



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

The U.S. election was largely trouble-free, but a flood of misinformation raises future concerns



Election workers process ballots at the Maricopa County Tabulation Center Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

By **CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and DAVID KLEPPER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A relatively trouble-free presidential election was good news for those working to restore faith in the system. Less encouraging was a flood of misinformation that sought to under-

mine trust in voting and sow chaos, something experts say is likely to get worse in the years ahead. The most significant test for officials on Election Day was a series of bomb threats reported in five battleground states, some of which forced polling places to be evacuated temporarily. The day

otherwise played out like most other election days, with only routine problems, and former President Donald Trump's commanding lead allowed the presidential race to be called early Wednesday morning. "High turnout and wide margins — that's all we ever hope for," said Zach Manifold, the elections super-

visor in Gwinnett County, Georgia. The more than 84 million people who voted early, either in person or by mail, eased the crush on Tuesday and provided election workers with more flexibility to respond to unexpected problems.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

MONDAY:
ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

WEDNESDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 - 8:30pm

FRIDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITARIST
7:00 - 9:00pm

SATURDAY:
EDDIE KROON
SINGER
4:00 - 6:00pm



KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm

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

PREMIUM BRANDS

ANGELA FLORES
VIOLINIST
6:30 - 8:30pm

The U.S. election was largely trouble-free, but a flood of misinformation raises future concerns

Continued from Front

"Yesterday and the election season was a wonderful example of how early voting is so important to maintain security, and how it actually minimized and mitigated some of the threats that we saw," David Becker, a former U.S. Justice Department attorney who leads the Center for Election Innovation and Research, said the day after Election Day.

When the bomb threats came in — starting early in the day in the Atlanta area and then spreading to Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin — election officials were prepared. They had spent the better part of the year meeting with local law enforcement, training through various scenarios and updating their emergency plans.

"I saw professionals all across the country saying, 'OK, here's what we're going to do,'" said Carolina Lopez, a former local election official who leads the Partnership for Large Election Jurisdictions.

The FBI said the threats appeared to originate from Russian email domains, though federal cybersecurity officials cautioned the culprits were not necessarily Russian.

Interference from Russia and other foreign adversaries was a constant theme running through election season.



An election worker processes mail-in ballots for the 2024 General Election at the Philadelphia Election Warehouse, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Russia, Iran and China steadily increased their use of English-language disinformation in the months leading up to Election Day. Their motives varied, but their tactics were similar: using networks of bogus social media accounts and websites to spread content designed to erode confidence in election security and American democracy. Russia was particularly audacious, creating and spreading staged videos that aimed to smear Vice President Kamala Harris and her running mate, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz. The Kremlin's efforts this year also involved paying a Tennessee media company \$10 million to produce pro-Russian content.

"Russia clearly interfered in this election," said Brian Taylor, a political science professor and Russia expert at Syracuse University. He said Russia's objectives were to "help Trump and to

sow chaos more generally — although there is no evidence that their activities changed the outcome."

Experts say America's adversaries are playing a long game, using disinformation to undermine Americans' confidence in their own country and gradually diminish U.S. power. Russia, in particular, preferred Trump as a candidate because he is seen as less likely to support assistance for Ukraine, said Emerson Brooking, resident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, which tracks foreign disinformation.

"None of this goes away after Election Day," Brooking said. "What are Russia's goals? It wasn't to elect President Trump, but to steer the United States in a particular direction. Trump's election is one step in that process."

Russia, Iran and China have rejected allegations they

sought to meddle with the U.S. election.

Steve Simon, president of the National Association of Secretaries of State, praised the quick work done by federal agencies to call out the disinformation. He said federal officials had within a day identified Russia as being behind a viral video purporting to show voter fraud in Georgia.

"The nature of their response and the timeliness of their response really helped confront and limit the influence of those messages," said Simon, who serves as Minnesota's top state election official.

Kim Wyman, a former official with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, said the agency had proven its value this year given the meddling by other countries.

"What was certainly demonstrated in this election is that foreign adversaries have not stopped trying to have an impact in U.S. elections, and we anticipate that will continue in the future," said Wyman, who also served as Washington's secretary of state. She said she'd like the Republican-controlled Congress to continue supporting CISA and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, which works with states to improve election operations and certifies voting systems.

Voting rights groups said they hoped an election with no major problems would temper talk about making

widespread changes to voting procedures. During the campaign, Trump and his allies had spoken of a desire for a single day of voting, pushing false claims of widespread voter fraud with mail ballots. It's not clear whether that talk will continue, given that Republicans flocked to early voting this year after Trump encouraged it.

The president-elect has been spreading election lies for years related to his re-election loss in 2020. He repeatedly questioned voting procedures and accused Democrats of cheating before and during Election Day, but stopped making those claims once he took the lead.

"I'm hopeful that we'll keep the things in place that work for the vast majorities of voters," said Jay Young, senior director of voting and democracy with Common Cause.

Young said he would be concerned about any effort to restrict voting based on false claims, such as the one peddled by Republicans this year that large numbers of noncitizens were voting. Republicans in Congress have been pushing legislation on the issue. "There is a lot of noise out there that is not based in fact," Young said. "It's my job, frankly, to make sure my organization and the groups that we are part of, that we can't let someone try to seize on a moment in time to achieve a political end." □



Gilberto Hinojosa opens up the general session at the Texas Democratic Convention Friday, June 22, 2018, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Associated Press

By VALERIE GONZALEZ

Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) —

The longtime leader of the Texas Democratic Party announced his resignation

Texas Democrats' longtime chairman steps down after big losses continue for the party

Friday after another election cycle of lopsided defeats and voters making a dramatic swing toward the GOP on the heavily Hispanic southern border.

Gilberto Hinojosa, a native of the Rio Grande Valley, has served as the Texas Democratic Party chair since 2012. During that time, Democrats have not won any statewide offices and badly lost key races Tuesday.

All but two counties along the Texas-Mexico border, long considered Democratic strongholds, turned red for Trump.

It included Hidalgo and Cameron, the two most populous counties in the Rio Grande Valley. President-elect Donald Trump easily won Texas by 14 points, which was more than double his margin of victory in 2020 and a sign of eroding Demo-

cratic support.

Hinojosa said he would step down in March 2025.

"In the days and weeks to come, it is imperative that our Democratic leaders across the country reevaluate what is best for our party and embrace the next generation of leaders to take us through the next four years of Trump and win back seats up and down the ballot," Hinojosa said. □

Trump's win brings uncertainty to borrowers hoping for student loan forgiveness

By CHEYANNE MUMPHREY
Associated Press

Savannah Britt owes about \$27,000 on loans she took out to attend college at Rutgers University, a debt she was hoping to see reduced by President Joe Biden's student loan forgiveness efforts.

Her payments are currently on hold while courts untangle challenges to the loan forgiveness program. But as the weeks tick down on Biden's time in office, she could soon face a monthly payment of up to \$250.

"With this new administration, the dream is gone. It's shot," said Britt, 30, who runs her own communications agency. "I was hopeful before Tuesday. I was waiting out the process. Even my mom has a loan that she took out to support me. She owes about \$18,000, and she was in the process of it being forgiven, but it's at a standstill."

President-elect Donald Trump and his fellow Republicans have criticized Biden's loan forgiveness efforts, and lawsuits by GOP-led states have held up plans for widespread debt cancellation. Trump has not said what he would do on loan forgiveness, leaving millions of borrowers facing uncertainty over their personal finances.



People demonstrate outside the Supreme Court, June 30, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press

The economy was an important issue in the election, helping to propel Trump to victory. But for borrowers, concerns about their finances extend beyond inflation to include their student debt, said Persis Yu, managing counsel for the Student Borrower Protection Center.

"That's a big part of what is making life unaffordable for them is this burden of expenses that they can't seem to get out from under," Yu said. Student loan cancellation was not a focus of the cam-

campaign for either Trump or Vice President Kamala Harris, who steered clear of the issue at her political events. The issue came up just once in the September presidential debate, when Trump hammered Harris and Biden for failing to deliver their promise of widespread forgiveness. Trump called it a "total catastrophe" that "taunted young people."

Biden promised the student loan cancellation program during his run for the presidency. From its launch,

Biden's loan forgiveness faced relentless pushback from opponents who said it heaped advantage on elites and came at the expense of those who repaid their loans or did not attend college. Biden's first plan to cancel up to \$20,000 for millions of people was blocked by the Supreme Court last year. A second, narrower plan has been halted by a federal judge after Republican-led states sued. A separate policy intended to lower loan payments for struggling bor-

rowers has been paused by a judge, also after Republican-controlled states challenged it.

Overall, Biden's efforts were relatively unpopular, even among those with student loans. Three in 10 U.S. adults said they approved of how Biden had handled student loan debt, according to a poll this spring from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Four in 10 disapproved. The others were neutral or didn't know enough to say.

Project 2025, the blueprint for a hard-right turn in American government that aligns with some Trump priorities, calls for getting the federal government out of the student loan business and doing away with repayment plans that pre-date the Biden administration.

Even without directly addressing student loans, Trump has made promises that would affect them. He has pledged to eliminate the U.S. Department of Education, which manages the \$1.6 trillion federal student loan portfolio. It's unclear which entity would take that responsibility if the department were eliminated, which would require approval from Congress. □

The Pentagon is letting a small number of U.S. defense contractors fix weapons in Ukraine

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon is easing restrictions to allow a small number of private American defense contractors to work inside Ukraine, helping repair and maintain equipment, U.S. officials said Friday.

The contractors will be far away from the front lines during Russia's invasion and will not be taking part in combat, the officials said. The department is soliciting bids now, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss inter-

nal decisions.

Ukraine has been receiving billions of dollars worth of American weapons and equipment over the past two years, including a number of sophisticated systems. For much of that time, U.S. and allied troops have been providing real-time maintenance advice using phones and tablets to communicate in encrypted chatrooms with Ukrainian forces. Officials said the Pentagon is allowing the contractors to go because some equipment — including F-16 fighter jets and air de-

fense systems — requires high-tech expertise to repair. Using the contractors, they said, will ensure the weapons are fixed quickly so Ukrainian forces can continue to use them in combat.

The decision expands the footprint of U.S. government contractors working in Ukraine. The State Department already has contracted with U.S. companies to work inside the country, including on the energy grid. In addition, a number of American companies have workers in Ukraine under contracts



A dog reacts as self-propelled artillery howitzer "Gvozdika" fires towards Russian positions on the frontline in the Kharkiv region, Ukraine, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024.

Associated Press

with the Kyiv government. Officials said the companies will be respon-

sible for the safety of their employees. □

Justice Department brings criminal charges in Iranian murder-for-hire plan targeting Donald Trump

By **ERIC TUCKER** and **LARRY NEUMEISTER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department on Friday disclosed an Iranian murder-for-hire plot to kill Donald Trump, charging a man who said he had been tasked by a government official before this week's election with planning the assassination of the Republican president-elect.

Investigators learned of the plan to kill Trump from Farhad Shakeri, an accused Iranian government asset who spent time in American prisons for robbery and who authorities say maintains a network of criminal associates enlisted by Tehran for surveillance and murder-for-hire plots.

Shakeri told investigators that a contact in Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard instructed him this past September to set aside other work he was doing and assemble a plan within seven days to surveil and ultimately kill Trump, according to a criminal complaint unsealed in federal court in Manhattan.

The official was quoted by Shakeri as saying that "We have already spent a lot of money" and that "money's not an issue." Shakeri told investigators the official told him that if he could not put together a plan within the seven-day timeframe, then the plot would be paused until after the election because the official assumed



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump is reflected in the bullet proof glass as he finishes speaking at a campaign rally in Lititz, Pa., Nov. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

Trump would lose and that it would be easier to kill him then, the complaint said.

Shakeri is at large and remains in Iran. Two other men were arrested on charges that Shakeri recruited them to follow and kill prominent Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad, who has endured multiple Iranian murder-for-hire plots foiled by law enforcement.

"I'm very shocked," said Alinejad, speaking by telephone to The Associated Press from Berlin, where she was about to attend a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the tearing down of the wall. "This is the third attempt against

me and that's shocking."

In a post on the social media platform X, she said: "I came to America to practice my First Amendment right to freedom of speech — I don't want to die. I want to fight against tyranny, and I deserve to be safe. Thank you to law enforcement for protecting me, but I urge the U.S. government to protect the national security of America." Lawyers for the two other defendants, identified as Jonathan Loadholt and Carlisle Rivera, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Iran's U.N. Mission declined to comment.

Shakeri, an Afghan national

who immigrated to the U.S. as a child but was later deported after spending 14 years in prison for robbery, also told investigators that he was tasked by his Revolutionary Guard contact with plotting the killings of two Jewish-Americans living in New York and Israeli tourists in Sri Lanka. Officials say he overlapped with Rivera while in prison as well as an unidentified co-conspirator.

The criminal complaint says Shakeri disclosed some of the details of the alleged plots in a series of recorded telephone interviews with FBI agents while in Iran. The stated reason for his coop-

eration, he told investigators, was to try to get a reduced prison sentence for an associate behind bars in the U.S. According to the complaint, though officials determined that some of the information he provided was false, his statements regarding a plot to kill Trump and Iran's willingness to pay large sums of money were determined to be accurate.

The plot, disclosed just days after Trump's defeat of Democrat Kamala Harris, reflects what federal officials have described as ongoing efforts by Iran to target U.S. government officials, including Trump, on U.S. soil. Last summer, the Justice Department charged a Pakistani man with ties to Iran in a murder-for-hire plot targeting American officials.

"There are few actors in the world that pose as grave a threat to the national security of the United States as does Iran," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement Friday. FBI Director Christopher Wray said the case shows Iran's "continued brazen attempts to target U.S. citizens," including Trump, "other government leaders and dissidents who criticize the regime in Tehran."

Iranian operatives also conducted a hack-and-leak operation of emails belonging to Trump campaign associates in what officials have assessed was an effort to interfere in the presidential election. □



An election worker processes mail-in ballots for the 2024 General Election at the Philadelphia Election Warehouse, Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

By **JOHN SEEWER**
Associated Press

Elwood Edwards, who

voiced America Online's ever-present "You've got mail" greeting, has died. He

Elwood Edwards, the man behind the voice of AOL's 'You've got mail' greeting, dies at 74

was 74. He died Tuesday at his home in New Bern, North Carolina, said his daughter Heather Edwards. The cause was complications from a stroke late last year, she said.

Edwards taped his AOL greeting in 1989 into a recorder while sitting in the living room of his home. "You've got mail" became a pop culture catchphrase in the late 1990s and served

as the title of the 1998 Tom Hanks-Meg Ryan film.

"He would still blush anytime someone brought it up," his daughter said. "He loved the attention, but he never got used to it."

He was also the voice of AOL's "Welcome," "Good-bye" and "File's done" messages. He made \$200 from the recordings.

He got the gig while working at an independent TV

station in Washington, D.C. His second wife, Karen, was a customer service representative for the internet provider that later became known as AOL. She heard the company was looking for someone to be the voice of its software and suggested her husband.

"They were so impressed, they didn't have him go in a recording booth," his daughter said. □

European countries are spending more on defense, a think tank says

By KAREL JANICEK
Associated Press

PRAGUE (AP) — European nations boosted their defenses in response to the annexation of the Crimea Peninsula in 2014 and Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, a London-based think tank said Friday, but much remains to be done for them to be ready to face threats from Russia.

That's the conclusion of a report released by the International Institute for Strategic Studies released as it opened a three-day gathering in the Czech capital to discuss European and transatlantic military capabilities.

"NATO has not just significantly increased its ambitions regarding its deterrence and war-fighting posture, but European members have sought to address critical capability and readiness shortfalls," the report said.

"Unsurprisingly, however, after decades of neglect and underinvestment, much remains to be done and progress has been mixed."

It was released as Europe-



A Ukrainian serviceman of the Bugskiy Gard unit prepares a 120mm mortar before firing towards Russian positions on the front line, in the Kherson region, Ukraine, Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024.

Associated Press

an leaders, including NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte, were reassessing their trans-Atlantic relations in Budapest, Hungary in the hope that Donald Trump's second U.S. presidency will avoid the strife of his first administration and maintain a strong common stance on Russia.

Ben Schreer, executive director, IISS-Europe, said

that European defense is "at the most critical time" now. "The U.S. election will add even more pressure on European nations to invest more in their own defenses but at the same time considering how to continue to help Ukraine win this war." During his election campaign, Trump threatened actions that could have groundbreaking conse-

quences for nations across Europe, from a trade war with the EU to a withdrawal of NATO commitments and a fundamental shift of support for Ukraine in its war with Russia.

During his first 2017-2021 term, Trump pushed NATO's European members to spend more on defense, up to and beyond 2% of gross domestic product,

and to be less reliant on U.S. military cover.

In that respect, some progress has been made, with 2024 defense spending by NATO's European members states 50% higher than it was 10 years ago, the report said.

But problems remain, the IISS said, naming a lack of stability in public financing that "ultimately limits (the defense) industry's ability to invest with confidence." Moreover, "regulatory hurdles and application of environmental, social and governance standards will continue to act as barriers to investment," it said.

Europe's defense industry managed to increase output of some products after 2022, especially those with high demand from Ukraine, such as air defense and artillery. But European countries also donated their own weapons to Ukraine, including F-16 fighter jets, and "remain dependent on the U.S. for some important aspects of their military capability," looking also to Brazil, Israel and South Korea to meet their needs due to a lack of their production capacity. □

Thousands turn out for inauguration of Botswana's new president, who calls for unity

By SELLO MOTSETA
Associated Press

GABORONE, Botswana. (AP) — Thousands of people from around Botswana attended the inauguration Friday of their country's new president, Duma Boko, who called for unity after an election that brought an end to the former ruling party's 58 years in power. His Umbrella for Democratic Change, a coalition of Botswana National Front and the Alliance for Progressives won 36 parliamentary seats and denied former president Mokgweetsi Masisi a second term.

Boko took his oath in front of thousands of citizens and delegates in the capital Gaborone on Friday after arriving in an open top

vehicle accompanied by first official speech as president, Boko encouraged those in attendance to give his predecessor who was

Addressing the nation in his



Botswana's new president Duma Boko addresses crowds at his inauguration ceremony in Gaborone, Botswana, Friday, Nov. 8, 2024.

Associated Press

often subjected to jeers some love and praised his willingness to concede power without incident.

He described the change of government in Botswana as a historic moment and stressed the need to avoid squabbles and personal rifts. "This is indeed a historic moment most humbling and most sobering. It is one of the rarest moments that can only be acknowledged in retrospect," he said.

He expressed his love for his country and the appreciation they had shown him in electing him to the country's highest office.

"It gives me great pleasure when I look at you and you look back at me and say that's my boy. You say so

because you raised the boy. You love the boy. You know and understand that this boy loves you," said Boko in a colorful inauguration speech fueled by optimism but thin on details of his party's plans for national development.

During the campaign, his party promised to fight corruption and introduce a minimum wage of 4,000 Pula (\$302) per month, unemployment allowance and to increase old age benefits and build new enterprises. A recent Afrobarometer survey shows that unemployment is the most pressing concern for citizens, far surpassing other issues such as health, crime, poverty, education and corruption. □

Philippine president angers China with new laws to demarcate South China Sea territories

By **JIM GOMEZ**
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. signed two laws on Friday reaffirming the extent of his country's maritime territories and right to resources, including in the South China Sea, angering China, which claims the hotly disputed waterway almost in its entirety.

China's foreign ministry said it summoned the Philippines ambassador to China to lodge a "stern protest." The ministry condemned the move as an attempt to "solidify the illegal ruling of the South China Sea arbitration case through domestic legislation."

Confrontations between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces in the disputed sea passage have spiked alarmingly since last year. That has sparked fears that the United States Manila's longtime treaty ally may get drawn in a major conflict.

The laws, called the Philip-



In this photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Communications Office, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., center, holds a document beside Senate President Francis Escudero, left, and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, right, during the ceremonial signing of the Philippine Maritime Zones and Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes Act, at the Malacanang presidential palace, in Manila, Philippines, Friday, Nov. 8, 2024.

pine Maritime Zones act and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes act, were signed by Marcos in a nationally televised ceremony attended by top military and national security officials. They further cement

Manila's rejection of China's claims to virtually the entire sea passage, and stipulate jail terms and stiff fines for violators.

"These signal our resolve to protect our maritime resources, preserve our rich

biodiversity and ensure that our waters remain a source of life and livelihood for all Filipinos," Marcos said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said the move "seriously infringes on China's territorial

sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea."

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes it," she said. In a new national map it released last year the Chinese government demarcated its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea with vague dash lines that drew protests and rejections from rival coastal states and government, including Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines.

The maritime zones act demarcates key parts of the Philippine archipelago's territory and outlying waters where it has full sovereignty and sovereign rights under international law and the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, Philippine officials said. Those zones include the country's Exclusive Economic Zone, a 200-nautical-mile (370-kilometer) stretch of water, where a coastal state like the Philippines has exclusive rights to tap energy and other resources. □

Associated Press

Self-described Nazi becomes first person jailed in Australia for performing outlawed salute

By **ROD McGUIRK**
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— A self-described Nazi became the first person in Australia to be sentenced to prison for performing an outlawed salute when he was ordered by a magistrate on Friday to spend one month behind bars.

Jacob Hersant, 25, is also the first person in Victoria state to be convicted of giving the Nazi salute. The gesture has been outlawed nationwide since he committed the offense.

He was convicted in the Melbourne Magistrates Court last month of performing the straight-armed salute before news cameras outside the Victoria County Court on Oct. 27, 2023. Hersant had then just avoided a prison sentence for causing violent disorder. The Nazi salute had been

outlawed by the state parliament days earlier.

Magistrate Brett Sonnet allowed Hersant to remain free on bail after he was convicted, until Friday, when he was sentenced to one month in prison.

But Hersant spent only an

hour in custody before his lawyer, Tim Smartt, succeeded in a bail application after lodging an appeal against his conviction and sentence.

Hersant faced a potential maximum sentence of 12 months in prison plus

a 24,000 Australian dollar (\$16,025) fine.

Smartt said Hersant should not be jailed for a non-violent act. "It's not justified sending a 25-year-old to prison. That is wrong," Smartt told the magistrate. Sonnet said a prison sentence was appropriate.

"If there was physical violence, then I would have imposed a sentence close to the maximum penalty," Sonnet said. "The accused sought to promote Nazi ideology in the public arena and the court is satisfied he took advantage of the media to disseminate extreme political views."

Hersant was a member of the National Socialist Network, an organization that promoted white supremacy, deportation of immigrants and far-right actors, Sonnet said. While performing the salute last year, he

praised Nazi leader Adolf Hitler and said, "Australia for the white man."

Sonnet said his words were "clearly racist and seek to promote white supremacy in Australia."

"Put bluntly, the white man is not superior to any other race of people," Sonnet said. Hersant's lawyers had argued that his comments and salute were protected by an implied constitutional freedom of political communication.

On his way into court on Friday, Hersant maintained he had a right to express his political views.

"We're going to argue that the law is constitutionally invalid and it's emotional and it's anti-white," Hersant told reporters. "It's my political view and I think it's a good fight for us to have an argument in court saying these laws are invalid." □



Jacob Hersant speaks outside the Melbourne Magistrates' Court in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Nov. 8, 2024, before his sentencing after he was convicted for performing the Nazi salute.

Associated Press

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.



With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.



The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler

and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of

Ana meaning flower or the best and lboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Ana-boio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and it's meaning.

During the second world war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered

by both locals and tourists.

Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess. □

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.

Lessons from our elders:

Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate



tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said

to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitor at Costa Linda Beach Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honoree was respectively honored with a certificate for his 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 consecutively.

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 honoree was:
 Goodwill Ambassador
 Mr. Gerald Bell from Levittown, New York, United States.

Ms. Marouska Rasmijn representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Costa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honoree, presented him with gifts, and thanked him for choosing Aruba as his favorite vacation destination, as his home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honoree was:

- Mr. Bell fell in love with Aruba from his first visit in 1984
- Spending time with family
- Sun and Sand
- Aruba's weather
- The Casino's on the island

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

**In celebrating 200 years of Oranjestad...
 Learn about the history of the famous town hall!**

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

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

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

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

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

mansion for the first time, furnished entirely by her sisters-in-law.

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

The land was sold to Land Aruba in 1986, but it did not see a renovation until 1997. Nowadays, it serves to host weddings, and is attached to a modern building situ-

ated behind—the Aruban census office.

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

Nowadays, this mansion lies in ruins. However, the Aruban government recently announced its official restoration, with plans to convert this monument into a

governmental office and public space for visitors of Oranjestad.

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



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors 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 consecutively.

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:
 Distinguished Visitors
 Mr. Luis & Mrs. Mashama Torres from Loganville,

Georgia, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort 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:

- The friendly people
- The incredible weather on the island
- The beautiful white sand and beaches
- The amazing sunrises
- The astonishing sunsets

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". □



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly

visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another. The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history. Nicolaas Store built in 1940

and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment. Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly

beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals

are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it. Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

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



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

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

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

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

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

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

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

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

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

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

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

what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.
Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King
Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife. □

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

Did you know about...? The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.



Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word "florin" supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

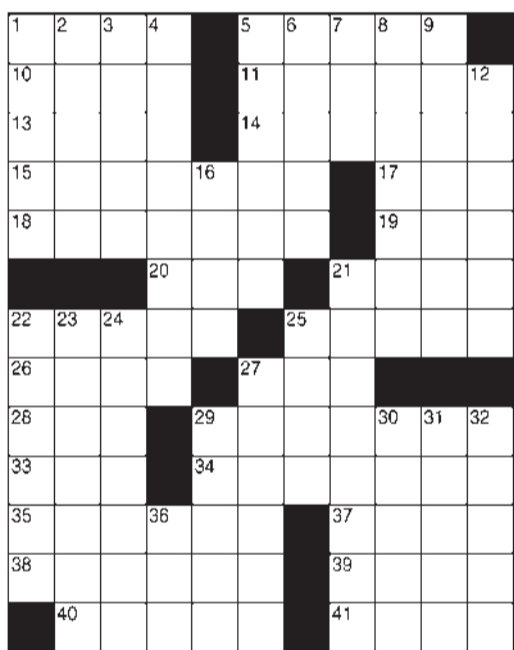
Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Painter's motion
 - 1 Field yield
 - 5 The Yokum boy
 - 10 Timber wolf
 - 11 Hay plant
 - 13 Beame and Burrows
 - 14 Hors d'oeuvre
 - 15 Wall art
 - 17 Take to court
 - 18 Leave for a bit
 - 19 Sick
 - 20 Count start
 - 21 Do some modeling
 - 22 Astounds
 - 25 Prepared, as a fish
 - 26 Decline
 - 27 Sinking signal
 - 28 Chicken — king
 - 29 Kid's racer
 - 33 Kitten cry
 - 34 Mailing cost
 - 35 Lined up
 - 37 Crocus cousin

- DOWN**
- Saturday's answer
- 1 Applauds
 - 2 Metal man
 - 3 Heavier than
 - 4 Put off
 - 5 Build up
 - 6 Explosion
 - 7 Persona
 - 8 Vague answer
 - 9 Push away
 - 12 Stag-gered
 - 16 Ages and ages
 - 21 Race start
 - 22 Wise teachers
 - 23 Natural gifts
 - 24 Oblivious
 - 25 Derisive calls
 - 27 Less speedy
 - 29 Bike wheel part
 - 30 Singer Mariah
 - 31 Nimble
 - 32 Work breaks
 - 36 Scepter



4-22

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.

4-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

T A S N C M N S K C I I K L D

X I A Q D F J , O S K T A S N C M M A K

B D D V J V F Y M Z X F A P N A P Y M Z .

— V C O I A M D F S H C

Saturday's Cryptoquote: NATURE IS NOT A PLACE TO VISIT. IT IS HOME. — GARY SNYDER

Cruise ship Schedule: November 03 - 10 2024

| | | | ARR | DEPT | BERTH | |
|-----|----|---|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| SUN | 03 | EMERALD PRINCESS FREEWINDS - DEPT. | 09.00 **** | 22.00 22.15 | C E | 1 - |
| MON | 04 | SEVEN SEAS GRANDEUR | 07.00 | 16.00 | C | 1 |
| TUE | 05 | GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA FREEWINDS | 08.00 13.00 06.00 | 21.00 23.00 **** | B C E | 1 1 1 |
| THU | 07 | SILVER SHADOW | 08.00 | 23.00 | C | 1 |
| FRI | 08 | CARNIVAL MIRACLE | 09.00 | 22.00 | C | 1 |
| SAT | 09 | ROYAL CLIPPER AIDAPERLA | 09.00 08.00 | 18.00 **** | B C | 1 1 |
| SUN | 10 | AIDAPERLA - Dept. FREEWINDS - DEPT. | **** **** | 22.00 22.15 | C E | - - |

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

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.

Electrical power



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.

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

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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New DNA evidence rewrites long-told stories of people in ancient Pompeii



Jewelry found in the ruins of a house in Pompeii are displayed, backdropped by the casts of two adults and two children who died together in the house in Pompeii, at the exhibition, "Life and death Pompeii and Herculaneum," at the British Museum in central London, March 26, 2013.

Associated Press

By **LAURA UNGAR**
AP Science Writer

When a volcanic eruption buried the ancient city of Pompeii, the last desperate moments of its citizens were preserved in stone for centuries.

Observers see stories in the plaster casts later made of their bodies, like a mother holding a child and two women embracing as they die.

But new DNA evidence suggests things were not as they seem and these prevailing interpretations come from looking at the ancient world through modern eyes.

"We were able to disprove or challenge some of the previous narratives built

upon how these individuals were kind of found in relation to each other," said Alissa Mittnik of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany. "It opens up different interpretations for who these people might have been."

Mittnik and her colleagues discovered that the person thought to be a mother was actually a man unrelated to the child. And at least one of the two people locked in an embrace long assumed to be sisters or a mother and daughter was a man. Their research was published Thursday in the journal Current Biology. The team, which also includes scientists from Har-

vard University and the University of Florence in Italy, relied on genetic material preserved for nearly two millennia. After Mount Vesuvius erupted and destroyed the Roman city in 79 A.D., bodies buried in mud and ash eventually decomposed, leaving spaces where they used to be. Casts were created from the voids in the late 1800s.

Researchers focused on 14 casts undergoing restoration, extracting DNA from the fragmented skeletal remains that mixed with them. They hoped to determine the sex, ancestry and genetic relationships between the victims.

There were several surprises in "the house of the golden bracelet," the dwelling where the assumed mother and child were found. The adult wore an intricate piece of jewelry, for which the house was named, re-

inforcing the impression that the victim was a woman. Nearby were the bodies of another adult and child thought to be the rest of their nuclear family. DNA evidence showed the four were male and not related to one another, clearly showing "the story that was long spun around these individuals" was wrong, Mittnik said. □



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- 1 Bed Ocean View \$17,000

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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



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A TV as big as a bed? With the holidays approaching, stores stock more supersize sets

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For some television viewers, size apparently does matter. Forget the 65-inch TVs that were considered bigger than average a decade ago. In time for the holidays, manufacturers and retailers are rolling out more XXL screens measuring more than 8 feet diagonally. That's wider than a standard three-seat sofa or a king-size bed.

Supersize televisions only accounted for 1.7% of revenue from all TV set sales in the U.S. during the first nine months of the year, according to market research firm Circana. But companies preparing for shoppers to go big for Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa have reason to think the growing ultra category will be a bright spot in an otherwise tepid television market, according to analysts.

The 38,100 televisions of at least 97 inches sold between January and September represented a tenfold increase from the same period last year, Circana said. Best Buy, the nation's largest consumer electronics chain, doubled the assortment of hefty TVs the 19 models range in price from \$2,000 to \$25,000 and introduced displays in roughly 70% of its stores.

"It's really taken off this year," Blake Hampton, Best Buy's senior vice president of merchandising, said.

Analysts credit the emerging demand to improved technology and much lower prices. So far this year, the average price for TVs spanning at least 97 inches was \$3,113 compared to \$6,662 last year, according to Circana. South Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung introduced its first 98-inch TV in 2019 with a hefty price tag of \$99,000; it now has four versions starting at \$4,000, the company said.

Anthony Ash, a 42-year-old owner of a wood pallet and recycling business, recently bought a 98-inch Sony for his 14,000-square-



A 115-inch TCL television, right, is displayed at a Best Buy store in Dallas, Friday, Oct. 25, 2024.

Associated Press

foot house in Bristol, Wisconsin. The device, which cost about \$5,000 excluding installation fees, replaced an 85-inch TV in the great room off his kitchen. Ash now has 17 televisions at home and uses some to display digital art.

"We just saw that the price was affordable for what we were looking for and thought, 'Why not?'" he said of deciding to upsize to the Sony.

"You get a better TV experience with a bigger TV. You're sitting watching TV with a person on TV that is the same size as you. You can put yourself in the scene."

The amount of time that many people spend staring at their cellphones and tablets, including to stream movies and TV shows, is another factor driving the growth of widescreen TV screens. Overall TV sales revenue fell 4%, while the number of units sold rose 1% from the January through September period, Circana said.

Most people only invest in a television every seven years, but when they do, they typically choose bigger ones, according to Rick Kowalski, the senior director of business intelligence at

the Consumer Technology Association. In the past 15 years, the size of flat-panel TVs that were shipped to U.S. retailers and dealers grew an average of one inch a year, Kowalski said.

The coronavirus pandemic accelerated the elongation trend as people spent more time at home. In fact, screen sizes increased an average of two inches in both 2021 and 2022, and 85-inch TVs began gaining traction with consumers, Kowalski said. Shipments of 98-inch TVs to the U.S. are picking up pace this year, and models as huge as 110-115 inches are on the market right now, he said. "You get better resolution over time," Kowalski said. "You get better picture quality. And so just over time, it's easier to produce those sets and improve the technology."

Best Buy's Hampton said a benefit of a colossal TV is the viewer can watch multiple shows at once, an experience he described as "incredible."

"If you're watching YouTube TV content or 'NFL Sunday Ticket,' you can actually get four screens up, and that's four 48-inch screens on it," he said.

Manufacturers are also

adding new features. Samsung said it designed its 98-inch lineup with a component that analyzes what the viewer is watching to increase sharpness and reduce visible noise across every scene.

James Fishler, senior vice president of the home entertainment division of Samsung's U.S. division, said the way people watch TV and experience content is shifting.

"It's even more so about watching TV as a shared experience," Fishler said. "They want to host a watch party and gather around their TV to watch the big game, or set up a cinematic movie experience right at home."

Walmart, the nation's largest retailer, its Sam's Club division, and Chicago retailer Abt Electronics, also say they are expanding their TV ranges to meet customer demand for supersize screens.

TV industry experts say these monster TVs are beginning to encroach on home theater projectors, which create a 100- to 120-inch image that is less sharp and require rooms with blackout curtains or without windows.

"A dedicated viewing

room for watching movies was exclusively the purview of projectors," Andrew Sivori, vice president in the entertainment division of LG Electronics, another Korean manufacturer. "But you can get a much better viewing experience with direct TV."

Retailers and TV makers said the buyers trading up range from millennials and members of Generation X to the tech-native Gen Z crowd.

But as Jon Abt, co-president of Abt Electronics said, "It's still a niche business."

"A lot of people just don't have the space to put one of those in," he added.

Before dreaming big for the holidays, shoppers therefore should make sure a 98-inch TV will fit.

Best Buy said its Geek Squad team asks if stairwells and entry halls are large enough to accommodate delivery and installation. An augmented reality feature on the Best Buy app that allows customers to see if products are the right size has been especially helpful for XXL TVs, the retailer said.

But for those worried about having the space for viewing, the good news is that the recommended distance for a 98-inch TV is actually just 6-12 feet from the seating area. The rule of thumb is to multiply the diagonal length of the TV by 1.2 to determine the ideal viewing distance, Samsung's Fishler said.

If bigger is better in the TV department, how big can they go?

"I think we'll have to wait and see," Fishler said. □

So much for parity as 9 NFL teams have 2 wins through 9 weeks: Analysis

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Nine NFL teams have nearly no chance nine weeks into the season.

The Patriots, Raiders, Jaguars, Browns, Giants, Saints and Panthers are 2-7. The Dolphins and Titans are 2-6. On the opposite side, 11 teams have at least six wins. So much for parity.

The league's goal has always been to have every team stay in contention for as long as possible. But 28.1% of the teams — more than a quarter of the league — will likely spend the second half battling for draft positioning.

Maybe Miami still has a chance to stage a turnaround because Tua Tagovailoa is back and playing well. The Dolphins went 1-3 when Tagovailoa was out with a concussion, averaging just 10 points. They've lost both games since his return but scored 27 in each. Oddsmakers are giving Miami respect. The Dolphins are just 1-point underdogs on the road against the Los Angeles Rams (4-4) on Monday night.

"I live in real hope, which is how are people's games getting better? Are we getting better?" coach Mike McDaniels said Thursday. "Does that mean it's up to standard or that losses are acceptable? Absolutely not but vital to foot-



Carolina Panthers running back Chuba Hubbard is tackled by New Orleans Saints safety Tyrann Mathieu during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024, in Charlotte, N.C.
Associated Press

ball teams having success in any NFL season is that they master the art of getting better in the noise, and don't confuse noise with just losing.

"Noise is also very loud when you're winning, and sometimes you can have that — you could be sitting at 6-2 and if the ball isn't getting better through all the noise, I don't have real hope. My hope is real is because the football that I'm watching and detailing is improving, and I think the team is focused on trying to have a game where they feel like their brand of football was mastered. I think the football team

knows that when that occurs, things will take care of themselves in the win column."

The Dolphins are one of two of the two-win teams that made the playoffs last season. Cleveland is the other. Both finished 11-6 and lost in the AFC wild-card round. The Jaguars, Saints and Giants had playoff aspirations coming in.

Jacksonville was 9-8 in each of the previous two seasons, winning the AFC South in 2022 and advancing to the divisional round. But this year has been a disaster for coach Doug Pederson, quarterback Trevor Lawrence and the Jaguars.

They've lost five games by five points or fewer.

"You got to build them back," Pederson said. "You have to get them back ready to go for another challenge. I need to show them and talk to them in a way that is accountability, ownership, do your job, do it better, do the little things. "I have to show that in a team setting, bring it to light and just show the guys, 'Listen, this is what's holding us back right now, plays X, Y, and Z,' whatever it is." The Giants also made the playoffs in 2022 when Brian Daboll was AP Coach of the Year in his first season in New York. They went 6-11

last year when quarterback Daniel Jones missed 11 games because of injuries.

Jones is back but things haven't gone any better for the Giants.

"Well, these guys, everybody, coaches, the players, again, you see that we all do this to try to win," Daboll said. "We spend a lot of time here. We practice the right way. We work hard. When you don't get the results, certainly it's frustrating. You do everything you can do to get a win. Ultimately, that's my job and my job is to support and lead. Again, it should fall on me, not these guys. They're working their butts off."

New Orleans finished 9-8 last season and got off to an impressive start this year, going 2-0 and scoring 91 points in the process. Nothing has gone right for the Saints since Week 3. The losing cost coach Dennis Allen his job this week.

Carolina, New England and Tennessee were supposed to be rebuilding so it's no surprise each team has struggled.

At least the Patriots have reason for optimism because rookie Drake Maye looks like he can be a franchise quarterback. Las Vegas, Cleveland, Tennessee and Carolina have question marks at that important position. □

Preston Mattingly, son of Don Mattingly, promoted to Philadelphia Phillies general manager

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Preston Mattingly, a son of former star first baseman and manager Don Mattingly, was promoted to general manager of the Philadelphia Phillies on Friday under president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski.

Sam Fuld, the GM since December 2020, is studying for his Master of Business Administration degree at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and will become the team's president of business operations when he receives his degree in May 2026.

Fuld will oversee business operations departments after his graduation and until then will share GM duties with Mattingly. Mattingly, 37, played in the minor leagues from 2006-11, then went to Lamar Univer-

sity, where he captained the basketball team and received a bachelor's degree in 2016. He worked for the San Diego Padres from 2017-21, rising to coordinator of major league advance scouting and game planning.

He joined the Phillies as director of player development in September 2021 and was promoted to assistant general manager of player development last November.

In addition, Luke Murton was promoted to director of player development and Edwar Gonzalez to director of hitting development. Don Mattingly was a six-time All-Star for the New York Yankees from 1982-95, then managed the Los Angeles Dodgers from 2011-15 and the Miami Marlins from 2016-22. □



Preston Mattingly, manager of scouting for the San Diego Padres, stands on the field before a baseball game against the Miami Marlins, Saturday, July 24, 2021, in Miami.

Associated Press

Federal judge denies motion to recognize Michael Jordan's NASCAR teams as a chartered organization

By JENNA FRYER

AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — A federal judge on Friday denied a motion by two NASCAR teams — one owned by NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan — to be recognized as chartered teams as they proceed in an antitrust lawsuit against the stock car series and chairman Jim France.

The motion was signed by federal judge Frank Whitney of the United States District Court of Western North Carolina in Charlotte at the exact same time NASCAR executives were giving their annual "State of the Sport" address at Phoenix Raceway.

NASCAR President Steve Phelps opened the address by noting that series officials have not discussed negotiations over charters in the more than two-year process and would not start now.

"I know people are frustrated about that," Phelps said. "We are not going to negotiate in the media about charters, ever. And we are very happy that 32 of the 36 charters were extended because those were race teams that where the deal that was put on the table for them, the primary big win for the race teams was money."

"I won't go into what the money split looks like, but what I will say is that the amount of money, it now puts the race teams, starting in '25, as the single largest beneficiary of our media deal. And we did that because the race teams were upside down financially."

The court decision came down just hours before Cup cars hit the track for the first practice session of championship weekend. Tyler Reddick, who drives for the Jordan-owned 23XI Racing, is one of four drivers who is in Sunday's winner-take-all finale at Phoenix.

When the ruling came out and NASCAR was informed as executives sat on the stage at Phoenix Raceway, NASCAR chief operating officer Steve O'Donnell



Bob Jenkins, owner of Front Row Motorsports, and Michael Jordan, co-owner of 23XI Racing, pose before a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Talladega Superspeedway, Oct. 6, 2024, in Talladega, Ala.

Associated Press

quipped: "You can't make it up, for the timing" as he and Phelps declined comment on the injunction.

Jeffrey Kessler, the top antitrust lawyer in the country, indicated after Monday's hearing in Charlotte that the plaintiffs can immediately appeal the ruling.

At issue is that both 23XI and Front Row Motorsports refused to sign a take-it-or-leave-it charter agreement presented to teams by NASCAR in September, just 48 hours before the playoffs began. The offers came after more than two years of negotiations between NASCAR and its teams, and 13 of 15 organizations signed the deal.

23XI Racing and Front Row Motorsports declined to sign and have accused NASCAR of being "monopolistic bullies" in what is essentially a revenue-sharing agreement between the sanctioning body and its teams.

NASCAR has since rescinded the offers on charter extensions to 23XI and Front Row. Their current charters expire at the end of the

calendar year. The teams are free to operate as "open" teams but the lack of chartered protection denies them an equal share of revenue, a guaranteed spot in the field of 38 races and other provisions under the charter agreements.

23XI and Front Row have asked for things to remain status quo as their antitrust case proceeds because the new charters that begin in 2025 prevent teams from suing NASCAR. Kessler asked that the teams be released from that clause for the duration of the lawsuit. In his ruling, the judge found that Kessler failed to demonstrate that 23XI and Front Row "will face irreparable harm through several avenues."

Kessler had argued the plaintiffs asserted they will "risk" losing sponsors while competing as open teams because the sponsors "could abandon (them) if they ... do not qualify for all of their races."

For instance, Kessler said 23XI's sponsorship agreements require that each sponsored car runs in ev-

ery Cup Series race, so failure to qualify for a race could reduce the amount of sponsorship money it receives.

The plaintiffs also alleged they will "risk" the loss of their drivers if their cars are not chartered. Kessler said 23XI driver Reddick is permitted to terminate his contract with the team if there is no charter for his car — and he could leave as the reigning Cup champion should he win the title Sunday.

Kessler also argued racing as open teams "could threaten (their) continued existence" as both teams alleged they will lose substantial amounts of revenue without charters. And the plaintiffs alleged they may lose goodwill with fans and sponsors if they fail to qualify for a race.

But Whitney wrote that a plaintiff seeking a preliminary injunction must "demonstrate that irreparable injury is likely in the absence of an injunction" and a showing of the "possibility of irreparable harm" is not sufficient.

Furthermore, Whitney wrote "the required irreparable harm must be neither remote nor speculative, but actual and imminent." He said "although Plaintiffs have alleged that they will face a risk of irreparable harm, they have not sufficiently alleged present, immediate, urgent irreparable harm, but rather only speculative, possible harm. That is, although Plaintiffs allege they are on the brink of irreparable harm, the 2025 racing season is months away — the stock cars remain in the garage." Whitney said "Plaintiffs have not alleged that their business cannot survive without a preliminary injunction. Instead, they allege that their businesses may not survive without a preliminary injunction."

Whitney found that Kessler did not meet the burden as required for a preliminary injunction, but if circumstances change, plaintiffs may file a renewed motion for a preliminary injunction. The teams were given a deadline of Dec. 2 to respond. □