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Associated Press

NY hospitals, schools fear staff shortage from vaccine rules

By M. HILL/B. CALVAN/M. PRICE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Some of the nation's most aggressive COVID-19 vaccine mandates are scheduled to take effect Monday in New York amid continued resistance from some to the shots, leaving hospitals and nursing homes across the state and schools in New York City bracing for possible staff shortages.

Many health care workers, including support staff such as cleaners, have still not yet received a required first shot of the COVID-19 vaccine days before a Sept. 27 deadline. That's the same deadline for teachers and school workers in New York City to prove they've received at least one

shot. That left the prospect of potentially thousands of health care workers and teachers being forced off the job next week.

Despite calls from unions and administrators to delay the mandates, Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio showed no signs of backing down. "Every single person who is in your care has the right to know that there is no chance they will be infected by the person in charge of protecting them and their health," Hochul, a Democrat, said Thursday. Hospitals and nursing homes were preparing contingency plans that included cutting back on elective surgeries and, at one hospital, halting maternity services. Nursing homes were lim-

iting admissions. The state's largest health care provider, Northwell Health, was keeping thousands of volunteers on standby.

"We would like to see some more time to be able to comply and implement the vaccine mandate, because at the end of the day it's a situation where we're very concerned about our ability to care for the patients," said Tom Quatroche, CEO of the Erie County Medical Center Corporation, which operates a busy 573-bed hospital in Buffalo.

It anticipates that about 10% of its workforce, or 400 staff members, might still be unvaccinated Monday. Under a contingency plan, the hospital said it would suspend elective inpatient surgeries, tem-

porarily stop accepting ICU transfers from other institutions and reduce hours at clinics.

New York is not the only state to require health care workers to get vaccinated. But it has been especially aggressive in pushing for wider vaccinations to help limit the spread of the virus.

The mayor and governor said workers had plenty of time to get the shots. The mandate for state health care workers was announced this summer. New York City announced in July that its teachers would need to either get vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 weekly, but it then revoked the test-out option in August.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:

TICO KOCK
STEEL DRUM
4 - 6pm

MONDAY:

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:

PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

FRIDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
7 - 9pm

SATURDAY:

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

PAULA RIDERSTAP
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

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

PREMIUM
BRANDS

**KARAOKE
HAPPY HOUR**
9:00 - 11:00pm



WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR

Biden urges COVID-19 booster shots for those now eligible

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
and MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writers

President Joe Biden on Friday urged those now eligible for boosters of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to get the added protection a day after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention endorsed the extra doses for millions of older or otherwise vulnerable Americans.

Now public health officials must clear up confusion over exactly who should get a booster, and why — as they juggle vaccinating the unvaccinated who still make up the vast majority of the nation's coronavirus cases.

People 65 and older, nursing home residents and those ages 50 and up who have chronic health problems such as diabetes should be offered a booster once they're six months past their last Pfizer dose, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky ruled late Thursday.

And a broad swath of other adults can decide for themselves if they want a booster once they reach that six-month mark: Younger people with underlying health problems — plus people at increased risk of infection because of their jobs, such as health workers, or their living conditions, such as jails or homeless shelters.

Walensky overruled objections from her own advisory



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panel in adding that last category, but the decision drew praise from health organizations that need their employees to avoid even a mild infection so they can come to work.

"At a time when hospitals across the country are experiencing ongoing surges in COVID-19 hospitalizations and severe workforce shortages, all available tools — including booster shots — should be considered to keep frontline health care workers safe and safeguard access to care," said American Hospital Association CEO Rick Pollack.

The booster decision comes even as CDC data shows the vaccines used in the U.S. still strongly pro-

tect against severe illness, hospitalizations and death from COVID-19, although immunity against milder infection appears to be waning somewhat months after getting the shots.

"You're in good shape and we're doing everything we can to keep it that way, which is where the booster comes in," Biden said Friday as he praised the decision. He aimed to set aside any unease about another vaccination by saying he would get his own booster soon.

"It's hard to acknowledge I'm over 65, but I'll be getting my booster shot," Biden said. "It's a bear, isn't it?"

The approval prompted many Americans to immediately seek their own

boosters.

Jen Peck, 52, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, got the booster first thing Friday morning. She qualified as a math and science consultant at rural schools in Wisconsin, and got her last Pfizer dose in March.

"It's a little scary out there," she said of her job traveling between school districts in places where many students and teachers don't wear masks and the younger children aren't vaccinated.

"Because I go from building to building I don't want to be COVID Mary carrying it around to buildings full of unvaccinated kiddos. I could not live with myself if I carried it from one building to another. That haunts

me, the thought of that," Peck said.

CDC's Walensky said getting the unvaccinated their first shots remains the top priority.

But her advisers on Thursday wrestled with whether the booster debate was distracting from that goal, especially if the shots were opened to the wide swath of Americans that Walensky ultimately settled on.

Only about 182 million Americans are fully vaccinated, or just 55% of the population.

It's rare for a CDC director to overrule the panel recommendation; experts said it has only happened once this century.

Still to come: Government decisions on whether to allow booster doses of vaccines made by Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

Britain and Israel are already giving a third round of shots over strong objections from the World Health Organization that poor countries don't have enough for their initial doses.

The U.S. had already authorized third doses of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines for certain people with weakened immune systems, such as cancer patients and transplant recipients. Other Americans, healthy or not, have managed to get boosters, in some cases simply by asking. □

NY hospitals, schools fear staff shortage from vaccine rules

Continued from Front

While most school workers have been vaccinated, inducing nearly 90% of teachers as of Thursday, unions representing New York City principals and teachers warned that could still leave the 1 million student school system short of as many as 10,000 teachers, along with other staff such as cafeteria workers and school police officers.

Those who don't provide proof of a shot by the end of Monday will not be allowed to return to class-

rooms Tuesday, which will leave principals scrambling overnight to make sure they have enough substitutes, educators warned. The unions said that while they've encouraged everyone to get vaccinated, some schools could be dangerously low on staff Tuesday. They pleaded for the mayor to delay the mandate after a judge refused to halt the rule. Mark Cannizzaro, the president of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, said some schools have as many as 100 staff members not in

compliance.

De Blasio insisted the city was ready.

"We've been planning all along. We have a lot of substitutes ready," the Democrat said in a radio interview on Friday. "A lot is going to happen between now and Monday but beyond that, we are ready, even to the tune of, if we need thousands, we have thousands."

The mandate for health care workers comes as hospitals are already reeling from staff shortages due in part to rising demand, workers retiring and

wearily employees seeking other jobs after 18 months of the pandemic.

There is one option for health care workers who don't want to get the shot, which is to apply for a religious exemption. That would buy them until at least Oct. 12, while a federal judge considers a legal challenge arguing that such exemptions are constitutionally required.

With time ticking down on the health care mandate, Northwell Health was trying to persuade thousands of holdouts to get vaccinated, including indi-

vidual meetings with staffers. The system's personnel chief, Maxine Carrington, said they're seeing a lot more appointments being scheduled.

"I've had personal conversations with team members, and I was asked by one: 'Are you really going to fire us on the 27th?' And I said, let's put that aside for a minute and let's talk about saving your life. Why don't you want to get vaccinated?" Carrington said. She said staff that refuse the inoculations will "no longer be qualified for employment." □

Officials: All migrants are gone from Texas border camp

By **MARÍA VERZA** and **JUAN LOZANO**

Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — The mayor of a Texas border city where thousands of Haitian migrants camped in recent days says it's now empty.

Del Rio Mayor Bruno Lozano said at a news conference Friday that the clearing of the camp was "phenomenal news."

It comes just days after nearly 15,000 migrants gathered under the bridge that connects Del Rio and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico. The number peaked Saturday as migrants driven by confusion over the Biden administration's policies and misinformation on social media converged at the border crossing trying to seek asylum.

Many face expulsion to their home country.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP's earlier story follows below.

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — Only 225 migrants remained in a Texas border camp where almost 15,000 mostly Haitian migrants had gathered just days ago hoping to seek asylum, the top elected official in Val Verde County said Friday.

County Judge Lewis Owens told The Associated Press in a text message that he's been told all of the migrants will be removed by the end of the day — a dramatic change from Saturday, when the number peaked as migrants driven by confusion over the



Associated Press

Biden administration's policies and misinformation on social media converged at the border crossing between Del Rio, Texas, and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

Many face expulsion because they are not covered by protections recently extended by the Biden administration to the more than 100,000 Haitian migrants already in the U.S. — many of whom left their homeland after its devastating 2010 earthquake — citing security concerns and social unrest in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country.

The United States and Mexico appeared eager to end the increasingly politicized humanitarian situation that prompted the resignation of the U.S. special envoy to Haiti and

widespread outrage after images emerged of border agents maneuvering their horses to forcibly block and move migrants. On Friday, President Joe Biden said the way the agents used their horses was "horrible" and that "people will pay" as a result. The agents have been assigned to administrative duties while the administration investigates.

"'There' will be consequences," Biden told reporters. "It's an embarrassment, but it's beyond an embarrassment — it's dangerous, it's wrong, it sends the wrong message around the world and sends the wrong message at home. It's simply not who we are."

Meanwhile, Homeland Security has said that nearly 2,000 Haitians have been rapidly expelled on flights

since Sunday under pandemic powers that deny people the chance to seek asylum. About 3,900 were being processed for a possible return to Haiti or placement in U.S. immigration court proceedings. Others have been released in the U.S. with notices to appear in court or to report to immigration authorities. Thousands have returned to Mexico.

A U.S. official said Thursday that authorities expected the camp to be empty in about two days. The official had direct knowledge but was not authorized to speak publicly. Homeland Security had planned to send up to seven daily flights but flew only three on Wednesday and five on Thursday because of issues with contractors and

mechanical delays, the official said. Seven flights were scheduled to Haiti on Friday, six on Saturday and seven on Sunday.

And in Mexico, just over 100 migrants, most of them single men, remained Friday morning in the riverside camp in Ciudad Acuña.

Dozens of families who had been there crossed back to Del Rio overnight after Mexican authorities left the area. With the river running higher, some Border Patrol agents helped families who were struggling to cross with children.

Some migrants also moved to small hotels or private homes in Ciudad Acuña. Authorities detained six migrants at one on Thursday afternoon.

Luxon, a 31-year-old Haitian migrant who withheld his last name out of fear, said he was leaving with his wife and son for Mexicali, about 900 miles west along Mexico's border with California.

Some Haitians are being allowed to remain in the U.S. at least temporarily to seek asylum or to stay under some other claim to residency, with notices to appear later before immigration authorities. DHS officials declined to specify the number but said they are people with particular "vulnerabilities," meaning they are pregnant, have young children or the U.S. doesn't have the capacity to hold them in detention, especially during the pandemic. □

Sotomayor's picture book 'Just Help!' coming in January

NEW YORK (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is continuing her

successful side career as an author with a picture book about giving to others.

Sotomayor's "Just Help! How to Build a Better World" will be published Jan. 25, Philomel Books announced Friday. With illustrations by Angela Dominguez, "Just Help" was inspired by the community spirit of Sotomayor's own family. According to Philomel, an imprint for Penguin Young

Readers, Sotomayor's book will guide readers through a neighborhood where all contribute to improve the world and each other's lives.

"I believe that children, with their energy, optimism, and creativity, have the power to fix the many problems with which we adults are leaving them," Sotomayor said in a statement. "I hope my book, with Angela

Dominguez's beautiful illustrations, will encourage children to use their power to help one another and begin changing their communities."

Sotomayor's previous works include such bestsellers as the memoir "My Beloved World" and the picture books "Just Ask!: Be Different, Be Brave, Be You" and "Turning Pages: My Life Story." □



This cover image released by Penguin Young Readers shows "Just Help!" by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

(Penguin Young Readers via AP)



PG&E charged in California wildfire last year that killed 4

REDDING, Calif. (AP) — Pacific Gas and Electric was charged Friday with manslaughter and other crimes after its equipment sparked a Northern California wildfire last year that killed four people and destroyed hundreds of homes, prosecutors said. It is the latest action against the nation's largest utility, which pleaded guilty last year to 84 counts of involuntary manslaughter in a 2018 blaze ignited by its long-neglected electrical grid that nearly destroyed the town of Paradise and became the deadliest U.S. wildfire in a century. In a news conference, Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett announced the 31 charges, including 11 felonies, against the company. She said in July that her office had determined that PG&E was "criminally liable" for last year's Zogg Fire, which burned near the city of Redding. Pushed by strong winds, the fire began on Sept. 27, 2020, and raged through the rugged Sierra Nevada and communities, killing four people, burning about



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200 homes and blackening about 87 square miles (225 square kilometers) of land. In March, state investigators concluded that the fire was sparked by a gray pine tree that fell onto a PG&E transmission line. Shasta and Tehama counties have sued the utility alleging negligence, saying PG&E had failed to remove the tree even though it had been

marked for removal two years earlier. PG&E, which has an estimated 16 million customers in central and Northern California, filed for bankruptcy protection in 2019 after its aging equipment was blamed for a series of fires, including the 2018 Camp Fire near Paradise that killed 85 people and destroyed 10,000 homes, and it faced hundreds of lawsuits.

Company officials have acknowledged that PG&E hasn't lived up to expectations in the past but said changes in leadership and elsewhere ensure it's on the right track and will do better. They have listed a wide range of improvements that include using more advanced technology to avoid setting wildfires and help detect them quicker. PG&E also remains on

criminal probation for a 2010 pipeline explosion in the San Francisco Bay Area city of San Bruno that killed eight people, giving a federal judge oversight of the company. The judge and California power regulators have rebuked PG&E for breaking promises to reduce the dangers posed by trees near its power lines. PG&E emerged from bankruptcy last summer and negotiated a \$13.5 billion settlement with some wildfire victims. But it still faces both civil and criminal actions. The Sonoma County district attorney's office filed charges in April over a 2019 blaze that forced nearly 200,000 people to evacuate. In the meantime, most of the roughly 70,000 victims who have filed claims for devastation caused by PG&E's past misdeeds still are awaiting payment from a trust created during the bankruptcy. The trust, which is run independently of PG&E, is facing a nearly \$2 billion shortfall because half its funding came in company stock. □

Police: Grocery store gunman was vendor, didn't have target

By **TRAVIS LOLLER, JONATHAN MATTISE and MARK HUMPHREY**
Associated Press
COLLIERVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A gunman who killed one person and wounded 14 others in a Tennessee grocery store did not appear to target anyone spe-

cifically as he rampaged through the building on a sunny Thursday afternoon, police said. The entire shooting was over within minutes as first responders swarmed the scene. On Friday, some of the wounded were still in critical condition and fighting

for their lives, Collierville Police Chief Dale Lane said at a morning news conference. Still, the outcome could have been worse, he said. The shooter, a "third-party vendor" who police said worked at the store on a daily basis, died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound within a couple of minutes of police arriving at the Kroger in the upscale suburb outside of Memphis. The gunman, who Lane said acted alone, was later identified by Major David Townsend as UK Thang. Police searched his home Thursday and removed electronic devices, Lane said. "We all want to know the why," Lane said of the shooter's motive. "But today, less than 24 hours, we're not ready to tell you that." The victims included 10 employees and five cus-

tomers. Lane identified the woman who was killed as Olivia King. Friends told The Commercial Appeal she was a widowed mother of three. On Facebook, one of King's sons, Wes King, posted about his mother's death. He wrote that he had spoken to the trauma surgeon and learned his mother was shot in the chest. "They tried to save her at the hospital to no avail," he wrote. "I apologize for the graphic details, but this type of crime needs to stop being glossed over and sanitized. No one deserves this." Kroger worker Brignetta Dickerson told WREG-TV she was working a cash register when she heard what at first she thought were balloons popping. "And, here he comes right behind us and started

shooting," Dickerson said. "And, he kept on shooting, shooting, shooting. He shot one of my co-workers in the head and shot one of my customers in the stomach." Lane said police received a call around 1:30 p.m. about the shooting and arrived almost immediately, finding multiple people with gunshot wounds upon entering the building. He said officers of every rank ran into the building and were joined by off-duty fireman. There was no delay in providing medical help, he said. "Nobody wants to go into that scene, I can promise you," Lane said. "I mean, there were bloody people running out of that building, and there was not one blue uniform that hesitated, from the bottom all the way up. We're in there trying to help." □



Law enforcement work in front of a Kroger grocery store as an investigation goes into the night following a shooting earlier in the day on Thursday, Sept. 23, 2021, in Collierville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Small Fry: Peru's fishermen battle China's overseas fleet

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press Writer

ABOARD THE OCEAN WARRIOR in the eastern Pacific Ocean (AP) — José López

proudly remembers his first catch: he was 13 and a local skipper, pitying his ragamuffin look, hired him as an extra hand. When he returned home, his pockets stuffed with a day's wages, his mother protested.

"She thought I had stolen the money," López recalls between boisterous greetings to younger comrades who know him simply as "Pépe." "I had to take to her to the fisherman so she would believe me."

Since then, fishing has been a way of life for López and dozens of other artisanal fishermen in Pucusana, a port carved from the barren, desert-like hills south of Peru's capital. For years the fleet thrived, earning López enough to buy a few boats and send his kids to college. But a decade ago the tuna that he once effortlessly fished started to vanish. So, the fishermen turned their brightly colored boats bearing the names of Roman Catholic icons to squid.

Now they face a new threat: China's distant water fishing fleet.

The number of Chinese-flagged vessels lurking just outside Peru's waters has surged from 54 active vessels in 2009 to 557 in 2020,



Associated Press

according to the South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organization, or SPRFMO, an inter-governmental group charged with ensuring the sustainable fishing of squid. Meanwhile, the size of the Chinese catch has grown from 70,000 tons in 2009 to 358,000.

The Chinese fishing takes place on the high seas beyond the reach of any nation's jurisdiction and at night when lights so powerful they can be seen from space are used to attract swarms of the fast-flying squid. "It really is like the Wild West out there," said Captain Peter Hammarstedt, director of campaigns for Sea Shepherd, an ocean

conservation group. "Nobody is responsible for enforcement."

The Associated Press with Spanish-language broadcaster Univision accompanied Sea Shepherd this summer on an 18-day voyage aboard one of its vessels to observe up close the Chinese fleet on the high seas off the west coast of South America.

The patrol was prompted by an outcry last summer when hundreds of Chinese vessels were discovered fishing near the Galapagos Islands, a UNESCO world heritage site.

Launched in the 1980s as a response to depleting fish stocks at home and the need to feed its fast-grow-

ing population, China's distant water fishing fleet has evolved into a thriving industry and a part of the country's geopolitical push to secure access to the world's dwindling natural resources.

"China doesn't do anything that Europe has not done exactly the same way," said Daniel Pauly, a prominent marine biologist at the University of British Columbia. "The difference is that everything China does is big, so you see it."

The vast majority of the 30 vessels observed by the AP have a history of labor abuse accusations, past convictions for illegal fishing or showed signs of possibly violating maritime

law. Collectively, these issues underscore how the open ocean around the Americas where the U.S. has long dominated, and China is now jockeying for influence have become a magnet for the seafood industry's worst offenders.

One vessel, the Fu Yuan Yu 7880, is operated by an affiliate of a Nasdaq-traded company, Pingtan Marine Enterprise, whose Chinese executives had their U.S. visas cancelled for alleged links to human trafficking. The company has faced also accusations of illegal fishing and forced labor around the world. Pingtan declined comment.

The Humboldt squid named for the nutrient-rich current found off the southwest coast of South America is one of the most abundant marine species. Some scientists believe it may even be thriving as the oceans warm and its predators, sharks and tuna, are fished out of existence. But experts point to past disappearance of squid stocks elsewhere as cause for concern even if it's unknown how many Humboldt squid remain.

"If you have a vast resource and it's easy to take, then it's easy to fall into the trap of thinking that this is limitless," said William Gilly, a Stanford University marine biologist who has spent decades studying squid. □

British police arrest man over killing of London teacher

LONDON (AP) — Police have arrested a 38-year-old man on suspicion of killing Sabina Nessa, a primary school teacher found dead in a London park.

Nessa's killing as she walked to meet a friend a few minutes from her south London home has renewed concerns that women are not safe on the city's streets. A vigil is due to be held in Nessa's memory on Friday.

Nessa, 28, was found dead in Kidbrooke, southeast London on Sept. 17. Detectives believe she was attacked during what would have been a five-minute



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walk through a local park to meet a friend at a pub. Her body was found by a member of the public the next day. Results from a

post-mortem examination carried out on Monday were inconclusive.

"What happened to Sabina is every parent's nightmare

and every woman's worst fear," London Mayor Sadiq Khan said ahead of the vigil. "Her death is a tragedy, and I stand with the community in Kidbrooke and Londoners across our city, united in grief and united in our determination that justice is done."

Police said late Thursday they had arrested a man in a nearby area of London on suspicion of murder. He has not been charged, and his name was not released. Police also released images of another man they want to speak to as part of the investigation. Nessa's

death came months after the murder of 33-year-old Sarah Everard, who was abducted and killed as she walked home in south London in March. An off-duty police officer has admitted raping and killing her.

Everard's slaying shocked the country and saw thousands take to the streets to denounce violence against women.

Khan has described the violence against women as a national "epidemic." He said more than 180 women have been killed by men across England from March 2020. □

Catalan separatist leader out of Sardinia jail, can travel

By FRANCES D'EMILIO

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont left a jail in Sardinia on Friday after a judge ruled that he could go free pending an Oct. 4 hearing on his extradition to Spain, where the political firebrand is wanted for sedition.

Puigdemont, the former president of Spain's Catalonia region and a member of the European Union parliament, left the jail in Sassari a day after he had been detained by police. He had been invited to attend a Catalan cultural event and a meeting of Sardinian independence sympathizers on the Mediterranean island. "Spain never misses the opportunity to be ridiculous. #NoSurrender," Puigdemont tweeted after he left the jail. Mobbed by reporters outside the gates, he said of his less than 24 hours behind bars: "Very good, no problem. The police and prison guards were very professional, very serious people."

The judge who authorized his release ruled hours earlier that Puigdemont was free to travel without restrictions.

Judge Plinia Clara Azzena



Associated Press

told The Associated Press by phone from the courthouse in Sassari that while she found his arrest to be valid, based on the documentation she examined, "we didn't restrict him in any way. He can travel" if he wants.

Azzena and two other judges will hold an Oct. 4 hearing to rule on extradition. Earlier, Puigdemont's Italian lawyer, Agostinangelo Marras, told reporters that when the judge during the brief hearing asked his client whether he wanted to go to Spain, Puigdemont replied "no."

Puigdemont and a number

of his separatist colleagues fled to Belgium in October 2017, fearing arrest after holding an independence referendum for Catalonia that the Spanish courts and government said was illegal. He was taken into custody Thursday night when he arrived at the airport in Alghero, Sardinia. Sardinia has strong Catalan cultural roots and its own independence movement. Alghero, a city on the island's northwest coast, is hosting the traditional Catalan folklore festival that Puigdemont planned to attend.

"Freedom, freedom," shouted demonstrators outside

the courthouse in Sassari. They held signs in a Sardinian dialect proclaiming, "Democracy, the Sardinian nation supports the Catalan nation," and held the flags of Sardinia and Catalonia. Although Puigdemont currently holds a seat in the European Parliament, that legislature stripped him of parliamentary immunity. Puigdemont's detention caused political commotion in Spain, where the topic of Catalan independence has for decades been a deeply divisive issue. Separatists demanded his release and scheduled street protests, while right-

of-center parties said he should face justice.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez said during an official visit to the Canary Islands on Friday that he has "respect for all legal procedures opened in Spain, in Europe and, in this case, in Italy."

Sánchez, who recently opened direct talks with Catalan regional leaders, said that "dialogue is the only way to bring together Catalans who have distinct opinions and to bring together Catalans with the rest of Spain."

Just under half of Catalans want to break away from Spain, opinion polls indicate. Most Spaniards don't want Catalonia to be granted independence.

At the heart of the immediate legal matter was whether the warrant issued by Spain seeking Puigdemont's arrest is valid.

Gonzalo Boye, his lawyer, has insisted the warrant issued in 2019 that provided the basis for Italian authorities to detain him has been suspended.

Boye told Spanish radio station SER: "We have to see whether the arrest warrant is enforceable. That'll be up to the legal authorities" in Italy. □



Associated Press

By ANGELA CHARLTON and SARAH EL DEEB

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron welcomed Friday Lebanon's new prime minister at the presidential palace, wishing him success and promising France would continue to support the cri-

sis-struck country. In Beirut, protesters pelted commercial banks with eggs and rallied against the political class for obstructing the probe into last year's devastating port blast.

Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati is on his first foreign trip after taking office, days after his government

France pledges support for Lebanon's new prime minister

was confirmed by parliament a move that ended a 13-month deadlock that came as Lebanon is struggling with an economic meltdown and rising poverty.

"You have an immense and historic responsibility," Macron told Mikati during a joint press conference at the Elysee. "We will do everything to help you succeed."

Throughout Lebanon's crisis, France had taken the lead among the international community in helping the small Mideast country, a former French protectorate. Paris has hosted aid conferences and pushed

for reform, and last year, Macron presented Lebanese politicians with a road map for policy change and reforms and scolded them for failing to form a government. But his hands-on approach failed to expedite government formation or bring about major change. On Friday, Macron said Lebanon faces a "humanitarian emergency" and promised France would help in efforts to "mobilize the international community to respond to the most urgent needs."

"We have an opportunity to advance concretely on the path of reforms," Macron said, adding that interna-

tional support can provide more help once energy and public finance sector reforms are launched.

"The path is arduous and the task is difficult," Macron said. "We are here. France will remain at the side of the Lebanese people."

Mikati's government is expected to undertake critically needed reforms while grappling with rising public anger and tensions resulting from the deepening hardships. He said he will be counting on France's support during talks with the International Monetary Fund to negotiate a recovery package, a priority for the new Cabinet. □

Vatican Museums, Uffizi team up to confirm a Raphael is real

By NICOLE WINFIELD

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Two of the world's most important art museums, the Vatican Museums and the Uffizi Galleries, joined forces for the first time on Friday to inaugurate a small exhibit of rarely seen works by two Renaissance masters that confirmed a painting long suspected of being by Raphael was indeed his work. "Saints Peter and Paul by Raphael and Fra Bartolomeo.

An homage to the Patrons of Rome," marks the first exhibit for the Vatican Museums in over a year thanks to COVID-19 lockdowns that shuttered galleries precisely at the time that Italy was commemorating the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death with a series of shows.

The nearly life-sized paintings of Saints Peter and Paul are normally kept outside public view in the Papal Audience Apartment of the Apostolic Palace. But they have been restored



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and are being displayed for the first time alongside their preparatory sketches, usually held in Florence by the Uffizi Galleries, that the Florentine master Fra Bartolomeo made around 1513 after he was commissioned to paint the saints for a

Rome church.

Fra Bartolomeo finished the painting of St. Paul, but because of an artistic crisis, never finished St. Peter.

The restoration and research done in preparation for the exhibit confirmed that Raphael long

believed to have finished his friend's commission - indeed completed the work, the Vatican Museums' director, Barbara Jatta, told a press conference Friday alongside her Uffizi counterpart, Eike Schmidt.

"It's not the moment for big

shows ... but a small show allows us to enter more into the works themselves," Jatta said.

While the Uffizi and Vatican Museums often exchange pieces for special exhibits, Schmidt and Jatta said this was the first time the two institutions had joined up to mount a show and catalogue together, with each museum restoring and offering new research into the pieces being exhibited and drawing on their respective patron groups to fund it.

"This is in a certain sense a novelty and its really beautiful to get out of the pandemic with this," Schmidt said. Jatta added she foresaw future collaborative projects as well.

The exhibit, in a small gallery of the Vatican Museums' picture gallery, is included in regular museum tickets, which because of COVID regulations must be reserved online in advance, while visitors to the museum must show a health pass to get in the door. □

Thunberg joins climate rally in Germany ahead of election

By KARIN LAUB and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Tens of thousands of environmental activists staged a rally outside Germany's parliament Friday, two days before the country holds a national election, to demand that politicians take stronger action to curb climate change.

The protest outside the Reichstag in Berlin was part of a string of rallies around the world, from Japan and Italy to India and Britain amid dire warnings the planet faces dangerous temperature rises unless greenhouse gas emissions are cut sharply in the coming years. Across Germany, tens of thousands of marchers joined similar protests in several cities and towns.

The idea for a global "climate strike" was inspired

by teenage Swedish activist Greta Thunberg's solo protest in Stockholm three years ago. It snowballed into a mass movement until the coronavirus pandemic put a stop to large gatherings. Activists have only recently started staging smaller gatherings.

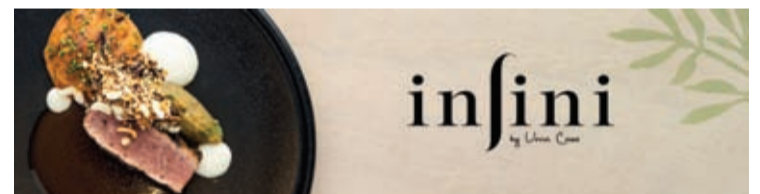
"We can still turn this around," she said to cheers. "We demand change, and we are the change."

Thunberg and prominent German climate activist Luisa Neubauer accused politicians of falling short, saying the programs of the main parties weren't far-reaching enough to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) - the more ambitious limit in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

German activists have referred to Sunday's election

as the "vote of the century," arguing that the decision taken by the next government will influence the country's efforts to tackle climate change for decades to come. The issue has been a major topic during the election campaign. Friday's rally was a multi-generational event, drawing school-age participants as well as adults. Rene Bohrenfeldt, an IT expert taking part in the Berlin rally, said he hoped older Germans would consider the issue when casting their votes on Sunday.

"The majority of voters are older than 50 and determine the outcome of the election," Bohrenfeldt, 36, said. "I appeal to all grandmothers to make the right decision for the climate and for their grandchildren." □



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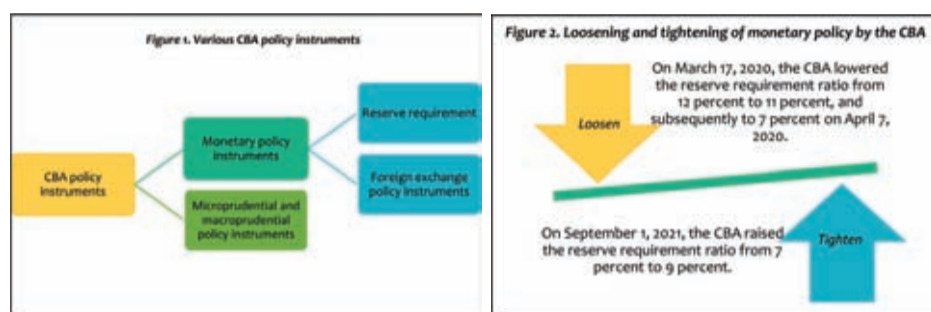
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Considering positive economic developments and revocation of COVID-related foreign exchange measures, the CBA tightened monetary policy to safeguard foreign exchange reserve adequacy



This decision took effect as of September 1, 2021.

1. Developments impacting Monetary Policy

The Centrale Bank van Aruba (CBA) has several instruments available for an effective execution of its monetary policy (see Figure 1). One of its most important instruments is the reserve requirement, which is used to either mop up from or inject liquidity into the banking sector to ultimately promote financial stability. Last year in March 2020, to lessen the adverse financial and economic impact related to the (lockdown) measures imposed by the government of Aruba to mitigate the contagion risk of COVID-19, the CBA, amongst others, lowered the reserve requirement by 1 percentage point from 12 percent to 11 percent, and subsequently to 7 percent in April 2020. This provided the commercial banks with an additional Afl. 200 million in liquidity to meet financial obligations, taking into consideration also an anticipated growth in credit demand (see CBA Public Announcement, March 17, 2020, and April 7, 2020).

In view of the continued recovery of Aruba's economy and the positive economic outlook, especially with regard to the strong rebound in tourism arrivals and related foreign exchange earnings, as well as the fact that the foreign exchange reserves are at an adequate level, as of June 1, 2021 the CBA started to gradually rescind the foreign exchange restrictions taken in March 2020. As of September 1, 2021 all remaining foreign exchange restrictions were revoked (see CBA Public Announcement, June 1, 2021, August 1, 2021, and September 1, 2021). Consequently, due to the relaxation of these restrictions and the upturn in the imports of goods and services, foreign exchange outflows are expected to expand commensurately and normalize to pre-COVID-19 levels before the end of year.

2. Monetary Policy Committee decision on reserve requirement

Considering a foreseen increase in foreign exchange outflows and the ample excess liquidity of the commercial banks, in due time and as needed, the CBA anticipates, in conjunction with the full revocation of the aforementioned foreign exchange restrictions, to progressively raise the reserve requirement rate to pre-pandemic levels. In doing so, the CBA will continue to closely monitor relevant macro- and microeconomic data, including the critical foreign exchange reserve thresholds, in order to prudently balance the de-escalation of the March 2020 imposed foreign exchange restrictions with preserving adequate reserve buffers to maintain monetary stability and the fixed exchange rate between the Aruban florin and the US dollar.

During its meeting of August 5, 2021, in reviewing the most recent economic developments and monetary data, and considering the anticipated pressures on the foreign exchange reserve adequacy, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the CBA decided to raise the reserve requirement rate by 2 percentage points, i.e., from 7.0 percent to 9.0 percent.

Consistent with the prudent monetary policy of the CBA to keep confidence in the Aruban florin, the decision of the MPC to raise the reserve requirement rate also took into consideration the compounding effect of the following key economic and financial developments:

1. The robust economic recovery forecasted at +12.7 percent real GDP growth in 2021.
2. The accelerated YTD 2021 rebound in tourism credits and merchandise trade imports at +80 percent of 2019-levels.
3. The surge in (international) energy, food, and transportation prices, which could spike cost-push domestic inflationary pressures (+1.1 percent, January to June, 2021).
4. The continued build-up of commercial bank excess liquidity (+22 percent, January to June, 2021).

3. International reserves

Total international reserves (including revaluation differences) expanded by Afl. 511.1 million for the week ending on July 16, 2021 (+21.7 percent) on a year-to-date basis. This surge was primarily due to a strong pick-up in tourism credit inflows, as well as new liquidity support from the Netherlands to the Government of Aruba. Consequently, the international reserves reached Afl. 2,867.6 million on July 16, 2021. As a result, the current level of international reserves remains above the Assessing Reserve Adequacy (ARA) metric used by the IMF for small open economies.

4. Credit developments and commercial bank liquidity

Overall commercial bank loans decreased by 1.3 percent in June 2021 compared to December 2020, mainly caused by declines in both consumer credit (-5.7 percent) and business loans (-1.1 percent). Although an uptick in business term loans (+0.1 percent) as well as housing mortgages (+0.3 percent) was noted, these were insufficient to offset reductions in other loan components. In addition to CBA's March 2020 measures to amplify commercial bank liquidity, the apparent lack of credit appetite that led to a contraction in total loans, the rise in loan repayments due to the expiration of commercial bank moratoria, the continued business liquidity support by the government, as well as the unchanged average interest rates on new loans at pre-Covid level, could have attributed to the continued build-up of commercial banks' excess liquidity during the first six months of 2021.

5. Inflation

In June 2021, the CPI index rose by 1.0 percent compared to June 2020. On balance, this was mainly driven by an increase in gas prices, which had its effect on the transport component of the CPI. Likewise, year-to-date June 2021 saw a hike in CPI components of housing, household operations, and alcoholic beverages. In terms of the CPI food component, noticeable upticks were recorded for meats, dairy products, and fruit. At the end of June 2021, the twelve-month average inflation rate stood at -1.8 percent, down from 2.0 percent a year earlier. This decline was due to the significant drop in the (end-of-period) inflation during the first half of 2020, which was largely caused by several interrelated factors in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and government measures, the plunge in tourism demand, the fall in international oil prices, as well as the decline in domestic consumption. The twelve-month average core inflation rate fell, for the period from July 2020 through June 2021, from 2.0 percent to -1.2 percent. □

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Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



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

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea

glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass. The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems. For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks. It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined

these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story. The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

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

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes. Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

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



Blue Residences: Work & pleasure in paradise

EAGLE BEACH — Dreaming of your own private Caribbean sanctuary is a reality now. Allow us to define this: Blue Residences offers you a condo or penthouse with top notch amenities equal to the offerings of high-class resorts facing the Caribbean Sea, the white-powdered sands of Eagle Beach. According to the Travelers Choice Beaches Award, it is one of the top 25 beaches in the world. And if you don't believe them, you can always read the thousands of positive reviews on TripAdvisor.

Blue Residences is situated in front of The Bubali Plas bird sanctuary and one of the biggest reservoirs on the island. It's also within walking distance to Palm Beach, home of the high-rise luxury hotels. The location is unequalled on the island with a

variety of water sports concessions, casinos, restaurants, bars and shops just a leisurely stroll away.

The onsite amenities include pools, hot tub, restaurant, landscaped sun-deck, fitness center, full service spa and concierge service.

The project has three towers which contains 60 two-bedroom, two-bath units; 32 three-bedroom, three-bath units; 8 one bedroom, one bathroom unit; 4 four-bedroom, four-bath duplex townhouses; 2 five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath duplex townhouses; 12 three-bedroom, four-bath duplex penthouses; and 6 five-bedroom, five-and-a-half-bath duplex penthouses.

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If you want to rent or buy and live the Blue Residences experience please email Jaime Gomez at jgomez@azure-aruba.com or visit www.bluearuba.com. The sales office is open from Monday to Sundays from 9 am to 5 pm. Go see the amazing view. □

China says all crypto transactions illegal; Bitcoin tumbles

BEIJING (AP) — China's central bank on Friday declared all transactions involving Bitcoin and other virtual currencies illegal, stepping up a campaign to block use of unofficial digital money.

Friday's notice complained Bitcoin, Ethereum and other digital currencies disrupt the financial system and are used in money-laundering and other crimes. "Virtual currency derivative transactions are all illegal financial activities and are strictly prohibited," the People's Bank of China said on its website.

The price of Bitcoin fell more than 9%, to \$41,085, in the hours after the announcement, as did most other crypto tokens. Ethereum skidded almost 10%, falling from \$3,100 to around \$2,800.

Chinese banks were banned from handling cryptocurrencies in 2013, but the government issued a reminder this year. That reflected official concern cryptocurrency mining and



Associated Press

trading might still be going on or the state-run financial system might be indirectly exposed to risks.

Promoters of cryptocurrencies say they allow anonymity and flexibility, but Chinese regulators worry they might weaken the ruling Communist Party's

control over the financial system and say they might help to conceal criminal activity.

The People's Bank of China is developing an electronic version of the country's yuan for cashless transactions that can be tracked and controlled by Beijing.

Regulators in other countries have increasingly warned that cryptocurrencies need greater oversight. In the U.S., Gary Gensler, the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, has said that investors need more protection in the cryptocurrency

market, which he called "rife with fraud, scams and abuse" and compared to the "Wild West."

The SEC has won dozens of cases against crypto fraudsters, but Gensler says the agency needs Congress to give it more authority and funding to adequately regulate the market.

Regulators in China have also been trying to rein in cryptocurrency mining, an energy-intensive process whereby specialized computers generate digital currencies. As a result, miners have been moving operations out of China.

Two years ago, China alone accounted for around three-quarters of all the electricity used for crypto mining, by far the most in the world, according to the Cambridge Bitcoin Electricity Consumption index. By April of this year, before the latest crackdown, China's share had fallen back to 46%. That still towers over the No. 2 country, the United States, at less than 17%. □

Huawei exec resolves criminal charges in deal with US

By **ERIC TUCKER and JIM MUSTIAN**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A top executive of Chinese communications giant Huawei Technologies has reached a deal with the Justice Department that enables her to resolve criminal charges against her, according to her lawyer and a letter from the Justice Department.

The deal with Meng Wan-

zhou, Huawei's chief financial officer and the daughter of the company's founder, could pave the way for her to return to China.

The agreement, set to be disclosed in federal court in Brooklyn on Friday, resolves a yearslong legal and geopolitical tussle that involved not only the U.S. and China but also Canada, where Meng has remained since her arrest

there in December 2018. It The resolution is known as what's called a deferred prosecution, in which a defendant must agree to abide by certain conditions in exchange for the Justice Department ultimately abandoning the case. Reid Weingarten, a lawyer for Meng, confirmed in an email the existence of the agreement but did not immediately provide additional details.



Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Huawei, smiles as she leaves her home in Vancouver on Friday, Sept. 24, 2021. (Darryl Dyck/The Canadian Press via AP)

A spokesperson for Huawei declined to comment. □

Companies, activists push to speed zero-emission truck sales

By **STEVE LeBLANC** Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Officials from companies with fleets of trucks are urging governors across the country to embrace a rule meant to speed the adoption of zero-emission trucks and reduce a potent source of greenhouse gases spewed from the large commercial vehicles.

In a letter released Friday, representatives of companies including IKEA, Nestle, Siemens, Etsy, eBay,

Ben & Jerry's and Unilever joined with environmental activists and investors to call for the wide adoption of the Advanced Clean Trucks rule. Transportation is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S., with trucks being one of the top culprits, activists said.

The rule requires manufacturers of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to increase sales of zero-emission models over time in states where

the policy is put in place. As production ramps up, the cost to manufacturers and buyers should come down, advocates said. Supporters of the rule say companies increasingly are demanding clean trucks and vans to help meet climate and pollution goals and to save on the costs of fuel and maintenance.

Approval of the rule by state governments could help give an add-

ed nudge to truck makers, backers said.

"The ACT rule will help bring down costs for zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles by requiring manufacturers to increase model availability to meet the needs of fleet operators and driving investment in clean transportation research and development," the companies and advocacy groups said in the letter. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

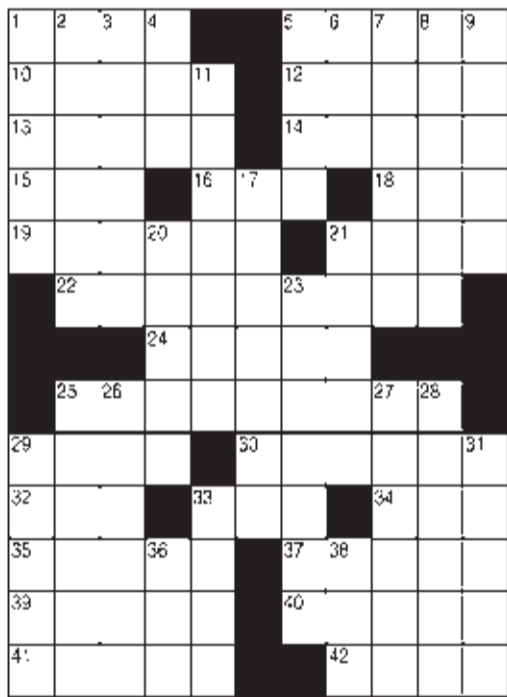


Yesterday's answer

- ACROSS** 39 Follow
1 Kitchen work
5 Custom
10 Convoy trucks
12 Without aid
13 Tea party guest

- DOWN**
14 Hinds' mates
15 Lumber unit
16 Stretch of years
18 Catching aid
19 Mason of movies
21 Quite
22 Gumshoe's specialty
24 Provinces
25 Crossing the Berlin Wall, e.g.
29 Course activity
30 Besides
32 Band blaster
33 Old hand
34 Army address
35 Marlins' home
37 Future seed

- 7 Malay island
8 Hospital worker
9 Irritable
11 "Now perfectly listen!"
17 Indy auto
20 Personnel
21 Drop in
23 Arm art
25 Game piece
26 Border city
27 "Yeah, right!"
28 Executed perfectly
29 Joystick wielder
31 Lock
33 Diner desserts
36 Silent
38 Swear



9-25

A X Y D L B A A X R
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.

9-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

A K Q B E E H I D J S K C K W ;
I D J S K C K D B G S Z - O D X K
V K W L K C S E O S G K S D Y K .
H K X K I E V S G K Q W S E O
I D J S K C D C B . — Q . Q . Y E C S Q V K W S
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO LIVE IS THE RAREST THING IN THE WORLD. MOST PEOPLE EXIST: THAT IS ALL. — OSCAR WILDE



Associated Press

Famed cathedral names artist to replace Confederate windows

By **PETER SMITH**
Associated Press

Washington National Cathedral announced Thursday it has chosen contemporary artist Kerry James Marshall, renowned for his wide-ranging works depicting African American life, to design new stained-glass windows with themes of racial justice that will replace a set with Confederate imagery that were removed in 2017.

The landmark sanctuary said in a statement that the four windows will tell "a new and more complete" story of the nation's racial history. Poet Elizabeth Alexander will write a poem to be inscribed in stone tablets alongside the windows, overlaying older ones that venerated the lives of Confederate soldiers.

The project is expected to be completed by 2023. The windows will replace a set that honored two Confederate generals, Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, with saint-like reverence and had included a Confederate flag. The cathedral removed them in 2017, prompted by a larger national reckoning over Confederate imagery and white supremacy in the wake of deadly right-wing attacks in Charlottesville, Virginia, that year and in Charleston, South Carolina, in 2015. The window

openings have been covered with plywood since 2017. The setting is particularly significant in the massive neo-Gothic cathedral, which is filled with iconography depicting the American story in glass, stone and other media, with images ranging from presidents to famous cultural figures and state symbols. The cathedral, also the seat of the Episcopal Church's presiding bishop and Diocese of Washington, regularly serves as the setting for ceremonies tied to major national events. In replacing the windows, the cathedral acknowledged a need to correct what it called a "false narrative of what America once was."

The old windows "were a barrier to our mission and impediment to worship in this place, and they had no place being in sacred space," the Very Rev. Randolph Marshall Hollerith, dean of the cathedral, said

in a Thursday news conference.

"This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the cathedral to not only create beautiful art but to stake a claim about what and who we value," he added.

Marshall, who made his first visit to the cathedral this week, said it's too soon to say what the new windows will look like.

"It was really important for me to come here and really get a sense of what the place is, what's already here, what the mission they've tried to accomplish is, and then how I might be able to fit whatever it is the cathedral needs in order to fulfill its ambition for these windows ... into that space," he said at the news conference.

He noted that the cathedral set a "monumental" goal of having the windows depict the pain as well as the dignity of "the African-American struggle for justice and equality." □

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House votes to protect abortion rights amid state challenges

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed legislation Friday that would guarantee a woman's right to an abortion, an effort by Democrats to circumvent a new Texas law that has placed that access under threat.

The bill's 218-211 approval is mostly symbolic, as Republican opposition will doom it in the Senate.

Still, Democrats say they are doing all they can to codify the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision after the Supreme Court recently allowed the Texas law banning most abortions in the state to take effect. The court will hear arguments in December in a separate Mississippi bid to overturn the landmark decision.

Despite the long odds in his chamber, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement after the vote that "Congress must assert its role to protect the constitutional right to abortion" and that the Senate would hold a vote "in the very near future."

Codifying the Roe ruling would mean creating a right to abortion in federal law, a monumental change that would make it harder for courts and states to impose restrictions.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said that congressional action would make a "tremendous difference" in Democrats' efforts to maintain access to abortion rights. She called the Supreme Court's decision "shameful" and counter to its own precedent.

Pelosi said just ahead of Friday's vote that it should



Associated Press

"send a very positive message to the women of our country but not just the women, to the women and their families, to everyone who values freedom, honors our Constitution and respects women."

No Republicans voted for the legislation, which would supersede state laws on the subject, give health care providers the right to perform abortions and patients the right to receive them. Republicans argue it would prevent states from setting requirements like parental involvement and could weaken laws that allow doctors to refuse to perform an abortion.

The legislation "isn't about freedom for women, it's about death for babies," said Republican Rep. Vicky Hartzler of Missouri. She said it would eliminate protections for women and girls who may be coerced into having abortions.

"It ends the life of a living human being with a plan and a purpose from God and who deserves to live," Hartzler said.

Only one member crossed party lines Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar of Texas, who voted against the bill.

The vote came as Democrats have spoken boldly about fighting the Su-

preme Court which has a more conservative tilt after Justice Amy Coney Barrett was confirmed last year but struggled privately to find an effective strategy. □

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Titans and Hall of Famers to honor the late Bum Phillips

the Texans as an expansion franchise in 2002. Adams moved the franchise to Nashville in 1997 where they played as the Tennessee Oilers before being renamed the Titans in 1999. Texas native Ryan Tannehill remembers Oilers games in Houston even though he was a young child at the time. "My dad was a Warren Moon fan so I remember that," the Titans quarterback said. "Then obviously right before they came here, the game against the Rams. Those are pretty early on in my life, but definitely good memories."

HER-STORIC CATCH

Plenty of touchdowns were scored during Mephram High School's 49-21 victory over Roslyn last Saturday. None bigger than the one by Sofia LaSpina.

The 15-year-old wide receiver's 4-yard catch made her the first female in Long Island, New York, varsity football history to score a touchdown. She finished with three catches for 45 yards and the history-making score.

The New York Jets recognized LaSpina's achievements by selecting her as their high school player of the week. Together with Gatorade, the Jets donate \$1,000 each week in the selected player's name to support their football program. LaSpina also got to meet Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Namath at a charity event Wednesday night on Long Island, and the former Jets quarterback had a brief catch with the high school receiver.

Jets coach Robert Saleh recognized LaSpina by wearing a Mephram High

School football T-shirt during his news conference Friday. "Cool, right?" Saleh said. "I thought that was pretty cool."

The Jets are also inviting LaSpina to their next home game (next Sunday against Tennessee) at MetLife Stadium. LaSpina, a junior who also plays soccer at the high school in Bellmore, New York, scored her touchdown when she was split out wide and ran to the front of the end zone, where Peter Mayo zipped the ball into her hands. Her excited teammates rushed over to LaSpina, who received several high-fives and pats on the helmet to celebrate the score.

"Barely passing history class," LaSpina wrote on her Instagram page, "but creating it is pretty fun."

HULK-SIZED HELP

Zach Banner, a 6-foot-8, 344-pound right tackle for the Pittsburgh Steelers nicknamed the "Hulk" since he was a kid, spent time Tuesday at pop-up dinner for a nonprofit restaurant coming to Pittsburgh.

Café Momentum, based in Dallas, provides a 12-month post-release internship program for young men and women coming out of juvenile facilities. They rotate through all aspects of the restaurant, focusing on life and social skills, coaching, and development.

"You can't just play football. You can't just make money," Banner said on the AP Pro Football Podcast. "You can't just do these types of things and not take care of and not help and guide the next generation. A huge fraction of the players in the NFL have come from

places like this that need help with inner-city help, community help around the nation. They came from communities like that. So it's very, very relatable. So using that empathy to create greatness off the field." Banner tore his right ACL in his first NFL start in Week 1 of the 2020 season. He's moving closer toward returning to the Steelers.

"I get more confidence through the process the further we keep going because the stronger it gets and the less inflammation, it just feels really good. It's getting better every day," he said.

FEEDING THE RIVALRY

Rookie Philadelphia coach Nick Sirianni made the unusual move of wearing an opposing team's logo during his meeting with reporters Thursday. His T-shirt read "Beat Dallas," with the words above and below helmets of the Eagles and Cowboys. The teams play Monday night in the first NFC East game of the season for both.

Sirianni believes he's simply reflecting the feelings of the fan base for the team's biggest rival.

"Yeah, you can definitely feel it," he said. "I can't tell you how many times since I've been here having an interaction with a fan, it's like, 'Hey, beat Dallas.' I think that's awesome. So really love the fact that I'm able to partake in this rivalry and it means a lot to the city, to our team, it means a lot to this building."

Sirianni, who says the rest of his family has the shirts as well, knows what picture might appear in the opponent's building this week. □

Associated Press

By The Associated Press undefined

The late Bum Phillips, a Texas coaching legend who worked wearing a cowboy hat, is being honored by the team he led to two AFC championship game appearances.

In Tennessee, a quarter-century after the franchise left Texas for Music City.

The franchise now known as the Tennessee Titans will be inducting Phillips into the Ring of Honor on Sunday 41 years after he last coached for the then-Houston Oilers, and the occasion is bringing a bunch of former Oilers to Nashville to help celebrate the franchise founded in Texas in 1960 by the late Bud Adams.

Warren Moon, Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, Robert Brazile, Elvin Bethea, Charlie Joiner, Ken Houston, Kenny Burrough, Ray Childress and Dan Pastorini are among approximately 80 former Oilers expected for a weekend of activities. Moon, Joiner, Brazile, Bethea and Houston are

Pro Football Hall of Famers.

The former Oilers are doing dinner with Titans controlling owner Amy Adams Strunk, watching the current team in practice, and having brunch before the Titans kick off Sunday against Indianapolis. The former Oilers also will serve as the honorary 12th Titan before kickoff and be recognized during the game. Phillips, who died in October 2013 at the age of 90, will be the 15th person inducted into the ring of honor at halftime. He coached the Oilers for six seasons between 1975 and 1980 with AFC championship game berths in 1978 and 1979 at the height of the "Luv Ya Blue" era. Phillips still has the best winning percentage (.608) for any coach with at least two full seasons with this team, going 59-38 overall with a franchise that hadn't had a winning record in eight seasons.

The Titans keeping the Oilers' history remains a very sore subject in Houston, even with the NFL adding

Bulls' Williams could miss start of season with ankle injury

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago Bulls forward Patrick Williams has a severe left ankle sprain that could cause him to miss the start of the season. The news announced Friday is a blow for a team hoping to make the playoffs in the Eastern Conference after some major offseason moves.

The Bulls expect Williams to miss four to six weeks because of the injury sustained Sept. 15 during an optional individual workout. Chicago opens

the season at Detroit on Oct. 20. Williams started 71 games and averaged 9.2 points and 4.6 rebounds last year after being drafted out of Florida State with the No. 4 overall pick.

The team also said guard Coby White is expected to make a full return in November after having surgery on his left shoulder in June. He will participate in noncontact activities in training camp, which begins Tuesday. White averaged

15.1 points and 4.8 assists in his second NBA season.

The Bulls finished 11th in the Eastern Conference at 31-41 last season, two games behind Charlotte for the final tournament play-in spot and out of the postseason for the fourth straight year. They acquired four-time All-Star DeMar DeRozan and guard Lonzo Ball in separate sign-and-trade deals. □

Nick Diaz returns at UFC 266, still angry and conflicted

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Nick Diaz is a 38-year-old mixed martial artist who hasn't competed in nearly seven years and hasn't won a fight in a decade. He is also the biggest star on the card and the most compelling reason to watch UFC 266. That's not an indictment of Alexander Volkanovski or Valentina Shevchenko, the two accomplished champions making title defenses on the same show. It's also not a critique of the star-deficient state of the UFC, which has crowned no champion lately with the transcendent appeal of retired Ronda Rousey or struggling Conor McGregor.

It's just the reality of Diaz — the charismatic MMA icon who has decided to return to the cage for the first time since January 2015 even though he doesn't want to fight anymore.

At least that's what he claimed in a bizarre interview he gave to ESPN — the UFC's broadcast partner — immediately upon arriving in Las Vegas this week to face Robbie Lawler.

"I don't know why I'm doing this," he said.

A day later at the UFC 266 news conference, Diaz (26-9) clearly relished the adoring cheers he received from the fans in attendance, even greeting everybody with a rare smile.

"I definitely want to do this more often, especially if I



Associated Press

get my (butt) whooped," Diaz said. "If I get my (butt) whooped, I want to come back right away."

The blatant contradictions and the aloof indifference to them are all part of the appeal of the famous Diaz brothers, who spend most of their lives teaching jiu-jitsu, competing in triathlons, eating a vegan diet and enthusiastically using marijuana in their native Stockton, California.

Nate Diaz, two years younger than Nick, has become a superstar in his own right during his big brother's competitive hiatus, most notably by splitting two epic bouts with McGregor in 2016.

But Nick Diaz, the former Strikeforce welterweight

champion and a veteran of several unforgettable fights during MMA's competitive adolescence, looms even larger after his lengthy absence from the sport.

He became popular not just because of his irresistible fighting style, which included enthusiastic violence, tireless conditioning and a clever ground game. To his fans, Diaz is an attitude personified: A glowering stare, a middle finger, a constant aggravation with all authority that plays superbly among fans of this highly individual, violent sport.

Diaz's refusal to fight over the past six years was frustrating to those who want to see him in action, but also perfectly in line with his

antiauthoritarian persona. Diaz hasn't changed much, judging from his interview with ESPN.

He said he never feels confident before his fights, and he always feels he's about to get beaten up — but he's doing it again anyway, for reasons he couldn't articulate.

Diaz also said he should be fighting welterweight champion Kamaru Usman instead of taking a rematch with Lawler (28-15), even though Diaz has done nothing to earn a title shot in the normal manner. He regrets getting back into the game for this matchup, yet he can't wait to get in the cage.

"I have a lot of resentment toward the sport for taking

so much from me and not giving anything back," Diaz told ESPN.

The Diaz persona got its first widespread attention in Nick Diaz's first bout with Lawler back in 2004. The two young prospects stole the show at UFC 47, which was headlined by Chuck Liddell and Tito Ortiz.

The 20-year-old Diaz threw Lawler off his game in the opening minutes with an open-handed strike that came to be known as the Stockton Slap after Nate emulated it later. Nick Diaz eventually stopped Lawler with a beautiful right hook that sent Lawler face-first onto the canvas.

The UFC 266 rematch isn't appealing strictly on competitive grounds: Diaz's last win was over BJ Penn in October 2011, while the 39-year-old Lawler has lost four consecutive fights over the past four years.

But MMA fans are fascinated by the famous names that drew them into the young sport, and Diaz's return is getting global attention.

"When I get someone in front of me, I seem to be right back," Diaz said. "I've always trained with the best. I've always held my own with the best. I didn't expect at this age to catch so much heat, so much expectation from everybody. It's kind of hard. ... I wasn't ready for all the extra attention and attention and attention." □

Americans take a 3-1 lead in opening Ryder Cup session

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP) — The first point of the Ryder Cup belonged to Europe and its fearsome new Spanish Armada. The rest of the opening session belonged to the Americans, just like usual.

Patrick Cantlay and Xander Schauffele, tough as ever in foursomes, won the first five holes and closed with four straight birdies for a 5-and-3 victory over Rory McIlroy and Ian Poulter.

"I don't know if anyone

could have beat Xander and Patrick today," McIlroy said. "They played really good — four birdies in a row. Geez, yeah, they played great."

That makes seven straight times the Americans have not lost the opening session. Three years ago in France, they also had a 3-1 lead only to get shut out that afternoon as Europe cruised to another decisive victory.

In a strange twist, neither captain kept any of the teams together — even Jon Rahm and Sergio Gar-

cia, the lone bright spot for Europe in foursomes.

Rahm looked every bit like the No. 1 player in the world by rolling in putts from everywhere as he and Garcia seized control around the turn and held on to beat Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas, 3 and 1. Garcia earned his 23rd win, tying Nick Faldo for the Ryder Cup record.

Spieth and Thomas, who were 3-1 in France, couldn't keep up with Rahm's great putting. Garcia got into the act, too, holing a 25-foot putt

and blowing a kiss to the crowd on the 15th hole for a 3-up lead with three holes to play.

Spieth tried to extend the match with a shot that was as much about the landscape of Whistling Straits than the Ryder Cup. Well below the green left of the par-3 17th in deep grass, he blasted a 52-degree wedge toward the green, a shot with such force that his momentum carried him backward. The safe move was to keep running, almost to Lake Michigan, before



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he could regain his balance. It was all for naught; Thomas missed the 6-foot par and that was it. □

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\$5.71

Per KG



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Per KG



SAVE \$4.57

Minuet Steak Brasil

\$5.71

Per KG



SAVE \$4.00

Bloemstuk Brasil

\$5.71

Per KG



SAVE \$4.00

Stobo/Stewbeef Lean Brasil

\$5.71

Per KG



SAVE \$0.40

Lettuce Iceberg Wrapped

\$2.28

Each



SAVE \$0.57

Tomato Plum

\$3.99

Per KG



SAVE \$0.57

Pineapples

\$2.85

Each



SAVE \$1.14

Mortadella w/Pistachio

\$1.25

100 GR



SAVE \$0.35

Goat Cheese Mild

\$1.88

100 GR



SAVE \$0.88

El Latino Salchichon Salami & Chicken 1lb

\$3.97

Each



SAVE \$0.57

Bergo Assorted Vegetables

\$2.57

Each



SAVE \$0.34

EE Macaroni & Cheese 725oz

\$0.79

Each



SAVE \$0.57

Apetina Witte Kaasblok Uiteland 200gr

\$4.85

Each



SAVE \$1.14

Table Talk Old Assorted Pies 24oz

\$4.57

Each



SAVE \$0.97

EE Shredded Wheat Bite Size 16.4oz

\$3.42

Each



SAVE \$0.57

Lofthouse Frosted Sugar Cookies Pink/White 13.5oz

\$3.42

Each



SAVE \$1.14

Budget Saver Cherry Mango Pops

\$3.88

Each



SAVE \$0.57

Palmolive Shower Gel Milk&Honey 750ml

\$3.42

Each



SAVE \$0.57

Axe Body Spray Apollo 150ml

\$2.85

Each



SAVE \$3.43

Sofia Toilet Paper 3ply 32 rolls

\$12.57

Each