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Thursday  
May 25, 2023

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# Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis launches 2024 GOP presidential campaign to challenge Trump

By S. PEOPLES, A. GOMEZ and A. IZAGUIRRE  
Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis entered the 2024 presidential race on Wednesday, stepping into a crowded Republican primary contest that will test both his national appeal as an outspoken cultural conservative and the GOP's willingness to move on from former President Donald Trump.

The 44-year-old Republican revealed his decision in a Federal Election Commission filing before an online conversation with Twitter CEO Elon Musk.

It marks a new chapter in his extraordinary rise from little-known congressman to two-term governor to a leading figure in the nation's bitter fights over race, gender, abortion and other divisive issues.

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Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) Feb. 24, 2022, in Orlando, Fla.

Associated Press

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# Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis launches 2024 GOP presidential campaign to challenge Trump

Continued from Front

DeSantis is considered to be Trump's strongest Republican rival even as the governor faces questions about his far-right policies, his campaign-trail personality and his lack of relationships across the Republican ecosystem. Still, he has generated significant interest among GOP primary voters by casting himself as a younger and more electable version of the 76-year-old former president.

DeSantis' audio-only announcement was to be streamed on Twitter Spaces beginning at 6 p.m. EDT, followed by appearances on conservative programs, including Fox News and Mark Levin's radio show. He also was holding a donor event at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Miami on Wednesday.

The Republican nominee is expected to face Democratic President Joe Biden on the general election ballot in November 2024.

DeSantis joins a field that also includes former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy. Former Vice President Mike Pence is also considered a likely presidential candidate but has not yet announced a bid. DeSantis and Trump have much in common.

DeSantis, who likely would not have become the Florida governor without Trump's endorsement, has adopted the former president's fiery personality, his populist policies and even some of his rhetoric and mannerisms.

Yet DeSantis has one thing his rival does not: a credible claim that he may be more electable than Trump, who faces multiple legal threats, including criminal charges in New York, and who presided over Republican losses in three consecutive national elections.

DeSantis, just six months ago, won his reelection in Florida by a stunning 19



**Gov.-elect Ron DeSantis, R-Fla., talks with President Donald Trump during a meeting with newly elected governors in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Dec. 13, 2018, in Washington. From left, Governor-elect J.B. Pritzker, D-Ill., DeSantis, and Trump.**

Associated Press

percentage points — even as Republicans in many other states struggled. He also scored several major policy victories during the Republican-controlled Legislature's spring session.

Aware of DeSantis' draw, Trump has been almost singularly focused on undermining his political appeal for months. Trump and his team believe that DeSantis may be Trump's only legitimate threat for the nomination.

Hours before the announcement, Trump argued in a social media post that "Ron DeSanctus" cannot win the general election or the GOP primary because of his previous votes in Congress on Social Security and Medicare.

"He desperately needs a personality transplant and, to the best of my knowledge, they are not medically available yet," Trump added. "A disloyal person!" Trump allies dispatched a truck outside DeSantis' planned donor meeting running an attack ad describing him as "a swamp creature." The Democratic National Committee sent another truck warning of DeSantis' "extreme MAGA agenda."

The kitchen-sink attacks and nicknames won't be DeSantis' only hurdle.

He is a political heavyweight in Florida and a regular on Fox News, but allies acknowledge that most primary voters in other states don't know him well. A Florida native with family roots in the Midwest, DeSantis studied at Yale University, where he played baseball. He would go on to Harvard Law School and become a Navy judge advocate general officer, a position that took him to Iraq and the Guantanamo Bay detention camp. He ran for Congress in 2012 and won an Orlando-area district, becoming a founding member of the far-right Freedom Caucus on Capitol Hill.

Despite his lengthy resume, friends and foes alike note that DeSantis struggles to display the campaign-trail charisma and quick-on-your-feet thinking that often defines successful candidates at the national level. He has gone to great lengths to avoid unscripted public appearances and media scrutiny while governor, which is difficult, if not impossible, as a presidential contender.

In an example of his level of media avoidance, his official Twitter account for governor posted a photo shortly after the FEC filing — a bill signing surrounded by

dozens of bikers for legislation to help reduce motorcycle accidents in Florida. The media was not notified of the event ahead of time. Would-be supporters also worry that DeSantis has refused to invest in relationships with party leaders or fellow elected officials, raising questions about his ability to build the coalition he would ultimately need to beat Trump. By contrast, Trump has scooped up an army of endorsements in key states, including Florida.

Beyond the primary, DeSantis' greatest longer-term challenge may rest with the far-right policies he enacted as governor as an unapologetic leader in what he calls his "war on woke." The Florida governor sent dozens of immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard off the Massachusetts coast to draw attention to the influx of Latin American immigrants trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. He signed and then expanded the Parental Rights in Education bill — known by critics as the "Don't Say Gay" law, which bans instruction or classroom discussion of LGBTQ+ issues in Florida public schools for all grades.

More recently, he signed a law banning abortions at

six weeks, which is before most women realize they're pregnant. And he removed an elected prosecutor who vowed not to charge people under Florida's new abortion restrictions or doctors who provide gender-affirming care.

DeSantis also signed a law this year allowing Florida residents to carry concealed firearms without a permit. He pushed new measures that critics warn would weaken press freedoms. He also took control of a liberal arts college that he believed was indoctrinating students with leftist ideology.

The governor's highest-profile political fight has come against the Florida-based entertainment giant Disney, which publicly opposed his "Don't Say Gay" law. In retaliation, DeSantis seized control of Disney World's governing body and installed loyalists who are threatening to take over park planning, among other extraordinary measures. DeSantis has threatened to build a state prison on park property.

The dispute has drawn condemnation from business leaders and his Republican rivals, who said the moves are at odds with small-government conservatism.

DeSantis delayed his campaign announcement until Florida's legislative session was over. But for much of the year, he has been courting primary voters in key states and using an allied super political action committee to build a large political organization that is essentially a campaign in waiting and already claims at least \$30 million in the bank.

More than any of his opponents, except perhaps Trump, DeSantis is positioned to hit the ground running thanks to the super PAC's monthslong efforts to install campaign infrastructure across Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina, which will host the first four contests on the GOP's primary calendar early next year. □



# Texas sues Biden administration over asylum rule

By REBECCA SANTANA  
Associated Press

The state of Texas is suing the Biden administration in an attempt to have a newly-introduced asylum rule thrown out, saying a phone app used by migrants to set up appointments at the border to seek entry into the United States is encouraging illegal immigration. The lawsuit filed Tuesday is the latest legal salvo attacking various aspects of the administration's plan to manage migration in the aftermath of the end of a key pandemic-era immigration regulation called Title 42. In the lawsuit, Texas argues that the asylum rule encourages the use of a cellphone app — called CBP One — for migrants who don't have proper documentation to make an appointment to come to a port of entry and seek entry into the United States. Texas argues the Biden administration is essentially encouraging people to come to the U.S. even though they don't have legal basis to stay. "The Biden Administration deliberately conceived of this phone app with the goal of illegally pre-approving more foreign aliens to enter the country and go where they please once they arrive," said Texas At-



Haitian migrants camp out at the Giordano Bruno plaza in Mexico City, May 18, 2023. The group was staying at a shelter in Mexico City on their way north but were forced to make camp at the park after the shelter closed.

Associated Press

torney General Ken Paxton in a news release. The complaint was filed in the Western District of Texas. In a statement Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security said Texas' lawsuit would actually create disorder, not alleviate it and that the app was part of measures that have helped reduce unlawful immigration by more than 70% since Title 42 ended. "Lawful pathways like making an appointment to appear at a port of entry

using the CBP One app allow us to process migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane way and reduce unlawful immigration. This is particularly critical at a time when Congress has failed to reform our broken immigration system," the department said. While the lawsuit focuses on the phone app, it seeks to throw out the entire asylum rule, called the Circumvention of Lawful Pathways. The rule went into effect when Title 42 expired May

11. The rule makes it extremely difficult for migrants who travel to the southern border to get asylum if they don't first seek protection in a country they passed through before reaching the U.S. or if they don't apply online through the app. Use of the app is a core part of the administration's plans to create a more orderly system at the border where migrants set up appointments ahead of time, but when the app was rolled out in January it was

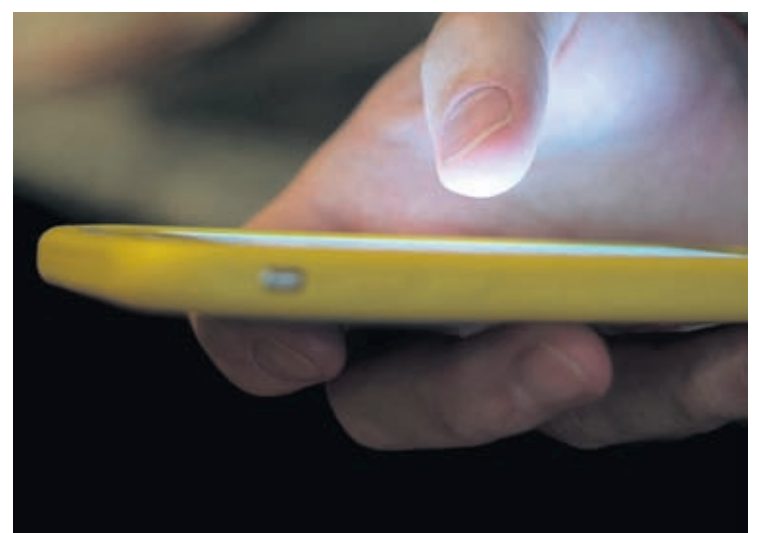
criticized for technological problems and because demand has far outstripped available spaces. Migrants can make appointments for specific ports of entry — five of which are in Texas. Texas argues that according to federal law, people entering the country illegally — with rare exceptions — should be expelled but that the app doesn't verify whether the migrants seeking appointments would qualify for exceptions. Therefore, the state argues, the Biden administration's use of the app essentially encourages people to come to the U.S. even if they don't qualify. Texas also argues that it has to pay the financial burden of migrants coming to the U.S. through things like health care or education. The new asylum rule has also been attacked by rights groups who argue the U.S. has an obligation to offer asylum to those in desperate need. They're suing to have the rule thrown out as well. Texas is also part of another lawsuit accusing the administration of overstepping its authority by allowing as many as 360,000 people a year from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to enter the U.S. under its humanitarian parole authority. □

# Do not call: States sue telecom company over billions of robocalls

PHOENIX (AP) — Attorneys general across the U.S. joined in a lawsuit against a telecommunications company accused of making more than 7.5 billion robocalls to people on the national Do Not Call Registry. The 141-page lawsuit was filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Phoenix against Avid Telecom, its owner Michael D. Lansky and company vice president Stacey S. Reeves. It seeks a jury trial to determine damages. The lawsuit arises from the nationwide, bipartisan Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force of 51 attorneys general and the District of Columbia. It was formed last year to investigate and take legal action

against telecommunications companies routing volumes of robocall traffic. Arizona Attorney General Kris Mayes said nearly 197 million of the robocalls were made to Arizona phone numbers between December 2018 and January 2023. "Every day, countless Arizona consumers are harassed and annoyed by a relentless barrage of unwanted robocalls — and in some instances these illegal calls threaten consumers with lawsuits and arrest," Mayes said in a statement. "More disturbingly, many of these calls are scams designed to pressure frightened consumers, often senior citizens, into handing over their hard-earned money."

The lawsuit said Avid Telecom used spoofed or invalid caller ID numbers, including more than 8.4 million calls that appeared to be coming from government and law enforcement agencies as well as private companies. The company also allegedly sent or transmitted scam calls about the Social Security Administration, Medicare, Amazon and DirecTV, as well as auto warranties, employment and credit card interest rate reductions. "Americans are sick and tired of their phones ringing off the hook with fraudulent robocalls," New York Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement. "Seniors and vulnerable consum-



A man uses a cellphone in New Orleans, Aug. 11, 2019.

Associated Press

ers have been scammed out of millions because of these illegal robocalls." The lawsuit alleges Lansky and Reeves violated the Tele-

phone Consumer Protection Act, the Telemarketing Sales Rule and other federal and state telemarketing and consumer laws. □



# Poem for Biden's inauguration banned by Florida school

**MIAMI (AP)** — A poem written for President Joe Biden's inauguration has been placed on a restricted list at a South Florida elementary school after one parent's complaint. In a Facebook post on Tuesday, poet Amanda Gorman vowed to fight back. Her poem, "The Hill We Climb" was challenged by the parent of two students at Bob Graham Education Center in Miami Lakes, along with several books. "I'm gutted," she wrote. "Robbing children of the chance to find their voices in literature is a violation of their right to free thought and free speech." Gorman, who at 17 became the country's National Youth Poet Laureate, said she wrote the poem "The Hill We Climb," so "all young people could see themselves in a historical moment," and that she's received countless letters and videos from children who were inspired to write their own poems. She became an international sensation at Biden's inauguration, where she was the youngest poet to read at the ceremony



**American poet Amanda Gorman recites a poem during the Inauguration of U.S. President Joe Biden at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 20, 2021, in Washington.**

since Robert Frost was invited to John F. Kennedy's in 1961. In "The Hill We Climb," Gorman references everything from Biblical scripture to "Hamilton," and at times echoes the oratory of Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. With urgency and assertion she begins by asking, "Where can we find light/In this never-ending shade?" and used her

own poetry and life story as an answer. She said she planned to share a message of hope for President Joseph Biden's inauguration without ignoring "the evidence of discord and division." She had completed a little more than half of the poem before Jan. 6 and the siege of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump.

The poem and books are still available in the media center for middle school-aged children, Ana Rhodes, a spokesperson for the Miami-Dade school district, said in a statement. While book bans are not new, they are happening much more frequently, especially in Florida where Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has championed

policies that allow the censorship of books some have deemed inappropriate for children in schools, causing national uproar.

DeSantis, who is expected to announce his presidential candidacy Wednesday, has leaned heavily into cultural divides on race, sexual orientation and gender as he gains support from conservative voters who decide Republican primary elections.

Yecenia Martinez, principal of the K-8 school, which is part of the Miami-Dade public school system, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment about the poem's ban. The school is named after Bob Graham, a former Democratic governor and U.S. senator from Florida.

Daily Salinas, the parent who objected to the poem and books, told the Miami Herald she's not "for eliminating or censoring any books." Salinas said she wants materials to be appropriate and for students "to know the truth" about Cuba. It was not immediately clear what she objected to in Gorman's poem. □

**Associated Press**

# After years of controversy, national bio-defense lab opens

**MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)** — After more than a decade of controversy and delays, the nation's most secure biosecurity laboratory for research on potentially deadly animal and plant diseases has opened in Manhattan, Kansas. Although a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held Wednesday, researchers at the \$1.25 billion National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility are not expected to begin working on biohazards for more than a year, officials said. For now, staff will conduct compliance and regulatory work, prepare protocols and operating procedures and train before working with any pathogens, The Topeka Capital-Journal re-

ported. "They will check all the systems according to the international standards and national standards," NBAF director Alfonso Clavijo said. "And only after we have that approval will we be able to actually do any work. We expect that by late 2024, we should be able to have that approval." Initially estimated to cost \$451 million, the price tag more than doubled after the National Research Council published a report in 2010 that questioned putting the facility in the heart of cattle country with a history of large, destructive tornadoes. Department of Homeland Security officials said the in-

creased cost came in part because the lab's design was changed to reduce the possibility of releasing deadly pathogens. The laboratory replaces an aging facility in Plum Island, New York. Officials there fought hard to keep the lab and several other states made bids to become home to the lab before Kansas was chosen in 2009. Originally expected to open in 2016, construction of the laboratory was delayed several times by economic problems, safety concerns and resistance from politicians who wanted the project in their states. The northeastern Kansas facility will be the nation's



**Tom Vilsack, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, middle, answers questions from the press alongside, from left, Gov. Laura Kelly, former Kansas Senator Pat Roberts, Kansas Senator Jerry Moran and Chavonda Jacobs-Young, USDA chief scientist, following the ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony for the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) facility in Manhattan, Kan.**

**Associated Press**

only large-animal biosafety Level 4 lab, which means it will be able to handle

pathogens that do not currently have treatments or countermeasures. □



## At 25, European Central Bank preps for future of money

By DAVID McHUGH

AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— As it marks its 25th anniversary Wednesday, the European Central Bank is readying a proposed design for a digital version of the euro, responding to pressure from developing technology that could change how money is used over the bank's next decades. ECB President Christine Lagarde says a digital euro could offer a way for people to buy things without depending on payment service providers controlled by non-European companies. Those could include Mastercard, Visa, Apple Pay and Google Pay.

The European Union's executive Commission is expected to come up with proposed legislation on the idea in the next several weeks, ECB officials say, while the central bank will publish a detailed proposal for the design of a digital currency in October.

Central banks worldwide, including the U.S. Federal Reserve, are cautiously studying digital currencies as cash increasingly gives way to electronic payments. Some smaller economies such as Nigeria, the Bahamas and Jamaica already have introduced digital currencies, while China is holding trial runs.

Central banks also are responding to the emergence of cryptocurrencies, which have raised concerns that someday people could turn to rival forms of digital money that would undercut national currencies.

Digital currency backed by a central bank would be a safe and stable means of payment unlike volatile crypto, whose price crashes over the past year and collapses of exchanges like FTX have spurred calls for regulation. The EU became a global leader by giving final approval last week to rules for the freewheeling crypto sector.

As Europe considers its own central bank-based digital currency, the biggest question is: How would it



European Central Bank president Christine Lagarde waits to welcome guests during a ceremony to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the ECB, in Frankfurt, Germany, Wednesday May 24, 2023

Associated Press

improve on what's already available for consumers?

"Nobody is able to answer this question, not even the ECB," said Philipp Sandner, head of the Blockchain Center at the Frankfurt School of Finance & Management. "As the user I ask myself, 'What is the benefit, why do we need another solution?'" he said.

Apple Pay, for instance, allows people to buy their morning coffee and anything else by tapping twice on their phones, a seamless experience the digital euro would have to match.

"You have to be at least as good as Apple Pay and Mastercard, which is difficult, otherwise people will not use it," he said.

The goal of a digital euro would be Europe's autonomy and resilience when it comes to the largely unseen but critical systems that move money from consumers to merchants through banks and payment services providers, Lagarde said in a recent panel discussion.

She drew an analogy to Europe's previous reliance on Russian oil and natural gas, which led to an energy crisis when the invasion of Ukraine disrupted that supply. "It's very unhealthy to rely on one single source of energy, it's very un-

healthy to rely on one single source of payment," she said. A digital euro also could help people who don't have bank accounts, the thinking goes, because they could hold money on their phones.

The move toward increased digitalization comes as the ECB marks 25 years since its creation on June 1, 1998, seven months ahead of the introduction of the euro currency. An anniversary ceremony with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and former ECB Presidents Mario Draghi and Jean-Claude Trichet was held Wednesday at the bank's Frankfurt headquarters. "Faced with shifting geopolitics, digital transformations and the threat of a changing climate, there will be more challenges ahead, which the ECB will need to address," Lagarde said at the event. "We must continue to provide stability in a world that is anything but stable."

Now, the ECB is envisioning a digital euro for retail use that could even be transferred offline using a digital wallet on people's phones. Early designs call for a standard app, along with use through existing online banking apps. It wouldn't replace cash but add another way to hold euros.

Even after the proposal is made, there would be three years of testing. A decision to actually introduce the digital euro would only come after that and require EU approval.

Fabio Panetta, a member of the ECB's executive board and head of the digital euro task force, says it wouldn't replace cash and people would have the option, not the requirement, to use it. "It would reduce dependence on a few dominant providers, increasing competition and resilience," he told European lawmakers last month.

Europe's banks have greeted the proposal with caution.

They warn that without strict limits, digital euros could draw deposits out of commercial banks depriving them of funding for things like business loans and mortgages.

Panetta has indicated holdings could be limited to the value of banknotes in circulation, around 3,000 to 4,000 euros per person. The European Banking Federation supports payment autonomy but said a digital euro alone would not accomplish that without banks and payment services companies creating new and better ways to handle payments themselves. □

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## Brazil builds 'rings of carbon dioxide' to simulate climate change

By **FABIANO MAISONNAVE**  
**Associated Press**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** — In the depths of the Amazon, Brazil is building an other-worldly structure a complex of towers arrayed in six rings, poised to spray mists of carbon dioxide into the rainforest. But the reason is utterly terrestrial: to understand how the world's largest tropical forest responds to climate change.

Dubbed AmazonFACE, the project will probe the forest's remarkable ability to sequester carbon dioxide an essential piece in the puzzle of world climate change.

This will help scientists understand whether the region has a tipping point that could throw it into a state of irreversible decline. Such a feared event, also known as the Amazon forest dieback, would transform the world's most biodiverse forest into a drier savannah-like landscape. FACE stands for Free Air CO<sub>2</sub> Enrichment. This technology first developed by



Workers appear on a tower that will be part of a complex of towers arrayed in six rings to spray carbon dioxide into the rainforest north of Manaus, Brazil, on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

**Associated Press**

Brookhaven National Laboratory, located near New York City, has the ability to modify the surrounding environment of growing plants in a way that replicates future levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide concentrations.

"Plants absorb carbon di-

oxide along with water and light to produce sugars and release oxygen. What happens when one increases this input? We don't know," David Lapola, one of the leading scientists of the project, told The Associated Press. "We have evidence from similar experi-

ments in temperate forests, but there is no guarantee that the behavior will be the same here in the Amazon."

Lapola, a professor at the State University of Campinas, argues that the tipping point of the Amazon rainforest is more likely tied

to climate change rather than the rate of deforestation. Thus, it is crucial to study the impact of higher concentrations of carbon dioxide in the forest to understand what lies ahead. This perspective challenges the widely quoted study by Earth system scientist Carlos Nobre.

According to Nobre, if deforestation reaches a critical threshold of 20% to 25% across the Amazon, the balance of the region's rainfall system will be disrupted, leading to the transformation of the lush rainforest into a savannah. "Even if we halted deforestation in the Amazon basin today, the forest would still be at risk of experiencing the consequences of a tipping point due to climate change," Lapola said. "While stopping deforestation remains our primary responsibility, combating the climate change driven by atmospheric factors is not something that Brazil or other Amazonian countries can address alone." □

## Cholera kills 17 in South Africa and a further 9 in neighboring Zimbabwe

By **MOGOMOTSI MAGOME**  
**and FARAI MUTSAKA**

**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — At least 17 people have died in a cholera outbreak in the Hammanskraal township outside South Africa's capital, Pretoria, authorities said Wednesday.

The toll has risen from an initial 10 fatalities reported by local health authorities earlier this week.

Authorities said there were another 29 laboratory-confirmed cholera cases, while 67 people were admitted to a hospital and clinics for gastrointestinal infections.

Health authorities are yet to confirm the exact source of the cholera outbreak, but poor waste water management and local government instability in South Africa's capital city have

been blamed for the situation. The City of Tshwane Municipality, which takes in Pretoria and surrounding areas, has had at least five different mayors since the ruling African National Congress party lost control in local government elections in 2016.

A water plant in Pretoria which is responsible for waste water management for large parts of Hammanskraal is in need of urgent upgrades estimated to cost about \$130 million and hasn't been functioning properly for years, the city's mayor said.

"It has been out of capacity since about 2005," said Tshwane executive mayor Cilliers Brink, who was elected in March.

South Africa is the latest southern African nation to

experience an outbreak of cholera following deaths in neighboring Zimbabwe and in Malawi this year. In February, the World Health Organization said cholera cases in Africa were rising exponentially amid a global surge. At least 12 African nations have reported cholera outbreaks this year. Zimbabwean health authorities have confirmed nine recent deaths with another 28 suspected cholera deaths since February. The Ministry of Health said it had recorded 1,404 suspected cholera cases and 359 laboratory-confirmed cases.

Malawi reported earlier this year that more than 1,000 people had died in a widespread outbreak that started in March 2022. It is Malawi's worst cholera outbreak in 20 years, WHO said, with

more than 36,000 cases. Cholera is a water-borne disease caused by ingesting contaminated food or water. The infection is extremely virulent, although it can be easily treated once identified.

The NGO Gift of the Givers has distributed more than 3,200 sealed 5-litre water bottles to the Hammanskraal community's local Jubilee Hospital and surrounding clinics where patients are being treated. □



A patient recovers from cholera at the Jubilee District Hospital in Hammanskraal, Pretoria, South Africa, Monday May 22, 2023.

**Associated Press**



## Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel



Fontein



of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian

drawings on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse of prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island



Huliba / Tunnel of Love



for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave

has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □

GUADIRIKIRI





# Paseo Herencia is always fun and exciting to visit

**NOORD—** Paseo Herencia offers a variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options in an outdoor center located in the heart of Palm Beach – walking distance from the high-rise hotels.

## Shopping

The Paseo Herencia stores offer a great collection in beach wear, clothing, perfume, shoes, jewelry, souvenirs and much more. Pamper yourself by visiting Maggy's and enjoy their salon services and shop for your favorite beauty products. Aruba Aloe has that perfect gift to bring back home, all made with natural ingredients. Other brand favorites are Tommy Hilfiger, Calvin Klein, Aldo, Carmen Steffens, Nike store, Pandora and many more.



## Restaurants

Start with a breakfast meal at Paseo Herencia offering unique breakfast options such as Drunk's Denial with their Make it Your Own Crêpe Bar offering sweet and savory crêpe flavors and the option to booze it up with their Mimosa crêpe (mandarin soaked in champagne), Pina Colada (pineapples in coconut rum), Bourbon Apple, Brandy Apricot, Whiskey Pear and more. Location can be found by following the bakery smell upon arrival. Another option is Seabarita offering you delicious breakfast options ranging from Huevos Rancheros to empanadas surrounded by a cozy picnic setting with streetside view. Go Argentinian style at Che Bar and try their delicious omelet with chorizo/ham, mozzarella, onions, peppers, and tomatoes served with skillet potatoes and toast. Looking for something for the whole family? Visit TGI Fridays and choose between waffle, omelets, breakfast sandwiches and tacos starting at \$8. These restaurants are also open for lunch & dinner offering you a variety of cuisine choices. If you're looking for more unique concepts, join us for dinner at Xixon Restaurant greatly known in Miami for their Spanish inspired dishes with top notch flavors and the largest wine variety or visit The Lazy Turtle and try their exotic African dish "Kuvuta Kuku" accompanied by their tasty lazy cocktails. Coming for drinks? Sip and have a good time at the Bulldog Aruba located in the



center of the Plaza. Open till late.

## VIP Cinema

Visit the one-of-a-kind Caribbean Cinemas VIP on the second floor of Paseo Herencia and enjoy your favorite movies in the most comfortable reclining seats with high quality screens with the latest projection and 7.1 Dolby surround sound and not to forget their delicious buttery bag of popcorn.

## Entertainment

Catch live shows from Monday to Thursday and Sunday at 8pm on the Paseo center stage and the nightly water shows at 7:30pm, 8:30pm and 9:30pm. Looking for some adrenaline? Visit the Airsoft experience located behind The Lazy Turtle. Snap Instagramable pictures at the Angel Wings located between Pandora and Free Spirit or the Flying mosaic hearts located behind King Churros.

Parking up to two hours is free when shopping, dining or catching a movie at Paseo Herencia. Just present your purchase receipt at our parking cashier.

To learn more about our specials and events, visit the Paseo Herencia website [www.paseoherencia.com](http://www.paseoherencia.com).





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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently recognized Goodwill & Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. Presenting the Ambassadors with the respective certificate as a token of appreciation.

The honoring certification program is granted to ambassadors, to recognize, the loyalty, friendships, and visits to Aruba. For consecutively choosing Aruba as their preferred vacation destination each year. The Honoring certification program has three levels, which are divided according to the number of consecutive years visiting the island of Aruba.

### Honoring Levels:

Distinguished Ambassadors: 10> years  
Goodwill Ambassadors: 20> years  
Emerald Ambassadors: 35> years

### Honoree were:

Goodwill Ambassadors 20> years:  
Anthony & Beverly Giuliani residents of New Jersey, United States (have been visiting Aruba for 25 years consecutively).

### Emerald Ambassadors 35> years:

Allan & Nancy Lesser residents of Florida, United States (have been visiting Aruba for 50 years consecutively).

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Marriott Aruba Ocean Club bestowed the certification of the Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were presented with the official certificate, and with memorable gifts.

On behalf of the Government of Aruba, we would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the Ambassadors for making Aruba their preferred vacation destination for so many years. We are so thankful to have had such wonderful Ambassadors as our visitors after all these years! Aruba is unquestionably their home away from home!



According to Honorees these are the top reasons

for returning to Aruba:  
Allan & Nancy Lesser reasons:

Aruba's residents- wonderful people  
The weather  
Wonderful place to relax  
Amazing choices of restaurants  
Safe environment

Anthony & Beverly Giuliani reasons:

Weather  
Food  
Beaches  
Entertainment  
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**beauty & THE BEACH**

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Morgan and Mary Beth from Pittsburg**. They said they love the beautiful beach and the excellent night life. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.



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## Aruba's Jewish Community to Celebrate the Shavuot Holiday Marking 3,335 Years Since Receiving the Torah at Sinai

**ORANJESTAD – Shavuot — this year beginning at sunset on Thursday, May 25 and concluding at nightfall on Saturday, May 27, 2023 — will be celebrated by Aruba's Jewish community, who will gather to hear the reading of the Ten Commandments from a hand-written Torah scroll and enjoy dairy foods.**

Shavuot marks the anniversary of and celebrates the Jewish People receiving the Ten Commandments and the Torah from G-d at Mount Sinai, 3,335 years ago.

The central observance of the holiday will be marked in a community-wide gathering with Chabad of Aruba holding a family-friendly reading of the Ten Commandments on the afternoon of Friday, May 26th at 11:00am at the Chabad

house, Salina Cerca 31C, followed by a delicious dairy lunch.

Chabad Aruba is also welcoming the community to Chabad house Shul for the Yizkor memorial prayer (a special memorial prayer for the departed) on Saturday, May 27 11:00am.

This year's Shavuot celebrations have added significance as Jewish communities worldwide celebrate the "Year of Hakhel" or Gathering, marked with gatherings focused on Jewish unity, Torah learning and practice.

"Shavuot is the time when the Jewish People received the Torah together at Mt. Sinai as "one human with one heart", so it's fitting that Aruba's Jewish community will gather to commemorate this day," said Rabbi Ahron Blasberg, who



directs Chabad Aruba. "During the Year of Hakhel, this show of unity to hear the Torah reading is more meaningful than ever."

The reading of the Ten Commandments has become a family tradition around the world at the urging of the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, the most influential rabbi in modern history, who explained that there

is special significance to bringing children, even infants, to hear the Ten Commandments on Shavuot morning: "By listening to the Ten Commandments on Shavuot morning," the Rebbe explained, "the words of Torah will be engraved in the hearts and minds of the children. And through them, the Torah will be etched within their parents and grandparents with even greater intensity."

### About Chabad Aruba

Chabad Aruba offers Jewish education, outreach and social service programming for families and individuals of all ages, backgrounds and affiliations. For more information about Chabad Aruba, contact Rabbi Ahron Blasberg at [Rabbi@JewishAruba.com](mailto:Rabbi@JewishAruba.com) or visit online at [www.JewishAruba.com](http://www.JewishAruba.com) □

## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



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

**and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.**

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

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

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

For years, the water beat against the different kinds

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

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

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

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

much loved "soft drink" bottles.

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

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

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

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



## Carina Wever: “The future of humanity depends more on collaboration”

**For ten years she has been working as a yoga instructor. A few years ago, she founded and organized the Cadushi Festival. She also worked as a journalist and directed a foundation. Now she is finding her life's purpose in a journey of discovery and growth for life, nature, music, art, culture, love, among others. Her name is Carina Wever.**

She sat down with our reporter and shared that she lived in the Netherlands for several years and has been in Aruba back in 2008. For some time she has involved herself in different activities such as Cirkel, a place where people went to participate in different workshops, yoga lessons, get-togethers to give support to others, for which she assured that it was just an excuse for people to get together to talk about anything.

In the interview, she expressed that she's always helped pregnant women, which motivated her to do training in New York to become a doula. But wellness was something she has been interested in since childhood, she stated. She has been doing yoga since she was 11 years old and staying active and living a healthy life was something that always had her attention: “that was a trajectory that came very natural to

me.”

She organized Cadushi Festival and works with another foundation that organized events for the financial sector. But now she reached a point where she is trying to combine everything in what she does; yoga and events uniting different elements of wellness like movement, breathing exercises, meditation, even nutrition and other healthy habits “that help you get the bigger picture, because to live healthily does not require just one path. I try to combine different elements from my own life experiences which proved successful to me,” she expressed.

Now she owns a company where they explore different ways to help people reach holistic wellness. There offer different elements to achieve a life with optimal health: “I try to search for collaborations, because I think there are many people that do different things to help other people achieve a healthier lifestyle—including healthy mental well-being, for example through therapy or coaching, nutrition, social work.”

That is how she ended up taking part in the project Women's Month Uniting Women, along with other empowered women and professionals. Together they organize activities on

International Women's Day every year.

“All these people have their own expertise and they all help women with the same goal. They help women become more healthy and stronger. This is why I decided to join the project,” she stated.

In terms of her experience with the project, she shared that they were very successful “and the most important part was that we received a lot of positive reaction and enthusiasm. People told us that we should do this more often and not just for Women's Day. We all have different ideas and angles, like a financial psychologist, who help people with their spending habits and their overall relationship with money. Some of our members are great coaches too; others give art lessons to people. We have one member who does kickboxing to empower women.”

She further expressed that her and the organization wanted to do a follow up, so they can evaluate how the activities went and to see how they can keep collaborating with other people and organizations, and not just make it a once a month thing: “we want to think of ways to keep joining forces, to keep offering something to people for the rest of the year. This isn't



concrete yet but that is our plan.”

But their plan does not only include women, but also men, who since their last activities, have also asked to be a part of these activities. Wever expressed that “to reach an optimal state of life, I feel like it would be great if we can have Women's day, but also include men in this so that we can do something together, seeing as they there's much of a celebration for their day.”

She wishes that there could be more collaboration between similar people that provide services like this, so that everyone can benefit from them: “From a young age we are taught that

boys are stronger; boys don't cry. They have feelings too, but are taught to lock them away and to be strong, and act as if they don't need help or support.”

To finalize, Wever believes that the future of mankind depends more on collaboration: “there are so many people that are doing great things to contribute in a positive way, but a lot of times there is a tendency to only do one's part and be done. I believe that in the future we can really help people in need. That's why it is important to unite. Every person has the right to feel as good as possible, physically, mentally and emotionally.” □





# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Margaret grazer

5 Singer  
Ronnie

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12 New York  
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13 Brazen-  
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14 Off the  
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15 Copies

17 Opening

18 Diving  
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22 Crow

24 Spending  
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25 Colony  
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26 Binary  
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27 Feeds  
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30 Accords

32 Pancake  
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33 Swearing-  
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34 Address  
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38 Frying  
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41 Irritate

42 Ring  
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43 "Frozen"  
queen

DOWN

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2 Final,  
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3 Big reptile

4 River  
areas

5 Castle

6 Detail  
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7 Abates  
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8 Polite  
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9 Oklahoma  
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10 Fork over

16 Fitting

19 Big reptile

20 English  
or gnat

21 Espies

22 Deep  
voice

23 Just

28 This is  
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29 Kitchen  
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30 Snap  
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Superman

31 Cherished

35 Mosquito

36 Different

37 Scorch

38 Sleuth

39 "How was  
— know?"

40 General

41 who's

42 a foe of  
Superman



5-25

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.

5-25

CRYPTOQUOTE

A F S Z W L ' J O Y J T M F G K Y E

G I A F S E F A F S B F V L

G B F L G L O — X Y B A K

T J B Y Y M

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I AM NOT A PERSON TO BE PRESSURED — BY ANYBODY OR ANY NATION INDIANA GANDHI

## Millennial Money: How to pick a socially responsible bank

By CHANELLE BESSETTE  
of NerdWallet

It has never been easier to open a bank account, especially with the spread of online services, but there has also never been so much choice about where to put your money. If you're overwhelmed by your banking options, think about your ability to shape social change with your money. Now is a great time to consider becoming a customer at a socially responsible bank.

### WHAT IS A SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BANK?

Corporate social responsibility is the self-regulation that businesses do to help promote a positive impact on environmental or social issues, such as racial equity.

In the banking industry, social responsibility refers to the ways banks can reduce harm or create opportunities for good. For an eco-conscious bank or credit union, that might mean it doesn't invest in oil pipelines, deforestation or fossil fuels, or it might invest in alternative energy, plant trees or buy carbon offsets. Other banks or credit unions might be committed to equity goals by providing financial literacy programs to their communities or by giving more loans to minority-owned small businesses.

### WHY DOES IT MATTER WHERE I PUT MY MONEY?

It's easy to imagine that the money you keep in your savings account, checking account or certificate of deposit is just waiting for you to use it. But your bank or credit union is using your money behind the scenes



In this Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013 file photo, a person inserts a debit card into an ATM in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

to lend to or invest in businesses or other customers. So even if you aren't directly giving money to an oil refinery or company that's clearing the Amazon rainforest, your money could still be supporting those initiatives.

There has been a long history of discrimination in the U.S. banking system against people of color, and you can put your money with a bank or credit union that's working to support these marginalized groups. Elizabeth Vivirito, a financial services consultant who specializes in diversity, equity and inclusion, or DEI, research, says she has observed more robust changes in the banking industry around racial equity since the murder of Black man George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer in May 2020.

"We see more people caring about where their money goes and what it's funding," Vivirito says.

### HOW DO I KNOW WHAT MY BANK IS INVESTING IN?

It can be hard to know

what a bank is doing with your money, but there are some ways to tell.

First, look at the bank's website. Does it make any statements about its DEI goals? Does it explicitly say whether it invests in certain industries? Has the bank gone through any third-party certification processes, such as becoming a certified B Corp or joining 1% for the Planet or the Global Alliance for Banking on Values? These certifications and memberships each have goals and member requirements around sustainability and equity.

Once you've looked at the bank's website, do a web search of the bank plus any keywords that you'd like to investigate, such as "social impact" or "community." This should help you find specific statements or reports from the bank as well as any news or accountability reports from other sources that are keeping tabs on the bank's efforts. □

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
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# Tina Turner, unstoppable superstar whose hits included 'What's Love Got to Do With It,' dead at 83

By **HILLEL ITALIE**  
AP National Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Tina Turner, the unstoppable singer and stage performer who teamed with husband Ike Turner for a dynamic run of hit records and live shows in the 1960s and '70s and survived her horrifying marriage to triumph in middle age with the chart-topping "What's Love Got to Do With It," has died at 83.

Turner died Tuesday, after a long illness in her home in Küsnacht near Zurich, Switzerland, according to her manager. She became a Swiss citizen a decade ago. Few stars traveled so far she was born Anna Mae Bullock in a segregated Tennessee hospital and spent her latter years on a 260,000 square foot estate on Lake Zurich and overcame so much. Physically battered, emotionally devastated and financially ruined by her 20-year relationship with Ike Turner, she became a superstar on her own in her 40s, at a time when most of her peers were on their way down, and remained a top concert draw for years after. With admirers ranging from Beyoncé to Mick Jag-



Tina Turner performs in a concert in Cologne, Germany on Jan. 14, 2009.

Associated Press

ger, Turner was one of the world's most successful entertainers, known for a core of pop, rock and rhythm and blues favorites: "Proud Mary," "Nutbush City Limits," "River Deep, Mountain High," and the hits she had in the '80s, among them "What's Love Got to Do with It," "We Don't Need Another Hero" and a cover of Al Green's "Let's Stay Together."

Her trademarks were her growling contralto, her bold smile and strong cheekbones, her palette of wigs

and the muscular, quick-stepping legs she did not shy from showing off. She sold more than 150 million records worldwide, won 12 Grammys, was voted along with Ike into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1991 (and on her own in 2021) and was honored at the Kennedy Center in 2005, with Beyoncé and Oprah Winfrey among those praising her.

Her life became the basis for a film, a Broadway musical and an HBO documentary in 2021 that she called

her public farewell.

Until she left her husband and revealed their back story, she was known as the voracious on-stage foil of the steady-going Ike, the leading lady of the "Ike and Tina Turner Revue." Ike was billed first and ran the show, choosing the material, the arrangements, the backing singers. They toured constantly for years, in part because Ike was often short on money and unwilling to miss a concert. Tina Turner was forced to go on with bronchitis, with pneumo-

nia, with a collapsed right lung.

Other times, the cause of her misfortunes was Ike himself.

As she recounted in her memoir, "I, Tina," Ike began hitting her not long after they met, in the mid-1950s, and only grew more vicious. Provoked by anything and anyone, he would throw hot coffee in her face, choke her, or beat her until her eyes were swollen shut, then rape her. Before one show, he broke her jaw and she went on stage with her mouth full of blood.

Terrified both of being with Ike and of being without him, she credited her emerging Buddhist faith in the mid-1970s with giving her a sense of strength and self-worth and she finally left in early July, 1976. The Ike and Tina Turner Revue was scheduled to open a tour marking the country's bicentennial when Tina snuck out of their Dallas hotel room, with just a Mobil credit card and 36 cents, while Ike slept.

She hurried across a nearby highway, narrowly avoiding a speeding truck, and found another hotel to stay. □

## Bestselling Japanese author Haruki Murakami wins Asturias prize



Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami poses for media members during a news conference on the university's new international house of literature also known as The Haruki Murakami Library at the Waseda University in Tokyo on Sept. 22, 2021.

Associated Press

By **CIARÁN GILES**  
Associated Press

**MADRID (AP)** — Bestselling Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami has won this year's Princess of Asturias Award for literature, the Spanish foundation that organizes the prizes said Wednesday.

The Princess of Asturias Award jury praised the "uniqueness" of the 72-year-old Kyoto-born writer's essays, short stories and novels, which have been translated into more than 40 languages and sold millions of copies.

The panel highlighted Murakami's "ability to reconcile Japanese tradition and the legacy of Western culture in an ambitious and

innovative narrative."

It said his work expressed some of the great themes and conflicts of our time, including "loneliness, existential uncertainty, dehumanization in big cities and terrorism."

The panel lauded his ability to appeal to different generations through different genres, describing him as "one of contemporary literature's major long-distance runners."

Murakami has written several dozen books and has also translated works by authors such as Raymond Carver, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Truman Capote, J. D. Salinger and John Irving.

One of his first major successes was with "Norwe-

gian Wood" in 1987, which sold more than 10 million copies and was translated in some 35 languages.

Other major novels include "Kafka on the Shore," "1Q84" and "After Dark."

His collections of short stories "Blind Willow, Sleeping Woman" won the prestigious Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award in 2006 and his short story, "Drive My Car" inspired Japanese director Ryusuke Hamaguchi's Oscar-winning film of the same name. The Asturias prize jury said Murakami was an "unsettling" novelist influenced by Dostoyevsky, Dickens and Vargas Llosa and whose use of humor and surrealism did not prevent him from

dealing with serious social problems and the defense of human values.

Murakami was chosen from among 37 candidates of varying nationalities. Previous winners include Ireland's John Banville and U.S. writer Richard Ford.

The 50,000-euro award (\$52,600) is one of eight prizes covering the arts, communication, science, and other areas that are handed out annually by the foundation.

The prizes are among the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world. The awards ceremony takes place each October in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo. □



## NHL's Bettman basks in 'new markets' making Stanley Cup runs

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
AP Sports Writer

Hockey purists might be grumbling about the upcoming Stanley Cup Final because it will have nothing but Sun Belt teams involved. It suits Gary Bettman just fine.

Bettman was honored by the Sports Business Journal on Wednesday with a lifetime achievement award for the NHL's growth during his 30 years as commissioner, from a business that generated \$437 million in revenue before he took over to nearly \$6 billion now.

Fittingly, it comes with conference finalists in Las Vegas, Dallas, South Florida and North Carolina, given how crucial Sun Belt expansion and growing the league south of the Canadian border is to Bettman's legacy.

"It's more about the footprint: You do better in terms of interest at all levels of the game where you have franchises," Bettman said. "Creating a more national footprint, both in Canada and in the U.S., is important for growing the game."

The NHL had a presence in just 13 U.S. markets (three in the New York area) in the final full season before Bettman took over and it wasn't televised nationally.



Fans cheer as the Vegas Golden Knights scored against the Dallas Stars during the second period of Game 1 of the NHL hockey Stanley Cup Western Conference finals Friday, May 19, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Over the past three decades, that has ballooned to 25 American teams in 22 markets from coast to coast. One of the challenges, Bettman said, was demonstrating to TV networks that the NHL had "a compelling national story." This postseason features a final four in cities that did not have teams before Bettman got the job.

The Florida Panthers joined the league in 1993, months after Bettman came over from his post at the NBA, at about the same time the

Stars moved from Minnesota to Dallas. Raleigh, North Carolina, got a team later in the 1990s when the Hartford Whalers became the Carolina Hurricanes. And the Vegas Golden Knights are only in their sixth season of existence after becoming the 31st franchise through expansion.

In between, teams were added in Nashville and Columbus, relocated to Colorado and Arizona, and reborn in Minnesota and Winnipeg.

Along the way, Bettman

has ruffled plenty of feathers and upset fans in places that lost teams, leaning on a lesson he learned from the late NBA Commissioner David Stern to make decisions, big and small, for the right reasons. Bettman prefers the term "newer markets" over "nontraditional" to describe many of those places, including Tampa Bay, which has become a model franchise and won the Stanley Cup three times since joining the league in 1992. He points out that having teams in new mar-

kets leads to more rinks being built and the game growing beyond some of the traditional North American hockey hotbeds.

That's partly why Bettman is basking in the quality of play, even if the ratings for this year's final might not be as high as a year where powerhouse markets like Boston, New York, Chicago, Toronto or Los Angeles are involved.

"What's more important to me is the game: Is it exciting? Is it entertaining? Is it compelling?" Bettman said. "Some markets will always be bigger than others, but to me it's more about the game and how entertaining it is."

The phrase, "The game on the ice has never been better" is a staple of Bettman's state of the league addresses over the years, and it will likely come up again when he speaks before Game 1 of the Stanley Cup Final next week.

Now 70 — he'll turn 71 on June 2 — Bettman isn't ready to retire but says he's "not going to do this into my 80s." He said he sees a time in the not-too-distant future when he'll want to take a long trip with his wife, Shelli, to a place they haven't been and spend more time with his seven grandchildren. □

Associated Press

## Dainese wins 17th stage as Thomas keeps Giro d'Italia lead

**CAORLE, Italy (AP)** — Local rider Alberto Dainese won the 17th stage of the Giro d'Italia in a mass sprint that was decided in a photo finish Wednesday, while Geraint Thomas' overall lead was unchanged in the last flat day before the race concludes in Rome on Sunday.

Dainese, who rides for Team DSM, finished just ahead of Jonathan Milan and Michael Matthews but had no reaction at the finish while the trio waited to be told the official results. In the overall standings, Thomas remained 18 seconds ahead of Joao Almeida and 29 seconds ahead of Primož Roglič.

The stage offered a day off from climbing as the 195-kilometer (121-mile) route from Pergine Valsugana to Caorle started with a gradual descent before a long, flat finish.

Starting on Thursday, there are three straight days of hard climbing that should decide the race winner.

"The main thing was to save the legs as much as possible for the next three days," said Thomas, a Welshman who won the 2018 Tour de France.

"Both Primož Roglič and Joao Almeida are very dangerous," he added. "I'm afraid of both to be honest. Friday seems like the queen stage. From the

experience I have, I've got the confidence and the belief that I can win. I know how to not get carried away."

Dainese, who is from the Veneto region where the stage ended, required nearly 4½ hours to complete the route and earn his second career win in the Giro after also winning a sprinting leg last year.

"It's more special winning at home," Dainese said. "I knew every bump and hole in the road."

The race returns to the high mountains in stage 18 on Thursday with two first category climbs followed by two second-category climbs in the finale includ-

ing an uphill finish along the 161-kilometer (100-mile) route from Oderzo to Val

di Zoldo. Thomas will celebrate his 37th birthday on Thursday. □



Alberto Dainese, left, crosses the finish line ahead of Jonathan Milan and Michael Matthews to win the 17th stage of the Giro D'Italia, tour of Italy cycling race, from Pergine Valsugana to Caorle, Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

Associated Press



# Nuggets make Denver a hoops town with first trip to NBA Finals

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

**DENVER (AP)** — It took 3,787 regular-season games and 29 trips to the playoffs, countless ripoffs of rainbow uniforms and even more 'yeah, but's' than any city should have to stomach. Finally, 47 seasons into an entertaining, often frustrating and almost always overlooked journey in the NBA, Denver is at the center of the basketball world.

The Nuggets yes, those sometimes-lovable and often-forgettable Nuggets are in the NBA Finals.

The way they made it says everything about their near half-century in the league, and just how different this team is from every Denver team, even the really good ones, that preceded it.



Denver Nuggets head coach Michael Malone holds the conference championship trophy after Game 4 of the NBA basketball Western Conference Final series against the Los Angeles Lakers Monday, May 22, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

The Nuggets brushed aside their long-held irrelevance by completing their first series. They did it against the Los Angeles Lakers, sweep in 44 NBA playoff

the team that has caused them so much of their pain. Before the Western Conference finals, Denver was 0-7 in playoff series against the Lakers. Now, Denver is 1-7. "It's almost like shock a little bit," Nuggets forward Aaron Gordon said, echoing a sentiment certainly being felt across the franchise's long-suffering fan base. "You're just like unsure, like, are you sure we don't have more time on the clock? Are you sure we don't have another quarter to play or another game to play?"

With all due respect to Dan Issel, Alex English, Carmelo Anthony and everyone else who ever wore rainbows, Nikola Jokic is the best player to put on a Denver uniform. He recorded his eighth triple-double of the playoffs in Monday night's 113-111 win over LA, surpassing a record for a single postseason held by none other than Lakers great Wilt Chamberlain.

Jokic, who was 0.2 assists short of averaging a triple-double this season, got beat out for his third straight MVP this season by Philly's Joel Embiid. Fans see it all as par for the course in a city where the team that debuted in the ABA as the Denver Rockets not the better-known, better-respected Denver Broncos really put the town on the national sports map. That was in 1967. The Broncos were still a laughingstock but the local basketball team put out a good product right away.

Between then and now, the city has seen its share of the spotlight.

John Elway brought two Super Bowl titles home and Peyton Manning another. The Colorado Avalanche, who share a home (Ball Arena) and an owner (Stan Kroenke) with the Nuggets, have won hockey's Stanley Cup three times, including last year. Even the Colorado Rockies have been to the World Series. The Nuggets only trip this close to the title came in 1976 when they lost in the last ABA final to Julius Erving and the Nets. □



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