



Top general drops opposition to change in sex assault policy

By ROBERT BURNS

AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a potentially significant shift in the debate over combating sexual assault in the military, the nation's top general says he is dropping his opposition to a proposal to take decisions on sexual assault prosecution out of the hands of commanders. Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, stopped short of endorsing the changes recommended by an independent review panel. But in an interview with The Associated Press and CNN, Milley said he is now open to considering them because the problem of sexual assault in the military has persisted despite other efforts to solve it.

"We've been at it for years, and we haven't effectively moved the needle," he said.

"We have to. We must." The comments by Milley, as arguably the most influential officer and as the senior military adviser to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and to President Joe Biden, are likely to carry considerable



Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley arrives to the chamber ahead of President Joe Biden speaking to a joint session of Congress, Wednesday, April 28, 2021, in the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

weight among the service chiefs and add to momentum for the change.

Austin, himself a former senior commander and former vice chief of the Army, has not publicly commented

on the review commission's proposal, but it is his creation and thus its recommendations are seen as especially weighty.

Lawmakers are also stepping up pressure for the

change.

Milley said he would reserve judgment on the proposal to take prosecution authority on sexual assault cases away from commanders until the review commission

has finished its work and its recommendations are fully debated within the military leadership.

Continued on Page 2

VISIT OUR
MODEL
HOME

tuscanyresidencearuba.com
or call: +297 733 2424



Luxury Townhouses, - price \$ 347,000
1,506 sq.ft - 3 bedrooms, - 2.5 bathrooms
Luxury Villas - price \$ 788,000
2,345 sq.ft. - 3 bedrooms, - 3.5 bathrooms,
- Private Pool, - Garage

Tuscany
RESIDENCE ARUBA

NEW CONSTRUCTION ACCORDING TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS, BUILT ON PROPERTY LAND!



Paseo Herencia

Your Shopping, Dining, Cinema
and Entertainment Center



Located in front of Holiday Inn, walking distance from high rise hotels. Shops and restaurants are open till late.





"There's something for everyone at Casa del Mar."

Stop by our sales office for special offers or contact us at Zaylitza.luidens@casadelmar-aruba.net 582-7000 ext.614 for more information



Top general drops opposition to change in sex assault policy

Continued from Front

The review commission submitted its initial recommendations to Austin late last month. Officials have said they expect him to give service leaders about a month to review and respond.

The review panel said that for certain special victims crimes, designated independent judge advocates reporting to a civilian-led office of the Chief Special Victim Prosecutor should decide two key legal questions: whether to charge someone and, ultimately, if that charge should go to a court martial. The crimes would include sexual assault, sexual harassment and, potentially, certain hate crimes.

This goes against long-standing and vehement Pentagon opposition to such moves.

"I was adamantly opposed to that for years," Milley said, speaking during a military flight Sunday. "But I haven't seen the needle move" — referring to a failure to reduce the number of reported sexual assaults. Indeed, in response to policy questions for his July 2019 Senate confirmation hearing, Milley wrote:



In this Feb. 10, 2021, file photo, President Joe Biden walks with Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Mark Milley, second from left, and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin as he arrives at the Pentagon in Washington.

Associated Press

"Commanders must retain the ability to hold all service members in their formation accountable for their actions. The authority to discipline service members, to include convening courts-martial, is an important tool that enables commanders to fulfill their responsibility to their people and to establish an appropriate culture where victims are treated with dignity and respect."

In his comments Sunday, Milley said he has shifted his thinking in part because he is concerned by indications of a lack of confidence by junior enlisted service members in the fairness of sexual assault case outcomes. He

said this amounts to an erosion of confidence in the military chain of command. "That's really bad for our military if that's true, and survey and the evidence indicate it is true," he said. "That's a really bad situation if the enlisted force — the junior enlisted force — lacks confidence in their chain of command to be able to effectively deal with the issue of sexual assault."

Sexual assault has long plagued the military, triggered widespread congressional condemnation and frustrated military leaders struggling to find prevention, treatment and prosecution efforts that

work. The most recent of the Defense Department's biennial anonymous surveys, done in 2018, found that more than 20,000 service members said they experienced some type of sexual assault, but only a third of those filed a formal report. Formal reports of sexual assaults have steadily gone up since 2006, including a 13% jump in 2018 and a 3% increase in 2019, according to Pentagon data. The 2020 data is not yet available.

There have been a number of changes in the Uniform Code of Military Justice over the last decade to add more civilian oversight to the military's prosecution of sexual assault cases and to beef up assistance for victims. But, lawmakers, including Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, have long demanded a more concrete shift, arguing that commanding officers should be stripped of the authority to decide whether serious crimes go to trial.

Those commanders, Gillibrand and others argue, are often reluctant to pursue charges against their troops, and overrule recommendations for courts martial or reduce the charges. And they say that

victims consistently say they are reluctant to file complaints because they don't believe they'll get support from their superiors since often their attacker is in the chain of command.

Taking that prosecution authority away from commanders, however, is seen in the military as eroding a basic principle — that a commander obligated to maintain order and discipline among his troops must have the authority to decide when to prosecute cases. Thus Gillibrand was met with widespread resistance among senior officers.

Milley said he now welcomes "a fresh set of eyes" from the review commission, whose members he has spoken with directly.

"We want that," he said, adding that he is "very open" to any and all ideas the commission puts forth.

"I'm confident that the recommendations of the independent review commission — I'm confident they'll develop evidence-based solutions, and that would be important as we go forward," he said.

Milley said it would be unrealistic to think that sexual assault in the military can be fully eliminated. □

MONDAY MADNESS AND BINGO ARE TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

2X Double Point Tuesday!

Earn DOUBLE POINTS all day long!

Use your Players' Club card to play our slots and we'll DOUBLE your points!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Offering a wide variety of Retail & Dining Outlets, Salon & Spa Services, Souvenirs and more.

Dunkin Donuts | Baskin Robbins | Hungry Piranha

Aruba Aloe | Shalom Body & Soul Spa

The Brownstone Ribs & Seafood

MAGNET — Perfume, Jewelry & Cosmetics

Coming Soon: Shalom Hair & Nails Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 9am to 10pm | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Judges hear arguments over Census' contentious privacy tool

By KIM CHANDLER and MIKE SCHNEIDER

Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) —

The fight over whether the U.S. Census Bureau can use a controversial statistical technique to keep people's information private in the numbers used for drawing political districts on Monday went before a judicial panel which must decide if the method provides enough data accuracy.

A panel of three federal judges was hearing arguments on whether the method known as "differential privacy" meets the federal legal requirement for keeping private the personal information of people who participated in the 2020 census while still allowing the numbers to be sufficiently accurate for the highly-partisan process of redrawing congressional and legislative districts.

Because a panel of three federal judges will decide the matter, any appeal could go straight to the Supreme Court.

This first major challenge to the Census Bureau's use of differential privacy comes in the lawsuit filed by the state of Alabama and three Alabama politicians over the statistical agency's decision to delay the release of data used for drawing congressional and legislative districts. Normally, the redistricting



Rows of homes, are shown in suburban Salt Lake City, on April 13, 2019. Utah is one of two Western states known for rugged landscapes and wide-open spaces that are bucking the trend of sluggish U.S. population growth.

Associated Press

data is released at the end of March, but the Census Bureau pushed the deadline to sometime in August, at the earliest, because of delays caused by the pandemic.

Alabama claims the delay was caused by the bureau's attempt to implement differential privacy, which the state's attorneys say will result in inaccurate redistricting numbers. At least 16 other states back Alabama's challenge, which is asking the judges for a preliminary injunction to stop the Census Bureau from implementing the statistical technique. Alabama also wants the agency to release the redistrict-

ing data by July 31.

Alabama Solicitor General Edmund LaCour told the judges that the Census Bureau should return to a previous method for protecting privacy where easily identifiable characteristics in a household are swapped with data from another household.

"Small changes matter when you are dividing up power," LaCour said. The judges questioned the solicitor general about why Alabama had not tried to stop differential privacy sooner, but LaCour said it was not ready to be challenged until last year and it was not clear earlier how "dangerous" it would be.

Civil rights advocates, state lawmakers and redistricting experts have raised concerns that differential privacy will produce inaccurate data for drawing districts, and that will result in a skewed distribution of political power and federal funds.

They also worry it will make it difficult to comply with sections of the Voting Rights Act requiring the drawing of majority-minority districts when racial or ethnic groups make up a majority of a community.

Differential privacy adds mathematical "noise," or intentional errors, to the data to obscure any given individual's identity while

still providing statistically valid information. Bureau officials say the change is needed to prevent data miners from matching individuals to confidential details that have been rendered anonymous in the massive data release. In a test using 2010 census data, which was released without the obscuring technique, bureau statisticians said they were able to re-identify 17% of the U.S. population using information in commercial databases.

But University of Minnesota demographer Steven Ruggles said in a court filing that would be impossible to do without access to internal, non-public Census Bureau data.

Department of Justice attorney Elliott Davis, representing the Census Bureau, told the judges that previous methods of privacy protection were not robust enough against data miners who could "reverse engineer" the data.

The delay in the release of the redistricting data has sent states scrambling for alternative plans such as using other data, utilizing previous maps, rewriting laws dealing with the deadlines or asking courts to extend deadlines. The state of Ohio filed a similar lawsuit over the changed deadlines. A federal judge dismissed the case, but Ohio has appealed. □

Judge hears closing arguments in NRA bankruptcy trial

By JAKE BLEIBERG

Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Are the leaders of the National Rifle Association abusing the legal system to duck accountability for their mismanagement? Or are they making a legitimate move to reorganize in the face of an attack from politicians bent on dismantling the powerful gun-rights group?

A federal judge in Dallas was left to weigh those competing narratives Monday during closing arguments in the NRA's bankruptcy trial. Judge Harlin Hale did not imme-

diately indicate when he expects to rule in the case over whether the NRA can move its incorporation from New York to Texas. Lawyers for the NRA and the state of New York clashed on how to interpret the case, but they broadly agreed its outcome will define the future of an organization that has long dominated America's gun debate. The NRA filed for bankruptcy in January, five months after New York's Democratic attorney general sued in a separate effort to disband the group over alleged financial abuses.

The case was set to close Monday after 11 days of arguments and testimony that laid bare the NRA's inner workings and offered a rare window into the work of its embattled and notoriously secretive leader, Wayne LaPierre. The competing sides left Hale with a variety of ways to resolve the Chapter 11 proceeding.

Lawyers for New York and Ackerman McQueen, an Oklahoma City-based advertising agency that says the NRA owes it more than \$1 million, cast the case as a desperate but clumsy abuse of federal

bankruptcy law to stymie the work of New York regulators and law enforcement. They asked that it be dismissed or that Hale appoint a trustee to oversee the NRA. The NRA's attorney portrayed those options as potential death blows to the 150-year-old organization and asked the judge to let it proceed with reorganizing. He argued that the allegations of financial abuse were exaggerated and that the NRA has gone through a "course correction." He said the case would facilitate a legitimate move to a state where the group is

supported and was not an effort to duck New York's suit. Though headquartered in Virginia, the NRA was chartered as a non-profit in New York in 1871. Moving its incorporation to Texas would complicate New York's case against the group.

A small group of NRA board members who have been skeptical of LaPierre's leadership also weighed in, asking the judge to appoint someone to investigate the management and workings of the NRA and to report their findings to the 76-member board. □

Storms spawn twisters in Mississippi, kill driver in Georgia

By **ROGELIO V. SOLIS**

Associated Press

YAZOO CITY, Miss. (AP) —

Severe storms spawning multiple tornadoes moved across the South on Monday, damaging homes and uprooting trees from Mississippi to Kentucky. A tornado spotted in Atlanta forced thousands to seek shelter, and one man was killed when a falling tree brought power lines onto his vehicle.

The motorist was pronounced dead after fire crews cut him from the vehicle in Douglasville, Georgia, west of Atlanta, Douglas County spokesman Rick Martin told reporters. No other details were immediately released.

The weather first turned rough in Mississippi on Sunday, where just south of Yazoo City, Vickie Savell was left with only scraps of the brand new mobile home where she and her husband had moved in just eight days ago. It had been lifted off its foundation and moved about 25 feet (7.6 meters). It was completely destroyed.

"Oh my God, my first new house in 40 years and it's gone," she said Monday, amid tree tops strewn about the neighborhood and the roar of chainsaws as people worked to clear roads.

Savell had been away from home, attending



The remains of two mobile homes are shown early Monday, May 3, 2021, in Yazoo County, Miss. **Associated Press**

church, but her husband Nathan had been driving home and hunkered down in the front of his truck as the home nearby was destroyed. From there, he watched his new home blow past him, he said.

Nearby, Garry McGinty recalled being at home listening to birds chirping — then dead silence. He looked outside and saw a dark, ominous cloud and took shelter in a hallway, he said. He survived, but trees slammed into his carport, two vehicles and the side of his house.

A line of severe storms rolled through the state Sunday afternoon and into

the nighttime hours. Late Sunday, a "tornado emergency" was declared for Tupelo and surrounding areas. Meteorologists urged residents to take cover.

"Damage has been reported in the City of Tupelo," the mayor's office said in a Facebook post just before 11 p.m. "Emergency crews are currently assessing the degree of damage. Please do not get out and drive." Photos retweeted by the National Weather Service in Memphis showed several downed trees and power lines. Tupelo Middle School sustained some damage, as well as houses and businesses.

There were multiple reports of damage to homes on Elvis Presley Drive, just down the street from the home where the famed singer was born. Presley was born in a two-room house in the Tupelo neighborhood but there was no indications that the historic home sustained damage. It's now a museum.

But just down the street on Elvis Presley Drive, a tornado tore the roof off the home of Terrille and Chaquilla Pulliam, they told the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal.

About 10 family members took shelter inside the house, and "we got every-

body inside in time," Terrille Pulliam said.

Calhoun County Sheriff Greg Pollan said Calhoun City also "was hit hard to-night."

"Light poles have been snapped off. Trees in a few homes. Trees on vehicles. Damage to several businesses. Fortunately we have had no reports at this time of injuries," Pollan posted on Facebook, asking people to stay off the roads. "Emergency personnel are working feverishly to open the roads as quickly as possible."

News outlets also reported tornados near Yazoo City, Byram and Tchula earlier in the day. The National Weather Service in Jackson shared several images of funnel clouds across different parts of the state.

As the system moved east, storms damaged homes in a Kentucky town early Monday and a tornado watch for much of the day covered large parts of Alabama and Georgia.

In the southern Kentucky town of Tompkinsville, a severe storm Monday morning damaged several homes and knocked down trees and power lines, Fire Chief Kevin Jones said. No injuries were reported, he said. The National Weather Service was checking to see whether the damage appeared consistent with a tornado. □

U.S. appeals court to consider Idaho transgender athletes ban



In this Feb. 27, 2020, file photo, Idaho House of Representatives debates legislation in the Idaho Statehouse in Boise, Idaho. **Associated Press**

By **KEITH RIDLER**

Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — An ap-

peals court on Monday will consider the constitutionality of the first law in the

nation banning transgender women and girls from playing on women's sports teams.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments in the case that will likely have far-ranging consequences as more states follow conservative Idaho's lead.

Idaho passed its law last year, and more than 20 states have considered such proposals this year. Bans have been enacted in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, Tennessee and West Virginia. Florida lawmakers passed a bill, and South Dakota's governor issued an executive order.

On Monday, conservative Republican lawmakers in Kansas failed to override Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly's veto of a proposed ban on transgender athletes in girls' and women's school sports.

Supporters say such laws are needed because transgender female athletes have physical advantages. Opponents say the law is discriminatory and, in Idaho, an invasion of privacy because of the tests required should an athlete's gender be challenged. Lawmakers in Idaho have argued that allowing transgender athletes on girls' and women's teams would

negate nearly 50 years of progress women have made since the 1972 federal legislation credited with opening up sports to female athletes.

The state's law prohibits transgender students who identify as female from playing on female teams sponsored by public schools, colleges and universities. It does not apply to men's teams.

The American Civil Liberties Union and Legal Voice women's rights group sued last year over the Idaho law, contending it violates the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause because it is discriminatory. □

U.S. officials in Mideast to reassure jittery allies over Iran

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Top Biden administration officials and U.S. senators crisscrossed the Middle East on Monday, seeking to assuage growing unease among Gulf Arab partners over America's re-engagement with Iran and other policy shifts in the region.

The trips come as the U.S. and Iran, through intermediaries in Vienna, discuss a return to Tehran's tattered 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that former President Donald Trump abandoned three years ago. The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf allies, excluded from Obama-era nuclear negotiations, have repeatedly pressed for a seat at the table, insisting that any return to the accord must address Iran's ballistic missile program and support for regional proxies.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a key Biden ally dispatched on overseas diplomatic missions, told reporters in the UAE's capital of Abu Dhabi that he hoped to allay the sheikhdom's "understandable and legitimate concerns" about the return to the landmark deal and to



U.S. Senator Chris Coons, left, looks at Senator Chris Van Hollen during a press briefing in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday, May 3, 2021.

Associated Press

create "broader engagement" with Gulf partners. Coons said "close consultation" with the UAE about the ongoing talks in Vienna was "important, expected and happening," adding that he hopes the Emiratis "may not just be notified, but actually help."

What that means remains unclear, as Gulf states now watch with resignation as negotiations gain traction in the Austrian capital. When asked to elaborate, Coons balked at the suggestion that the UAE's input had acquired any greater significance in talks with Iran over the last five years. "I did not in any way mean to suggest that there was some deal in the works where the Emiratis would be securing anything," he said. "Vienna is the place where the United States government, the administration, is negotiating."

Regional tensions are rising. To pressure the Biden administration to lift sanctions and come back into compliance with the deal, Iran has steadily violated the accord's limitations on nuclear enrichment and stockpiles of enriched uranium. The long shadow war between Israel and Iran has intensified, with suspected Israeli attacks on Iranian ships in volatile Mideast waterways and at Iran's Na-

tanz nuclear facility. In a tour intended to boost "long-standing political, economic, cultural, and security ties," several senior Biden administration officials are touring Arab capitals, with Brett McGurk from the National Security Council and Derek Chollet from the State Department, among others, stopping in Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Amman and Cairo this week. Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn. joined the flurry of diplomatic activity in the region this week, jetting to Oman, Qatar and Jordan for talks on a political solution to the war in Yemen. In an interview with The Associated Press from Amman, Murphy credited the influence of the Biden administration on recent steps in the region to defuse tensions, such as a Saudi cease-fire initiative floated to the Iran-backed Houthi rebels and secret talks between arch-enemies Iran and Saudi Arabia. Earlier this year, Biden announced the end of U.S. support to the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen. However, Murphy warned, "so long as we're still sanctioning the hell out of the Iranian economy ... it's going to be hard to push the Houthis to a cease-fire." □

Albania's Socialists launch impeachment of president

By LLAZAR SEMINI

Associated Press

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Albania's governing left-wing Socialist Party legislators have started the impeachment process against the country's president who they accuse of violating the constitution during the last election, their parliamentary group leader said Monday.

Taulant Balla said that 50 Socialist lawmakers have asked parliament to launch an investigation after determining that President Ilir Meta "before and during the electoral campaign committed actions which run counter to the country's constitution."

During the April 25 electoral campaign, Meta accused

the left-wing government of Prime Minister Edi Rama of running a "kleptocratic regime" and bungling its pandemic response. Meta accused Rama of concentrating all legislative, administrative and judiciary powers in his hands.

The Socialists achieved a landslide victory in the vote, securing 74 seats in the 140-seat parliament which are enough to let them form a Cabinet on their own.

Balla said that the existing parliament has enough time until Sept. 9, when its mandate is over, "to institutionalize forming of an investigative commission and end (the impeachment process) within its mandate."

But it wasn't clear whether

the Socialists would be able to secure a two-thirds majority for an impeachment request to pass. After parliament's vote, the final verdict comes from the Constitutional Court.

Meta's press office didn't respond immediately to a request for comment on the Socialists' impeachment request on him.

Meta's post is largely ceremonial, with some powers over matters concerning the judiciary and the armed forces.

His role is also generally understood to be apolitical and the president is meant to be a symbol of the country's unity. But he has often clashed with Rama's government.

Meta started his political



In this Wednesday, April 21, 2021 file photo, Albanian President Ilir Meta speaks during an interview with the Associated Press in Tirana, Albania.

Associated Press

career with the Socialist Party, but later left it to form the smaller left-wing Socialist Movement for Integration, or LSI. In 2017, when he was elected president for a

five-year term, he left the LSI leadership to his wife. Meta has said he will retake the LSI's membership next year when his presidential term is over. □

Attention travelers! EU proposes reopening external borders

By **SAMUEL PETREQUIN**

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — In an announcement sure to be welcomed by travelers worldwide, EU officials on Monday proposed easing restrictions on visiting the 27-nation bloc as vaccination campaigns across the continent gather speed. Travel to the European Union is currently extremely limited except for a handful of countries with low infection rates. But with the summer tourist season looming, the bloc's European Commission hopes the new recommendations will dramatically expand that list.

The Commission hopes the move will soon allow travelers reunite with their friends and relatives living in Europe and support the bloc's economy this summer.

"Time to revive EU tourism industry and for cross-border friendships to rekindle — safely," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said. "We propose to welcome again vaccinated visitors and those from countries with a good health situation."

Under the Commission's proposal, entry would be granted to all those fully vaccinated with EU-au-



A visitor admires a Raphael Room inside the Vatican Museums on their reopening, in Rome, Monday, May 3, 2021.

thorized shots. Coronavirus vaccines authorized by the European Medicines Agency, the bloc's drug regulator, include Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson. The EMA has not approved any vaccines from Russia or China as of yet but is looking at data for Russia's Sputnik V jab.

EU nations could also individually decide to accept travelers immunized with vaccines listed by WHO for

emergency use. The U.N. health agency has approved the same four vaccines as the EMA, and is expected to make a ruling soon on China's Sinopharm vaccine.

EU officials believe the bloc's COVID-19 vaccination campaigns will soon be "a game changer" in the fight against the deadly virus. Its proposal will be discussed with EU ambassadors this week and the Commission hopes it could

start by June, once it is adopted by member states. Still, the recommendation is non-binding and EU countries will be entitled to keep travel restrictions in place if they want.

Commission spokesman Adalbert Jahnz said fully-vaccinated travelers coming from outside the EU should be allowed to visit Europe but insisted that the proposal's goal is not to exempt them from testing or quarantines upon arrival.

Associated Press

"This still remains very much in the hands of the member states," he said.

The Commission also proposed raising the threshold of new COVID-19 cases that is used to determine the countries from which all travel should be permitted. "Nonessential travel regardless of individual vaccination status is currently permitted from seven countries with a good epidemiological situation," it said, proposing to increase 14-day cumulative COVID-19 infection rate per 100,000 inhabitants from 25 to 100. It was unclear which countries would actually make the cut but an EU official who was not authorized to be quoted by name because the proposal has yet to be adopted said Israel would definitely be on the list. "The UK, question mark, the U.S., for the time being, not quite," he said. "But we see how quickly the situation in the U.S. is evolving, notably for the rate of vaccination."

In case the infection situation deteriorates in a non-EU country, the Commission proposed an "emergency brake" to stop dangerous virus variants from entering the bloc through quickly enacted travel limits. □

Germany cancels Oktoberfest for 2nd year over virus fears

By **DAVID RISING**

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Bavarian officials on Monday canceled Oktoberfest festivities for a second year in a row due to concerns over the spread of COVID-19, saying there are too many risks in hosting the celebrations which bring in visitors from around the world during a global pandemic. Bavarian Governor Markus Soeder said it was with "heavy hearts" that they decided to call off the festival for which the state is known globally, but that with coronavirus numbers still stubbornly high and German hospitals already struggling, it had to be done.

"Oktoberfest will be held

again, and will be big again," he pledged.

Germany is in the middle of a coronavirus lockdown that includes a ban

on large gatherings, with an infection rate of 146.9 new weekly infections per 100,000 residents.

Bavaria is slightly below



In this file photo dated Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, people reach out for a glass of beer during the opening of the 186th 'Oktoberfest' beer festival in Munich, Germany.

Associated Press

the national average with 145.4 new weekly infections per 100,000, according to the country's disease control center, the Robert Koch Institute.

Oktoberfest typically attracts about 6 million visitors from around the world and had been scheduled from Sept. 18 to Oct. 3.

The combination of huge tents full of people and the consumption of large quantities of alcohol, as well as the possibility for mutated varieties of the virus to be brought in from abroad, made it particularly hazardous to go ahead with the festival, Soeder said.

After Oktoberfest was canceled last year, about 50 of the southern German

city's beer halls and other establishments hosted smaller parties under strict coronavirus guidelines. Mayor Dieter Reiter said the hope was that it again would be possible to have open-air beer gardens and patios open under certain restrictions.

However difficult the decision to cancel Oktoberfest, it would have been worse if the city waited too long and had to call it off after preparations were already underway, he said.

"For me, personally, it was no easy decision because it is a huge date in the calendar for the mayor," he said. "Much more importantly, it's a huge shame for the millions of fans worldwide." □

NOW OPEN Fit2fly
COVID-19 Testing Center
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

NEW: Rapid PCR Test:
Result in 30 minutes!
Antigen Test: \$50
PCR Test also available



MedCare Clinic
URGENT CARE

Tel: (+297) 280-0630

info@medcare.aw / www.medcare.aw

Locations: The Cove Mall (8AM-9PM) and Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:30AM-12:30PM).

U.S. expresses concern over El Salvador vote to remove judges

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The vote by El Salvador's new congress to remove the magistrates of the Supreme Court's constitutional chamber and the attorney general on the newly elected legislative body's very first day drew concern and condemnation from multinational groups and the United States.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken spoke to Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele on Sunday about the previous day's vote, saying "that an independent judiciary is essential to democratic governance," the State Department said. Bukele's New Ideas party won 56 out of the 84 seats in the Legislative Assembly in February elections that pushed aside the country's traditional parties, already weakened by corruption scandals.

The dominant electoral performance raised concerns that Bukele would seek to change the court, which along with the previous congress, had been the only obstacles that the very popular leader faced. The vote Saturday to remove the five magistrates was 64 lawmakers in favor, 19 opposed and one abstention. Now with effective control of the congress and the high court, few if any checks remain on Bukele's power.

He swept into office in 2019 as a break from the country's corrupt and troubled traditional parties, though his political career had started in the leftist Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front.

And even before the assembly was in his sway, Bukele sought to bully and intimidate El Salvador's other democratic institu-



New members of the New Ideas party are sworn in during the Legislative Assembly in San Salvador, El Salvador, Saturday, May 1, 2021.

Associated Press

tions. In February 2020, he sent heavily armed soldiers to surround the congress when it delayed voting on a security loan he had sought.

Bukele clashed repeatedly with the constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court during the pandemic. When it ruled his obligatory stay-at-home order unconstitutional last June, Bukele said, "The court has just ordered us to murder dozens of thousands of Salvadorans within five days." Blinken also expressed concern about the removal of Attorney General Raúl Melara, saying he was fighting corruption and has been "an effective partner of efforts to combat crime in both the United States and El Salvador," State Department spokesman Ned Price said. Melara had been selected by the previous congress and was an outspoken Bukele critic.

Blinken said the U.S. is committed to supporting democratic institutions in El Salvador.

In a statement, the general secretariat of the Organization of American States criticized the dismissal of the magistrates and the attorney general.

Bukele appeared to be unmoved. He said he felt very satisfied with the congress' first session and said it was beginning of the change he had promised for the country.

"I know they can't do it all in a day," Bukele said via Twitter. "I know that most of the Salvadoran people eagerly await the second session."

Juan Sánchez Toledo, an unemployed man in the capital, San Salvador, backed Bukele.

"I was already hoping for it," he said of the vote. "They promised to get rid of all of the corrupt. We'll see if they do it. I hope that things change for the good of the people."

During the Trump administration, Bukele's tendencies toward disrespecting the separation of powers was largely ignored as El Salvador's homicide rate

dorans tried to migrate to the United States.

But the administration of President Joe Biden has appeared more wary. When Bukele made an unannounced trip to Washington in February, administration officials declined to meet with him. Bukele said he had not sought a meeting.

Bukele appeared to respond in kind last month when he refused to meet with a visiting senior U.S. diplomat.

Governing party lawmakers defended the decision, saying the court had put private interests above the health and welfare of the people. The opposition called it a power grab by a president seeking total control. □

dropped and fewer Salva-

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Open: Daily
From: 5:00pm to 10:00pm
Tel.: 583-2666
Website: www.pinchosaruba.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

THE WEST DECK
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR

Open: Daily for Lunch and Dinner
From: 10:30 am to 10:00 pm
Tel.: 587-2667
Website: www.thewestdeck.com

Travellers' Choice 2020

Alhambra

CASINO AND SHOPS

Alhambra Casino recognizes its team members anniversary



5 Gabriela Erasmus
Richard Jacobs
Orlando Jansen
Reghinald Koolman
Antonio V/D Linden
Angelo Maduro
Marcia Medina
Ewaldo Tromp
Elias Vrolijk

Punta Brabo- Alhambra Casino celebrated this year in a different way the recognition to their team members who celebrated their 5th till 35 years of service. As we are still in a pandemic the ceremony was held under strict rules of DVG and with no guest but only team members. Each team member received their envelop and certificate for this occasion. And a special toast was made at the end of the ceremony to honor these team members.

For this occasion the Director's office was converted in a red carpet venue so that every team member could still get the feeling of a celebration for this day. Also management announced that they resumed the "Star y Supervisor of the quarter" and "Crewmember y Star of the quarter", program,

The first winners for this year are Mrs. Sandra Adamus for Star of the Quarter and Mrs. Shurayma as Supervisor of the Quarter. Alhambra Casino hope that for next year they can be able to celebrate this recognition the way they are used to with their team members and once more want to give thanks to all their team members for their loyalty to the company.

5 years anniversary:
GABRIELA ERASMUS
RICHARD JACOBS
ORLANDO JANSEN
REGHINALD KOOLMAN
ANTONIO V/D LINDEN
ANGELO MADURO
MARCIA MEDINA
EWALDO TROMP
ELIAS VROLIJK

10 years anniversary:
GLENN D'AGUIAR
OMAR KELLY
15 years anniversary:
OSCAR V/D L'ISLE
RONY POTERSON
REAGAN WERLEMAN
MAURYS ODOR

20 years anniversary:
OLGA NARAIN
MIRTO ERASMUS
LEANDRO HENRIQUEZ
ROBERTO WEVER

30 years anniversary:
ANNA MARIA DIRKSZ
CARMEN LUGO

35 years anniversary:
MARCELINO ARENDS

30

Anna Maria Dirksz
Carmen Lugo
Marcelino Arends



10

Glenn D'aguiar
Omar Kelly



20

Olga Narain
Mirto Erasmus
Leandro Henriquez
Roberto Wever



Crewmember of the Quarter
Sandra Adamus



Supervisor of the Quarter
Shurayma Dania

15

Oscar V/D L'isle
Rony Poterson
Reagan Werleman
Maurys Odor





Article by Etnia Nativa

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



The Cocuy, a fading tradition

NOORD — Today we will introduce you to real and very exclusive native liquor, the genuine Cocuy that used to be drunk in every main social event or celebration. The Cocuy is distilled from a plant from which its species reproductive system makes the cultivation what difficult and the cause of an important limitation for the commercial production of Cocuy as in large quantities. In addition to this, the plant, an Agave variety, takes approximately eight years to reach the necessary maturity to be used in the elaboration of this traditionally distillate beverage.

This drink is obtained from the processing of the juvenile flower stem of Agave, a native plant of the dry tropics American regions. It is a spirit drink produced with a high alcohol content and which, according to the characteristics of the area where it is made, providing very special an aromatic taste notes.

It is native to the central-western region of Venezuela and the ABC islands. The Cocuy was already known since pre-Columbian times by the local form Lara and Falcón states of Venezuela including Aruba, although there are oral testimonies that certify that it was also prepared in the Andean states (Trujillo and Mérida). The original settlers belonging to the Caquetíos, Jirajaras and Ayamanes ethnic groups that populated these regions; they prepared a spirit drink from the fermented musts of the Agave they called cucu or cocui and it was used in their rituals and community events. This noble plant



is also known as "the plant of wonders", they also obtained natural sugars, soapy substances, fiber for the fabric of their hammocks, Pargata or espadrilles and bags; flowers and shoots were prepared as pickles, and the leftover fiber from the production process was used as a binder for their roofs and adobe blocks. For this reason, it constituted the fundamental base and sustenance of its economy. The customs of these peoples spread over to the coastal areas of Venezuela and the costal Caribbean islands. It is made in an artisanal way, from the stalk obtained after removing the Agave leaves, which is baked and smoked in artisan ovens, covering the walls and bottom of the oven with river stones on which the stalks are placed. Which are covered with the cut leaves of the Agave.

After three to four days in the oven, they are chopped and squeezed using a maso and a wooden vat, in most cases. Mechanical mills or presses are also used.

The juice obtained is subjected to a fermentation process using wild yeasts; In the fermentation process, the sugars in the juice will be converted into alcohol and other elements. Once the game is fermented, it is introduced to the still to obtain the liquor.

The stills are handmade; they are usually made of stainless steel or copper as the one in the picture, simulating

Episode CIII 103



the alembic introduced during the Spanish colonization.

The first liquid that is obtained in the distillation is the glop called head or "baba" containing a high degree of alcohols and impurities and is used as fertilizer or for therapeutic use.

After a few minutes, a fluid called "body" or "heart" begins to come out, and is collected up to 50 degrees of GL alcohol, maximum graduation. The following fluid is known as "cola" and is not suitable for human consumption. The distilled product of condensation is filtered through a canvas that separates the residues, impurities and plant debris.

Once the Cocuy is distilled, it can be bottled or it can be aged in oak barrels obtaining an amber-colored liquid typical of the aging processes, which gives the liquor greater roundness and harmony. □



To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades.

Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.

Apple's 'walled garden' faces Epic attack in app store trial

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**

AP Technology Writer

SAN RAMON, Calif. (AP)

— Apple's lucrative app store was alternately portrayed as a price-gouging monopoly and a hub of world-changing innovation during the preamble to a trial that may reshape the technological landscape.

The contrasting portraits were drawn on Monday as lawyers for Apple and its foe, Epic Games, outlined their cases in an Oakland, California, federal court before U.S. District Judge Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, who will decide the case.

While Apple depicted its app store as an invaluable service beloved by consumers and developers alike, Epic Games attacked it as a breakthrough idea that has morphed into an instrument of financial exploitation that illegally locks out competition.

The trial, expected to last most of this month, revolves around the 15% to 30% commission that Apple charges for subscriptions and purchases made from apps downloaded from its store -- the only one accessible on the iPhone, iPad and iPod.

Epic, the maker of the popular Fortnite video game,



A member of Apple's legal team rolls exhibit boxes into the Ronald V. Dellums building in Oakland, Calif., as the company faces off in federal court against Epic Games on Monday, May 3, 2021.

Associated Press

laid out evidence drawn mostly from Apple's internal documents in an attempt to prove the company has built a digital "walled garden" during the past 13 years as part of a strategy crafted by its late co-founder, Steve Jobs.

"The most prevalent flower in the walled garden is the Venus fly trap," said Epic lawyer Katherine Forrest. Later, Forrest highlighted expert testimony that will be submitted during the

trial that estimated Apple reaped profit margins of 75% to 78% during 2018 and 2019, even though Jobs publicly said the company didn't expect to make large sums of money from the app store when it opened in 2008.

The app store is now an integral piece of a services division that generated nearly \$17 billion in revenue during the first three months of this year alone.

Apple brushed off Epic's

arguments as a case brimming with unfounded allegations made by a company that wants to get rid of the app store commission to increase its own profits while freeloading off an iPhone ecosystem that has cost more than \$100 billion to build.

Karen Dunn, Apple's attorney, pointed to Epic's internal documents outlining a strategy called "Project Liberty" that paved a way for Fortnite to purposefully

breach its app store contract last summer and set up a showdown over the fees.

"Rather than investing in innovation, Epic invested in lawyers, PR and policy consultants in an effort to get all of the benefits Apple provides without paying," Dunn said.

Reflecting the high stakes riding on the case, both Epic CEO Tim Sweeney and Apple CEO Tim Cook -- Jobs' hand-picked successor -- will testify during the trial.

Sweeney took the stand after the opening statements, but Cook isn't expected to appear until near the end of a trial that is only allowing a handful of mask-wearing people inside the courtroom because of pandemic restrictions.

While the trial will involve moments of high intrigue that could divulge closely guarded secrets, the nuts and bolts of the case will likely hinge on more mundane matters such as market definitions.

Epic contends the iPhone has become so ingrained in society that the device and its peripheral services such as the app store has become a market by itself. □

U.S. sets pandemic-era high for air travel, over 1.6 million

By **The Associated Press**

The United States set another record for the number of air travelers since the pandemic set in, although passenger numbers remain far below 2019 levels.

Nearly 1.67 million people were screened at U.S. airport checkpoints on Sunday, according to the Transportation Security Administration. That was the highest number screened since March 12 of last year when air travel began to plummet.

However, it was still 35% below the number of airport travelers reported on the comparable Sunday in 2019, according to TSA

figures. Airlines started to see an increase in bookings around mid-February, and the TSA has screened at least 1 million people every day since March 11. Vacation destinations have been most popular business travel, which is more profitable for airlines, remains drastically reduced.

Government restrictions are also sharply limiting international travel, another lucrative piece of the airline business.

Nearly 50 U.S. and U.K. travel-industry groups urged President Joe Biden and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson to lift restrictions on travel between the two

countries. The groups said in a letter Monday that it would be ideal if the two leaders would announce "the full reopening of the U.S.-UK air travel market for both U.S. and UK citizens" before the G7 meeting in early June.

Airline executives are cautiously optimistic about summer travel as more Americans get vaccinated against COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it is safe for vaccinated people to travel within the United States, although it continues to warn against travel to most foreign countries.

Last week, the TSA extend-



In this Monday, April 26, 2021 file photo, a jet is silhouetted by the rising moon as it approaches Louisville International Airport in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

ed its requirement that airline passengers wear face masks. That rule was set to expire May 11, but TSA extended it through mid-September.

Travelers should expect

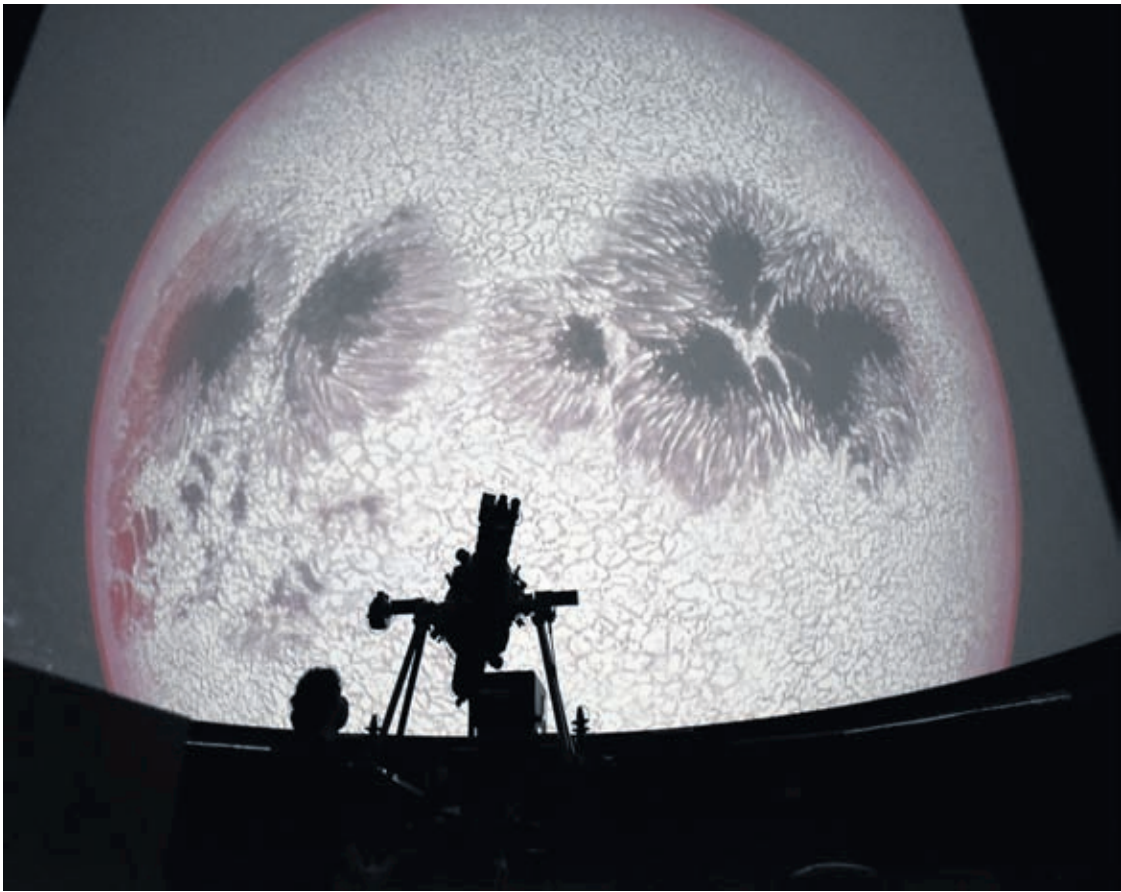
planes to be more full. Over the weekend, Delta Air Lines stopped blocking off middle seats. It was the last U.S. airline to limit seating as a safety precaution. □

Latin America looks to space, despite limitations on ground

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mars missions, astronauts coming and going at the International Space Station, China's increasingly ambitious space program. Space-related news is flowing, and not just from the world's richest, biggest nations. Take Latin America. On Feb. 17, the congress in Nicaragua, one of the region's poorest, most conflict-prone nations, approved a law creating a space agency. Costa Rica, known for relative growth and stability, did the same on Feb. 18, the day that the NASA rover Perseverance landed on Mars to look for signs of ancient life.

The potential benefits of space are tantalizing for many countries with scarce resources. Satellite technology, international partnerships, national pride and local development all beckon. Inevitably, critics suspect a boondoggle, a vanity project, a diversion from pressing problems on the ground. "The truth is, the type of eyebrow raised regarding the announcement of a Nicaragua space program is similar to whenever an African country announces a space program. People always question why it makes sense, especially since these countries are battling several socioeconomic problems," Temidayo Onio-



Researcher Ivannia Calvo, silhouetted against a solar satellite image, works inside the Solar Astronomical Observatory in San Jose, Costa Rica, Friday, April 30, 2021. Costa Rica approved a law creating a space agency on Feb. 18.

sun, managing director of Space in Africa, wrote in an email to The Associated Press. "First of all, most developing countries are primarily interested" in space technologies to address developmental challenges, Oniosun said. Some want a communications satellite "because it brings an excellent investment return and helps close the digital divide challenges. It is why you rarely see a developing country say they are

doing space explorations (Moon, Mars, etc.) and stuff," he said. The growth of the commercial space industry and prospects for global internet access from satellite constellations could increasingly help countries that lack coverage. Satellite data can also guide crop-growing, help industry and natural disaster management and track weather and other conditions linked to disease. Nicaragua, whose government cracked down hard on the political opposition, isn't a newcomer to space ambitions. An old deal with China years ago for the deployment of a communications satellite is delayed. In 2017, Russia opened a facility in Nicaragua as part of a satellite navigation system; Nicaragua denied it was for spying on the region or the United States. Nicaragua seems aware of skepticism about its new, military-run "National Secretariat for the Affairs of Outer Space, the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies." "It's not how they have wanted to manipulate it," pro-government legislator Jenny Martínez said in con-

gress, without elaborating on critics' comments. She said more than 50 countries have agencies dedicated to space matters. Nicaragua has been a member since 1994 of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which oversees treaties governing space law. "I don't think Nicaragua needs to send something into space to be a part of the forum," said Carlos Arturo Vélez, an Ecuadorian lawyer studying at the International Institute of Air and Space Law at Leiden University in the Netherlands. "Doing something wrong in outer space could affect any country in the world," for example if satellite debris crashes to Earth and causes damage and casualties, Vélez said. Ecuador launched a satellite, Pegaso, in 2013 with fanfare and Chinese help, but it was damaged a month later. Some accounts said the cause was debris from an old Russian rocket. Supporters of Costa Rica's space ambitions say its new agency can contribute to technologies used on Earth, as well as give

Costa Rica a say in international space policy and agreements. "A lot of people criticized the creation of NASA in 1958 when the United States was struggling with the worst economic recession of the postwar era," Franklin Chang Díaz, a Costa Rica-born U.S. citizen who became a NASA astronaut, said in a statement. The incredible feat of putting a person on the moon, he said, "sometimes eclipses the most significant" thing about NASA's creation: The enormous technological and economic benefits that followed. Chang Díaz is the chairman and CEO of the Ad Astra Rocket Company, based in Texas. Last week, California-based LeoLabs, Inc. announced that a new radar site was operational in Costa Rica to track objects in low Earth orbit and deliver data. The country's first satellite, Irazú, was launched with help from a SpaceX rocket in 2018 to monitor its tropical forests and climate change. It was partly funded with a Kickstarter campaign. "It's not surprising" that Costa Rica passed a space agency law and hopefully Guatemala will do the same, said Katherine Herrera, a biochemistry and microbiology student at the University of the Valley of Guatemala who heads a university club dedicated to space science and engineering. Guatemala's first satellite, Quetzal-1, was deployed by Japan last year and was operated by a team from the university where Herrera is studying. The project unfolded in a country whose problems have compelled many citizens to look for a better life elsewhere. Bolivia's space agency got caught up in the country's recent political turmoil. The new government accused its interim predecessor of hobbling operations at the agency, which was set up in 2010 by then-President Evo Morales. □

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

Difficulty Level ★★

5/04

©2021 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Google signs deal with WNBA to help champion women's sports

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The WNBA signed a multiyear deal with Google on Monday to be the presenting partner for the league's playoffs, part of the technology giant's efforts to help champion women's sports. Twenty-five WNBA games will be televised on ABC and ESPN in celebration of the league's 25th season, with Google as the presenting sponsor. Google is the latest business to join the league as a "WNBA Changemaker," a program that Commissioner Cathy Engelbert started last year. Changemakers are intended to provide direct support to the WNBA in its ongoing business transformation across marketing, branding and player and fan experience. AT&T, Deloitte U.S. and Nike were the first three companies to join the program. "When we launched our WNBA Changemakers platform at the beginning of 2020, we issued a call to like-minded companies to join us in elevating women's sports, and Google has answered that call," Engelbert said. "We are incredibly grateful to Google for becoming the latest WNBA Changemaker and for their platform of helpful products for everyone. Google's support will be instrumental in driving our business transformation forward and demonstrates a commitment to the values we both stand for – including building sustainable equity." "It's important to us that our product experiences are equitable for all genders and we want to make sure our media spend is equitable, too, bringing more women's content to television," Google Chief Marketing Officer Lorraine Twohill said. "With the WNBA and ESPN, we can help ensure women athletes get the recognition and media time they deserve, so that the world can see their incredible talents." □

Time Share Resales + Realty

Own or Rent a piece of the Rock
For up to 70 % Off stay @5 Star Resort

* All inventory available

Visit our website :

www.halleytimetravelaruba.com

For more info call:(297) 630-1307

johnnypaesch@gmail.com

also visit(new):

www.halleyadventures.com



Classifieds

Marriott Ocean Club

Gold Season
1 BR Ocean View \$5 K
2 BR Ocean View \$8 K
1 BR Ocean Front \$9 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$12K
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf Club

Gold Season
2 BR Garden View \$ 7 K
2 BR Ocean View \$ 8 K
2 BR Ocean Side \$ 9 K
2 BR Ocean Front \$12 K
3 BR Ocean View \$13 K
Call:011-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

La Cabana Beach and Casino

1 BR WK 18 Room # 110 A
\$4 K
Studio WK 18 Room # 110 B
\$3 K
Sunday check in Pool/
ocean view
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba Divi Phoenix

1 BR , 2 bath
WK 18/ 19 room # 650
Pool/ ocean view
30 weeks remain each
Price : \$8,5 K each
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

All Time Share Owners

Want to sell your Time -Share
In Aruba ? Contact the expert
Free Aprassail ,No upfront list-
ing
Call 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Tierra Del Sol

3 BR 2 1/2 bath
Full furnish with garage
Golf and ocean view
Price :\$450 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Oasis Condo

3 BR 2 Bath
Top floor right at Eagle Beach
Full furnish
Price : \$650 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Sunset Residence

2 BR , 2 Bath
Full furnish at Eagle beach
Price :\$490 K
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Casa del Mar 2BR/2B

Week 7&8/1408 (18k/Wk.);
Week 8/1113; 8/1409 (17k/Wk.);
Week 9/1218 (15k);
Week 10/1207 (15k);
Week 11/1419 (13k);
Week 13/1509 (13k);
Week 14/1308 (13k);
Week 15/1217 (10k); and,
Weeks 2-6 also available!
CDMOwner@gmail.com
U.S. (860)992-3890

213823

FOR SALE

Alto Vista Real Estate

Villa with 4 Apts in San Miguel,
Noord
Airbnb income potential
\$490k 6bds/7bath 3,961 ft2
www.altovista.aw
Call +297 747 0827

214110



Editor

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

Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editors

Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Richard Brooks

Linda Reijnders

Sales

Linda Reijnders

(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)

Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

Joris Zantvoort

Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@arubatoday



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad

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

San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad:

Kibrahacha Tel. 583 4908

San Nicolas:

Aloe Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

TRAVEL INFO

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



facebook.com/arubatoday/

'Antique Roadshow' flips the script with celebrity editions

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Chef, cookbook author and TV host Carla Hall has always wondered about an antique wooden highchair her family has long cherished. What is its history? How much is it worth? She finally got answers when PBS' "Antiques Roadshow" visited her Washington, D.C., home. It turns out that the highchair is not hand carved and dates to between 1880-1920. It's worth only about \$100. Even so, Hall still adores it. She and her husband are remodeling their home in a more modern style, but the highchair is staying. "This will still be front and center somewhere in our modern house," she says after the TV visit. "I'm not selling anything."

Hall was one of several celebrity guests on four new special episodes of "Antiques Roadshow" that were filmed during the pandemic. The producers flipped the script. Instead of people — and their would-be treasures — coming to meet the appraisers in a big hall, the appraisers went to the people. And this time, the people were famous. "I think it's very humanizing. They share with you this very vulnerable moment. They are just like any other 'Roadshow' guest," says



This image released by WGBH-TV shows Katy Kane, left, as she appraises celebrity chef Carla Hall's vintage purse collection in an episode of "Antiques Roadshow Celebrity Edition," airing May 10 on PBS.

"Antique Roadshow" executive producer Marsha Bemko. The first celebrity edition airs Monday and features comedian Jay Leno, actor S. Epatha Merkerson, author Jason Reynolds, Olympic figure skater Nancy Kerrigan and pro golfer Dottie Pepper. Celebrities have appeared on "Antique Roadshow" before, but this is the first time they've been featured for an entire episode. Kerrigan gets a pair of her Olympic medals appraised as well as several competitive costumes, including the Vera Wang wedding dress outfit she wore at the 1992 Olympics. A torch from the 1996 Summer Olympics that she bought for \$300 as part of a relay is now worth

as much as \$7,000. Reynolds wanted to know about the value of a Langston Hughes letter, an advanced reader copy of Claude Brown's "Manchild in the Promised Land" and a first edition signed copy of Toni Morrison's "Beloved." Merkerson has a collection of Black memorabilia, and Pepper has a golf cup and an heirloom table. Leno needs a lot more help from the team. He and his wife were instantly smitten by a 16,000-square foot estate in Newport, Rhode Island, and bought it pretty much on the spot, with all the furnishings. But he has no idea what he's got, from paintings to sculptures. "He did knock on the door and buy everything

Associated Press — ketchup included — and doesn't know what's in there. So it was a real chance for us to help him," says Bemko. Future episodes — airing May 10, May 17 and May 24 — include the likes of humorist John Hodgman, actor Ronny Chieng, cartoonist Mo Willems, journalist Soledad O'Brien, fashion designer Christian Siriano and TV personality Carson Kressley. "This is true across the board of everybody we visited on this show and all the others: They are human beings like you and me," says Bemko. "They really are curious about what they own and they want to know, and not just because of the money. It's not all about the value."

The celebrity episodes were a clever answer to the pandemic and a chance to shake things up during the 25th anniversary of "Antique Roadshow." Initially, with flying not an option, the celebrities chosen to be featured were within driving distance of the show's Boston headquarters at WGBH. Everyone had to drive in separate cars, stay masked until cameras were rolling and were COVID-19 tested regularly. Some celebrities felt more comfortable displaying their collectibles on their lawn. Others allowed appraisers inside. For Hall, a fan of the show, it was a chance to get answers for the items her family has long held dear, including an antique table, old seltzer bottles and chic handbags collected by her grandmother. Hall also learned something. Her highchair converts into a stroller, something neither she nor her mother knew until the appraiser pointed it out. "That just was so wild," she recalls. "I never knew that it did that. That was the biggest shock."

She says she found the visiting "Antique Roadshow" experience interesting and fun: "I wanted to know the story before they got to me, but I didn't care about the value of them because they meant so much to me," she says. The celebrity editions are infused with good will and gentle education as is the original show. Or, as Bemko puts it, "we ultimately teach history with material culture." "That is the beauty of what 'Roadshow' does: You are actually learning history, but not in a way that you even noticed," she adds. □

Dancer Jacques d'Amboise dead at 86

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer
Jacques d'Amboise, who grew up on the streets of upper Manhattan to become one of the world's premier classical dancers at New York City Ballet and spent the last four and a half decades providing free dance classes to city youth at his National Dance Institute, has died at 86. His death was confirmed by Ellen Weinstein, director of the institute. She said the dancer and teacher had died on Sunday at his

home from complications of a stroke. He was surrounded by his family. Plucked for stardom at NYCB as a teenager by its legendary director, George Balanchine, d'Amboise performed with the company for about 35 years before retiring, just before turning 50, in the early '80s. In an interview with The Associated Press in 2018, d'Amboise described the moment he decided to end his dance career. "I was almost 50, there were only a few roles left



Dancer-choreographer Jacques d'Amboise appears during an interview in his office at the National Dance Institute in New York on March 3, 2018.

Associated Press that I could do," he said. "I was waiting to go on-stage, and I suddenly thought, 'I don't want to go on. I danced, came off, took off my ballet shoes and quit.'" He also famously ap-

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

Minors primer: What's new as MiLB returns in 2021?

By **JAKE SEINER**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — They've waited for the Wahoos, stood by for the Sod Poodles, bided their time for the Biscuits or Trash Pandas. After more than a year of uncertainty and empty ballparks, fans in minor league cities are finally getting baseball back.

"Small town baseball, it's the fabric of the United States," Brooklyn Cyclones manager Ed Blankmeyer said. "It's a culture."

Minor league teams across the country are set to open their seasons Tuesday, returning baseball to communities denied the old national pastime during the coronavirus pandemic. Capacities will differ by jurisdiction, but for most, it will be the first opportunity to see pro players in person since the entire 2020 season was canceled.

Of course, much has changed since the last affiliated games were played in 2019. There are fewer teams and leagues and Major League Baseball has introduced plans to use the minors as a testing ground for new rules that could improve pace of play or reduce player injuries.

Much will remain the same. Family-friendly prices, off-beat giveaways and outlandish team branding — more on those Trash Pandas below — remain key pillars of the minor league experience.

But for those wondering what will be different, here's a primer:

WHO GOES WHERE?

The biggest change, of course, is that MLB contracted the minors from 160 affiliates to 120.

Commissioner Rob Manfred's office assumed full control of the minors after deciding this offseason not to renew its agreement with the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues, the body that operated minor league ball.

That gave MLB latitude to reshape the minors, and it acted fast. The short-season leagues were eliminated, as were several full-season affiliates, to take 40



Tulsa Drillers' Hueston Morrill waits for his name to be announced at the Double-A baseball team's game against the Frisco RoughRiders in Tulsa, Okla., in this Tuesday, June 30, 2020, file photo.

Associated Press

clubs out of the equation. What remains are four levels — Triple-A, Double-A, High-A and Low-A — each with regional names. No more Pacific Coast League, for example — it's just Triple-A West. Several leagues with over 100 years of history, including the International League (established in 1884), Texas League (1902) and Florida State League (1919), are no more.

Three previously independent franchises — the St. Paul Saints, Somerset Patriots and Sugar Land Skeeters — were brought into affiliated ball, meaning 43 clubs lost their connection to the pro ranks. Many of those were folded into new summer leagues for college players, draft hopefuls or independent leagues, keeping baseball in those communities in some form. Some, though, folded entirely.

Several have also rebranded, and just like before the pandemic, they've done it with minor league baseball's signature eye-raising creativity.

The Mobile BayBears moved to Madison, Alabama, and became the Rocket City Trash Pandas — Rocket City for the area's ties to the space industry, and Trash Pandas as a nod to the area's clever, mischievous raccoons.

Other clubs with new moni-

kers: Kannapolis has transformed from the Intimidators to the Cannon Ballers, Wichita inherited a team from New Orleans and named it the Wind Surge, and Fort Myers now goes by the Mighty Mussels.

ON THE FIELD

The minors will be a testing ground for several rules experiments MLB is considering, including an automated strike zone, restrictions on defensive positioning and larger bases.

An automatic ball-strike system will be used at some Low-A Southeast League games, the highest level yet for the robo zone that's already been tested in the independent Atlantic League and the Arizona Fall League. The system has received mixed reviews from players, including complaints about how the system grades breaking pitches down in the zone.

At Double-A, infielders will have to keep both feet in the infield at the start of every play, although there won't yet be a ban on shifting three or more infielders to either side of second base — MLB hasn't closed the door on banning the shift, though. The bases at Triple-A will be expanded from 15 by 15 inches to 18 by 18, which MLB hopes will improve player safety and modestly increase stolen bases and infield hits.

The most impactful change could come at the lower levels, where MLB will limit pitchers' ability to hold baserunners. At High-A, pitchers will be required to fully disengage from the rubber prior to throwing to a base, under penalty of a balk. In Low-A, pitchers only get two pickoff attempts per plate appearance. If they try for a third and don't record an out, it's a balk.

The Low-A West league will also adopt on-field timers previously used at other levels with additional regulations to reduce game length and improve pace of play.

ON THE ROSTER

At least 1,000 roster spots were eliminated when MLB contracted 40 clubs, but those that remain are at least getting a pay raise. MLB decided prior to the pandemic to boost minor league wages between 38% and 72% — a bump introduced three years after MLB successfully lobbied Congress to exempt players from federal minimum wage laws.

Players at Class A will see their minimum weekly pay raised from from \$290 to \$500. Double-A will jump from \$350 to \$600, and Triple-A from \$502 to \$700.

For most, opening day will be their first competitive game since the end of the 2019 season. More ad-

vanced players may have gotten reps last season at alternate training sites, but the bulk of players reported to spring training in late March after scrambling to stay sharp in 2020.

Their experiences varied, with a lucky few maintaining access to training facilities and other resources throughout the pandemic. Others got creative — power lifting with truck parts, box jumping on electrical units, constructing makeshift bullpens in their back yards. At the other end of the spectrum, some Venezuelan players, unable to return to their conflict-stricken home country, were locked into team housing and unable to leave for months, even to grocery shop.

"If you have young guys that need to play baseball, they've been void of it for almost two years now, they've got to get out there and play," Los Angeles Angels manager Joe Maddon said. "This is one time I am really going to be paying attention to minor league reports coming up. I want to see and hear how our guys are doing."

Players say they expect pitchers to be a good deal sharper than batters early on, especially among those who didn't go to alternate training sites. Pitchers adapted during the shutdown, using that time to build velocity and develop new pitches. Hitters, meanwhile, were hamstrung without the chance to get regular at-bats against high-level pitching.

"Definitely, pitchers are a little bit ahead right now," Mets third base prospect Brett Baty said.

"I've just been telling guys to throw strikes," said teammate and right-hander Matt Allan, who has been telling his fellow pitchers to challenge hitters early and often.

Players are understandably eager to get back into the minor league grind, competing against other teams and playing in front of fans. About the only thing they aren't excited for?

"The nine- or 10-hour bus rides," Allan joked. □

Analysis: After draft, some obstacles ahead for NFL in 2021

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP Pro Football Writer

With a successful in-person draft in Cleveland behind it, the NFL inexorably moves on. What's ahead might not go so smoothly as the selection process did on the shore of Lake Erie. For one, the league and the players' union likely will be hassling over offseason programs for, well, the rest of the offseason.

For another, while Commissioner Roger Goodell and the 32 team owners rather loudly are embracing the idea of full stands come the regular season, there are far too many uncertainties with the COVID-19 pandemic that are still a significant factor.

As for major storylines for the teams, no need to look beyond Green Bay up north and Houston down south.

OFFSEASON PROGRAMS

This one could get ugly, and relatively soon.

Although the NFL pushed back in-person attendance for meetings and OTAs, which are optional anyway, until later this month, the NFL Players Association wants to do something virtually no else does: Go back to 2020. At least when it comes to mandatory events, particularly minicamps.

Last year, the offseason programs were all done virtually and training camp was pushed back because of the pandemic. This year, organized team activities can begin May 24 for 10 sessions, and minicamps can be held until June 18. NFLPA President JC Tretter, a center with the Browns, has campaigned for eliminating all of that.

"The good news for our sport is that while the NFL season looked and felt noticeably different from previous years," Tretter has written on the NFLPA website, "we learned that the game of football did not suffer at the expense of protecting its players more than ever before."

"Our process is to follow the science on what is safest for our guys, and many of the changes this past



In this Jan. 16, 2021, file photo, Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (12) runs during an NFL divisional playoff football game against the Los Angeles Rams in Green Bay, Wis.

Associated Press

year — like no in-person offseason workouts/practices, the extended acclimation period before training camp and no preseason games — gave us a year of data that demonstrates maintaining some of these changes long term is in the best interest of the game." The battle lines could be drawn for June's minicamps. The union could advise its members not to attend, but the teams can hand down hefty fines to those players who, basically,

opt out.

PRESEASON GAMES

The owners make too much money off these exhibition games to totally eliminate them. Getting them to drop from four to three per team (not counting the Hall of Fame game) took adding a 17th regular-season game. Coaches want them to help set their rosters and find their starters. Rookies need them to become acclimated to the pros before the real stuff kicks off. Free agents join-

ing new teams are helped in their adjustments by preseason matches.

At least that's what we are told.

If the union is to make a stand about the work schedule, minicamps are more likely to be the focal point than boycotting preseason games.

ATTENDANCE

Goodell and the league's medical staff wisely and repeatedly make their decisions regarding practice facilities, stadiums and

games based on the latest medical science and municipality health rules. His bosses — that would be the team owners — can be more pushy as far as getting people in the stands. It's unlikely that the commissioner would back down in this area, even if a franchise in a "more open" state such as Texas or Florida, pushed for attendance beyond what the league itself deems appropriate and safe. Citing Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's chief medical officer, and his staff, Goodell often refers back to their work in getting the 2020 schedule and postseason completed on time. Don't look for him to abandon that approach regardless of the potential pushback from one or several clubs.

A-ROD AND DESHAUN

If you think things are cold in Green Bay in December, try the icy atmosphere right now. Aaron Rodgers reportedly wants out, the Packers say they have no intention of trading the 2020 league MVP — and their only chance of competing for a title in 2021. Not that the star quarterback's contract is easy to deal, nor are there many (any?) contenders who could make the move. Would Rodgers want to finish off a career that will eventually get him to Canton, Ohio, with an also-ran and no shot at another ring? Stay tuned.□

Amazon to take over "Thursday Night Football" package in '22

By **JOE REEDY**
AP Sports Writer

Amazon Prime Video will become the exclusive home of the NFL's "Thursday Night Football" package a year earlier than originally anticipated. Amazon and the league announced Monday that Prime Video will take over the entire package in 2022, which will make it an 11-season deal through 2032.

It was originally supposed to begin in 2023 when the

league's new media rights deals kick in.

This is the first time a streaming service has had the full rights to an NFL package. "This expedited deal is an immediate differentiator for us as a service, as it gives Prime members exclusive access to the most popular sport in the United States," Marie Donoghue, Amazon's vice president of global sports video, said in a statement.

Prime Video will carry 15 regular-season games on



Joseph Toliver, 4, plays on one of the 32 NFL team helmets on display, Tuesday, April 13, 2021, in downtown Cleveland.

Associated Press

Thursday night along with one preseason game. Games will be available on stations in the markets

of the participating teams, which is the same practice when they are on ESPN and NFL Network.□