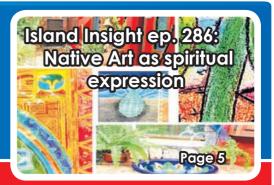
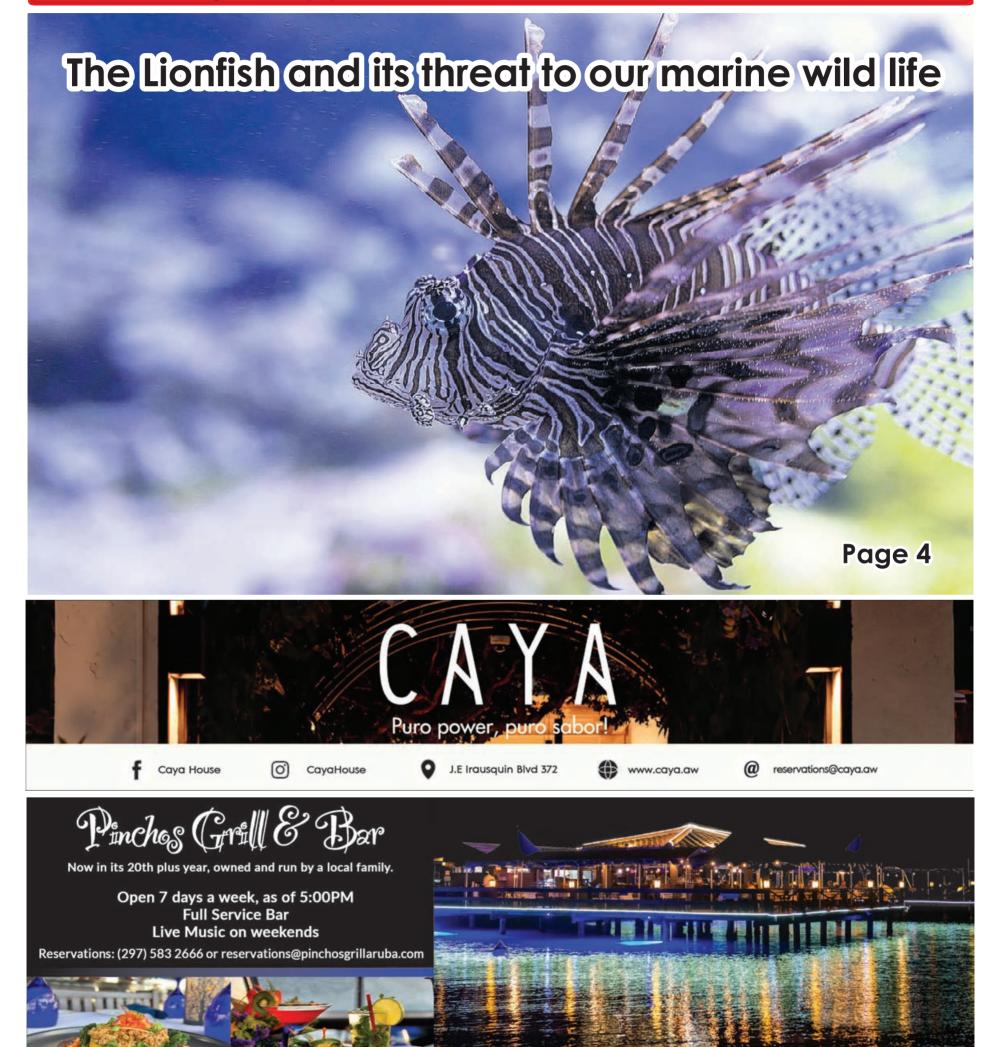


Wednesday January 15, 2025

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# Biden takes big step for the future of AI with ambitious executive order

# By SARAH PARVINI **AP Technology Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday signed an ambitious executive order on artificial intelligence that seeks to ensure the infrastructure needed for advanced Al operations, such as largescale data centers and new clean power facilities, can be built quickly and at scale in the United States.

The executive order directs federal agencies to accelerate large-scale AI infrastructure development at government sites, while imposing requirements and safeguards on the developers building on those locations. It also directs certain agencies to make federal sites available for AI data centers and new clean facilities. Those agencies will help facilitate the infrastructure's interconnection to the electric grid and help speed up the permitting process.

While the tech industry has long relied on data centers to run online services, from email and social media to financial transactions, new Al technology behind popular chatbots and other generative AI tools requires even more powerful computation to build and operate.

A report released by the our lead for granted," the



Amazon Web Services data center is seen on Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024, in Boardman, Ore. **Associated Press** 

Department of Energy last month estimated that the electricity needed for data centers in the U.S. tripled over the past decade and is projected to double or triple again by 2028, when it could consume up to 12% of the nation's electricity. In a statement, Biden said Al will have "profound implications for national security and enormous potential to improve Americans' lives

if harnessed responsibly, from helping cure disease to keeping communities safe by mitigating the effects of climate change."

"However, we cannot take

Democratic president said. "We will not let America be out-built when it comes to the technology that will define the future, nor should we sacrifice critical environmental standards and our shared efforts to protect clean air and clean water." Under the new rules, the departments of Defense and Energy will

The agencies will run "competitive solicitations" from private companies to build Al data centers on those federal sites, senior admin-

each identify at least three

sites where the private sec-

tor can build AI data cen-

istration officials said.

Developers building those sites will be required, among other things, to pay for the construction of those facilities and to bring sufficient clean power generation to match the full capacity needs of their data centers. Although the U.S. government will be leasing land to a company, that company would own the materials it creates there, officials said.

With less than a week before President-elect Donald Trump takes office, a big question is whether the incoming administration will keep or rescind the new order.

Much of the order's focus is on reducing the bottlenecks of getting energyhungry data centers connected to new sources of electricity including renewable sources such as wind and solar.

"It has to be a priority because otherwise you're going to have blackouts, you're going to have citizens or businesses being affected by this," said computer scientist Sasha Luccioni, climate lead at the Al company Hugging Face. "Making it easier to facilitate interconnection of infrastructure to the electric grid is kind of a no brainer that would be useful for the next administration, no matter what their priorities are in terms of sustainability or climate."

Biden said the efforts are designed to accelerate the clean energy transition in a way that is "responsible and respectful to local communities" and does not add costs to the average American.

Developers selected to build on government sites will be required to pay all costs of building and operating AI infrastructure so that development does not raise electricity prices for consumers, the administration said.

# Michelle Obama will skip Trump inauguration, but ex-Presidents Obama, Clinton and Bush will be there

## By DARLENE SUPERVILLE **Associated Press** WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP)

- Former first lady Michelle Obama will skip the inauguration of President-elect Donald Trump, the second time in two weeks that she is not attending a gathering of former U.S. leaders and their spouses, but former Presidents Barack Obama,

Laura Bush and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will join their husbands for the Jan. 20 swearing-in ceremony at the Capitol, representatives said.

George W. Bush and Bill

Clinton will be there.

"Former President Barack Obama is confirmed to attend the 60th Inaugural

lady Michelle Obama will not attend the upcom- with The Associated Press. statement from the Office for why Michelle Obama

Ceremonies. Former first of Barack and Michelle Obama that was shared ing inauguration," said a No explanation was given



Former first lady Michelle Obama speaks at a campaign rally for democratic presidential nominee Vice President Kamala Harris at the Wings Event Center, in Kalamazoo, Mich., Oct. 26, 2024. **Associated Press** 

was skipping Trump's inauguration.

She also did not attend former President Jimmy Carter's state funeral in Washington last week. Former Presidents Trump, Obama, Bush and Clinton and their spouses attended except for her.

Bill Clinton will attend Trump's swearing-in ceremony, a person familiar with the former president's schedule confirmed for the AP. Hillary Clinton will also attend, a spokesperson said. The Office of George W. Bush said he and former first lady Laura Bush are also attending. Michelle Obama was the only spouse absent at last

week's funeral service at Washington National Cathedral, where her husband and Trump were seated next to each other and chatted and laughed like old friends despite the history of political animosity between the Democratic former president and the returning Republican.

The former first lady campaigned against Trump during his 2016, 2020 and 2024 presidential campaigns. In her 2018 memoir, she described her shock upon learning that Trump would succeed her husband, and she denounced Trump's "birther" campaign, which questioned Barack Obama's citizenship.



# Russia's top diplomat praises Trump's views on Ukraine conflict

# By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's top diplomat said Tuesday that Moscow is open for talks with President-elect Donald Trump and praised him for pointing to NATO's plan to embrace Ukraine as a root cause of the nearly 3-year-old conflict. Any prospective peace talks should involve broad-

Any prospective peace talks should involve broader arrangements for security in Europe, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at his annual news conference, while adding that Moscow is open to discussing security guarantees for Kyiv.

Lavrov specifically praised Trump's comments earlier this month in which he said that NATO's plans to open its doors to Ukraine had led to the hostilities.

Trump said Russia had it "written in stone" that Ukraine's membership in NATO should never be allowed, but the Biden administration had sought to expand the military alliance to Russia's doorstep. Trump added that, "I could their feelunderstand ings about that." Trump's comments echoed Moscow's rhetoric which has described its "special military operation" in Ukraine launched in February 2022 as a response to planned NATO membership for Kyiv and an effort to protect Russian speakers. Ukraine and its allies have denounced Russia's action as an unprovoked act of aggression. "NATO did exactly what it had promised not to do, and Trump said that," Lavrov said. "It marked the first such candid acknowledgement not only from a U.S. but any Western leader that NATO had lied when they signed documents. numerous They were used as a cover while NATO has expanded to our borders in violation of the agreements."

The West has dismissed that assessment. Before the conflict, Russia had demanded a legal guarantee that Ukraine be denied NATO entry, knowing the alliance has never excluded potential membership



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov speaks during his annual news conference in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025.

**Associated Press** 

day it's unrealistic to expect that Ukraine could drive Russian forces "from every inch of Ukrainian soil." "The very fact that people have increasingly started to mention the realities on the ground deserves welcome," Lavrov said during his annual news conference un Moscow. In its final days, the Biden

In its final days, the Biden administration is providing Kyiv with as much military support as it can, aiming to put Ukraine in the strongest position possible for any future negotiations. The U.S. also introduced new sanctions on Russia's oil industry. Lavrov described those efforts as an attempt by the Biden administration to "slam the door" and leave a difficult legacy for Trump.

for any European country but had no immediate plan to start Ukraine down that road. Russia said NATO expansion would undermine its security, but Washington and its allies argued the alliance didn't threaten Moscow

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has urged his Western allies to invite Kyiv to join NATO, or, at the very least, offer comprehensive security guarantees that would prevent any future Russian attacks. The alliance's 32 member countries say Ukraine will join one day, but not until the fighting ends.

Trump has reaffirmed his intention to broker peace in Ukraine, declaring earlier this month that "Putin wants to meet" and that such a meeting is being set up. In the past, he has criticized U.S. military aid for Ukraine and even vowed to end the conflict in a single day if elected.

Lavrov emphasized that Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly declared his openness for talks with Trump, adding that Moscow looks forward to hearing Trump's view on Ukraine after he takes of-

Lavrov also praised comments by Trump's pick for national security adviser, Mike Waltz, who said Sun-



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# The Lionfish And its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting. Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their

diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish

population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life.



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# Article by Etnia Nativa



# Native Art as spiritual expression

Discover the heart of Aruba like never before with Etnia Nativa – a captivating journey where education merges with revealing entertainment. "Etnia Nativa," with its name meaning "native ethnicity," plays an essential role in honoring and celebrating the rich traditions and cultural contributions of the Native Aruban people.

Native art was often created not just as an aesthetic pursuit but as a way to understand, explain, and interact with the natural world and the cosmos. The use of symbols, such as animals or celestial motifs, can be seen as a form of storytelling, connecting the artist, their community, and the environment. Some believe that ancient rock art even symbolized visions of space travelers, reflecting a deeper connection between indigenous cultures and the mysteries of the universe. This view of art was tied closely to spiritual beliefs, where artists were seen as intermediaries between the physical and spiritual worlds, rather than creators of purely personal or decorative work.

The creation of art, in this sense, was not about individuality or realism, as seen in European traditions, but about sharing a collective vision. The focus was on embodying the sacred or capturing important moments for the community, which is reflected in the way symbols and imagery were used. For example, animal figures in rock art may have had spiritual significance, representing qualities of



the animal or the relationships between the creatures and humans.

The connection between art, nature, and culture is pivotal for achieving deep, resonant results in both the creation of art and its impact on the audience. This intersection fosters a sense of responsibility, identity, and community, leading to works that speak not only to aesthetic beauty but also to social, environmental, and cultural consciousness.

Nature is a profound source of inspiration, but more importantly, it offers a wealth of materials and processes that can shape artistic works in sustainable and meaningful ways. By incorporating elements from the natural world, artists can create works that reflect the rhythms and cycles of nature, as Etnia Nativa does with their use of locally sourced clay. This approach encourages a more mindful use of resources, reducing waste and promoting environmental stewardship. The inherent qualities of natural materials—texture, color, form—can also add layers of meaning to the work, as they evoke the beauty and fragility of the Earth.

Culture is the lens, through which we interpret the world, and through art, we often see the values, traditions, and history of a community reflected. For Etnia Nativa, using pre-Columbian techniques to craft their clay works helps preserve and honor Aruba's heritage while reinforcing a sense of local identity. Culture shapes the way art communicates, from the symbols used to the stories told, and it can be a vehicle for cultural preservation and revitalization, particularly in the face of globalization. This artistic engagement with culture can also challenge and reframe societal norms, urging collective reflection on the way we live and interact with the world.

# Episode CCLXXXVI - 286

Together art, nature and culture: when these three elements intersect, the results can be transformative. The fusion of environmental sustainability with cultural practices enriches the meaning of each piece, making it not just a visual creation but a reflection of a broader social and ecological message. This holistic approach invites the viewer to consider not only the aesthetic appeal of the art, but also its deeper significance in terms of ecological responsibility and cultural heritage. By creating with nature in mind, artists encourage a deeper connection between the viewer and the environment, fostering an awareness of our collective responsibility to care for both our cultural heritage and the planet we inhabit.

In the case of Etnia Nativa, their work isn't just about creating beautiful objects but about sparking a conversation—a call to action—about how we live in harmony with the environment, how we preserve our cultural legacy, and how we can, through mindful artistic practices, contribute to a more sustainable and thoughtful future.

If you liked our native stories and are interested in learning the true identity of Aruba, a visit to Etnia Nativa would be a fantastic choice. It has been a trend setter since 1994, as a co-founder of projects such as Arikok National Park, the Archaeological Museum, and the Artisan Foundation, among others. Every week, this newspaper continues to share its valuable knowledge. Don't miss the opportunity to feel the island's spirit through learning real stories that are not just remembered; they resonate, they're felt, and they stir souls. Book your visit: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@ gmail.com



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# Monfils outduels fellow Frenchman in an Australian Open 1st-round match for the ages



Gael Monfils of France plays a forehand return to Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard of France during their first round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025.

#### **Associated Press**

### MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

- The pragmatic pro in Gael Monfils would like to have finished off his first-round win in straight sets against up-andcoming fellow Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard at the Australian Open.

The entertainer's instinct in him got a lot of value out of clinching it in five.

In a duel between the 38-vear-old Monfils and 21-year-old Mpetshi Perricard, it was age, experience and endurance that outweighed power and youth on Tuesday helping nullify one of the biggest serves in tennis. Days after Monfils became the oldest player to win an ATP Tour title by beating Zizou Bergs the final in Auckland, New Zealand, Monfils wasted match points in the third set and on Mpetshi Perricard's serve in the fifth before finally closing out a 7-6 (7), 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-7 (5), 6-4 victory.

Monfils said he usually tries to avoid thinking about age gaps with competitors, "but I can tell you that tomorrow morning I will be (feeling) more 48 than 38."

"I know ... I can sometimes have the double of the age

of the guy. I have, yeah, I think 21 years of career, and he's 21 years old, Giovanni," he added. "Of course numbers are there, but I'm fighting, so I try not to put any number in my head." Monfils and Mpetshi Perricard entered the match at opposite ends of the career spectrum, but share a passion for their sport. Both use between-the-legs shots at times during rallies in one case, both in the same rally in the fourth-set tiebreaker and sometimes take the unconventional approach to setting up points. With a career record of 34-18 at the Australian Open, where he reached the quarterfinals in 2016 and 2022, Monfils had the advantage against a player on debut at Melbourne Park. Mpetshi Perricard had never advanced beyond the first round at any major other than Wimbledon (where he reached the fourth round as a lucky loser last year) but he was seeded 30th after a breakout year in 2024 that included two titles. Monfils, who has won more Grand Slam singles matches than any other French man, now also has a 20-19 win-loss record in five-set matches.

# Some Paris Olympic athletes ask for medals to be replaced after quickly deteriorating

# By SAMUEL PETREQUIN **AP Sports Writer**

Some of the medals from

the Paris Olympics seem to be quickly losing their shine. The French mint told The Associated Press on Tuesday that it is replacing a number of medals from the 2024 Paris Games and Paralympics after athletes complained that they have already deteriorated with some posting pictures on social media. The Monnaie de Paris declined to say how many medals have been returned, but French website La Lettre put the number at over 100. Contacted by the AP, the French Olympic committee and the IOC also would not reveal figures. In total, the French mint produced 5,084 medals for the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"The Monnaie de Paris has taken the issue of damaged medals very seriously since the first exchange requests in August, and has mobilized its internal teams," the French mint said. "Since then, the company has modified and optimized its relative varnishing process. The Monnaie de Paris will replace all damaged medals at the athletes' request during the first quarter of 2025." Parisian jewelry house Chaumet designed the medals, which were part of the Games' lasting legacy. A hexagonal, polished chunk of iron taken from the iconic Eiffel Tower was embedded in each gold, silver and bronze medal.

But concerns about their quality emerged before the Games had even ended last summer when American skateboarder Nyjah Huston posted a video showing how quickly his bronze medal had deteriorated. Many other athletes have since also complained. French swimmers Yohann Ndoye-Brouard and Clément Secchi recently posted images of their medals on social media, describing them as looking like "crocodile skin," or dating back to 1924.

The IOC told the AP that Paris organizers are in contact with the national Olympic committees of the athletes concerned. It confirmed that the replacement process will start in the coming weeks, and that the French mint is working with Paris organizers to understand the circumstances and cause of any damage.

# CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 1 Assess 5 Damon of "The

Martian" 9 Daughter of Barack 41 Departand Michelle

10 Steer clear of 12 Does

book work 13 Passionate dance

14 Cause championed by Martin Luther King Jr.

**16** That girl 17 Departed 18 Puts a

cap on 21 Scrollwork shape

22 Adversaries 23 Hoopster

24 Chuckles **26** Nile serpent **29** Of the best

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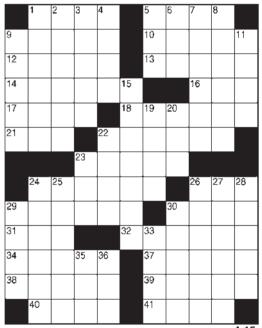
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# AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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.

1-15 **CRYPTOQUOTE** 

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JCU OSTW UEZC UNHNIANM'T

HWNNGT. — TJCEANM GWJC Cryptoquote: THEY WHO SING THROUGH THE SUMMER MUST DANCE IN THE WINTER. — ITALIAN PROVERB





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