



## Phil Saviano, key clergy sex abuse whistleblower, dies at 69

By WILLIAM J. KOLE  
Associated Press

**BOSTON (AP)** — Phil Saviano, a clergy sex abuse survivor and whistleblower who played a pivotal role in exposing decades of predatory assaults by Roman Catholic priests in the United States, has died. He was 69.

Saviano's story figured prominently in the 2015 Oscar-winning film "Spotlight" about The Boston Globe's investigation that revealed how scores of priests molested children and got away with it because church leaders covered it up. He died on Sunday after a battle with gallbladder cancer, said his brother and caregiver, Jim Saviano.

In late October, Phil Saviano announced on his

Facebook page that he was starting hospice care at his brother's home in Douglas, Massachusetts, where he died.

"Things have been dicey the last few weeks," he wrote, asking followers to "give a listen to Judy Collins singing 'Bird On A Wire' and think of me."

Saviano played a central role in illuminating the scandal, which led to the resignation of Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law and church settlements with hundreds of victims. The Globe's 2002 series earned it the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 2003, and "Spotlight" won Academy Awards for best picture and best original screenplay. Actor Neal Huff played Saviano in the film.

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In this Feb. 17, 2020 file photograph, Phil Saviano, of BishopAccountability.org, talks to the media during a press conference at the Foreign Press association headquarters, on the occasion of the first anniversary of Pope Francis' summit on clergy abuse, in Rome. Saviano, a clergy sex abuse survivor and whistleblower who played a pivotal role in exposing decades of predatory assaults by Roman Catholic priests in the United States, has died, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021. He was 69.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, File)

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# Phil Saviano, key clergy sex abuse whistleblower, dies at 69

Continued from Front

"My gift to the world was not being afraid to speak out," Saviano said in mid-November in a brief telephone interview with The Associated Press. Born June 23, 1952, Saviano recalled going to confession as a young boy at St. Denis Church in tiny East Douglas, Massachusetts, in the 1960s and whispering his transgressions through a screen to the Rev. David Holley. The priest, he said, violated that sacred trust and forced the 11-year-old to perform sex acts. Holley died in a New Mexico prison in 2008 while serving a 275-year sentence for molesting eight boys. "When we were kids, the priests never did anything

wrong. You didn't question them, same as the police," brother Jim Saviano told the AP. "There were many barriers put in his way intentionally and otherwise by institutions and generational thinking. That didn't stop him. That's a certain kind of bravery that was unique." A self-described "recovering Catholic," Saviano went on to establish the New England chapter of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, or SNAP, an organization working to bring specific allegations of clergy sexual abuse to light.

His faith in the church shattered, Saviano instead leaned on politicians and prosecutors to bring offenders to justice.

"We're putting our faith in legislators and prosecutors to solve this problem," he told reporters in 2002.

"Phil was an essential source during the Spotlight Team's reporting on the cover-up of sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, providing other critical sources, research materials and the names of several accused priests," said Mike Rezendes, a member of the Globe team that brought the scandal to light and a current AP investigative reporter.

"He also shared his own heartbreaking story of abuse, imbuing us with the iron determination we needed to break this horrific story," Rezendes said. "During our reporting, and over the last 20 years, I



In this Feb. 15, 2002 file photograph, Phil Saviano, regional coordinator for the Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests, poses for a portrait in his Boston home. Saviano, a clergy sex abuse survivor and whistleblower who played a pivotal role in exposing decades of predatory assaults by Roman Catholic priests in the United States, has died, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021. He was 69.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne, File)

got to know Phil well and have never met anyone as brave, as compassionate or as savvy." Saviano earned degrees in zoology and communications from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst and Boston University and began working in hospital public relations. Later, he shifted to entertainment industry publicity and concert promotion, working closely with Collins, a lifelong friend and confidante, as well as Ella Fitzgerald, Mel Torme and other artists.

In 1991, he became seriously ill with AIDS and went public with his childhood abuse the following year, becoming one of the first survivors to come forward.

"Father Holley forced me and two of my friends to have repeated sexual contact with him," Saviano said in an interview with the Globe — the first of many that would lead not only to criminal charges against the disgraced cleric but widespread prosecutions of others as the enormity of the scandal became evident.

By the early 2000s, Saviano was spending 10 hours a day on the phone with victims and journalists. He was an outspoken critic of the Vatican's reluctance to deal decisively with the fallout from the scandal. In 2008, when Pope Benedict XVI hinted to U.S. bishops during a visit that they'd

mishandled the church's response, Saviano questioned the pontiff's decision to follow his remarks with Masses in New York and Washington.

"If he was really serious about the issue, that Mass would not be held in New York. It would be held here in Boston," he said.

In 2009, suffering kidney failure and unable to locate a match among family or friends, he found a donor after SNAP spread the word in a nationwide email to 8,000 clergy sex abuse survivors.

The abuse that came to light as a result of Saviano's work prompted Cardinal Law, Boston's highest-ranking churchman, to step down. The Globe's reporting showed Law was aware of child molesters in the priesthood but covered up their crimes and failed to stop them, instead transferring them from parish to parish without alerting parents or police.

When the archbishop died in Rome in 2017, Saviano asked bluntly: "How is he going to explain this when he comes face to face with his maker?"

In 2019, at the Vatican for an abuse prevention summit called convened by Pope Francis, Saviano said he told summit organizers to release the names of abusive priests around the world along with their case files. □

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# Some states dropping 'dehumanizing' terms for immigrants

By Acacia Coronado

Associated Press

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Luz Rivas remembers seeing the word on her mother's residency card as a child: "alien."

In the stark terms of the government, it signaled her mother was not yet a citizen of the U.S. But to her young daughter, the word had a more personal meaning. Even though they were going through the naturalization process, it meant the family did not belong.

"I want other children of immigrants, like me, to not feel the same way I did, that my family did, when we saw the word 'alien,'" said Rivas, now an assemblywoman in the California Legislature.

The Democratic lawmaker sought to retire the term and this year authored a bill — since signed into law — that replaces the use of "alien" in state statutes with other terms such as "non-citizen" or "immigrant." Her effort was inspired by a similar shift earlier this year by the Biden administration. Immigrants and immigrant-rights groups say the term, especially when combined with "illegal," is dehumanizing and can have a harmful effect on immigration policy. The word became a focal point of debate in several states earlier this year as the number of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border swelled and led to fierce backlash against Biden administration poli-



**Rosalidia Dardon, 54, looks at a picture of her daughter in El Salvador as she sits in a refugee house in Texas, awaiting asylum or a protected immigration status on Nov. 4, 2021. At least seven statehouses have considered or left pending legislation this year to replace the term "illegal," "alien," or both from state laws referencing immigrants. Dardon knows from personal experience why the language surrounding immigration is so important.**

(Acacia Coronado/Report for America via AP)

cies by Republican governors and lawmakers. Lawmakers in at least seven states considered eliminating use of "alien" and "illegal" in state statutes this year and replacing them with descriptions such as "undocumented" and "noncitizen," according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Only two states, California and Colorado, actually made the change. "I want all Californians that are contributing to our society, that are small business owners, that work hard, to

feel that they are part of California communities," Rivas said of the reason behind her legislation. State Sen. Julie Gonzales, who co-sponsored the new Colorado law, said during a legislative committee hearing that words such as "illegal" were "dehumanizing and derogatory" when applied to immigrants. Gonzales said the legislation aimed to remove the only place in Colorado statute where "illegal alien" was used to describe people living in the U.S. illegally. "That language has been

offensive for many people," she said. "And some of the rationale behind that is really rooted in this idea that a person can certainly commit an illegal act, but no human being themselves is illegal." Using "alien" to describe those who are not U.S. citizens has a long history, dating to the nation's first naturalization law, passed while George Washington was president. Fearing a war with France, Congress also passed the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798, which sought to suppress political

subversion. Changing the long-standing government terminology around immigration is not universally accepted as necessary or desirable. Sage Naumann, spokesperson for the Colorado Senate Republicans, said the Democratic-controlled Legislature should be spending its time on matters of deeper importance to residents, such as taking steps to fight inflation, tackle crime and improve education.

Naumann said he doubted that "the average Colorado — or American — cares about what semi-controversial words are buried in their state statutes."

The Biden administration also received some push-back after its change in policy. In April, U.S. Customs and Border Protection ordered employees to avoid using the word "alien" in internal documents and public communications and instead use "noncitizen" or "migrant." "Illegal alien" also was out, to be replaced by descriptions such as "undocumented noncitizen."

"We enforce our nation's laws while also maintaining the dignity of every individual with whom we interact," Troy Miller, acting commissioner, wrote to employees of the largest U.S. law enforcement agency, which includes the Border Patrol. "The words we use matter and will serve to further confer that dignity to those in our custody." □

## Supreme Court set to take up all-or-nothing abortion fight

By MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Both sides are telling the Supreme Court there's no middle ground in Wednesday's showdown over abortion. The justices can either reaffirm the constitutional right to an abortion or wipe it away altogether. Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that declared a nationwide right to abortion, is facing its most serious challenge in 30 years

in front of a court with a 6-3 conservative majority that has been remade by three appointees of President Donald Trump. "There are no half measures here," said Sherif Gigis, a Notre Dame law professor who once served as a law clerk for Justice Samuel Alito. A ruling that overturned Roe and the 1992 case of Planned Parenthood v. Casey would lead to outright bans or severe restrictions on abortion in

26 states, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights. The justices are separately weighing disputes over Texas' much earlier abortion ban, at roughly six weeks, though those cases turn on the unique structure of the law and how it can be challenged in court, not the abortion right. Still, abortion rights advocates were troubled by the court's 5-4 vote in September to allow the



**The Supreme Court is seen at dusk in Washington, Oct. 22, 2021. Both sides are telling the Supreme Court there's no middle ground in Wednesday's showdown over abortion. The justices can either reaffirm the constitutional right to an abortion or wipe it away altogether.**

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

Texas law, which relies on citizen lawsuits to enforce

it, to take effect in the first place. □



# Chris Christie aims to shape future for GOP and for himself

By Jill Colvin

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Chris Christie is everywhere.

The former New Jersey governor and onetime Republican presidential candidate denounced “conspiracy theorists” during a September appearance at the Ronald Reagan Library in California. He followed up with a speech this month to influential Republicans in Las Vegas, warning that the party will only succeed if it offers a “plan for tomorrow, not a grievance about yesterday.”

In between, he's been interviewed by everyone from Laura Ingraham on Fox News to David Axelrod, a former adviser to President Barack Obama, on CNN.

On its face, Christie's publicity campaign is in service of “Republican Rescue,” his new book that offers a simple prescription for his party: stop talking nonsense about 2020 and focus on the future — or keep losing elections. But the frenzied pace of his appearances and the increasingly obvious jabs at Donald Trump suggest Christie is plotting a political comeback with the 2024 campaign in mind.

In a recent interview, Christie said he hadn't made a decision yet about his political future and wouldn't until after next year's elec-



**Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, arrives for a news conference at the White House in Washington, with President Donald Trump on Sept. 27, 2020. Christie has been on a PR blitz promoting his new book, “Republican Rescue.” It offers a simple prescription for his party: Stop talking about 2020, focus on the future or keep losing elections.**

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)

tions. But he was blunt in saying he would run if he believes he can be elected.

“If I see a pathway to winning, I'll run,” he said. “And I feel like I have the skills and the talent and the ability to be able to make a difference in our party and in the country. And I'm certainly, at 59 years old, not ready to retire. But I'm not going to do it if I don't see a pathway to winning. So that's why I'm not making any decision now.”

One of the biggest questions that hangs over the

2024 campaign is whether Trump will run again. If the former president does, polls suggest he would easily clinch the nomination. But until that's decided, Christie is testing the openness of GOP voters to someone who largely supports Trump's record but dismisses Trump's lies that the last election was stolen.

It's an approach that pits him against other Republicans who may run in 2024, including Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who have taken high-profile stands against Trump.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Mike Pompeo, Trump's former secretary of state, have pitched themselves as fierce Trump loyalists. Former Vice President Mike Pence has tried to find something of a middle ground, highlighting his work alongside Trump but noting the two hold different views about the circumstances surrounding the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

As candidates largely break into pro- and anti-Trump camps, “there is a thing to being in a unique lane that does in fact endorse some of President Trump's policies but at the same time doesn't hesitate to criticize where Christie

would disagree with him,” said longtime GOP pollster Adam Geller. He worked on Christie's two winning New Jersey gubernatorial campaigns as well as Christie's 2016 presidential bid, followed by Trump's. Others aren't so sure, arguing that Christie aligned himself with Trump until it was no longer politically convenient.

“It's clearly disingenuous,” said Tim Miller, a former spokesperson for the Republican National Committee and a vocal Trump critic. “Chris Christie enabled Donald Trump maybe more than anyone in the establishment of the Republican Party. And now he wants to get the kudos of saying something that is reality but without any of the reflection about what he did to get us here.”

Christie and Trump have had a complicated relationship during the nearly 20 years that they've been “friends.”

As a U.S. attorney, Christie successfully prosecuted the father of Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner. Trump and Christie were fierce competitors for the GOP nomination in 2016. After Christie dropped out of the race, he became the first major elected official to endorse Trump, a move

that lent legitimacy to the eventual president's campaign.

“The line of supporting Donald Trump starts behind me,” Christie recently told Ingraham.

Christie stood in for Democrat Hillary Clinton during Trump's 2016 debate prep and was rewarded for his loyalty by being tasked with chairing the presidential transition. But after the election, Christie was fired from that role in a move seen as retribution for the elder Kushner's prosecution. Still, Christie ultimately found his way back into Trump's inner circle, heading the administration's commission on opioid misuse, serving as an informal adviser and again helping with debate preparation last year.

But Christie describes Trump's reaction to the 2020 election won by Democrat Joe Biden as a breaking point. In appearances and interviews, Christie says he was “incredibly disappointed and disillusioned” by Trump's refusal to concede the election, which culminated in his followers' violent storming of the Capitol on Jan. 6 in an effort to halt the certification of Biden's win.

Christie now argues that the party must disavow Trump's lies and move past his grievances if it wants to succeed. Voters, he argues, “want sanity and they want common sense.”

“As Republicans, we need to free ourselves from the quicksand of endless grievances. We need to turn our attention to the future and quit wallowing in the past. We need to face the realities of the 2020 election and learn — not hide — from them,” he writes in the book, calling on the party to rid itself of conspiracies and focus on providing voters with a positive alternative to Democratic policies. Trump has started hitting back. In a statement this month, the former president said Christie was “just absolutely massacred by his statements that Republicans have to move on from the past.” □



**Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, looks on as President Donald Trump speaks during a news conference at the White House, Sept. 27, 2020, in Washington. Christie has been on a PR blitz promoting his new book, “Republican Rescue.” It offers a simple prescription for his party: Stop talking about 2020, focus on the future or keep losing elections. His rebuke of former President Donald Trump's election lies is a message that's finding traction on cable news airwaves as he stakes out a unique lane for a possible second presidential run.**

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File)



# Honduran election could oust long-ruling National party

By christopher sherman

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras

(AP) — Hondurans voted Sunday for a successor to deeply unpopular President Juan Orlando Hernández in elections that could oust his National Party after 12 years in power.

The candidate most likely to do this is Xiomara Castro of the leftist Liberty and Re-foundation party. The former first lady is making her third bid for the presidency and is the only one of 13 opposition candidates with a chance to beat Hernández's handpicked successor, Nasry Asfura, a folksy Tegucigalpa mayor.

Such is the level of mistrust among Hondurans in the electoral process that many fear there could be disturbances in the streets no matter who wins.

Julio Cesar Nieto, a 62-year-old retiree from the judicial system, said he hoped the political parties would act responsibly and recognize a winner to avoid the violence that occurred following elections four years ago.

"Everyone is looking for a change," Nieto said after casting his ballot at an elementary school in the capital's El Bosque neighborhood. The polling site opened to voters



Voters line up outside a polling station during general elections in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021.

more than hour after it was scheduled to.

Despite the late start, voting appeared orderly. Poll workers checked IDs, scanned fingerprints and took photos of voters. Ballots were marked, deposited in clear plastic boxes — for president, for members of congress, for local races — and voters' pinkies were stained with ink.

Luis Guillermo Solís, Costa Rica's former president and leader of the observation mission of the Organization of American States, said late Sunday morning

that preliminary reports had started arriving from their observers and things seemed normal.

"We have been in various (voting) centers already and we are seeing more or less the same, long lines of people exercising their civic right," he said.

Sandra Castillo voted Sunday at the National Pedagogic University in a middle-class Tegucigalpa neighborhood. She said she voted for change, not necessarily of party, but a change of people in power, so "they don't keep

governing the same way." Honduras' elected leaders have affected businesses and investment in the way they've governed, said Castillo, who works in administration in the judicial system. Statistics like unemployment make the country's struggles undeniable, she said.

And yet she didn't hear clear plans for how to address those problems in any of the candidates' campaigns.

"I didn't see real proposals for what they're going to do, how they're going

to do it," Castillo said. "The speeches were a bit empty of plans." Asfura voted at the same location later in the morning. He called for peace and respect for the voting process.

Asked about his opponents, Asfura demurred. "I don't say opposition, they are my friends," said the long-time Tegucigalpa mayor. "Today all of us politicians must demonstrate a civic act for Honduras."

Castro voted earlier in the day near Catacamas, in east-central Honduras. She too called on her supporters to not be provoked into calling the elections invalid.

"Honduras can't endure four more years," Castro said. "We have to stop these caravans of Honduran men and women who are leaving our country en masse because of the insecurity, the lack of opportunities, the lack of work, the lack of health, the lack of education."

After a protracted contest filled with irregularities in 2017, protesters filled the streets and the government imposed a curfew. Three weeks later Hernández was declared the winner despite the Organization of American States observation mission calling for an election re-do. At least 23 people were killed. □

(AP Photo/Moises Castillo)

## WHO criticizes travel bans on southern African countries

By ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

The World Health Organization on Sunday urged countries around the world not to impose flight bans on southern African nations due to concerns over the new omicron variant.

WHO's regional director for Africa, Matshidiso Moeti, called on countries to follow science and international health regulations in order to avoid using travel restrictions. "Travel restrictions may play a role in slightly reducing the spread of COVID-19 but place a heavy burden on lives and livelihoods," Moeti said in

a statement. "If restrictions are implemented, they should not be unnecessarily invasive or intrusive, and should be scientifically based, according to the International Health Regulations, which is a legally binding instrument of international law recognized by over 190 nations." Moeti praised South Africa for following international health regulations and informing WHO as soon as its national laboratory identified the omicron variant. "The speed and transparency of the South African and Botswana governments in informing the world of the new variant is to be

commended," said Moeti. "WHO stands with African countries which had the courage to boldly share life-saving public health information, helping protect the world against the spread of COVID-19." Cases of the omicron variant of the coronavirus popped up in countries on opposite sides of the world Sunday and many governments rushed to close their borders even as scientists cautioned that it's not clear if the new variant is more alarming than other versions of the virus. While investigations continue into the omicron variant, WHO recommends that all countries "take a



People, some wearing face masks, walk in Regent Street, in London, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021. Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson said it was necessary to take "targeted and precautionary measures" after two people tested positive for the new variant in England. He also said mask-wearing in shops and on public transport will be required.

(AP Photo/Alberto Pezzali)

risk-based and scientific approach and put in place measures which can limit its possible spread." Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health

in the United States, emphasized that there is no data yet that suggests the new variant causes more serious illness than previous COVID-19 variants. □



# Camped in Calais, migrants renew resolve to try for England

By Danica Kirka  
Associated Press

**CALAIS, France (AP)** — At the makeshift camps in France near Calais and Dunkirk, migrants are digging in, waiting for their chance to make a dash across the English Channel despite the deaths of at least 27 people this week when their boat sank a few miles (kilometers) from the French coast.

Police have stepped up patrols in recent days and the weather has worsened, making this a bad time to attempt a crossing. But most migrants say the tragedy won't prevent them from climbing into a flimsy inflatable boat packed with up to 50 people in hopes of reaching Britain.

"I don't afraid of anything," a 22-year-old from Iran who identified himself only as Kawa said in halting English.

"Water? If we die ... sorry to say this but we already died. Nobody accepts us anywhere. We're useful. Useless, sorry," he said, correcting himself. "Just look at these people."

Kawa and his father spent the past six years in the Denmark, where they say they never felt free because they constantly had to report to police and other authorities. Now they want to reach England, and eventually Canada, because "they are good to Iranians."

They are among a group of about 150 young Kurdish men and a smattering of families camped Saturday on a disused railroad line in hopes of escaping the damp ground below. Alongside a collection of incongruously bright red, green and blue tents near Dunkirk, they pull hoods over their heads, hunch shoulders inside winter jackets and huddle next to small fires to stay warm as an early winter chill grips northern Europe.

The smell of burning plastic hangs in the air as the migrants use anything they can find as fuel.

The coast around Calais has long been the jumping-off point for migrants anx-



**A migrants makeshift camp is set up in Calais, northern France, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021. At the makeshift camps outside Calais, migrants are digging in, waiting for the chance to make a dash across the English Channel despite the news that at least 27 people died this week when their boat sank a few miles from the French coast.**

(AP Photo/Rafael Yaghobzadeh)



**A migrant sits in a makeshift camp outside Calais, northern France, Saturday, Nov. 27, 2021. At the makeshift camps outside Calais, migrants are digging in, waiting for the chance to make a dash across the English Channel despite the news that at least 27 people died this week when their boat sank a few miles from the French coast.**

(AP Photo/Rafael Yaghobzadeh)

ious to get to the U.K. But this week's disaster underscores the combination of dreams and despair that drives people to camp in drizzling rain with temperatures hovering around 40 Fahrenheit (4 Celsius) for the chance to risk their lives at sea.

But first they have to pay smugglers about 2,500 pounds (\$3,300) for a seat in a boat.

Ari, who like other migrants declined to give his last name for fear of being deported if he is caught, is a physics teacher from Iraq who left home because he couldn't find work.

He says he is frightened about the crossing — but the chance for a better life is worth the risk.

"Everyone is scared But everyone here — they die (a little) every day," he said, giving a subtle nod to the camp littered with rotting banana peels, soggy shoes and tents abandoned by migrants who have already left for England.

Wednesday's tragedy came amid a jump in the number of migrants trying to cross the channel in inflatables and other small craft after the COVID-19 pandemic limited air and ship travel and Britain's de-

parture from the European Union curtailed cooperation with neighboring countries in processing asylum-seekers and other migrants. More than 23,000 people have already entered the U.K. on small boats this year, up from 8,500 last year and just 300 in 2018, according to data compiled by Parliament.

Despite this increase, the number of people applying for asylum in Britain is still relatively low compared with other European countries. Migrants heading for Britain usually do so because of family, historical or geopolitical reasons, said Nando Sigona, chair of International Migration and Forced Displacement at the University of Birmingham.

"So people in Calais are there because they want to come here," he said. Britain has criticized France for not doing enough to stop the boats before they are launched, but migrants say police have become more active since the deaths.

So they are simply waiting for things to calm down and the weather to improve.

Amanj, 20, a Kurdish activist from Iran, says he has no choice but to press on. His father was recently jailed

and the family doesn't know what happened to him. Amanj fears he could be next.

"Maybe I would die if I was in Iran, you know. Maybe I was ... killed by police with a gun, Nobody knows," he said. "If not today, maybe tomorrow you die anyway."

Fifteen miles (25 kilometers) to the west at a camp outside Calais, migrants from Sudan kick a soccer ball around a patch of bare ground and hang laundry on a fence in hopes it will dry in the weak sunshine.

Patrick yearns to reach Liverpool and study political science.

He says he has tried to smuggle himself onto a vehicle heading for Britain every day for the past six months. Now he's ready to try the boats, if he can find the money.

"I dream of England," he said "I know that some people died in the sea, but I will try by sea or by any other way."

In Calais, aid groups have taken over a warehouse where they collect supplies like sleeping bags, food and firewood that they distribute to migrants at designated spots around the city.

Opie Cook, 27, is sorting vegetables for a vat of salad after taking a leave of absence from her job at HP to help the migrants.

"It's sad that it has taken such a tragedy for this to be talked about again," she said.

Back in the camps, men take off their shoes and nudge their feet as close to the campfires as possible, trying to dry them off and stay warm.

Amid the despair, there is also determination.

Ari, the teacher from Iraq, traveled first to Belarus before taking a train through Poland, then through Germany to reach the channel coast.

His destination is Bournemouth, where he has family. And he intends to make it.

"We want to get free," he says. "That's why we're here." □







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## Dutch impose new tighter lockdown amid spiking infections

By Mike Corder  
Associated Press

(AP) — The Netherlands moved into a tougher lockdown Sunday that was announced amid spiking infections even before the country recorded its first confirmed cases of the new, more highly transmissible omicron virus variant. Bars, restaurants, nonessential stores, cinemas and theaters were among the public places forced to shut from 5 p.m. until 5 a.m. under the new lockdown. Wilko Klippens, who runs the Biessels cafe on the Grote Markt square in the city of Nijmegen, said the latest lockdown will further eat into his savings.

"We're going to keep all

the staff. You know, they're going to pay their rent, pay their education. So yeah, it's on us," he said. "So the money we saved for retirement is the money we pay the staff with and the rent." The restrictions took effect hours after Health Minister Hugo de Jonge announced that at least 13 travelers who arrived at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport on Friday tested positive for the new variant. He urged other travelers who arrived last week from southern Africa to get tested as well. "We have appealed to everyone ... who has been in southern Africa in the past week to report to the local health authority ... to make a separate

test appointment," he said. The Netherlands has seen a string of record daily infections in recent weeks and an earlier partial lockdown appears to have had little effect. Dutch hospitals have warned that intensive care units could become overwhelmed by the end of the week. The Dutch government has mandated that all nonessential surgeries, such as hip replacements, be postponed to free up ICU beds for COVID-19 patients.

De Jonge said he could not rule out imposing more restrictions leading up to Christmas.

Wilma van Kampen said she would adhere to the lockdown and hoped that



A lone girl waits for a tram in a near-deserted street full of closed restaurants, bars and shop under a partial lockdown in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Friday, Nov. 26, 2021. The Dutch government tightened its lockdown Friday night amid swiftly rising infections and ICU admissions.

(AP Photo/Peter Dejong)

the situation does not deteriorate.

"I'm a nurse. I know how

sick people get. I see a lot of people suffering from COVID," she said. □

## 500 vigilantes gather in Mexico town, pledge to aid police

By ARMANDO SOLÍS  
Associated Press

**NUEVO URECHO, Mexico**

(AP) — Extortion of avocado growers in western Mexico has gotten so bad that 500 vigilantes from a so-called "self-defense" group known as United Towns, or Pueblos Unidos, gathered Saturday and pledged to aid police.

The vigilantes gathered for a rally in the town of Nuevo Urecho, in the western state of Michoacan, armed with AR-15s and other rifles, as well as a motley collec-

tion of shotguns. They said that drug cartels like the Viagras and the Jalisco cartel have been charging avocado growers 'war taxes' of about \$1,000 per acre (\$2,500 per hectare). "Several of us have been victims of this situation, of kidnappings, extortions," said one masked vigilante leader who asked his name not be used for fear of reprisals from the gangs.

For the moment, the vigilantes appeared willing to respond to a pledge by Gov. Alfredo Ramirez Bedolla to

disarm the state's various 'self defense' groups. "We reached agreements with the mayor to increase the number of police" patrolling the area, the vigilante leader said. "For the moment, we are putting away our guns, but we will be on alert to come out and support the police at any moment." Pueblos Unidos has staged armed rallies in several towns in Michoacan over the last year, but have always said they would rather have officially constituted security forces do the



Members of the so-called self-defense group known as United Towns or Pueblos Unidos, gather for a rally in Nuevo Urecho, in the Mexican western state of Michoacan, Saturday Nov. 27, 2021. Extortion of avocado growers in western Mexico has gotten so bad that 500 vigilantes from the "self-defense" group gathered Saturday and pledged to aid police.

work of expelling criminal gangs. Mexican law forbids most civilians from owning

almost all firearms, except for extremely low caliber hunting rifles or shotguns. □



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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. These two locations are at a stone's throw from your resort, condominium, or other vacation accommodation. Walk-ins are welcome. MedCare Clinic, a high-quality medical clinic that specializes 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).

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- Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort
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- Hyatt Regency Aruba Resort and Casino
- Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort
- The Ritz-Carlton Resort.

Please contact your front desk for more information on our Testing Centers at these properties. Private bookings

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Phone: +297 280 0630  
Open 7 days a week, 7 AM – 7 PM.  
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## Census 2020 results

**ORANJESTAD - The Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) informs the results of the Censo2020. The results of Censo2020 are compared with Censo2010 to indicate if there were changes over the last 10 years. The results are categorized into eight topics. Here are the results for the topic, Population**

### How many are we?

During the Censo2020 a total of 108.166 persons were counted, representing an increase of 6.682 persons compared to Censo2010. It means that in the last ten years, our population continued to grow more slowly than in the prior decades. During the last ten years, the population increased by 6.6%. It means that the population density continues to grow. While in the Censo2010 there were 564 persons per square kilometer, during the Censo2021 they counted 601 persons per square kilometers. Our popula-

### Housing

According to the data collected by Censo2020, 78.3% of households in Aruba live in a house. In Censo2010, 79.5% of households lived in houses. The second-largest group of households lives in an apartment. This group represents 17.9% of households in Aruba. It entails a slight increase compared to Censo 2010, where 16.4% of households lived in apartments. 3.8% of the total households live in different types of housing, namely:

- 2.0% live in trailer or container;
- 1.2% live in a separate room within a house;
- 0.4% live in an outside room;
- 0.2% live in other types of housing, for example, a condominium.

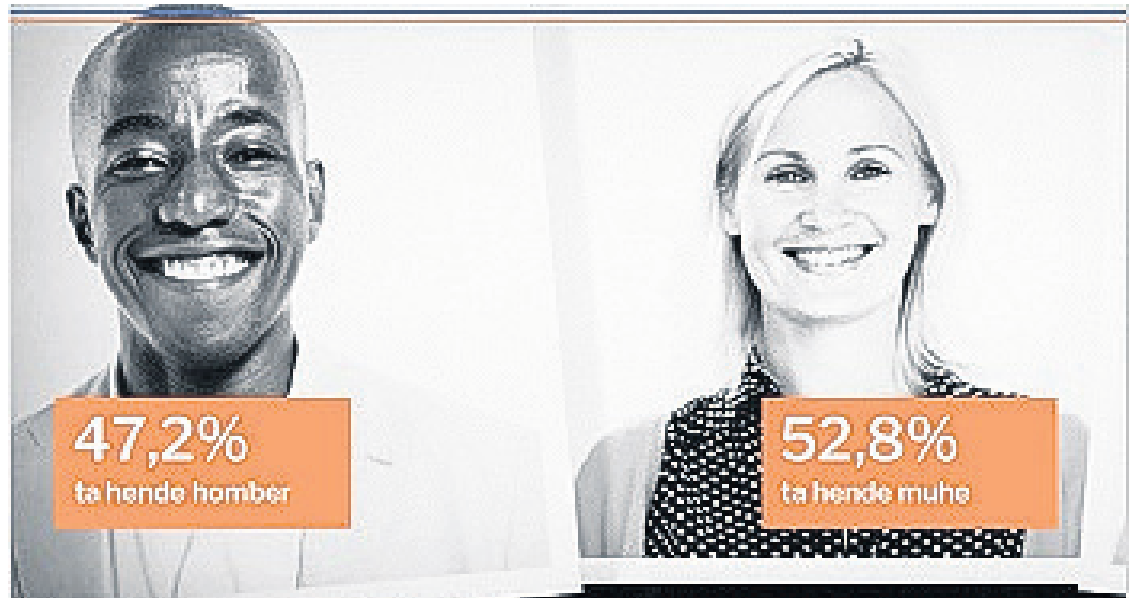
Compared to prior censuses, for example, 2000 and 2010, there are no significant changes in the percentage of households living in these types of hous-

ing, except for households living in an outside room.

In the Censo2000, 2.0% of households in Aruba lived in an outside room. The percentage dropped to 1.1% in Censo 2010 and continued to decline to 0.4% in Censo2020.

### Homeownership

The Censo2020 results indicate that 75% of households own the house they live in. It represents an increase of 11.9% compared to Censo2010, where the percentage stood at 67%. The percentage of households that rent their home decreased from 28.2% in Censo2010 to 22.3% in Censo2020. The percentage of households that live free of charge in their homes also decreased from 3.7% in 2010 to 2.4% in 2020. For more information, you may visit the CBS website [www.census2020.aw](http://www.census2020.aw) or their Facebook: Central Bureau of Statistics Aruba. □



tion consists of more women than men. Women represent 52.8% and men 47.2% of the population. The average median age is 42 years. It entails four years more compared to Censo2010. The average age of women is 43 years and of men 40 years. The largest group of our population consists of adults between 18 to 64 years old. They represent 62.8% of the population. Compared to Censo2010 this group increased by 4.3%. The second largest group

consists of children and youth between 0 and 17 years. They represent 21.2% of our population. Compared to Census2010 this group decreased by 10.9%. The smallest group of our population consists of senior citizens, persons 65 years and older. This group consists of 16.0% of the population. Compared with Censo2010, it increased by 63%. In other words, the population of Aruba increasingly consists of persons 65 years and older. □



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## Aruba Today's Columnists

**ORANJESTAD — Aruba Today has two great local columnists who contribute to our newspaper with their knowledge and creativity. Please let us introduce to you Anthony, and Thais. They would surely appreciate your comments on their columns. So, feel free to express yourself!**

**Island Insight by Anthony Croes of Etnia Nativa**  
Anthony Croes is an Et-



nia Nativa based artist at Westpunt, originally from Companashi. As a child, he demonstrated a natural interest and respect for his old world heritage as well as his natives' ancestor's history and their survival challenges. This same interest encouraged him to pursue anthropological studies as an academic call. For someone with such interest in cultural expressions it is no surprising that Aruba Today welcomed him as a columnist.

Island Insight can be read every Tuesday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all 132 published columns by Croes.



**Creative Islander by Thais Franken**

Thais G. Franken (26) is a local academic researcher and is currently teaching at the University of Aruba in the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS). She is a graduate of the University of Maastricht (UM) and the United Nations University Maastricht Economic and Social Research Institute on Innovation and Tech-

nology (UNU-MERIT) where she obtained her double Master of Science degree in Public Policy and Human Development with a specialization in Innovation, Institutions and Development. She has been researching the Aruban Creative Industry for quite some time and has collaborated with several local cultural NGOs to bring awareness of the possible impact of the Creative Industry on the island. It was her research on the "Socio-economic and Cultural Impact of the Creative Industry of the Aruban Sustainable Development" that inspired the emergence of the "Creative Islander" column back in 2018.

Thais is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture, creativity, cultural

heritage, education, social entrepreneurship and their role in public management. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

Creative Islander can be read every other Thursday in the local section. On Aruba Today's website you can find all published columns.

To read their informative columns go to [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) and scroll down on the columns tab to see all their material and also other read some other awesome columns we have.

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# High inflation? Low polling? White House blames the pandemic

By ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Inflation is soaring, businesses are struggling to hire and President Joe Biden's poll numbers have been in free fall. The White House sees a common culprit for it all: COVID-19.

Biden's team views the pandemic as the root cause of both the nation's malaise and his own political woes. Finally controlling COVID-19, the White House believes, is the skeleton key to rejuvenating the country and reviving Biden's own standing.

But the coronavirus challenge has proved to be vexing for the White House, with last summer's premature claims of victory swamped by the more transmissible delta variant, millions of Americans going unvaccinated and lingering economic effects from the pandemic's darkest days.

All of that as yet another variant of the virus, omicron, emerged overseas. It is worrying public health officials, leading to new travel bans and panicking markets as scientists race to understand how dangerous it may be.

Although the economy has actually been coming back, there are multiple signs that COVID-19 will leave its scars even if the pandemic fades.

For now, in the administration's view, an intransigent minority that is resisting vaccination is spoiling the recovery for the rest of the country — forcing masks on the vaccinated and contributing to lingering anxiousness everywhere you look.

Asked why Americans aren't getting the message that the economy is improving, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said this past week: "We're still in the middle of fighting a pandemic and people are sick and tired of that. We are, too."

The state of affairs, she said, affects everything from how people feel about sending their kids out the door to the price for a gal-



President Joe Biden talks about the newly approved COVID-19 vaccine for children ages 5-11 from the South Court Auditorium on the White House complex in Washington, Nov. 3, 2021. Biden's team views the pandemic as the root cause of both the nation's malaise and his own political woes.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

lon of gas. The administration views vaccination mandates as critical, not only to preventing avoidable illness and death but to safeguarding the economic recovery — and salvaging Biden's political position. "We have the tools to accelerate the path out of this pandemic widely available," White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients told a coronavirus briefing. While he ruled out large-scale lockdowns like the United States experienced in 2020 and like those popping up again across Europe, Zients renewed the administration's appeals for more Americans to get their shots.

But on Friday, the discovery of the new variant in southern Africa had much of the world acting to shut down travel from the region and contain a threat that the World Health Organization suggested could be worse than the ravaging waves from delta.

Inside the White House and among allies of the president, there has been frustration for weeks over the slow government action to approve booster shots for all adults. The regulatory process, they fear, contributed to misinformation and confusion around the boosters and means the

nation isn't optimally protected for the holiday season.

Biden on Friday appealed for unvaccinated Americans to be "responsible" and get the shot and for those eligible for a booster to get that, too. "That is the minimum that everyone should be doing. ... We always talk about whether this is about freedom, but I think it's a patriotic responsibility to do that."

Still, for all the hand-wringing over Biden's sagging standing with Americans, Democrats say a turnaround may be within reach.

"From Trump to Biden, people have gone from feeling like it's mourning again in America to feeling on the cusp of morning again in America," said party strategist Jesse Ferguson.

"Getting past the pandemic unlocks the door for the economy, for our way of life and for people feeling less divided," he added.

To Biden's critics, though, it's a stretch to blame all the nation's problems on COVID-19 or to think that containing the virus will solve them.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, in fact, puts the blame for high prices on Biden's big pandemic relief

package, saying recently: "There is no question what is keeping working Americans awake at night. Inflation. The runaway prices and unpredictability that Democrats' policies have fueled."

The lingering effects of the virus have taken a toll on the president's approval ratings, even if his handling of the virus has been seen as a relative strength.

In an October AP-NORC poll, 54% of Americans said they approved of Biden's job on the pandemic. That was somewhat higher than his approval rating overall and much higher than approval on his handling of the economy, at 48% and 41%, respectively.

As recently as July, 66% had approved of Biden on COVID-19 and 59% approved of his job performance overall.

In last month's poll, only about one-third of Americans said the nation was heading in the right direction, down from about half in late February.

Views of the economy have dimmed as well, with only about one-third saying conditions are good, compared with close to half in September.

To the White House, fixing blame on the pandemic is emerging as a modern

version of the old "It's the economy, stupid" mantra from the Bill Clinton years.

When Psaki was pressed on what the administration was doing to contain higher prices, she replied: "We know what the root causes of those are, right? Global supply chain issues."

"The best thing we can do as the government is to get the pandemic under control. That's what the president's number one focus is."

The same message ripples throughout the administration.

"As long as the pandemic continues, there will be pandemic-driven shortages, which is why the best way to fix that is to end the pandemic," Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said recently, stressing the need for vaccination.

Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, speaking about the administration's response to spiking gasoline prices, said getting people vaccinated was "the ultimate answer." "The root of the problems in the economy is the virus," said Harvard economist James Stock, "and the best way to minimize the spread of the virus is to increase vaccinations. It's the number one economic policy in my mind."

But with experts predicting that COVID-19 is becoming endemic, Stock said, "you've got to be realistic that it's not going to go away."

Even if the virus fades, economists warn, there will be harmful lingering effects.

Goldman Sachs noted in a recent analysis that roughly half of the 5 million people who have left the labor force since the pandemic have retired, making it harder for businesses to regain lost jobs. Work by Stanford University economist Nicholas Bloom and others indicates that companies expect more people to keep working from home and shopping online, a problem for local retailers that depend on office workers to buy lunch and people to return to stores. □



## CROSSWORD

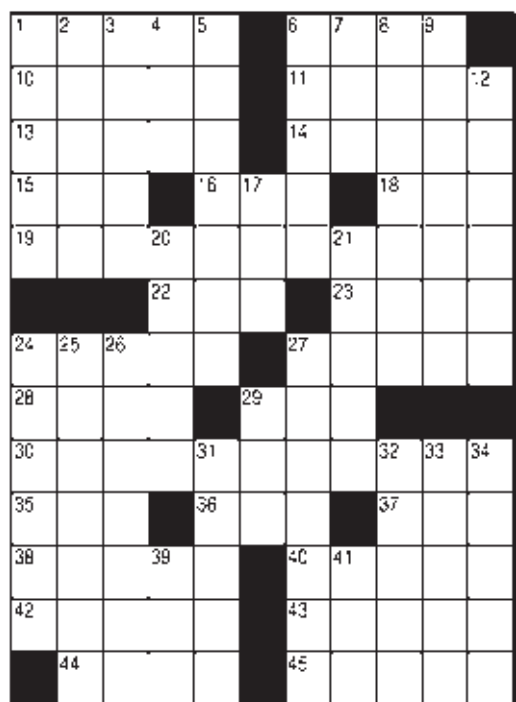
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 38 "My Fair Lady" lady  
1 — nova (1960s dance)  
6 Boars' mates  
10 Accepted truth  
11 Franc replacers  
13 "The Lion King" hero  
14 Warble  
15 Marrying words  
16 Letter after sigma  
18 Even score  
19 Table decoration  
22 Wish undone  
23 Sink problem  
24 Programing pro  
27 Work breaks  
28 Opera solo  
29 Pod veggie  
30 Bourgeoisie  
35 Poker prize  
36 Sense of self  
37 Mouth part



Saturday's answer

**DOWN** 8 Authors 27 Files  
9 Ask for 29 Coat rack  
12 Sacks out part  
17 "Roses — red" 31 Inclines  
20 Tire others  
21 Perfect 33 Subse-  
24 Slept in a tent 34 Velocity  
25 Baltimore winner  
26 Served a 41 Bowler,  
sentence for one



AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

11-29

CRYPTOQUOTE

CW LISD VIW YOWWSX PIB

NOLKE EIM UOCVW DI KIVH

OD EIM LIV'W UOCVW NOLKE

K CZ S IWPSX USIUKS

— HSIXHS YIIXS

Saturday's Cryptoquote: WE ARE ALL MORTAL UNTIL THE FIRST KISS AND THE SECOND GLASS OF WINE. — EDUARDO GALEANO

## Researchers try producing potato resistant to climate change



Potatoes await harvesting at Green Thumb Farms, Sept. 27, 2017, in Fryeburg, Maine. University of Maine researchers are trying to produce potatoes that can better withstand warming temperatures as the climate changes.

(AP Photo/Robert F. Bukaty, File)

### Associated Press

**BANGOR, Maine (AP)** — University of Maine researchers are trying to produce potatoes that can better withstand warming temperatures as the climate changes. Warming temperatures and an extended growing season can lead to quality problems and disease, Gregory Porter, a professor of crop ecology and management, told the Bangor Daily News.

"The predictions for climate change are heavier rainfall events, and potatoes don't tolerate flooding or wet conditions for long without having other quality problems," Porter said.

"If we want potatoes to be continued to be produced successfully in Maine, we need to be able to produce varieties that can be resistant to change." Around the world, research aimed at mitigating crop damage is underway. A NASA study published this month suggests climate change may affect the production of corn and wheat, reducing yields of both, as soon as 2030.

Maine is coming off of a banner potato crop thanks in part to the success of the Caribou russet, which was developed by UMaine researchers. But Porter fears that even that variety isn't

as heat tolerant as necessary to resist the future effects of climate change.

Pests are another factor. The Colorado potato beetle and disease-spreading aphids have flourished with the changing climate, said Jim Dill, pest management specialist at the University of Maine Cooperative Extension.

Breeding seemingly small changes like hairier leaves that make it difficult for insects to move around on the plant can cut down on pests' destruction and also the need for pesticides, he said.

Breeding such characteristics into potatoes is a long process of cross-pollinating different potato varieties. The process is well underway.

They're in a research testing phase right now at sites throughout the United States. Test potatoes in Virginia, North Carolina and Florida are testing high temperature stress.

"It takes 10 years of selection after that initial cross pollination, and it might take two to five years before enough commercial evaluation has taken place to release a new potato variety," Porter said. □

## NASA launches spacecraft to test asteroid defense concept

### By John Antczak

### Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — NASA launched a spacecraft Tuesday night on a mission to smash into an asteroid and test whether it would be possible to knock a speeding space rock off course if one were to threaten Earth. The DART spacecraft, short for Double Asteroid Redi-

rection Test, lifted off from Vandenberg Space Force Base atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket in a \$330 million project with echoes of the Bruce Willis movie "Armageddon."

If all goes well, the boxy, 1,200-pound (540-kilogram) craft will slam head-on into Dimorphos, an asteroid 525 feet (160 meters) across, at

15,000 mph (24,139 kph) next September. Dimorphos orbits a much larger asteroid called Didymos. The pair are no danger to Earth but offer scientists a better way to measure the effectiveness of a collision than a single asteroid flying through space. Dimorphos completes one orbit of Didymos every 11 hours, 55 minutes. DART's goal is a crash that will slow Dimorphos down and cause it to fall closer toward the bigger asteroid, shaving 10 minutes off its orbit. The change in the orbital period will be measured by telescopes on Earth. The minimum change for the mission to be considered a success is 73 seconds. □

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# Community systems offer alternative paths for solar growth

By John Flesher  
Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Strolling his church's rooftop among 630 solar panels, Bishop Richard Howell Jr. acknowledged climate change isn't the most pressing concern for his predominantly Black congregation — even though it disproportionately harms people of color and the poor.

"The violence we're having, shootings, killings, COVID-19," Howell said wearily. "You're trying to save families, and right now no one's really talking about global warming."

Yet his Shiloh Temple International Ministries in north Minneapolis welcomed the opportunity to become one of many "community solar" providers popping up around the U.S. amid surging demand for renewable energy.

Larger than home rooftop systems but smaller than utility-scale complexes, they're located atop buildings, or on abandoned factory grounds and farms. Individuals or companies subscribe to portions of energy sent to the grid and get credits that reduce their electricity bills.

The model attracts people who can't afford rooftop installations or live where solar is not accessible, such as renters and owners of dwellings without direct sunlight.

"We're helping fight this climate war and blessing families with lower costs," Howell said.

Nearly 1,600 community solar projects, or "gardens," are operating nationwide, according to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. Most are in Minnesota, Massachusetts, New York and Colorado, although 41 states and Washington, D.C., have at least one. Florida has relatively few but they're big enough to make the state a leading producer.

Together they generate roughly 3.4 gigawatts — enough for about 650,000 homes — or roughly 3% of the nation's solar output. But more than 4.3 gigawatts are expected to go online within five years, says the Solar Energy Industries Association.

"We can have a cheaper, cleaner and more equitable system for everyone if we build smaller, local resources," said Jeff Cramer, executive director of the Coalition for Community Solar Access, a trade group.

Yet it's unclear how big a role community solar will play in the U.S. transition from fossil fuels to renewables.

The Biden administration is continuing a \$15 million Energy Department initiative begun in 2019 to support its growth, particularly in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The department announced a goal in October of powering the equivalent of 5 million households with community solar by 2025, saving consumers \$1 billion.

But power regulation happens at the state level, where interest groups are fighting over what defines community solar and who should generate it.

The Solar Energy Industries



Bishop Richard Howell poses Aug. 19, 2021 beside some of the 630 solar panels on the roof of Shiloh Temple International Ministries in Minneapolis. The church is one of many "community solar" providers popping up around the U.S. as surging demand for renewable energy inspires new approaches. Aug. 19, 2021, in Minneapolis.

Association says the label should apply only where private developers and nonprofit cooperatives, not just utilities, can operate solar gardens and send power to the grid. The association says 19 states and Washington, D.C., have such policies.

Utilities say having too many players could unravel regulatory structures that assure reliable electric service. They warn of disasters such as last winter's deadly blackout in Texas.

"You've got lots of individual profit-motivated actors trying to make a buck," said Brandon Hofmeister, a senior vice president with Consumers Energy. The Michigan power company is fighting state bills that would allow non-utility community solar providers.

Others say utilities are simply ducking competition.

"What's really driving the rise of community solar is the free market," said John Freeman, executive director of the Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association, a trade group. "It saves money and promotes a cleaner environment." □



## Editor

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## 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

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## Messi assists help PSG top Saint-Etienne; Neymar injured

**PARIS (AP)** — Lionel Messi had three assists in a 3-1 win over 10-man Saint-Etienne on Sunday to help Paris Saint-Germain extend its lead atop the French league standings to 12 points but the victory was marred by an injury to star striker Neymar.

The Brazil forward was stretchered off in the 87th minute after twisting his ankle under an awkward challenge from Yvann Maccioni. "Let's recover from this," Neymar said on his Instagram account. "Unfortunately these setbacks are part of an athlete's life. It is what it is, let's put our heads up high and let's go at it! I will come back better and stronger."

Saint-Etienne opened the scoring against the run of play in the 23rd minute of the game played in snowy conditions. Wahbi Khazri picked out Timothee Kolodziejczak, whose shot was saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma. But the rebound fell to Denis Bouanga, who beat the Italy goalkeeper.

English goalkeeper Etienne Green delayed PSG's comeback by palming away Neymar's angled strike in the 40th and Kylian Mbappe's low effort in the 41st.

But Saint-Etienne's task was



PSG's Lionel Messi controls the ball during the French League One soccer between Saint-Etienne and Paris Saint Germain, in Saint-Etienne, central France, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021.

Associated Press

made much harder on the stroke of halftime when Kolodziejczak was sent off for tripping Mbappe, who was chasing a through ball from Angel di Maria. Brazil defender Marquinhos equalized by heading home the subsequent free kick taken by Messi.

Despite its numerical superiority, PSG struggled to find the winning goal. Green denied Neymar in the 69th and Messi failed to convert the rebound.

PSG eventually took the lead in the 79th when Messi

found Di Maria, who curled into the far corner. In stoppage time, Messi crossed for Marquinhos, who out-jumped Miguel Trauco to head in.

The game also featured the debut of Sergio Ramos, who recovered from injury to make his first appearance in the French league for PSG.

"I'm very happy and satisfied," Sergio Ramos told the club's website. "It's a very special day for me after having spent so much time without playing. It's

important for me to have helped the team, to be here with the squad and to have played 90 minutes."

Also Sunday, Rennes extended its unbeaten run to 13 games in all competitions to snatch second place in the league with a 2-0 win at Lorient. Gaetan Laborde notched his ninth league goal with a chip in the 75th before substitute Jeremy Doku doubled the lead with a curling shot in the 78th.

Lyon moved into seventh place by grinding out a 1-0

win at Montpellier. Brazil international Lucas Paqueta headed home a rebound after Islam Slimani's volley hit the bar. In the race for Europe, Monaco and Strasbourg stayed five points outside the top four spots by drawing 1-1. France international Wissam Ben Yedder put Monaco ahead with a penalty on the stroke of halftime. Strasbourg forward Ludovic Ajorque equalized in the 48th with a penalty of his own.

Brest earned a fourth straight win by rallying past lowly Bordeaux 2-1. Jeremy Le Douaron scored twice in the second half after Bordeaux defender Stian Gregersen opened the scoring in the 43rd.

Reims snapped a six-game winless streak by edging struggling Clermont 1-0. Ivory Coast international Ghislain Konan fired a powerful strike off the bar in stoppage time.

The 15th round ends Sunday with Marseille vs. Troyes.

On Saturday, Metz stunned third-place Nice 1-0 while the hopes of defending champion Lille to get back in the race for European spots took a blow after drawing with midtable Nantes 1-1.

On Friday, Lens drew with Angers 2-2 to stay fourth. □



Maryland head coach Brenda Frese points during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Baylor, Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021, in College Park, Md.

By Doug Feinberg  
Associated Press

**NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)** — Tara VanDerveer loves to ski.

Stanford's Hall of Fame coach compared her seventh-ranked team's

schedule this past week to going down one of the toughest trails on a difficult mountain, after the Cardinal played three AP Top 25 teams in a span of three days in the Bahamas. Stanford came away with two

## Tough early season matchups test top women's hoops teams

wins, beating No. 4 Indiana and second-ranked Maryland. "If I had to do it over again, I probably wouldn't take this team to the top of the mountain and go down the double black diamonds, but that's what I'm doing," said the winningest coach in women's college basketball. "I'd have been on some greens or blues instead of double black diamonds. They are welcoming the challenge." It's not just the defending national champions that are facing tough competition early on. So far, in the first few weeks of the season, there already have been half a dozen match-

ups between teams ranked in the top seven in the poll. Four of those matchups took place over the past week in the Bahamas, where the top five teams traveled for pair of tournaments. There never has been such a collection of talented teams assembled in one place during the regular season. ESPN analyst Deb Antonelli, who helped put together the Baha Mar tournament field in Nassau, couldn't remember a time with so many quality early season games between top teams. "I've been saying all season the product is the narrative and it's really true," she said. "The game

is so good right now. The most appealing part of being here to teams was the level of competition."

There are more top matchups on the way over the next couple of weeks, with the Big Ten/ACC challenge featuring Indiana and North Carolina State. Top-ranked South Carolina has games against Maryland and Stanford in December. "Teams are playing a much more competitive schedule and learning about themselves in November to prepare themselves for what lies ahead," Maryland coach Brenda Frese said. "It's exciting for women's basketball." □ Frese,



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## Britain, Kazakhstan, Croatia advance at Davis Cup Finals

**By Andrew Dampf  
Associated Press**

**(AP)** - Britain, Kazakhstan and Croatia each advanced to the quarterfinals of the Davis Cup Finals by winning their groups on Sunday.

Britain beat the Czech Republic 2-1 to win Group C in Innsbruck, Austria, setting up a quarterfinal against either Serbia and top-ranked Novak Djokovic or a Germany team missing No. 3 Alexander Zverev.

Kazakhstan shut out 2019 runner-up Canada 3-0 to win Group B in Madrid, setting up a quarterfinal against a group runner-up. Croatia beat Hungary 2-1 to win Group D and set up a quarterfinal against host Italy in Turin. Each match-up on indoor hard courts is a best-of-three series featuring two singles and one doubles match. The six group winners plus the two second-place teams with the best records based on sets and games will advance to the quarterfinals. The semifinals and final will be played in Madrid. Later, the United States was playing Colombia, defending champion Spain was facing Russia and Germany was playing Austria.

### **BRITAIN 2, CZECH REPUBLIC 1**

Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski beat Jiri Vesely and Tomas Machac 6-4, 6-2 in the decisive doubles match to give Britain the 2-1 win. After the 143rd-ranked Machac had upset No. 25 Dan Evans 6-2, 7-5 in the opening singles match, No. 12 Cameron Norrie defeated Jiri Lehecka 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 to even the series.

"Today was tough. You look at the rankings and a lot of people would think it's going to be straightforward but it's never like that," Britain captain Leon

Smith said. "The Czech team played really well today, they are a very good young team. Machac looked like he had suddenly turned into a top-20 player overnight."

Britain won the group, France finished second and the Czech Republic was third.

### **KAZAKHSTAN 3, CANADA 0**

Mikhail Kukushkin and Alexander Bublik each won their singles matches to

clinch the series victory.

Bublik sealed it by beating Vasek Pospisil 6-2, 7-6 (6) after Kukushkin had defeated Brayden Schnur 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5.

Then Andrey Golubev and Aleksandr Nedovyesov also beat Peter Polansky and Schnur over three sets in doubles. Canada was without its top-two singles players in No. 11 Felix Auger-Aliassime and No. 14 Denis Shapovalov. □



Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik gestures to the crowd after beating Canada's Vasek Pospisil during their Davis Cup tennis match at Madrid Arena in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Nov. 28, 2021.

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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, coconut 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.



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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.

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