutes to Carapaz, who soloed to victory at the end of the 11th stage when Del Toro became the first Mexican leader in Giro history.

It was a rough day for Del Toro's UAE Team Emirates squad, since Juan Ayuso who was third overall was dropped on the third of four climbs.

Pre-race favorite Primož Roglič, the 2023 champion, abandoned after crashing on a slippery road midway through the stage.

He stood 10th overall after dropping five places on Sunday.

Christian Scaroni became the first Italian rider to win a stage in this year's race after getting into an early breakaway. He crossed the line holding hands with another Italian, Astana teammate Lorenzo Fortunato, but was slightly ahead.

The 203-kilometer (126-mile) leg from Piazzola Sul Brenta to San Valentino was made more treacherous by rain early on.

The finishing climb lasted 18.2 kilometers (11.3 miles) and featured a section with a 12% gradient in the finale.

Italian rider Alessio Marti-

nelli was hospitalized after sliding into a ravine. The VG Group Bardiani-CSF

Faizane team said Martinelli was "conscious and in stable condition." □



Winner of the stage Italy's Christian Scaroni of Xds Astana Team, right, and teammate Italy's Lorenzo Fortunato celebrate after crossing together the finish line during the stage 16 of the Giro d'Italia from Piazzola sul Brenta to San Valentino, Italy, Tuesday, May 27, 2025.

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GO-KART RENTALS



Memorial is a reminder of the start of LIV Golf and framework agreements and little progress

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — The Memorial always will be known as the tournament Jack Nicklaus built and Tiger Woods once dominated.

These days, it's hard to escape the cloud of LIV Golf at Muirfield Village, even if the only evidence of LIV players such as Bryson DeChambeau and Jon Rahm is their photos on the wall as past champions.

It was three years ago at the Memorial when an email began filling inboxes across the golf industry announcing the first batch of defectors who signed up to play in the inaugural LIV Golf Invitational.

Dustin Johnson was the headliner. Another PGA Tour member headed for the Saudi-funded league was Hudson Swafford. He lasted three years before he was relegated out of LIV and now has nowhere to play, at least not anywhere close to home. Brooks Koepka bolted three weeks later.

Cameron Smith waited until the PGA Tour season was over.

"It's kind of weird. It feels like it almost didn't happen anymore. It's like we're in a different timeline right now," Viktor Hovland said Tuesday.

One year and two lawsuits later, PGA Tour board members Jimmy Dunne and Ed Herlihy showed up at the Memorial and played in the pro-am.

Unbeknownst to any player in the field, Dunne and Herlihy along with PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan had been meeting secretly with the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia to strike a deal. The frame-



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, walks on the third hole during the second round of the PGA Championship golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, Friday, May 16, 2025, in Charlotte, N.C.
Associated Press

work agreement had been signed the day before.

The news dropped and shocked a week later on June 6, 2023. The agreement was never finalized. Negotiations are said to be ongoing, but nobody is talking about what might happen.

"We're still kind of in the same position, kind of in a stalemate," Hovland said. "So it's a little weird, but certainly miss some of the guys."

There is nothing quite as obvious about LIV this year at Muirfield Village. But then, Rory McIlroy chose to skip out on Nicklaus' tournament for the first time in eight years, another reminder of the disruption the Saudi-funded league has brought to golf. The Memorial is now in its third year as a \$20 million tournament, a spike in prize money to respond to the threat of LIV Golf.

The objective of the PGA Tour a plan hatched by

the players at a Delaware meeting in August 2022 was to create a series of big-money events that would bring together all the top players.

At first, they were required to play them all. That's no longer the case, which explains why McIlroy decided to skip the Memorial. This is the third signature event he has missed this year. That's his prerogative, of course.

McIlroy is not the only player to sit out a tournament that has the best field and the highest purse. Scottie Scheffler didn't go to Philadelphia because he wanted to make room for his two hometown tournaments in the Dallas area. McIlroy is playing the RBC Canadian Open next week.

He once was the strongest voice against LIV Golf, first stating his opposition to the concept two years before LIV even launched, and then standing squarely in

the PGA Tour's corner when the breakaway league set sail in 2022.

McIlroy also has been known to switch positions, striking conciliatory tones in an effort to help golf patch itself back together.

"I think everyone's just got to get over it," McIlroy said in February on how to repair this mess.

"We all have to say, 'OK, this is the starting point and we move forward.' ... How we all come back together and move forward, that's the best thing for everyone."

The question is who is most responsible for that? This is where Scheffler has stepped in to offer perspective to those who think the fix is simple.

McIlroy has a big voice. Scheffler has been the consistent voice.

Twice in the last two years, Scheffler has left little room for interpretation on how he feels about the divide in golf and where the respon-

sibility lies.

It was last year at The Players Championship when Scheffler was asked if fans were disillusioned by the splintering of stars between the PGA and LIV.

"If guys want to go take the money and leave, then that's their decision," he said. "If the fans are upset, then look at the guys that left. We had a tour, we were all together, and the people that left are no longer here. At the end of the day, that's where the splintering comes from."

The subject came up again to golf's No. 1 player last week at Colonial. This time Scheffler was asked if he would have won 11 times in the last 15 months if he had faced LIV players more than four times a year (five including the Olympics). That was followed by whether he knew anything about progress in getting the two tours together.

"If you want to figure out what's going to happen in the game of golf, go to the other tour and ask those guys," Scheffler said. "I'm still here playing the PGA Tour. We had a tour where we all played together, and the guys that left, it's their responsibility I think to bring the tours back together."

Go see where they're playing this week and ask them." The subtle humor was found in his few words. LIV wasn't playing anywhere last week, or this week. It returns next week in Virginia after a long break, and then the best from two tours get together at the U.S. Open.

That's how it started three years ago during the week of Memorial.

That's how it is now. □