



Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Biden, Manchin and Schumer huddle, but still no budget deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)—Deadline driven, President Joe Biden brought two pivotal senators — Joe Manchin and Chuck Schumer — to his Delaware home Sunday for talks aimed at resolving the disputes that have stymied the Democrats' wide-ranging social safety net and environmental measure. The White House said the breakfast meeting with New York's Schumer, the majority leader, and West Virginia's Manchin at Biden's home in Wilmington was a "productive discussion" about the president's agenda. The talks appeared to last for hours, but no decisions were announced. The Democrats "continued to make progress," the White House said in its post-meeting statement. The sweeping package, at the core of Biden's domestic agenda, is now being scaled back to about \$2 trillion to win over Manchin, perhaps the party's most conservative senator, and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz. The president is pressing for progress toward an agreed upon framework, so he can spotlight his administration's achievements to world leaders at two overseas summits on the economy and climate change that get underway this week. Earlier Sunday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., reiterated that about 90% is wrapped up and said she expected an agreement by week's end, paving the way for a House vote on a separate \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill before next Sunday, when a series of transportation programs will lapse.

Continued on Page 2



Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., a key holdout vote on President Joe Biden's domestic agenda, chairs a hearing of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY: TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	MONDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	WEDNESDAY: PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	THURSDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	FRIDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	SATURDAY: ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
--	---	--	---	---	---	---

PAULA RIDERSTAP SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm

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

PREMIUM BRANDS

KARAOKE HAPPY HOUR 9:00 - 11:00pm

costa linda beach resort

WATER'S EDGE RESTAURANT & BAR

Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8150 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

ARUBA LIVING TODAY PRESENTS COMMANDEURS "A way of living today"

(+297) 593 - 91 77 | randolph@livingtoday.aw | www.livingtoday.aw

sale starts now

PHASE 1 started september 2020
PHASE 2 approx. start 1st quarter 2021
PHASE 3 approx. start medio 2022

Starting at \$152,000,-

FULL SOLAR OCEAN VIEW COMMUNITY POOL ELEVATOR COVERED PARKING HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION LOW MAINTENANCE

Rumba Gitana y Flamenco **Olé Wednesdays** Angela Croes Zanelty y Bryan Madiuro Live

ANGELA Live "Sound of Violin" THURSDAYS

Happy Hour & Early Bird 5-7

Bohemian BAK AND RESTAURANT French & World Cuisine in Tropical Garden

FRIDAYS SATURDAYS electro lounge In-House w/ Trust

Sanghita & Martin on LIVE Sunday Soir a partir de 7:00 pm

Tel +297 280 8448 Reservation at www.bohemianaruba.com Free Parking at The Barcelo Hotel

- TAPAS
- COCKTAILS
- DESSERTS
- HISTORIC ARUBAN HOUSE

RESERVATIONS: +297 699 0995 OR OPENTABLE

TASTE • SIP • PLAY

TAPAS RESTAURANT

TUE-SUN 5 PM - 11 PM
ADDRESS:
WESTSTRAAT 15,
DOWNTOWN

Biden, Manchin and Schumer huddle, but still no budget deal

Continued from Front

"That's the plan," she said. Manchin and Sinema have insisted on reducing the size of the enormous package and have pressed for other changes. One key debate has been over the revenues to pay for the package, after Sinema rejected an earlier plan to reverse the Republican-led 2017 tax cuts on corporations and wealthy

Americans earning more than \$400,000. Instead, the White House is eyeing a tax on billionaires as well as a 15% corporate minimum tax, to ensure all companies pay what Biden calls their "fair share" — ending the practice of some paying no taxes. Pelosi said she was waiting for the Senate to wrap up talks and was expecting the tax plan to be introduced as early as Monday

— though that could slip. "I think we're pretty much there," said Pelosi, stressing that a few "last decisions" need to be made. "It is less than what was projected to begin with, but it's still bigger than anything we have ever done in terms of addressing the needs of America's working families," she said. Democrats initially planned that the measure would contain \$3.5 trillion worth



President Joe Biden participates in a CNN town hall at the Baltimore Center Stage Pearlstone Theater, Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, in Baltimore.

Associated Press

f Instagram

SHOPPING	DINING	ENTERTAINMENT
WED Cultural Dance Show 8PM	THU Acrobatic Show 8PM	FRI Latin Dance Show 8PM
SUN Violin Show 8PM	Nightly Watershow 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm	

Located in walking distance from the high-rise hotels
www.paseoherencia.com

of spending and tax initiatives over 10 years. But demands by moderates led by Manchin and Sinema to contain costs mean its final price tag could well be less than \$2 trillion. Disputes remain over whether some priorities must be cut or excluded. These include plans to expand Medicare coverage, child care assistance and helping lower-income college students. Manchin, whose state has a major coal industry, has opposed proposals to penalize utilities that do not switch quickly to clean energy. Pelosi said Democrats were still working to keep in provisions for four weeks of paid family leave but acknowledged that other proposals such as expanding Medicare to include dental coverage could prove harder to save because of cost. "Dental will take a little longer to implement," she said. Also expected to be trimmed is a clean energy proposal that was the centerpiece of Biden's strategy for fighting climate change. Biden has set a goal of reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50% by 2030. But Manchin has made clear he opposes the ini-

tial clean energy proposal, which was to have the government impose penalties on electric utilities that fail to meet clean energy benchmarks and provide financial rewards to those that do. Democrats were hoping Biden could cite major accomplishments when he attends a global conference in Scotland on climate change in early November after attending a summit of world leaders in Rome. Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent who caucuses with Democrats, said the expected cuts to the clean energy provisions in the spending bill were especially disappointing because "it weakens Joe Biden's hands in Glasgow." "If we're going to get the rest of the world to take serious steps to remedy this problem, we've got to do it ourselves," he said. The White House and congressional leaders have tried to push monthslong negotiations toward a conclusion by the end of October. Democrats' aim is to produce an outline by then that would spell out the overall size of the measure and describe policy goals that leaders as well as progressives and moderates would endorse. □

Is there a constitutional right to food? Mainers to decide

By PATRICK WHITTLE

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Depending on whom you ask, Maine's proposed "right to food" constitutional amendment would simply put people in charge of how and what they eat — or would endanger animals and food supplies, and turn urban neighborhoods into cattle pastures.

For supporters, the language is short and to the point, ensuring the right to grow vegetables and raise livestock in an era when corporatization threatens local ownership of the food supply, a constitutional experiment that has never been tried in any state.

For opponents and skeptics, it's deceptively vague, representing a threat to food safety and animal welfare, and could embolden residents to raise cows in their backyards in cities like Portland and Bangor. In the Nov. 2 election, voters will be asked if they favor an amendment to the Maine Constitution "to declare that all individuals have a natural, inherent and unalienable right to grow, raise, harvest, produce and consume the food of their own choosing for their own nourishment, sustenance, bodily health and well-being."

The proposal is essentially "the 2nd Amendment of food," said Republican Rep. Billy Bob Faulkingham, who proposed the amendment, likening it to the U.S. constitutional amendment that assures the right to bear arms.

He says it's a common-sense amendment that would make sure the gov-



Phil Retberg feeds his hogs at the Quill's End Farm, Friday, Sept. 17, 2021, in Penobscot, Maine.

Associated Press

ernment can't stop people from doing things like saving and exchanging seeds, as long as they don't violate public or property rights.

"There's a lot of disturbing trends in the food category, with the power and control that corporations are taking over our food," said Faulkingham, who is also a commercial lobster fisherman. "We want to protect people's ability to grow gardens, grow and raise their own food."

Faulkingham and others said the amendment is a response to growing corporate ownership of the food supply. They see the amendment as a way to wrest control of food from big landowners and giant retailers.

But Julie Ann Smith, executive director of the Maine Farm Bureau, the largest farmers advocacy organization in the state, ar-

gued the language of the amendment is so broad that it could make the food supply less safe.

That's a problem in a state where potatoes, blueberries, maple syrup and dairy products are all key pieces of the economy, she said. The amendment could empower residents to buy and consume food that isn't subject to inspections, proper refrigeration and other safety checks, Smith worried. "We think it's very dangerous to have the words 'to consume the food of your own choosing.' That is so broad and dangerous," Smith said. "It has the potential to cause serious problems in food safety, animal welfare."

Smith said the farm bureau is also concerned that the amendment could override local ordinances that prevent residents from raising livestock anywhere they choose.

Supporters of the proposal, including Faulkingham, said that local rules would still be enforced, and that the amendment would not mean you could do things like raise chickens anywhere you want or fish commercially without a license. The amendment proposal is an outgrowth of the right-to-food movement, sometimes called the food sovereignty movement, which has expanded in recent years in Maine and states around the U.S. and Canada.

The movement comprises a patchwork of small farmers, raw milk enthusiasts, libertarians, back-to-the-land advocates, anti-corporatists and others who want to ensure local control of food systems.

Maine enacted a food sovereignty law, the nation's first of its kind, in 2017. The law allows local governments to OK small food

producers selling directly to customers on site. The law was especially popular with sellers of raw milk, which can be legally sold in Maine but is more restricted in many other states.

The nationwide food sovereignty movement has yielded similar laws in states including Wyoming, Colorado, Montana and North Dakota, and pushes for the same elsewhere.

The amendment is likely to find support among Maine's self-sufficient, practical Yankee set, said Mark Brewer, a political scientist with the University of Maine. However, Brewer agreed with criticism that the amendment is so vague that it's unclear what it would actually do.

"I'd be more interested in how it could play out in the courts," Brewer said. "If you want to raise cattle within the city limits when city laws say you can't, but the Constitution says you can. Then what happens?"

For Heather Retberg, a farmer in the small town of Penobscot, the concerns about cows turning up in cities are a silly distraction from the real goal of the proposal.

Retberg, who has a 100-acre farm with cows, pigs, chicken and goats, said the proposal is "an antidote to corporate control of our food supply" and a chance for rural communities to become self-sufficient when it comes to what food they grow and eat.

It's also a chance to tackle the problem of the state's "food deserts," where residents don't have enough access to healthy food, Retberg said. □

Bill would address higher military uniform prices for women

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire said she has introduced a bill to address a so-called "pink tax" in the military, a reference to the higher prices women service members often pay for their uniforms.

Hassan, a Democrat, and Republican U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, of Iowa, recently introduced the bill

together. Hassan said the non-partisan Government Accountability Office found that women paid more in out-of-pocket costs for their uniforms than their male counterparts.

It also found that while all branches of the military provide an annual clothing allowance for uniform items, some items in certain branches are not eligible for re-

imbursements and can drive up costs.

"It is absurd that we are forcing service members to fork over thousands of dollars in order to pay for necessary clothing items that they wear while serving our country," Hassan said in a statement.

"This disparity in uniform costs is particularly stark for women," she

added. The bill would require the Department of Defense to develop consistent criteria for determining which uniform items are considered "uniquely military," so as to reduce differences in out-of-pocket costs across services and by gender. It also would require the department to review each service's plans for any uniform change. □

Florida's top doctor refuses mask, is told to leave meeting

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**
Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Florida's top health official was asked to leave a meeting after refusing to wear a mask at the office of a state senator who told him she had a serious medical condition, officials have confirmed.

Florida Senate leader Wilton Simpson, a Republican, sent a memo to senators Saturday regarding the incident at the office of Democratic state Sen. Tina Polsky, asking visitors at the building to be respectful with social interactions. Polsky, who represents parts of Broward and Palm Beach counties, had not yet made public her breast cancer diagnosis.

Polsky told The Associated Press about the tense exchange with state Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo that was first reported by the news site Florida Politics. She said Ladapo and two aides were offered masks and asked to wear them when they arrived for the Wednesday meeting. She did not tell him she had breast cancer, but said she had a serious condition. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says cancer patients are at a higher risk to get severely ill from COVID-19 and may not build the same immunity to vaccines.

Ladapo had asked to meet her in Tallahassee as he



Rep. Tina Polsky, D-Boca Raton, debates during a session Tuesday March 10, 2020, in Tallahassee, Fla.

seeks confirmation in the Senate after being named to the post by Gov. Ron DeSantis last month.

"It was so shocking to me that he treated me in this manner," Polsky said. "If he is a surgeon general for the next several years, I am really concerned about a future public health emergency and not being able to rely on him for necessary guidance and proper scientific leadership."

Ladapo offered to go outside, but the senator said she did not want to sit on the metal picnic tables on a warm day when her office was nice and spacious.

She said she asked whether there was a reason why he couldn't wear a mask, but he wouldn't answer.

The Florida Department of Health did not respond to emailed requests for comment.

Democrats have opposed the appointment of Ladapo, criticizing him for comments and actions related to the pandemic.

A day into his job, Ladapo signed new rules allowing parents to decide whether their children should quarantine or stay in school after being exposed to people who tested positive for COVID-19.

On Thursday at a press conference with DeSantis to oppose vaccine mandates, Ladapo said people were not comfortable with the vaccines because the federal government has not been open about the effectiveness and safety of the vaccines, saying there was a "concerted effort" to hide stories of people with adverse reactions.

Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine has received the full approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, meeting high standards required for the vaccine to be considered safe. It has been administered to millions

and proven to be effective against hospitalization and death. However, immunity against infection can wane over time.

Authorities in Sweden, Denmark and Norway earlier this month suspended or discouraged the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine in young people because of an increased risk of heart inflammation, a very rare side effect associated with the shot.

Ladapo also wrote an opinion column in the Wall Street Journal saying masks have "little or no effect on respiratory virus transmission."

The CDC still recommends people with weakened immune systems, and those in high-transmission areas to wear masks. Studies have supported their use, with some finding that cloth masks are less effective.

In the memo sent by Simpson, the president of the Florida senate, he said that while there's no mask mandate in the Senate, senators can request social distancing and masking within their offices.

"It shouldn't take a cancer diagnosis for people to respect each other's level of comfort with social interactions during a pandemic," he said. "What occurred in Senator Polsky's office was unprofessional and will not be tolerated in the Senate." □

Associated Press

Drought-stricken California doused by major storm



Rocks and vegetation cover Highway 70 following a landslide in the Dixie Fire zone on Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021, in Plumas County, Calif.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A powerful storm barreled toward Southern California after flooding highways, toppling trees and causing

mud flows in areas burned bare by recent fires across the northern part of the state. Drenching showers and strong winds accom-

panied the weekend's arrival of an atmospheric river — a long and wide plume of moisture pulled in from the Pacific Ocean. The National Weather Service's Sacramento office warned of "potentially historic rain." Flooding was reported across the San Francisco Bay Area, closing streets in Berkeley, inundating Oakland's Bay Bridge toll plaza and overflowing rivers in Napa and Sonoma counties. Power poles were downed and tens of thousands of people in the North Bay were without electricity.

By Sunday morning, Mount Tamalpais just north of San

Francisco had recorded a half foot (15 centimeters) of rainfall during the previous 12 hours, the weather service said.

"Some of our higher elevation locations could see 6, 7, 8 inches of rain before we're all said and done," weather service meteorologist Sean Miller said.

About 150 miles (241 kilometers) to the north, the California Highway Patrol closed a stretch of State Route 70 in Butte and Plumas counties because of multiple landslides within the massive Dixie Fire burn scar. "We have already had several collisions this morning for vehicles hydroplan-

ing, numerous trees falling, and several roadways that are experiencing flooding," the highway patrol's office in Oroville tweeted on Sunday. "If you can stay home and off the roads today, please do. If you are out on the roads, please use extreme caution."

In nearby Colusa and Yolo counties, state highways 16 and 20 were shut for several miles due to mudslides, the state Department of Transportation said.

Burn areas remain a concern, as land devoid of vegetation can't soak up heavy rainfall as quickly, increasing the likelihood of flash flooding. □

U.S. urges N. Korea to stop missile tests and return to talks

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) —

A senior U.S. diplomat on Sunday urged North Korea to refrain from additional missile tests and resume nuclear diplomacy, days after the North fired off its first underwater-launched ballistic missile in two years. Sung Kim, the U.S. envoy on North Korea, spoke after meeting with South Korean officials to discuss North Korea's recent missile tests while nuclear negotiations between Washington and Pyongyang remain stalled. "We call on the DPRK to cease these provocations and other destabilizing activities, and instead, engage in dialogue," Kim told reporters, referring to North Korea by its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "We remain ready to meet with the DPRK without preconditions and we have made clear that the United States harbors no hostile intent towards the DPRK," he said. Last Tuesday, North Korea fired a newly developed ballistic missile from a submarine in its fifth round of weapons tests in recent



A man, holding a banner, stands to denounce policies of the United States and South Korean government on North Korea in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, Oct. 24, 2021.

weeks.

South Korean officials said the submarine-fired missile appeared to be in an early stage of development. That marked the North's first underwater-launched test since October 2019, and the most high-profile one since President Joe Biden took office in January. Missiles fired from submarines are harder to detect in advance and would provide North Korea with a

secondary, retaliatory attack capability.

Tuesday's launch violates multiple United Nations Security Council resolutions that ban any activity by North Korea in the area of ballistic missiles. Kim said the test poses a threat to the international community and is "concerning and counterproductive" to efforts to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula. Kim's South Korean coun-

terpart, Noh Kyu-duk, said the two had an "in-depth" discussion on Seoul's push for a symbolic declaration to end the 1950-53 Korean War as a way to bring peace. Noh said he and Kim also reaffirmed that North Korea's issues of concern can be discussed once talks are restarted. The U.S.-led talks on ending North Korea's nuclear program have been largely stalled since early 2019,

Associated Press

when a summit between then-President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un collapsed due to disputes over U.S.-led sanctions on the North.

The Biden administration has repeatedly said it's ready to meet North Korea "anywhere and at any time" without preconditions. But North Korea says a return to talks is conditional on the U.S. dropping what it calls hostile policy, an apparent reference to the sanctions and regular military drills between Washington and Seoul.

Before the submarine missile launch, North Korea had also tested several other new weapons systems over a six-week period, including its longest-range cruise missile and a hypersonic missile currently under development. Those weapons potentially put U.S. allies South Korea and Japan within striking range. Some experts say North Korea may also in coming weeks test a missile that could reach the American homeland in order to maximize its pressure campaign on the United States. □

Finland's leader: Turkey decision on envoys 'regrettable'

By JARI TANNER

Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) —

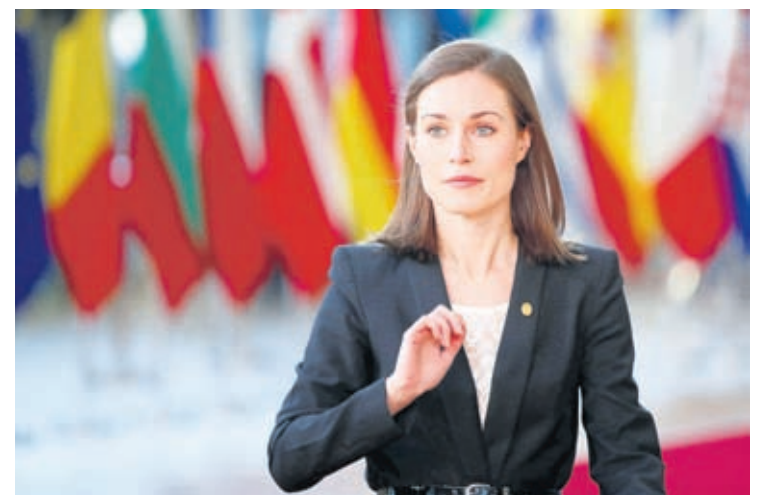
Finland's leader said Sunday that the Turkish president's decision to order that 10 foreign ambassadors, including the Nordic country's envoy, be declared persona non grata after calling for the release of a jailed philanthropist and human rights activist was a "regrettable situation." Prime Minister Sanna Marin told public broadcaster YLE that "this is a tough reaction" from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who announced the move on Saturday. A declaration of persona non grata against a diplomat usually means that the individual is banned from remaining in their

host country. The diplomats were summoned to Turkey's foreign ministry on Tuesday.

The envoys from the U.S., France, Germany, Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway and New Zealand had issued a statement calling for a resolution to the case of Osman Kavala, a businessman and philanthropist held in prison since 2017 despite not having been convicted of a crime.

"This is a very regrettable situation. We've considered it important that the decisions of the European Court of Human Rights are respected and complied with, and therefore have called for the release of this human rights activist," Marin said.

Kavala was acquitted last year of charges linked to nationwide anti-government protests in 2013, but the ruling was overturned and joined to charges relating to a 2016 coup attempt. International observers and human rights groups have repeatedly called for the release of Kavala. The European Court of Human Rights called for Kavala's release in 2019, saying his incarceration acted to silence him and wasn't supported by evidence of an offense. Rights groups say Kavala's imprisonment is based on political considerations. Ankara denies the claims and insists on the independence of Turkish courts. Marin said Sunday that Finland was engaged in a di-



Finland's Prime Minister Sanna Marin arrives for an EU summit in Brussels, Friday, Oct. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

ologue with Turkish officials and was waiting for further information from Ankara before "drawing any conclusions". By Sunday afternoon, none of the four Nordic countries had received an official notification from Turkey's foreign ministry on their ambassadors being labeled with a persona non grata status.

"However, I can state that we're in close contact with our friends and allies about the case," Danish Foreign Minister Jeppe Kofod told broadcaster TV2 late Saturday. After Erdogan's order was reported, the U.S. State Department said it was aware of the measure and was "seeking clarity from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs." □

Palestinian rights groups see muzzle in Israel's terror tag

By JACK JEFFERY

Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)

— Activists called on the international community Saturday to help reverse Israel's unprecedented designation of six Palestinian human rights groups as terrorist organizations, a label that effectively outlaws them.

They said the decision amounts to an attempt to silence groups that have documented Israel's harsh treatment of Palestinians over the years. Some of the groups have close ties with rights organizations in Israel and abroad.

Israel claims the targeted groups were a front for a small PLO faction with a violent history, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Israel's terror label for the six groups, including some that receive European funding, appears to have caught the United States and Europe off-guard. Israel later insisted some Biden administration officials were notified ahead of time.

The move against the rights groups comes at a time when efforts to negotiate the terms of a Palestinian state alongside Israel are hopelessly bogged down. For years, the U.S. and Europe have been engaged in politically less costly conflict management, rather



Shawan Jabarin, director of the al-Haq human rights group, at the organization's offices in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021.

than pushing for a solution, while Israeli settlements on occupied lands sought for a Palestinian state have continued to expand.

Amid the paralysis, Europe, in particular, has invested in strengthening Palestinian civil society, an effort now seemingly being challenged by Israel's decision to outlaw well-known rights groups. The terrorism label would allow Israel to raid the groups' offices, seize assets, arrest employees and criminalize funding and expressions of support. Rights groups in Israel and abroad have expressed

outrage over the "terror" label. Palestinian activists said they are counting on international pressure to get the decision reversed.

"We hope that the International community will put enough pressure on Israel so that it will back down," Ubai Aboudi, head of the Bisan Center for Research and Development, one of the targeted groups, said Saturday. Aboudi said he was previously charged by Israel with being a PFLP member, but denied ever belonging to the group.

Sahar Francis, the director of the prisoners rights

group Addameer, told a news conference that she was grateful for the international statements of support, and that "we expect this campaign and pressure to continue in order for it to be fruitful." Addameer is also one of the targeted groups.

Shawan Jabarin, who heads the veteran rights group Al-Haq, said Israel's designation came as a surprise and that the groups had not been given a heads-up. Two of the six groups said they would not be forced underground despite the uncertainty of

their new status,

An Israeli defense official alleged in a statement Saturday that the six groups "operate as an organized network" under the leadership of the PFLP. The statement claimed the groups serve as a lifeline for the PFLP through fund-raising, money laundering and recruiting activists.

It also named several members of the rights groups who were later arrested as alleged members of the PFLP military wing. The small PLO faction has a political party and a military wing that has carried out attacks that killed Israelis.

The PFLP is considered a terrorist organization by Israel and Western countries.

The six groups have denied the allegations and have denounced Israel's terrorism designation as a blatant attempt to squash reporting on rights abuses in the occupied territories, mainly by Israel, but also by the increasingly authoritarian Palestinian autonomy government.

The U.N Human Rights Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory said Saturday that the reasons cited by Israel's defense minister were "vague or irrelevant," and denounced his decision as the latest move in a "long stigmatizing campaign" against the organizations. □

Associated Press



In this Nov. 16, 2020 file photo, workers take a break before European Union officials visit the construction site for the Givat Hamatos Israeli settlement, in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israel is expected to move forward with thousands of new homes for Jewish settlers in the West Bank this

week, a settlement watchdog group said Sunday. The plan for some 3,000 new settler units in the West Bank has already drawn

Israel set to OK 3,000 West Bank settler homes this week

calls for restraint from the U.S., which on Friday voiced "concern" over the expected approvals.

Hagit Ofran from the anti-settlement group Peace Now said a committee is set to meet Wednesday to approve 2,800 units deep in the West Bank, complicating any efforts to create a Palestinian state. More than half of those are receiving final approval, meaning construction could begin in the coming year. On Friday, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said the U.S. was

"concerned" about the housing plans. He called on Israel and the Palestinians to "refrain from unilateral steps that exacerbate tension and undercut efforts to advance a negotiated two-state solution" to the conflict.

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem — areas Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war — for their future state. The Palestinians view the settlements, which house some 700,000 settlers, as the main obstacle to

peace. Most of the international community considers settlements illegal. Israel views the West Bank as the biblical and historical heartland of the Jewish people.

Ofran said Israel is also set to approve 1,600 units for Palestinians in the areas of the West Bank that it controls. But critics say the move comes at the initiative of villagers and not the Israeli government and that the figure is a fraction of the building permits requested by Palestinians over the years. □

NOORD MEDICAL CENTER, NOORD 63

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR NON-LIFE THREATENING ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

WWW.URGENTCARE.AW

BOOK YOUR PCR & ANTIGEN TEST
WWW.COVIDARUBA.COM

Urgent Care Aruba

TRAVEL INSURANCE ACCEPTED
SEEK REIMBURSEMENT ONCE BACK HOME

MEDLAB

More migrants report sex abuse crossing Panama's Darien Gap

By KATHIA MARTÍNEZ
Associated Press
LAJAS BLANCAS, Panama (AP) —

A growing number of women migrants crossing the forbidding jungle of the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama on their route north are reporting sexual assaults, grabbing the attention of Panamanian lawmakers.

On Saturday, a 25-year-old Haitian woman told members of a Panamanian congressional committee visiting Darien province that she had been assaulted just days before as she navigated the lawless area with her husband and 8-month-old son.

The family stepped from a boat that had carried them along a roiling river to Lajas Blancas from Bajo Chiquito, the first small population center many migrants encounter after crossing the mountainous border. Hundreds of other migrants arrived Saturday alongside them.

Panamanian lawmaker Zulay Rodríguez said her committee had collected around 1,000 allegations of sexual abuse since they began investigating the issue two months ago.

"It is the daily life for women (migrants) when they are young, when they are 20 or 30 or so years old," Rodríguez said. Assailants "don't care if they rape them in front of their husband or family ... this displays the indifference."

"This has simply happened for a long time and for many years," said Rodríguez, head of the Women's, Childhood, Youth and Family Affairs Committee and a member of the Democratic Revolutionary Party.

The Haitian woman who talked to the committee said that she and her hus-



Migrants arrive in Lajas Blancas, Darien, Panama, Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021.

Associated Press
"My God, it's horrible!"

band had lived in Brazil for two years after leaving Haiti, then decided to head north. She said she was assaulted one afternoon last week by a man who had his face covered and held a gun to her head.

She showed a document from the aid organization Doctors Without Borders certifying that a medical examination had confirmed the assault.

Her husband said they did not think of making a formal complaint to authorities because they couldn't identify her aggressor.

The couple were penniless because the attacker also took all their money and their cellphones. Police arranged for them to be transported by boat to Lajas Blancas because they couldn't pay the fare. Liseydis Martínez, a Cuban migrant, said that she saw two Cuban female friends emerge from the jungle bleeding and crying, who said they were sexually assaulted. They had been travelling in a group behind hers.

"Thank God nothing happened to me, but in the group behind were four Cubans and two of them who arrived (Friday), they raped them and a Haitian 13-year-old girl," she said.

"They were bad," she said of the victims.

"Their husbands were beaten up."

Martínez was waiting in Lajas Blancas with her husband and their children ages 3 and 6. She said they had been swindled out of \$1,500 in Necocli, the main departure point in Colombia, by a man who passed himself off as a soldier who could transport their family to Panama.

Rodríguez, the lawmaker, said she would make sure the reports made it to the Attorney General's Of-

fice and international aid groups. Her committee has produced short documentaries about assaults, robberies and deaths among migrants their way into Panama through the Darien Gap. She wants to call authorities' attention to the problems rampant in the Darien jungle.

At the migrant reception center in Lajas Blancas, migrants receive food and medical attention while they wait for buses to cross to the other side of Panama near the border with Costa Rica. □

daimari | WATER VILLAS


Tuscany RESIDENCE ARUBA

18 exclusive water villas

ONLY 6 LEFT

NOW AVAILABLE Pre construction prices until Nov. 1st starting at \$453K turn-key! (including furniture).

Saliña Cerca 131 | +297 280 4664 | tuscanyresidencearuba.com




NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED!

**NAAT molecular (PCR):
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 (8:00 AM - 6:00 PM)** **Medcare near Courtyard by Marriott (8:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

Over 125,000 Fit2fly tests completed!

PALM BEACH — MedCare's Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers just completed test number 125,000 since starting testing services at the beginning of the year. With six locations at various resorts on the island and two walk-in locations are at the Cove Mall and near the Courtyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill, it is one of the largest test centers on island.

MedCare's fit2fly test centers offer your best option for the post vacation COVID-19 test which has been a requirement since January 26th 2021 by the U.S. before returning home. All passengers going to the United States, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a negative (antigen or PCR) COVID-19 test result of a test taken maximum three days prior to boarding the flight, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19. MedCare's testing centers in and close to the hotels provide you with an easy and secure solution.

MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that is specialized in urgent care for tourists and that has been appointed as the national COVID-19 clinic for tourists, and Laboratorio di Servizio, a full-service modern medical laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment, have partnered up to provide fast and reliable COVID-19 testing to all. Laboratorio di Servizio is ISO-15189:2012 accredited by the Dutch Council for Accreditation (M317).

NAAT Test

As Aruba resumes to receive more and more visitors each month, one thing has become very clear: testing is critical. Thus far MedCare Clinic has been offering high-volume laboratory testing with results in 24 hours or less. The newest service on the market is NAAT test, where you receive your results in minutes not hours.

Just steps away from you

The Fit2Fly COVID-19 Testing Centers are located at the Cove Mall and near the Cour-



tyard by Marriott Aruba Resort at the Mill. These two locations at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. It is recommended that the tests are done timely, as the negative test is only accepted if taken up to three days before boarding your flight. MedCare Fit2Fly Testing Center at the Cove Mall is opposite the Holiday Inn and is open every day for walk-ins from 8 AM through 6 PM. MedCare's other location is situated at The Courtyard Aruba Resort, is across the street from the RIU Hotel and is open every day from 8:00 AM until 2 PM.

At your hotel

For a selection of hotels/resorts in Aruba, MedCare has setup Testing Centers on site. The hotels/resorts at which we have a testing site are: Divi All Inclusive, Divi Dutch Village, Divi Golf, Divi Phoenix, Divi Tamarijn, Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, Hyatt Regency, Renaissance, and the Ritz-Carlton Resort. Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties.

Costs and timing

Passengers must be tested with a viral test that could be either an Antigen Test or a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT), such as the reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (PCR). The price for the Antigen Test is only \$50, and the PCR Test is available, for \$125, The new NAAT will be \$150 (results in 30 minutes.) MedCare offers the easier and substantially cheaper Antigen Test that is acceptable for travel to the U.S. as per the CDC guidelines. Pre-travel testing is not covered by the Aruban visitor insurance. Please contact your in-

surance company to verify if testing costs are insured. Results are e-mailed to you within 24 hours of testing.

Private bookings

For your convenience, Medcare also offers private testing at your accommodation/hotel room for a one-time service fee of \$120. This fee covers testing up to 10 people (one appointment, at one location and a specific time). Additional persons will be charged \$10 per person. Regular testing fees applies. □



For more information, please contact:
Phone: +297 280 0630
Open 7 days a week, 7 AM – 7 PM.
Email: info@medcare.aw
MedCare Clinic Aruba -
Medcare Test Center

Follow us on social media:
MedCare Clinic | Facebook





Restoration stairs leading to Rodgers Beach

ORANJESTAD – On October 20, 2021, the Minister of Tourism Mr. Dangui Oduber, announced the restoration of the concrete staircase leading to Rodgers Beach in San Nicolas.

After years of negligence, the infrastructure of this area has deteriorated considerably. ATA and the TPEF (Tourism Product Enhancement Fund) will finance the restoration of the concrete staircase. The Government has a vision and master plan for San Nicolas. This plan includes Baby Beach phase 1 and 2, the renovation of the Tourism office in San Nicolas, Island Fest (postponed due to the pandemic), and the improvement of the Rodgers Beach area. According to the Minister, they will focus more on niche tourism. These are “low volume high impact” tourists with annual incomes of over \$150k. Niche tourists have certain expectations that require a different approach. That is why it is essential to improve the product called Aruba. Aruba is well known as a quality destination, and to maintain this status, investments are required. Recently the investors of Secrets Hotel were in Aruba and assured the continuation of the Secret Hotel. This was after the original investor of Secrets, Apple Leisure Group, was purchased by Hyatt Hotels Corporation in August 2021.



Upgrade Rodgers Beach

The same improvements applied at Baby Beach will also apply to Rodgers Beach. There will be investments in the infrastructure. It includes the expansion of the parking area, the building of public restrooms, kiosks, and premises for restaurant services. So far, they restored one pier, whereas the second one will be renovated soon. According to the Minister, the renovation will continue once an agreement is reached with those responsible for the Marine Park Aruba, namely the Parke Arikok Foundation. The Government believes that San Nicolas has the potential to become the second tourist capital in Aruba. That is why it is es-



sential to invest in the Tourism office in San Nicolas. The Minister is happy with

the upcoming investments in San Nicolas and is grateful to the ATA, DOW, and

the Ministry of Infrastructure for their cooperation. □



MOVE IN READY!!



HARBOUR HOUSE

Aruba

THE *NEW*

DOWNTOWN LIVING

With the Most Spectacular View

Don't Miss Out 85% Already Sold!!

Visit us and check it out for yourself

(+297) 594 6395

Weststraat 2 | O'Stad, Aruba | sales@harbourhousearuba.com

WWW.HARBOURHOUSEARUBA.COM

Aruba signs MOU with Bohama for new Customs building

ORANJESTAD – On October 20, 2021, the Government of Aruba signed an MOU with construction company Bohama to build the new Customs building.

Over the past years, the Aruba Customs have moved their main office around and often scattered into different locations. That has led to an unwanted work environment. Such separa-

tion does not contribute to sound cooperation among colleagues. Now, Aruba Customs will finally get a new, modern building that will be centrally located and has plenty of space for everyone. This MOU entails a solution for the old abandoned building. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes was present at the Infra Building for the signing ceremony. Mr.



NOW AVAILABLE!

BlueAruba Realty

Luxury Penthouse at Eagle Beach

Two levels of spectacular ocean views and all the great amenities Blue Residences has to offer

Sander Leijenaar, Director of Bohama, thanked those involved with the realization of this project. "I am thankful to the DOW, Bohama, and Customs but also the Finance Department, Minister of Finance, Department of Legal Affairs, and all who worked effortlessly to find this solution. It took a while since this is not a standard practice, where Government properties are swapped for new buildings, so it needed to be well coordinated. The fall of the government and the fact that it was demissionary made me decide not to proceed with the process, but now with the installation of the Wever-Croes II Cabinet, I am happy to sign this MOU. What Bohama plans to do with the old Customs building will bring huge development and hopefully have a big impact in the development of downtown.", the Prime Minister said. According to the Prime Minister, they are solving the issue of empty

buildings, and this is a good example. The Prime Minister thanked all who made this possible and congratulated the DOW and Bohama and particularly the Custom personnel who soon will have their new building. According to the director of DOW, Mr. Marlon Croes: "We will build a new Custom building in Barcadera, while the former Customs building will be converted into a housing project, which will give the city center an added value. With the MOU, we can jointly work and reach a consensus about the details to be presented to the Minister to move forward and start the construction. □"

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Child tax credit tussle reflects debate over work incentives

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — To supporters of the child tax credit, there has always been an “aha moment” — the recognition that as little as a few hundred dollars a month could be life-changing.

For Colorado Sen. Michael Bennet, it was several years ago when he was working as Denver’s school superintendent. One high schooler kept falling asleep in morning classes. When Bennet asked why he was so exhausted, the student said he worked the midnight shift at McDonald’s so that his family had enough money.

For Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro, it was the childhood memory of her parents being evicted and finding their furniture on the street.

Bennet and DeLauro are among the Democratic lawmakers who have pushed to make permanent an expanded child tax credit, which President Joe Biden’s coronavirus relief package transformed into a monthly payment that would be available to almost any child. But Biden could not convince even enough of his fellow Democrats that they should extend these payments through 2025, and in negotiations for his broader package of economic and social programs he appears to have settled for a one-year extension that runs through next year.

Despite the concession, the president is still fighting for a legacy-making policy that could become the equivalent of Social Security for children. Biden dubbed the start of payments in July as “historic,” saying that the reduction to child poverty would be transformative and that he intended to make the credit permanent.

The steady evolution of the child tax credit reflects a fundamental split on how lawmakers think about human nature. Do payments from the government make people lazier or give them the resources to be-



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., holds a news conference to talk about the benefits of the Child Tax Credit, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, July 15, 2021.

Associated Press

come more responsible? Established with bipartisan support in 1997, the credit has changed in ways that challenge many of the assumptions of political identities, as Democrats would be the ones calling on Republicans to cut taxes.

Republican critics and West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin — the decisive Democratic vote — worry that the payments could discourage parents from working, while supporters say the money would make it easier to afford the child care and transportation needed to find jobs.

“It’s a flat-out tax cut for ordinary people,” Biden said in a Wednesday speech in Scranton. “That’s what it does. I make no apologies for it.”

The continuation of the payments of at least \$300 a month per child is as much about a political transformation as an economic one.

For the purposes of the federal budget, it is a tax cut aimed squarely at the middle class as median family incomes are at \$86,372. The credit’s evolution since being created in 1997 speaks to the power of using the tax code for social policy.

It allows Democrats to claim the mantle of middle-class tax cutters, while Republicans who oppose

the idea could be criticized for favoring tax hikes on this key group of voters ahead of the 2022 elections. That is a sharp reversal from the Ronald Reagan-era identity of Republicans as committed to tax cuts for aiding growth.

“A lot of its initial success was that it did fit into the frame of tax relief,” said Gene Sperling, a Biden aide who worked on economic policy in both the Clinton and Obama White Houses. “This is one place where progressives have over a period of 30 years kind of won the conceptual war.”

The child tax credit was initially bipartisan, a unique policy overlap between former President Bill Clinton and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Republicans made it part of their 1994 “Contract with America,” a list of policies that former Georgia Rep. Gingrich rode to the House speakership.

Gingrich said in an interview that former Illinois Rep. Henry Hyde, a staunch abortion opponent, emphasized that the GOP needed to show that it cared about children after they were born, not just when they were in the womb. The tax credit was the chosen vehicle.

Clinton separately pro-

posed it in December 1994 in his “middle class bill of rights” speech. The convergence ultimately led to the 1997 overhaul of welfare that established a \$500 tax credit for children. Future administrations expanded the credit. But until this year the credit was not “fully refundable” — which meant that parents with low incomes might not earn enough to receive the full payment.

What Biden and Democratic lawmakers did with their coronavirus relief package was remove that limit, effectively turning the tax credit into a monthly child allowance. Their planned extension would make this change permanent.

Gingrich and Republicans say people would quit their jobs because they would be able to receive payments without working, depriving children of working parents who can serve as role models.

He calls that “an enormously dangerous thing for our culture.”

Backing that argument is a paper by University of Chicago economists that assumes the expanded tax credits would cause 1.5 million parents to ditch their jobs because the credits would no longer be tied to working.

“It’s a policy that’s been

transformed from one that encourages self reliance and work to one that doesn’t,” said Bruce Meyer, the University of Chicago professor who co-wrote the analysis.

However, real world economic data shows no correlation between the payments and people leaving work so far. Researchers at Columbia University have found that the expanded child tax credit payments that began in July had no impact on labor and that models claiming otherwise are overly simplified. Workers often need to spend money in order to get a job, they reason.

“You have to make an investment in order to be able to work,” said Elizabeth Ananat, an economist at Barnard College who co-wrote the Columbia paper. “You do have to get your car fixed. You have to get your phone turned back on.

You have to buy a month supply of diapers in order to secure your spot in the preschool.”

Democratic lawmakers believe the payments reduce poverty and improve educational outcomes, making it more likely that the children will hold steady jobs as adults.

Colorado Sen. Bennet backed the idea of a child tax credit after he found as a school administrator that more resources were needed to ensure kids had the stability to succeed.

“Most of the parents are working incredibly hard, some of them working two and three jobs. And no matter what they do, they couldn’t keep the kids out of poverty,” Bennet said.

DeLauro says the breakthrough on expanding the credit came as a result of the coronavirus showing how economically fragile many families are and Biden’s own choice as a presidential candidate to support the policy. She believes that beneficiaries will keep their jobs because work is part of who they are.

“People identify themselves by their work,” she said. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Influence

1 Gives the axe
41 Pub pints

5 Poker round

9 Train stop

10 Scarlett's last name

12 Martini garnish

13 Trims

14 Sparkles

16 Catch some z's

17 British raincoats

18 Asserts

21 "— we there yet?"

22 Stadiums

23 Hog the mirror

24 Fellow player

26 Chemist's place

29 Platitude

30 Give the axe

31 Ready to go

32 Prepares veggies

34 Loses color

37 Planet's path

38 Brainy

39 Strong winds

DOWN

1 Basement

2 For each

3 Exploding stars

4 Flower's support

5 Little jump

6 Cry of insight

7 Aslan's place

8 Visions

9 Church doctrine

11 Nile snakes

15 Horror movie sounds

R	A	S	P		G	O	A	D	S	
A	S	P	I	C		A	N	V	I	L
B	L	I	G	H		L	E	A	V	E
A	E	R		E	T	A		T	E	E
T	E	A	S	E	R		M	A	R	K
	P	L	T	R	A	V	E	R	S	
			A	I	M	E	D			
J	K	R	O	W	L	I	N	G		
L	O	O	T		A	V	A	I	L	S
I	R	K		D	Y	E		C	I	A
A	D	O	B	E		T	H	O	N	G
R	A	M	O	N		Y	A	L	T	A
S	N	O	B	S		M	E	S	S	

Saturday's answer

19 Lusty look

20 Columnist Landers

22 Fine study

23 Letter before

24 Defeats decisively

25 Desperado

26 Prone

27 Warring groups

28 Defeats

29 Recipe amts.

30 Un-

33 Forum

35 Geological period

36 Pig's place

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9							10			11
12							13			
14						15			16	
17						18	19	20		
21				22						
			23							
		24	25					26	27	28
29							30			
31						32	33			
34			35	36			37			
38							39			
	40						41			

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

10-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

Z I S S I C S W C I I W Y M C V

S Y Y V Y Y P S W U P U

I R P M S I S Y Y T U S I . — X R T T R U I .

V W U D I V G I U C I

Saturday's Cryptoquote: IF I WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO VALIDATE MY EXISTENCE, IT WILL MEAN THAT I'M SHORTCHANGING MYSELF. — ZANELE MUHOLI

Let computers do it: Film set tragedy spurs call to ban guns



A large crowd of movie industry workers and New Mexico residents attend a candlelight vigil to honor cinematographer Halyna Hutchins in downtown Albuquerque, N.M. Saturday, Oct. 23, 2021. Associated Press

Let computers do it: Film set tragedy spurs call to ban guns

By JOCELYN NOVECK

AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — With computer-generated imagery, it seems the sky's the limit in the magic Hollywood can produce: elaborate dystopian universes. Trips to outer space, for those neither astronauts nor billionaires. Immersive journeys to the future, or back to bygone eras.

But as a shocked and saddened industry was reminded this week, many productions still use guns — real guns — when filming. And despite rules and regulations, people can get killed, as happened last week when Alec Baldwin fatally shot cinematographer Halyna Hutchins after he was handed a weapon and told it was safe. The tragedy has led some in Hollywood, along with incredulous observers, to ask: Why are real guns ever used on set, when computers can create gunshots in post-production? Isn't even the smallest risk unacceptable?

For Alexi Hawley, it is. "Any risk is too much risk," the executive producer of ABC's police drama "The Rookie" announced in a staff memo Friday, saying the events in New Mexico had "shaken us all."

There "will be no more 'live' weapons on the show," he wrote in a note, first reported by The Hollywood Reporter and confirmed by The Associated Press.

Instead, he said, the policy would be to use replica guns, which use pellets and not bullets, with muzzle flashes added in post-production. The director of the popular Kate Winslet drama "Mare of Easttown," Craig Zobel, called for the entire industry to follow suit and said gunshots on that show were added after filming, even though on previous productions he has used live rounds. "There's no reason to have guns loaded with blanks or anything on set anymore," Zobel wrote on Twitter. "Should just

be fully outlawed. There's computers now. The gunshots on 'Mare of Easttown' are all digital. You can probably tell, but who cares? It's an unnecessary risk."

Bill Dill — a cinematographer who taught Hutchins, a rising star in her field, at the American Film Institute — expressed disgust in an interview over the "archaic practice of using real guns with blanks in them, when we have readily available and inexpensive computer graphics."

Dill, whose credits include "The Five Heartbeats" and "Dancing in September," said there was added danger from real guns because "people are working long hours" on films and "are exhausted."

"There's no excuse for using live weapons," he said. A petition was launched over the weekend on change.org for real guns to be banned from production sets.

"There is no excuse for something like this to happen in the 21st century," it said of the tragedy. "This isn't the early 90's, when Brandon Lee was killed in the same manner. Change needs to happen before additional talented lives are lost." Lee, the actor son of martial arts legend Bruce Lee, was killed in 1993 by a makeshift bullet left in a prop gun after a previous scene.

The petition appealed to Baldwin directly "to use his power and influence" in the industry and promote "Halyna's Law," which would ban the use of real firearms on set. As it stands, the U.S. federal workplace safety agency is silent on the issue and most of the preferred states for productions take a largely hands-off approach.

Hutchins, 42, died and director Joel Souza was wounded Thursday on the set of the Western "Rust" when Baldwin fired a prop gun that a crew member unwittingly told him was "cold" or not loaded with live rounds, according to court documents made public Friday. □

U.S. intel warns China could dominate advanced technologies

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials issued new warnings Friday about China's ambitions in artificial intelligence and a range of advanced technologies that could eventually give Beijing a decisive military edge and possible dominance over health care and other essential sectors in America.

The warnings include a renewed effort to inform business executives, academics and local and state government officials about the risks of accepting Chinese investment or expertise in key industries, officials at the National Counterintelligence and Security Center said. While the center does not intend to tell officials to reject Chinese investment, it will encourage efforts to control intellectual property and implement security measures.

National security agencies under President Joe Biden's administration are making an aggressive public push against China, which some officials have called the greatest strategic threat to the United States. The Biden administration has simultaneously tried to ease some tensions with Beijing dating to the Trump administration and seek common ground on trade and climate change.

Beijing has repeatedly accused Washington of fear-mongering about its intentions and attacked U.S. intelligence for its assessments of China, including allegations that Chinese leaders have withheld critical information about the coronavirus pandemic.

Under President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has stated its goals to create profitable technologies in robotics and other fields in plans known as "Made in China 2025." The Justice Department in recent years has returned several indictments alleging theft of sensitive U.S. information on behalf of China, including vaccine research and



In this Nov. 9, 2017, file photo, an American flag is flown next to the Chinese national emblem during a welcome ceremony for visiting U.S.

Associated Press

autonomous vehicle technology.

The counterintelligence center's acting director, Michael Orlando, told reporters in a rare briefing Thursday that the U.S. "can't afford to lose" ground to China in several key areas: artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, quantum computing, semiconductors and biotechnology.

Orlando noted that Chinese businesses and academics are beholden to the Chinese Communist Party and are required to serve the party's interests. "Although we've been saying this for year after year, people are not digesting this," he said.

Orlando declined to say whether the U.S. should enact tougher restrictions or outright bans on Chinese

investment in certain sectors, saying his role was not to suggest policy.

But the counterintelligence center holds regular briefings with private industry and academia while recognizing that industries and universities may still want to seek students, experts and investors from China, Orlando said. He would not name companies with which the center has met.

The center's officer for emerging and disruptive technologies, Edward You, noted the investment of Chinese companies in U.S. and European biotechnology and pharmaceuticals. WuXi Biologics has since 2019 built a vaccine manufacturing facility in Ireland, announced plans for a production facility in Massachusetts and acquired a Bayer plant in Germany. Of-

ficials did not disclose any information linking those acquisitions to Beijing's influence but said they were part of a broader pattern by Chinese medical companies.

Chinese companies have also offered COVID-19 testing kits and genetic testing in the U.S., meeting federal privacy standards and other regulations, You said. But the data collected by companies with ties to China could ultimately end up in the hands of Beijing, You said.

China already has the greatest access to medical data of any country, You said. With its data collection and its advancements in technology, Beijing could one day be dominant in health care and leave the U.S. wholly dependent on China, he said.

"If you're President Xi," he said, "that's the gift that keeps on giving." □



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

Sales

Linda Reijnders
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto
Pilar Flores

Columnists

Anthony Croes

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:

St. Cruz Tel. 585 8028

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

Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/arubatoday/

Major League Baseball work stoppage almost certain on Dec. 2

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Baseball's ninth work stoppage and first in 26 years appears almost certain to start Dec. 2, freezing the free-agent market and threatening the start of spring training in February.

Negotiations have been taking place since last spring, and each side thinks the other has not made proposals that will lead toward an agreement replacing the five-year contract that expires at 11:59 p.m. EST on Dec. 1.

The luxury tax system that started with the 2003 season sunsets with the expiration of the labor contract, with the exception of completing accounting and payments for the 2021 tax year. Uncertainty over the 2022 season probably will cause high-spending clubs to delay reaching pricier player agreements.

Free agents can start signing with any team on the sixth day following the World Series, and this year's group includes Carlos Correa, Corey Seager, Freddie Freeman, Trevor Story, Max Scherzer, Marcus Semien, Kris Bryant, Anthony Rizzo, Michael Conforto and Kevin Gausman.

MLB may attempt a signing freeze with the start of a lockout, or the mar-



In this July 11, 2021, file photo, Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred kicks off the first round of the 2021 MLB baseball draft in Denver.

Associated Press

ketplace might grind to a halt on its own, even more pronounced than the slowdowns of the 2017-18 and 2018-19 offseasons.

New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman doesn't know the parameters of what he has to spend.

"I have yet to have the conversation yet with what potentials, acknowledging

that we have budget commitments already in play and depending on how the new collective bargaining agreement works out over the course of time, hopefully sooner than later," he said.

Agents say they have received no guidance from the players' association. Some have braced for a two-week scramble to sign

next March or later, whenever a lockout ends.

This lack of pace in negotiations is similar to what occurred in 1989-90, when the agreement expired Dec. 31 and owners announced on Jan. 9 that a lockout would begin Feb. 15 absent an agreement. A deal was reached March 1 and opening day was delayed a week until April 9, causing

78 games to be postponed and rescheduled.

Teams have proposed eliminating salary arbitration and allowing players to become free agents in the offseason after they turn 29 1/2 rather than the six seasons of major league service in place since 1976. They have proposed a lower luxury threshold along with a payroll floor. Players have refused for decades to consider a payroll floor, feeling it would lead to a salary cap. Concerned with "tanking" by rebuilding teams and a slide in spending on major league payrolls, players want changes in the current deal, which calls for payrolls to be taxed above \$210 million (using average annual values plus benefits) and includes surtaxes that went into place for 2017. Management's proposal called for the threshold to be dropped to \$180 million, another factor that may gridlock many free agent negotiations. The average major league salary dropped from \$4,097,122 in 2017 to \$3,881,021 in 2020, before accounting for prorated pay caused by the pandemic, according to the players' association. Based on this year's opening-day payrolls, the final figure for 2021 is projected to be about \$3.7 million. □



Houston Astros starting pitcher Framber Valdez throws against the Boston Red Sox during the seventh inning in Game 5 of baseball's American League Championship Series Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021, in Boston.

Associated Press

By **KRISTIE RIEKEN**
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Framber Valdez will start for the Houston Astros in Game 1

of the World Series against the Atlanta Braves on Tuesday night.

Manager Dusty Baker announced Sunday that Val-

Astros' Valdez to start Game 1 of World Series vs Braves

dez would get the nod, but said the team has not decided on a starter for Wednesday's Game 2.

The left-hander will oppose Charlie Morton, who pitched for Houston from 2017-18, getting the win in Game 7 of the 2017 World Series.

Valdez threw eight terrific innings in a 9-1 win in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series. In Game 1, he permitted three runs in 2 2/3 innings.

The Astros did not provide much new information on the health of ace Lance McCullers Jr., who was left off the ALCS roster because

of a flexor pronator muscle strain in his right arm. McCullers still hasn't started throwing, but general manager James Click would not rule out his return.

"We're not taking anything off the table," Click said. "We're going to see how he is. This is the World Series, so it's obviously something that I know that Lance wants to be out there if he can. So we will talk to the doctors and him and the trainers, and we'll figure it out from there."

Houston will also wait to make a decision on center fielder Jake Meyers, who was on the champion-

ship series roster but didn't play while recovering from a shoulder injury. The rookie was injured in the final game of the division series, and Chas McCormick and José Siri filled against the Red Sox. After missing last year's postseason while recovering from double knee surgery, Alvarez batted an ALCS-record .522 (12 for 23) with one homer, three doubles, a triple and six RBIs, earning series MVP honors. He scored seven runs in the six games against the Red Sox and went 9 for his last 13, raising his postseason average to .441 with two homers and nine RBIs. □



SOLANIO

Join us to celebrate the last Sunday of the month with an exquisite Brunch Buffet at Soliano.

For more information and to make a reservation, please call + 297.527.2699 or visit the concierge desk.

BRUNCH BUFFET

11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST



Burrow, Bengals rout Ravens 41-17 for AFC North lead

By The Associated Press
BALTIMORE (AP) — Joe Burrow threw for a career-high 416 yards and three touchdowns, including a pivotal 82-yarder to rookie Ja'Marr Chase in the third quarter, and the Cincinnati Bengals won their AFC North showdown against the Baltimore Ravens in style, pulling away in the second half for a 41-17 victory Sunday.

The Bengals (5-2) drew even with the Ravens (5-2) atop the division, a sign that Burrow and Chase might be ahead of schedule in turning around this struggling franchise. The former LSU teammates were too much for Baltimore to handle, and Cincinnati's offense moved the ball pretty easily from the middle of the second quarter on.

Chase had eight catches for 201 yards, easily the most productive performance of his impressive debut season. He broke Speedy Thomas' franchise rookie record of 177 yards receiving, set in a 1969 game at Denver.

Lamar Jackson threw for 257 yards and ran for 88, but he was sacked five times as the Ravens had their five-game winning streak snapped. Jackson found Marquise Brown for a 39-yard touchdown in the third quarter that put Baltimore up 17-13, but the Ravens' only lead of the game was brief.

Burrow needed only four plays to put Cincinnati back in front on a 32-yard strike to C.J. Uzomah.

After a Baltimore punt, he connected with Chase on his long TD to make it a 10-point lead. Chase came into the week with a league-best five catches

of 40 yards or longer. On this one, he spun past a couple potential tacklers in the middle of the field, and then nobody was going to catch him.

The Bengals snapped a five-game losing streak against the Ravens.

Baltimore's three most recent wins in the series were by a combined score of 114-19.

The Ravens have started a season 5-1 four times, but never 6-1.

TITANS 27, CHIEFS 3

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Ryan Tannehill threw for 270 yards and a touchdown, and he also ran for a score in the second victory in six days for the Titans (5-2) over teams that played for the AFC championship in January.

They edged Buffalo 34-31 on Monday night and followed that by simply dominating the two-time defending AFC champs as they jumped to a 27-0 half-time lead.

The Chiefs (3-4) have lost two of three and dropped to 1-4 in the AFC this season. They also were held to their fewest points since a 38-3 loss to Denver on Dec.

30, 2012. This was the first time Patrick Mahomes had trailed by 27 at halftime and the third-largest half-time deficit for the Chiefs since 1991.

It was the worst since the Chiefs trailed Pittsburgh 29-0 at the half on Oct. 2, 2016, and only the eighth time in franchise history that Kansas City had trailed by 27 or more at the half. □

Everyday triple points

Totally sanitized table and chips.

ORCHID CASINO

Located in the Riu Antillas (formerly the Westin)

welcomes you to RESERVE YOUR OWN PRIVATE TABLE

for you and your party.



RESERVE your Private Table

Call 525 7777 ext.209 to make a reservation.



Indulge yourself with an Evening to Remember at Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar

EAGLE BEACH — Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort between its captivating swimming pool and the amazing world-famous Eagle Beach Aruba, you will find 'Water's Edge Restaurant; a cozy, relaxing & inspiring Aruban restaurant. Serving the most mouthwatering dishes of all over the world to please all your taste buds with its popular and demanding international selection.

If you're looking for a phenomenal dinner experience that has all the ingredients for a wonderful gastronomic night, then you should book at least one night of your stay at Water's Edge Restaurant. Designed to pamper all your senses and cover all of your needs with an amazing staff to attend to your every wish, whether in the fine dining room or under a palapa with your toes in the sand.

Gastronomic journey

Kick start the night with a great, refreshing and most delicious cocktail mixed with concoctions before the grand tour of an extraordinary culinary experience. Start your journey with an exquisite appetizer such as the daily fresh made Water's Edge ceviche or maybe a world known jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb



seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, co-



conut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans. Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

Creating memories

Planning a birthday or anniversary dinner? Water's Edges Restaurants gives you the perfect gift. Here, you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment:

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. On Monday & Saturday, Angela Flores, will delight you with her violin. Tuesday, Jean Paul, Saxophonist, will get you moving. On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's

guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

Whether it's for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular sunset views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.

Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar is located at Costa Linda Beach Resort.

Open daily from 8am – 11pm
To reserve your table please call +297 583-8000 ext. 8150
For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website www.watersedge-aruba.com

