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ICE entices new recruits with patriotism pitch and promise of \$50,000 signing bonuses

By **REBECCA SANTANA**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The agency responsible for carrying out President Donald Trump's mass deportations is launching a recruiting campaign to entice "brave and heroic Americans" to serve as new deportation officers, lawyers and investigators as the government gears up for a major expansion of immigration enforcement thanks to a recent infusion of money from Congress.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement campaign, which rolled out late Tuesday, recalls recruiting posters from World War II with images of Uncle Sam and the words "AMERICA NEEDS YOU." There also are photos of Trump and top homeland security officials with the words "DEFEND THE HOMELAND" across the images.

"Your country is calling you to serve at ICE," said Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in a news release. "This is a defining moment in our nation's history. Your skills, your experience, and your courage have never been more essential. Together, we must defend the homeland."

In addition to appealing to prospective applicants' patriotic fervor, Homeland Security is making a pock-



Federal agents stage at MacArthur Park Monday, July 7, 2025, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

etbook pitch. The agency is promising up to \$50,000 in signing bonuses, the potential for lots of overtime for deportation officers and other benefits such as loan repayment or forgiveness options.

Lots of money is coming to ICE

All of this is made possible by a big infusion of money to ICE.

The package of tax breaks and spending cuts that Trump signed into law this month includes about \$170 billion for border security and immigration enforcement, spread out over five

years. ICE is set to get \$76.5 billion, nearly 10 times its current annual budget. Some \$45 billion will go toward increasing detention capacity. Nearly \$30 billion is for hiring 10,000 more staff so the agency can meet its goal of 1 million annual deportations. New hires include deportation officers responsible for tracking down, arresting and removing people who the administration determines no longer have the right to remain in the United States. Under the Republican president, those officers are high-profile roles, mak-

ing arrests at immigration courts, in the streets and at businesses. They often are criticized by immigration activists and Democratic lawmakers for wearing masks while carrying out their duties.

On the recruitment webpage, the link to learn more about applying to be a deportation officer shows a photo of an armored vehicle rolling down a street with officers in military gear hanging onto the sides of the vehicle.

The government is also seeking criminal investigators and lawyers who will

prosecute immigration cases.

The agency said it will advertise at college campuses, job fairs and law enforcement networks, starting this week. But the recruiting drive has raised concerns about what happens if the agency grows too fast.

Staffing is a long-standing challenge

ICE staffing has long been an issue, said Jason Houser, a former agency chief of staff during the Biden administration.

At the beginning of the Trump administration there were roughly 6,000 officers within ICE tasked with monitoring noncitizens in the country, then finding and removing those not eligible to stay. Those staffing numbers remained largely static over the years even as the caseload ballooned. During the Biden administration, when the number of people arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border skyrocketed, ICE workers were often pulled from their regular duties to go to the border. "ICE does need more employees to handle the volume of what they're handling," Houser said.

But he is concerned about whether the rush to increase staffing could mean lower standards for recruits and training. □

Army secretary directs West Point to rescind appointment of Biden-era cybersecurity director



Director of the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Jen Easterly speaks to The Associated Press in Washington, Oct. 2, 2024.

Associated Press

By **ALI SWENSON**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Secretary of the Army on Wednesday directed the U.S. Military Academy at West Point to review its hiring practices, bar outside groups from choosing employees and remove a newly announced hire who led the nation's cybersecurity agency under President Joe Biden.

The directive, shared on the social platform X by Secretary Dan Driscoll, came just a day after Jen Easterly was announced as the Robert F. McDermott Distinguished Chair in West Point's social sciences department.

It demonstrated how vigorously President Donald Trump's administration has

sought to wield control over the ideology and leadership of higher education and the military during the president's second term.

It also highlighted how deeply concerns about censorship have seeped into the Republican Party and the Trump administration.

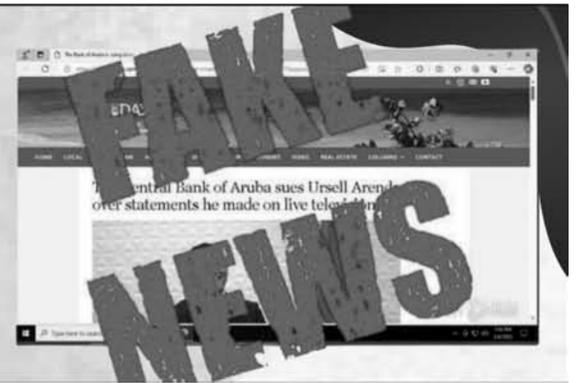
As the director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, or CISA, Easterly faced harsh criticism from Republicans who argued that her work to counter misinformation about elections and the COVID-19 pandemic amounted to censorship.

CISA secures the nation's critical infrastructure, including the nation's dams, banks and nuclear power plants. □

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Trump administration is launching a new private health tracking system with Big Tech's help

By AMANDA SEITZ
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is pushing an initiative for millions of Americans to upload personal health data and medical records on new apps and systems run by private tech companies, promising that will make it easier to access health records and monitor wellness. President Donald Trump is expected to deliver remarks on the initiative Wednesday afternoon in the East Room. The event is expected to involve leaders from more than 60 companies, including major tech companies such as Google and Amazon, as well as prominent hospital systems like the Cleveland Clinic.

The new system will focus on diabetes and weight management, conversational artificial intelligence that helps patients, and digital tools such as QR codes and apps that register patients for check-ins or track medications.

The initiative, spearheaded by an administration that has already freely shared highly personal data about Americans in ways that have tested legal bounds, could put patients' desires for more convenience at their doctor's office on a collision course with their expectations that their medical information be kept private.

"There are enormous ethical and legal concerns," said Lawrence Gostin, a Georgetown University law professor who specializes in public health.

"Patients across America should be very worried that their medical records are going to be used in ways



An American flag flies in front of the White House, Wednesday, July 23, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

that harm them and their families."

Officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who will be in charge of maintaining the system, have said patients will need to opt in for the sharing of their medical records and data, which will be kept secure.

Those officials said patients will benefit from a system that lets them quickly call up their own records without the hallmark difficulties, such as requiring the use of fax machines to share documents, that have prevented them from doing so in the past.

"We have the tools and information available now to empower patients to improve their outcomes and their healthcare experience," Dr. Mehmet Oz, the administrator for CMS, said in a statement Wednesday. Popular weight loss and fit-

ness subscription service Noom, which has signed onto the initiative, will be able to pull medical records after the system's expected launch early next year.

That might include labs or medical tests that the app could use to develop an AI-driven analysis of what might help users lose weight, CEO Geoff Cook told The Associated Press. Apps and health systems will also have access to their competitors' information, too. Noom would be able to access a person's data from Apple Health, for example.

"Right now you have a lot of siloed data," Cook said. Patients who travel across the country for treatment at the Cleveland Clinic often have a hard time obtaining all their medical records from various providers, said the hospital system's CEO,

Tomislav Mihaljevic. He said the new system would eliminate that barrier, which sometimes delays treatment or prevents doctors from making an accurate diagnosis because they do not have a full view of a patient's medical history. Having seamless access to health app data, such as what patients are eating or how much they are exercising, will also help doctors manage obesity and other chronic diseases, Mihaljevic said.

"These apps give us insight about what's happening with the patient's health outside of the physician's office," he said.

CMS will also recommend a list of apps on Medicare.gov that are designed to help people manage chronic diseases, as well as help them select health care providers and insurance plans.

Digital privacy advocates are skeptical that patients will be able to count on their data being stored securely.

The federal government, however, has done little to regulate health apps or telehealth programs, said Jeffrey Chester at the Center for Digital Democracy. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and those within his circle have pushed for more technology in health care, advocating for wearable devices that monitor wellness and telehealth.

Kennedy also sought to collect more data from Americans' medical records, which he has previously said he wants to use to study autism and vaccine safety. Kennedy has filled the agency with staffers who have a history of working at or running health technology startups and businesses.

CMS already has troves of information on more than 140 million Americans who enroll in Medicare and Medicaid. Earlier this month, the federal agency agreed to hand over its massive database, including home addresses, to deportation officials.

The new initiative would deepen the pool of information on patients for the federal government and tech companies. Medical records typically contain far more sensitive information, such as doctors' notes about conversations with patients and substance abuse or mental health history.

"This scheme is an open door for the further use and monetization of sensitive and personal health information," Chester said. □

Biden aide denounces GOP probe into former president's health as baseless and denies any cover-up

By **MATT BROWN** and **MICHELLE L. PRICE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A longtime close aide to President Joe Biden on Wednesday denounced Republican investigations into the former president as “baseless” in testimony to lawmakers and defended Biden as capable of carrying out his presidential duties “at all times.”

Steve Ricchetti, a senior advisor to Biden during his presidency, wrote in his opening statement to the House Oversight Committee that he was willing to answer lawmakers' questions about Biden's mental state while in office despite Republicans' effort to “intimidate officials who served in the previous administration.”

“I believe it is important to forcefully rebut this false narrative about the Biden presidency and our role in it,” Ricchetti said.

“There was no nefarious conspiracy of any kind among the president's senior staff, and there was certainly no conspiracy to



President Joe Biden walks after speaking during an interfaith prayer service in New Orleans, Jan. 6, 2025.

hide the president's mental condition from the American people,” wrote Ricchetti, who has served as an aide to Biden since 2012. He said Biden was “fully capable” of carrying out his duties throughout his term. Ricchetti's testimony comes after weeks of appearanc-

es from former Biden aides as House Republicans seek to build their investigation, which is central to their oversight agenda as they seek to turn the spotlight back to the last administration.

Some former staffers, including Biden's physician,

Kevin O'Connor, and Anthony Bernal, a top aide to former first lady Jill Biden, invoked their Fifth Amendment rights and declined to answer questions from the committee. Others, including former White House chief of staff Ron Klain and Neera Tanden, former di-

Associated Press

rector of the Domestic Policy Council, have answered the committee's questions at length.

The committee will hear from seven more senior Biden staffers in the coming weeks.

The Trump White House has launched its own inquiry into Biden. In June, Trump issued an executive order that argued there were “clear indications” that Biden “lacked the capacity to exercise his presidential authority” and ordered an investigation into “whether certain individuals conspired to deceive the public about Biden's mental state and unconstitutionally exercise the authorities and responsibilities of the president.”

Ricchetti argued the Republican-led inquiries were “an obvious attempt to deflect from the chaos of this administration's first six months.”

He contrasted it with what he said were Biden's accomplishments on issues like infrastructure, inflation, climate policy and the coronavirus response. □



Radioactive waste sealed in large stainless steel canisters is stored under five feet of concrete in a storage building at the Savannah River Site, near Aiken, S.C., Nov. 20, 2013.

Associated Press

By **JEFFREY COLLINS**
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Workers at a site in South Carolina that once made key parts for nuclear bombs in the U.S. have found a radioactive wasp nest but officials said there is no danger to anyone.

Employees who routinely check radiation levels at

the Savannah River Site near Aiken found a wasp nest on July 3 on a post near tanks where liquid nuclear waste is stored, according to a report from the U.S. Department of Energy.

The nest had a radiation level 10 times what is allowed by federal regulations, officials said.

The workers sprayed the

Radioactive wasp nest found at site where US once made nuclear bombs

nest with insect killer, removed it and disposed of it as radioactive waste. No wasps were found, officials said.

The report said there is no leak from the waste tanks, and the nest was likely radioactive through what it called “onsite legacy radioactive contamination” from the residual radioactivity left from when the site was fully operational.

The watchdog group Savannah River Site Watch said the report was at best incomplete since it doesn't detail where the contamination came from, how the wasps might have encountered it and the possibility there could be another radioactive nest if there is a leak somewhere.

Knowing the type of wasp nest could also be critical some wasps make nest

out of dirt and others use different material which could pinpoint where the contamination came from, Tom Clements, executive director of the group, wrote in a text message.

“I'm as mad as a hornet that SRS didn't explain where the radioactive waste came from or if there is some kind of leak from the waste tanks that the public should be aware of,” Clements said.

The tank farm is well inside the boundaries of the site and wasps generally fly just a few hundred yards from their nests, so there is no danger they are outside the facility, according to a statement from Savannah River Mission Completion which now oversees the site.

If there had been wasps found, they would have

significantly lower levels of radiation than their nests, according to the statement which was given to the Aiken Standard.

The site was opened in the early 1950s to manufacture the plutonium pits needed to make the core of nuclear bombs during the start of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. Now the site has shifted toward making fuel for nuclear plants and clean up.

The site generated more than 165 million gallons (625 million liters) of liquid nuclear waste which has, through evaporation, been reduced to about 34 million gallons (129 million liters), according to Savannah River Mission Completion. There are still 43 of the underground tanks in use while eight have been closed. □

Russian missiles hit a Ukrainian army training ground, killing at least 3 soldiers

By ILLIA NOVIKOV
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian missiles hit a Ukrainian army training ground, killing three soldiers and wounding 18 others, authorities said, targeting Ukraine's efforts to make up a severe manpower shortage in the nearly 3½-year war.

The Russian Defense Ministry asserted that the strike killed or wounded about 200 Ukrainian troops. The ministry said Ukraine's 169th training center near Honcharivske in the Chernihiv region was hit with two Iskander missiles, one armed with multiple submunitions and another with high explosives.

Meanwhile, Russia continued its stepped-up aerial campaign against Ukrainian civilian targets, launching 78 attack drones overnight, including up to eight newly developed jet-powered drones, Ukraine's air force said.

At least five people were wounded.

More civilians are being killed

The U.N. mission in Ukraine notes a worsening trend in civilian casualties from Russian attacks this year, with



In this photo, provided by the Kharkiv regional military administration, on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, a building burns after Russian strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine.

6,754 civilians killed or injured in the first half of 2025 a 54% increase from the same period in 2024.

Since Russia launched an all-out invasion of neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, at least 13,580 Ukrainian civilians, including 716 children, have been killed, according to the U.N.

U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday he's giving Russian President Vladimir

Putin a shorter deadline until Aug. 8 for peace efforts to make progress or Washington will impose punitive sanctions and tariffs. Western leaders have accused Putin of dragging his feet in U.S.-led peace efforts in an attempt to capture more Ukrainian land.

Attacks on Ukrainian military facilities Ukrainian forces are mostly hanging on against a grind-

ing summer push by Russia's bigger army, though the Russian Defense Ministry has claimed recent small advances along the 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line.

Ukrainian ground forces acknowledged the Russian strike on a military training ground in the Chernihiv region of northern Ukraine, but its casualty report differed widely from Mos-

cow's.

A Russian Defense Ministry video showed multiple small explosions apparently caused by a missile with a shrapnel warhead, followed by one big blast, apparently from the other one armed with a high-explosive warhead.

A similar Russian strike occurred last September, when two ballistic missiles blasted a Ukrainian military academy and nearby hospital, killing more than 50 people and wounding more than 200 others.

Ukrainian authorities said a commission led by the head of the Military Law Enforcement Service has been formed to determine whether negligence or misconduct by officials contributed to the casualties in Chernihiv.

The attack was the fourth deadly strike in five months on Ukrainian military facilities. The previous three killed at least 46 soldiers and wounded more than 160, according to official reports.

Russia also has been trying to disrupt Ukrainian military recruitment by hitting regional buildings coordinating the call-up. □

Associated Press

18 countries apply for EU billions as Europe seeks to provide for its own security without the U.S.

BRUSSELS (AP) — Eighteen European Union countries have applied for billions of euros from a new defense fund aimed at helping Europe provide for its own security, the bloc's executive branch said Wednesday, with Poland seeking more than a third of the money. The Security Action for Europe (SAFE) fund is a 150-billion-euro (\$173 billion) program of cheap loans that member countries, Ukraine and outsiders with an EU security agreement, like Britain, can use to buy military equipment together.

The fund was launched after the Trump administration signaled that Europe is no longer a U.S. security

priority. It's for buying key equipment like air and missile defense systems, artillery, ammunition, drones and "strategic enablers" like air-to-air refueling.

The European Commission said that Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Spain had applied for money so far.

They have requested at least 127 billion euros (\$147 billion) in total, it said.

Polish Defense Minister Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz said on Tuesday that his government has identified defense projects worth around 45 billion

euros (\$52 billion), but that the amount it receives will depend on how the commission allocates funds.

Countries using the fund are urged to buy much of their military equipment in Europe, working mostly with European suppliers in some cases with EU help to cut prices and speed up orders.

Earlier this month, 15 EU countries were also permitted to use a "national escape clause" to allow them to spend more on defense without breaking the bloc's debt rules.

U.S. allies in Europe are convinced that President Vladimir Putin could target one of them if Russia wins its war on Ukraine. The

SAFE fund and budget leniency are aimed at preparing Europe to defend itself from attack by the end of

the decade, but even EU governments concede that this is an ambitious target. □



Spanish Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon military fighter jets, left, and Italian Air Force Eurofighter Typhoon military fighter jets, right, participating in NATO's Baltic Air Policing Mission operate in Lithuanian airspace, Sept. 12, 2023.

Associated Press

U.S. sanctions Brazil's Supreme Court justice overseeing case against Bolsonaro

By **ELÉONORE HUGHES**

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

The U.S. Treasury Department on Wednesday announced sanctions on Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes over alleged suppression of freedom of expression and the ongoing trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro.

De Moraes oversees the criminal case against Bolsonaro, who is accused of masterminding a plot to stay in power despite his 2022 election defeat to current President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

"De Moraes is responsible for an oppressive campaign of censorship, arbitrary detentions that violate human rights, and politicized prosecutions including against former President Jair Bolsonaro," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. The department cited the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act, which targets perpetrators of human rights abuse and corrupt officials, as its authority to issue the sanc-



President of the Supreme Electoral Court, Minister Alexandre de Moraes arrives to preside over the trial of former President Jair Bolsonaro in Brasilia, Brazil, June 29, 2023.

Associated Press

tions.

The decision orders the freezing of any assets or property de Moraes may have in the U.S.

Brazil's Supreme Court and the Presidential Palace did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Wednesday's announcement follows the U.S. State

Department's announcement of visa restrictions on Brazilian judicial officials, including de Moraes, on July 18.

It also comes after U.S. President Donald Trump announced a 50% tariff on Brazilian imported goods on July 9. In a letter announcing the tariff, Trump

explicitly linked the import tax to what he called the "witch hunt" trial of Bolsonaro currently underway in Brazil.

Trump appears to identify with Bolsonaro, who is accused of trying to overturn the results of his 2022 loss to Lula. Similarly, Trump was indicted in 2023 on allega-

tions that he tried to overturn the results of the 2020 U.S. presidential election.

Bolsonaro has been ordered to wear an ankle monitor after being deemed a flight risk.

Bolsonaro's son Eduardo celebrated the U.S. Treasury Department announcement on X, calling it a "historic milestone" and a warning that "abuses of authority now have global consequences."

Eduardo Bolsonaro relocated to the U.S. in March and is under investigation for allegedly working with U.S. authorities to impose sanctions against Brazilian officials.

Also on Wednesday, Trump signed an executive order to implement the 50% tariff announced earlier this month. The White House said in a statement that the order was a response to "recent policies, practices, and actions" of Brazil that "constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States." □

U.S. to share biometric data with Chile 'to track criminals,' Homeland Security's Noem says

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) —

The United States will deploy biometric technologies in partnership with Chile to control migration and disrupt criminal networks, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said Wednesday during a visit to the South American nation. "This arrangement is going to serve as a bridge to help Chile and the United States work towards bringing criminals to justice and knowing who is in our countries perpetuating crimes," Noem said while signing the preliminary agreement with Chile's Security Minister Luis Cordero and Justice Minister Jaime Gajardo.

"This increased cooperation between our countries is extremely important to track criminals, terrorists and dangerous individuals," she added from the

capital of Santiago, while nearby thousands of residents heeded tsunami warnings to evacuate along the the country's Pacific coast.

The plan comes as the Trump administration seeks to bolster regional cooperation in its clampdown against transnational criminal groups, including Tren

de Aragua, a notorious Venezuelan gang designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the White House.

The bilateral agreement allows Chilean officials to identify potentially dangerous migrants entering or exiting the country and share their biometric data, such as fingerprints and iris scans, with the Department of Homeland Security to prevent their travel to the U.S.

"That information will be incredibly important as we go after these criminal activities," Noem said, praising past cooperation between the countries' intelligence agencies.

Tren de Aragua has wreaked havoc across once-peaceful Chile in recent years — smuggling undocumented migrants

across borders, running prostitution rings, trafficking drugs and terrorizing the population with grisly crimes.

But Chilean authorities have fought back, bringing a number of gang members to trial in recent months. After spreading across Latin America on the heels of illegal migration, Tren de Aragua infiltrated the U.S. and inflamed domestic politics. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Chile most recently teamed up to disrupt South American criminal networks allegedly responsible for a string of burglaries targeting the multimillion-dollar homes of high-profile celebrities and professional athletes in the U.S. and Europe. The suspects, among them Chilean nationals, are now facing charges in Florida. □



U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, left, and Chile's Minister of Public Security Luis Cordero sign a letter of intent for a Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program (BITMAP) at the Security Ministry in Santiago, Chile, Wednesday, July 30, 2025. At right is Chilean Minister of Justice and Human Rights Jaime Gajardo.

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in

the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

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

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

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your

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

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch. Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger

jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

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

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

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife.

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



Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative

programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up im-

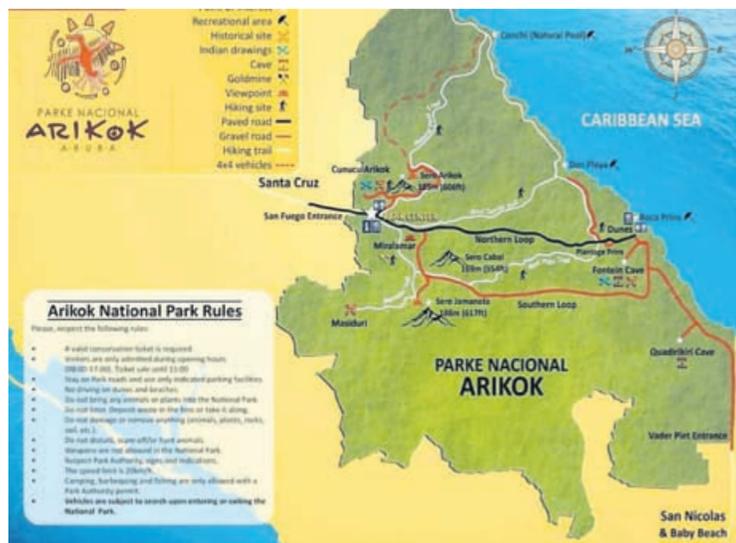


age of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (Ajaia ajaja) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable

to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna.

Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it!



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader

every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Sal Trippi from New Jersey, USA.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me ismy happy place. I brought my family here 14 years ago and I have been coming back ever since, every year, a few years twice. Now, its not my happy place cause I drink all the time , lol I don't drink. This place is special, the people, the weather and the locals. It's where my wife and I reconnect and get away from the fast paced life I live, and get to relax like I never have been able to do before. Look, I don't read the paper at home, I just picked this Aruba Today paper up at The Hilton and read the whole paper at 6.45am. Time to hit the beach!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!



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Ever heard of the cah'i orgel?

A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it.

After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the

few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres,



such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more. Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." □

Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also

obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyræna barracuda, Greater Barracuda Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyræna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as

Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description
 The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or conefish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs

to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

In Aruba:
 Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-

after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □



Picuda
 Greater Barracuda
 Sphyræna barracuda

Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

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

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long



and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious



gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the



beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

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

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



family day!

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

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

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

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 Anaboio 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.

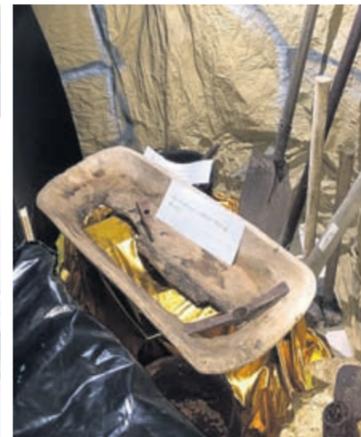
The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

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.☐



In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

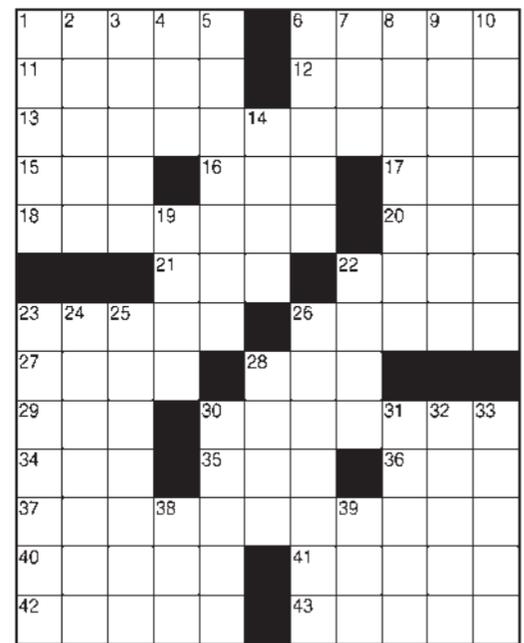


ACROSS

- 1 Bravery
- 6 Hindu tunes
- 11 Peace goddess
- 12 Singer Piaf
- 13 Missy Elliott album
- 15 Penny prez
- 16 Metal source
- 17 Sandy color
- 18 Lumber producer
- 20 Three, in Torino
- 21 They hold power
- 22 Sacks
- 23 On the way out
- 26 Is furious
- 27 In the past
- 28 Fellow
- 29 Bullfight cry
- 30 Reason for overtime
- 34 — Jam (hip-hop record label)
- 35 Caribou's kin
- 36 102, in old Rome
- 37 Missy Elliott album
- 40 Pizzeria fixtures
- 41 Like lambs

DOWN

- 42 Gaggle group
- 43 Consumerist
- 1 Travel papers
- 2 Curaçao's neighbor
- 3 Pepé of cartoons
- 4 Stop —
- 5 Making over
- 6 Drive off
- 7 Nabokov novel
- 8 Present attachment
- 9 Not in custody
- 10 Reserve
- 14 Web addresses, for short
- 19 Lode setting
- 22 Fire-cracker sound
- 23 Encouraging words
- 24 Taking a sabbatical
- 25 Navigable in winter, say
- 26 Founding member of Wu-Tang Clan
- 28 Factory fun of
- 30 Make fun of
- 31 Bitter
- 32 Tigger's creator
- 33 Downy duck
- 38 USN rank
- 39 Eggs, to Caesar



8-8

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.

8-8

CRYPTOQUOTE

XW OPKZRB BPDNRC EN KJ

NKRT KJVPBC KBJEUAR

BPKZRB KZPQ KJ NKRT PVPW

OBJX DK. — MENKDQ KBECRPE

Cryptoquote: SUMMER AFTERNOON — TO ME, THOSE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THE TWO MOST BEAUTIFUL WORDS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. — HENRY JAMES

Cruise ship Schedule: Aug 03 - 13 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	03	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	05	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	06	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	10	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	12	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	13	OASIS OF THE SEAS	11.00	23.00	I	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



Safety

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



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.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

	3		1		9	2		
2		6	3	8		4		
	4	5		9		3	6	
	8				9			
	6		7	3		8		
		4		5		7		
	5	2	8	4	6	1		
					1			4
					3	8	6	

Difficulty: ★★★

7/31

Answer to previous puzzle

9	8	6	7	4	5	1	2	3
5	7	2	1	8	3	9	6	4
1	3	4	9	6	2	7	5	8
8	6	5	4	3	7	2	9	1
2	1	7	6	9	8	3	4	5
3	4	9	2	5	1	8	7	6
6	5	1	3	2	9	4	8	7
7	2	8	5	1	4	6	3	9
4	9	3	8	7	6	5	1	2

Difficulty: ★★★

7/30

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U.S. health officials crack down on kratom-related products after complaints from supplement industry



This Sept. 27, 2017 file photo shows kratom capsules in Albany, N.Y.

Associated Press

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**
AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials are warning Americans about the risks of an opioid-related ingredient increasingly added to energy drinks, gummies and supplements sold at gas stations and convenience stores, recommending a nationwide ban. The chemical, known as 7-hydroxymitragynine, is a component of kratom, a plant native to Southeast Asia that has gained popularity in the U.S. as an unapproved treatment for pain, anxiety and drug dependence.

In recent months, dietary supplement companies that sell kratom have been urging the Food and Drug Administration to crack down on the products containing 7-OH, portraying it as a dangerously concentrated, synthetic form of the original ingredient.

The FDA action "is not focused on natural kratom leaf products," according to a statement Tuesday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The agency said it was releasing a report to educate about the risks of "7-OH and its distinction from the kratom plant leaf." Regulators are also recommending that the ingredient be placed on the federal government's most restrictive list of illegal drugs, which includes LSD and heroin.

"7-OH is an opioid that can be more potent than morphine," said FDA Commissioner Marty Makary. "We need regulation and public

education to prevent another wave of the opioid epidemic."

The agency's recommendation will be reviewed by the Drug Enforcement Administration, which sets federal rules for high-risk drugs including prescription medicines and illicit substances. A national ban wouldn't take effect until the agency drafts and finalizes new rules governing the ingredient.

Federal regulators have been scrutinizing kratom for about a decade after reports of addiction, injury and overdose. But users and distributors have long opposed efforts to regulate it, saying kratom could be a safer alternative to opioid painkillers that sparked the ongoing drug addiction epidemic.

Last month, the FDA issued warning letters to seven companies selling drinks, gummies and powders infused with 7-OH. Regulators said the products violated FDA rules because they have not been evaluated for safety and, in some cases, claimed to treat medical conditions, including pain, arthritis and anxiety. Supplement executives quickly applauded the move. □

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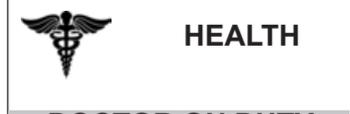
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Imsan 24 hours
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Paradera: Tel.588 6638
San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER
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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Narcotics Anonymous
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Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional
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Tel. 582 4433

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Downtown

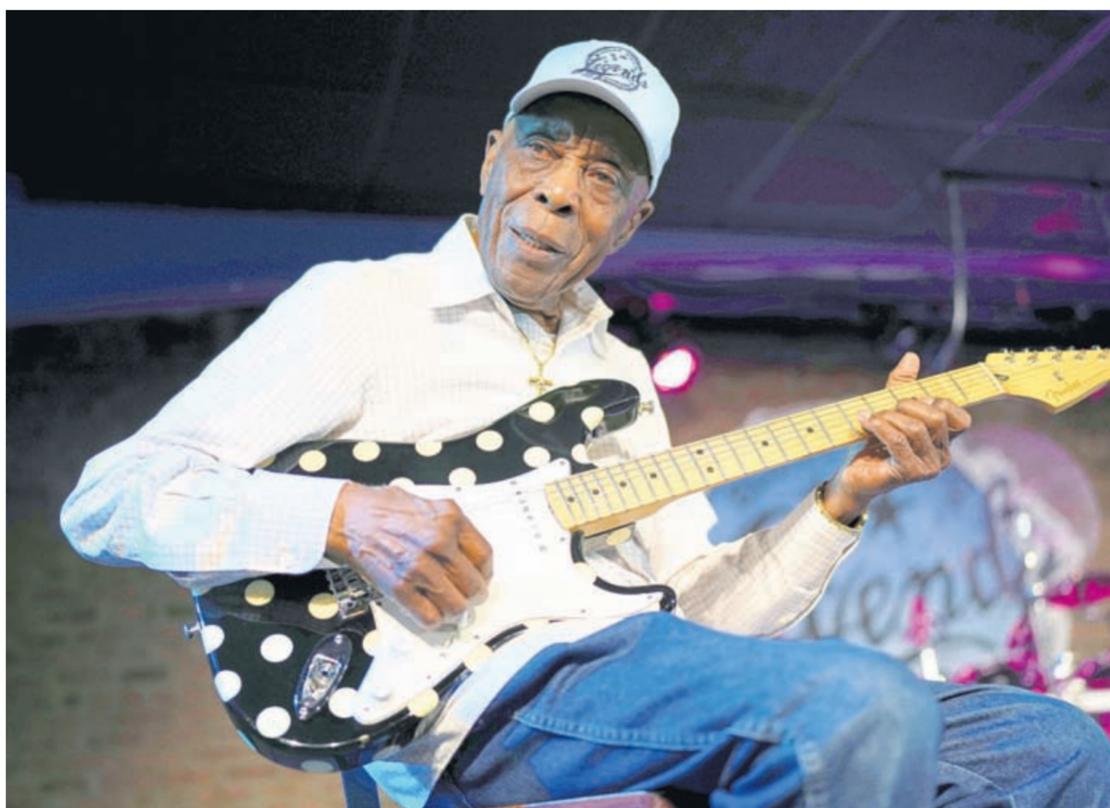
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

In 'Sinners' and his music, Buddy Guy is keeping the blues alive. It hasn't been easy

By **MARIA SHERMAN**
AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For Buddy Guy a stalwart and staunch defender of the blues there's nothing more important than keeping his chosen genre at the forefront of conversation. It comes naturally: Guy is one of America's greatest guitar players, a singular artist with a thick roster of A-list super fans Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page and Gary Clark Jr. among them. The list also includes innovative writer and director Ryan Coogler, who tapped Guy for his critically acclaimed film "Sinners" earlier this year, and artists like Peter Frampton and the Eagles' Joe Walsh, who feature on his new album "Ain't Done with the Blues." It releases Wednesday, on Guy's 89th birthday. For the eight-time Grammy Award-winning musician, those recognitions aren't priority. The longevity of the music that made his life is his primary concern. "Like I promised B.B. King, Muddy Waters and all of them," he tells The Associated Press over the phone, "I do the best I can to keep the blues alive." He's concerned that radio



Buddy Guy poses for a portrait at Buddy Guy's Legends in Chicago on Thursday, July 24, 2025. Associated Press

stations no longer play the blues, and that the genre might miss out on connecting with younger listeners. It's one of the reasons "Ain't Done with the Blues" is a strong collection of classics that run the risk of being forgotten like on the album closer "Talk to Your Daughter," a rendition of the J.B. Lenoir tune. In Guy's performance, there's an undeniable uni-

versality. "Blues is based on everyday life," he says. "A good time or a bad time." Or, another way Guy explains it: "Music is like a bowl of real good gumbo. They got all kinds of meat in there. You got chicken in there, you got sausage in there. You got a seafood in it. ... When we play music, we put everything in there." It's resonating. In its 2025 midyear report, Luminate,

an industry data and analytics company, found that U.S. on-demand audio streams of blues music has climbed this year due to the success of "Sinners." Jaime Marconette, Luminate's vice president of music insights and industry relations, describes the current moment as a "resurgence of the blues," following "Sinners." "Several artists featured on

the film's soundtrack, which includes works from real-life blues, folk and country musicians, saw spikes the week of the film's theatrical release," he explains. "And they're all enjoying a sustained rise in listenership even two-plus months following release." Guy has noticed the shift, too. "I walk in the grocery store or the drugstore and people recognize me. 'Man, you know, I heard that 'Sinners' music, man. Man, it sounds good,'" he says. "They ain't never gonna come in and say, 'I heard it on the radio.'" That's part of the reason why Guy decided to participate in the movie in the first place. "I hope this will give the blues a boost, because my worry right now is, like I said, a young person don't know how good a gumbo is you've got to taste it." For now, he's excited to see how people respond to his new album, "Ain't Done with the Blues" but he's not listening to it. "I listen to everything but Buddy Guy," he says. "I already know Buddy Guy. I can't learn anything from that." □

Book Review: 'Shade: The Promise of a Forgotten Natural Resource' calls for better protection



This book cover image released by Random House shows "Shade: The Promise of a Forgotten Natural Resource" by Sam Bloch. Associated Press

By **ANITA SNOW**
Associated Press

The cities of ancient Mesopotamia were oases for travelers trying to escape the sun's heat. Urban shade was created by the buildings themselves with homes constructed close together and next to alleyways less than 5 feet wide. Communities were built on diagonal grids offering equal amounts of sun and shade throughout the day for both buildings and street surfaces. Buildings were taller than the streets were wide, allowing surfaces to rest longer in the shade. In his new book, "Shade: The Promise of a Forgotten Natural Resource," environmental journalist Sam Bloch encourages us to look to the past for solutions to our ever-warming urban areas as climate change creates heat waves that are more frequent, hotter and longer lasting. Bloch's call for more shade in urban areas, with more trees in parks and residential areas and new ways to design public areas and buildings, comes as policy makers grapple with a growing crisis in heat-related illness and death. He notes that better shade and access to water is critical

for people working outside, such as California farmworkers and the laborers who died by the thousands in the hot, arid country of Qatar while building facilities for the 2022 World Cup. Bloch says people in ancient times understood this far better than we do. Shade was once considered an important resource in cities where people went about their daily business outside in the summer heat. In the medina of Fez, Morocco, some buildings are 10 times taller than streets are wide, allowing the bottoms of the street canyons to remain shaded all day. Bologna, Italy, enjoys 38 miles of covered sidewalks with covered porticoes that have shielded pedestrians for 1,000 years. Even in modern times, some Spanish cities have used huge curtains called "toldos" to hang over streets to protect pedestrians from the fierce summer rays. In the United States, awnings were once popular in some cities, but urban planners moved away from shade because of widespread beliefs that dark spaces could be unhealthy and spread disease. Streets were made wider, then wider still to accommodate automobiles. Zoning laws required buildings to be more open to sunshine. □

Léon Marchand breaks world record in 200 individual medley in 1 minute, 52.69 seconds

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

SINGAPORE (AP) — Léon Marchand broke the world record in the 200-meter individual medley on Wednesday at the world championships in Singapore, clocking 1 minute, 52.69 seconds to surpass the 1:54.00 set in 2011 by American Ryan Lochte.

The Frenchman set the mark swimming in the semifinals and, in theory, could break it again in Thursday's finals.

Marchand won four Olympic gold medals a year ago in Paris, but he's swimming only the 200 and 400 medley and relays in Singapore. Planning the lighter schedule in what he calls a "transition year" keeps him fresh to chase the world marks.

Marchand didn't just break the 14-year-old record, he shattered it.

"What's crazy is that it's a whole second and it's still hard to believe," he said. "1:52 on the 200 meters that's insane."

Marchand will swim the 400 IM on Sunday, the final day of the world championships. He holds that record of 4:02.50 set in the 2023 worlds in Fukuoka, Japan. And it seems likely to go.

"Today I felt really good before the race," he said. "In the water, I felt light, I was taking in a lot of water and technically everything felt clean."



Leon Marchand of France celebrates after competing in the men's 200-meter individual medley semifinals at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, Wednesday, July 30, 2025.

Associated Press

Asked about swimming a lighter schedule he replied in an understatement: "It was probably the right decision."

Marchand was about 1.8 seconds under the world record after 150 meters and powered home with the final freestyle leg.

Though this race did not yield a world title that will come on Thursday in the final it did win Marchand a check for \$30,000.

"In the end I went out hard from the start," he said. "But I stayed super-relaxed. I didn't make many mistakes. I didn't realize I was going that fast but I gave it

absolutely everything. Arms at full speed all the way to the wall. At that point I wasn't even thinking about technique anymore."

More than Marchand Despite being only a semifinal, Marchand overshadowed the five finals on Day 4 of the worlds the half-way mark with four days more to go. Those finals produced medals for the United States, Australia, Italy, Tunisia, and the Neutral Athletes.

American Luca URLando picked up the third gold medal for the United States in the championships, winning the 200 but-

terfly in 1:51.87. Krzysztof Chmielewski of Poland was second in 1:52.64 with bronze for Harrison Turner of Australia in 1:54.17.

URLando has battled back from several surgeries for his first big title on the world stage.

"It was a great race all great a great moment," he said. "I'm trying to have as much fun as I can with it." He was asked how he overcame the setbacks and he replied: "The belief that I could get back to a moment like this. Internal belief."

Mollie O'Callaghan of Australia, the defending Paris

Olympic champion in the 200 freestyle, repeated her title in the worlds, pulling away in the last 50 to finish in 1:53.48. Li Bingjie of China was the silver medalist in 1:54.52, with bronze going to American Claire Weinstein in 1:54.57.

O'Callaghan has had a difficult time coming back after the Olympic victory, dealing with the stress and the post-games letdown.

"I've had an amazing coach Dean (Boxall) to guide me through this difficult time," O'Callaghan said. "It's hard for a lot of people to come back after the Olympics."

Weinstein, like many of the Americans, has been dealing with what team officials call "acute gastroenteritis" picked up at a training camp in Thailand before arriving in Singapore.

A new name, missing name Ahmed Jaouadi of Tunisia won the 800 free, clocking 7:36.88 the third fastest time ever swum in the event. Sven Schwarz of Germany claimed silver in 7:39.96 with fellow German Lukas Martens taking bronze in 7:40.19. American Bobby Finke, the three-time Olympic gold medalist, was fourth, far off the pace in 7:46.42.

Sam Short of Australia, who had the second-quickest qualifying time in the 800, pulled out of the race with what the team said was food poisoning. □

Mets slugger Juan Soto out of lineup a day after fouling a ball off his left foot

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mets slugger Juan Soto wasn't in New York's lineup on Wednesday for a series finale against the San Diego Padres after fouling a ball off the top of his left foot a night earlier.

Manager Carlos Mendoza said Soto was "better but still sore. Getting treatment. We'll see where we're at. He hasn't done anything. He's in the training room. Hopefully he gets in the cages and see if he's available or

not for the game. A little bit better."

Jeff McNeil was in the lineup in right field as the NL East-leading Mets tried to avoid being swept.

The team announced that Soto had a bruised foot and that X-rays were negative. Soto appeared to be in considerable pain after fouling a ball off his foot in the fourth inning of a 7-1 loss. He hopped down the first base line on his right foot and then crouched

down. He was checked by an athletic trainer, took a few swings and then finished his at-bat, grounding out to second baseman Jake Cronenworth, who made a nice diving stop. Soto was then lifted from the game.

He's hitting .248 with 25 homers and 62 RBIs. Soto joined the Mets in December when he signed the biggest contract in baseball history, a \$765 million, 15-year deal. □



New York Mets' Juan Soto reacts after fouling a ball off his left foot in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Tuesday, July 29, 2025, in San Diego.

Associated Press

Yankees bolster outfield, acquire veteran Austin Slater from the White Sox

By JAY COHEN

AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Austin Slater is heading to the New York Yankees, giving them another right-handed bat they can plug into a part-time role down the stretch.

The active Yankees acquired the veteran outfielder from the Chicago White Sox on Wednesday in exchange for minor league pitching prospect Gage Ziehl.

New York had a pressing need to bolster its outfield ranks with star slugger Aaron Judge sidelined by a flexor strain in his right elbow.

"Really excited about the move," manager Aaron Boone said before



Chicago White Sox's Austin Slater runs after hitting a one-run single during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians in Chicago, Sunday, July 13, 2025.

Associated Press

Wednesday night's game against Tampa Bay at Yankee Stadium. "Talked about it over the recent weeks just getting more roster flexibility, complementary guys."

Boone said Slater was traveling from Chicago to New York and there was an "outside chance" he would arrive in time to be active Wednesday night.

The 32-year-old Slater hit .236 with five homers and 11 RBIs in 51 games with the White Sox this season. He has an .859 OPS against left-handed pitching.

"Really enjoyed my time here and met some incredible people," Slater said. "Super fun clubhouse to be in. But then also really excited to go play for the Yankees. One of those teams as a kid you always dream about playing for. And they are right in a race for the playoffs. Excited to go there and try to help them out."

New York began the day four games behind first-place Toronto in the AL East.

The well-traveled Slater can play all three outfield positions.

He spent the first seven-plus seasons of his career with San Francisco before being traded to Cincinnati last summer. New York will be Slater's fifth team in just over a year.

"At this point, we're a little more prepared than we were last year," Slater said. "It was something, there was always writing on the wall that it could happen. That maybe helped us mentally prepare a little bit more this year."

The Yankees will assume \$564,516 of Slater's remaining \$1.75 million salary, which also will increase their luxury tax by about \$621,000.

The trade is the latest in what has been a busy run-up to Thursday's deadline for New York.

The team acquired third baseman Ryan McMahon from Colorado and infielder Amed Rosario from Washington within the last week. □



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