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In Holocaust remembrance, Biden condemns antisemitism sparked by college protests and Gaza war

By ZEKE MILLER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday decried a "ferocious surge" in antisemitism on college campuses and around the globe in the months since Hamas attacked Israel and triggered a war in Gaza, using a ceremony to remember victims of the Holocaust to also denounce new waves of violence and hateful rhetoric toward Jews.

Biden said that on Oct. 7, Hamas "brought to life" that hatred with the killing of more than 1,200 Israelis, mostly civilians, and warned that, already, people are beginning to forget who was responsible.

The president used his address to renew his declarations of unwavering support for Israel in its war against Hamas even as his relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has grown increasingly strained over Israel's push to invade the southern Gaza city of Rafah, which would surely worsen the already dire humanitarian crisis for Palestinians.

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President Joe Biden, left, greets Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, R-La., joined by House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, R-La., and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., as they honor the memory of the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust during the annual Days of Remembrance ceremony at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, May 7, 2024.
Associated Press







In Holocaust remembrance, Biden condemns antisemitism sparked by college protests and Gaza war

Continued from Front



President Joe Biden speaks at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Annual Days of Remembrance ceremony at the U.S. Capitol, Tuesday, May 7, 2024 in Washington. Statue of Freedom stands behind the President.

Associated Press

The Democratic president has struggled to balance his support for Israel since the attack by Hamas — the deadliest day for Jews worldwide since the Holocaust — with his efforts to protect civilian life in Gaza. While acknowledging the ceremony was taking place during "difficult times," Biden made no explicit reference to the deaths of more than 34,700 Palestinians since the attack by Hamas led Israel to declare war in Gaza. The tally from the Hamas-run health ministry includes militants, but also many civilians caught up in the fighting.

"My commitment to the safety of the Jewish people, the security of Israel, and its right to exist as an independent Jewish state is ironclad, even when we disagree," Biden said.

"We're at risk of people not knowing the truth," Biden said of the horrors of the Holocaust, when 6 million Jews were systematically killed by Nazi Germany and its collaborators. "This hatred continues to lie deep in the hearts of too many people in the world."

Biden steered clear of the upcoming presidential election in his speech. But it played out in counterpoint to former President Donald Trump's criticism of the incumbent for not doing more to combat antisemitism. Trump has a long personal history of rhetoric that invokes the language of Nazi Germany and plays on stereotypes of Jews in politics.

Biden's remarks at the Capitol played out as pro-Palestinian protests — some of which have involved antisemitic chants and threats toward Jewish students and supporters of Israel — rock college campuses across the country.

"As Jews around the world still cope with the atrocity and trauma of that day and its aftermath, we've seen a ferocious surge of antisemitism in America and around the world," Biden said.

"Not 75 years later, but just seven and a half months later, and people are already forgetting, they're already forgetting, that Hamas unleashed this terror that it was Hamas that brutalized Israelis, that it was Hamas that took and continues to hold hostages," Biden said. "I have not forgotten, nor have you. And we will not forget." The Capitol event, hosted by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, also featured remarks from House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York. Holocaust survivors, local youth and elected officials took part in the remembrance ceremony, which included a recitation of the Jewish prayers for the dead.

The campus protests have posed a political challenge for Biden, whose coalition has historically relied on younger voters, many of whom are critical of his public support for Israel.

Biden said "There's no place on any campus in America" or any place in America for antisemitism or threats of violence. He added, "We're not a lawless country — we are a civil society"

In conjunction with Biden's speech, his administration was announcing new steps to combat antisemitism on colleges campuses and beyond. The Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights was sending every school district and college in the nation a letter outlining examples of antisemitism and other hate that could lead to federal civil rights investigations.

The Department of Homeland Security was moving to educate schools and community groups about resources and funding available to promote campus safety and address threats. And the State Department's special envoy to monitor and combat antisemitism was meeting with technology companies on how to combat the rise in hateful conflict online.

On Monday, Doug Emhoff, the husband of Vice President Kamala Harris and the first Jewish spouse of a nationally elected American leader, met with Jewish college students at the White House about the administration's efforts to combat antisemitism. He heard students describe their own experiences with hatred, including threats of violence and hate speech, his office said.❑

Trump's campaign on Monday released a video on Yom Hashoah, Israel's Holocaust remembrance day, that aimed to contrast the 2024 presidential candidates' responses on antisemitism.

The video shows images of Trump visiting Israel and speeches he has given pledging to stand with Jewish people and confront antisemitism, while showing footage of the protests on campuses and clips of Biden responding to protesters upset with his administration's support for Israel in its war against Hamas.

One of the clips shows Biden saying, "They have a point," but it does not include the next sentence in which Biden said, "We need to get a lot more care into Gaza."

Biden campaign spokesman James Singer said in response that "President Biden stands against antisemitism and is committed to the safety of the Jewish community, and security of Israel — Donald Trump does not."❑

Ascencion Day
Notice

In conjunction with Ascension Day, the Aruba Today will not be published on Thursday, May 9th, 2024. We will resume our regular printing schedule on Friday, May, 10th, 2024.

Boy Scouts of America changing name to more inclusive Scouting America after years of woes

By JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Boy Scouts of America is changing its name for the first time in its 114-year history and will become Scouting America. It's a significant shift as the organization emerges from bankruptcy following a flood of sexual abuse claims and seeks to focus on inclusion.

The organization steeped in tradition has made seismic changes after decades of turmoil, from finally allowing gay youth to welcoming girls throughout its ranks. With an eye on increasing flagging membership numbers, the Irving, Texas-based organization announced the name change Tuesday at its annual meeting in Florida.

"In the next 100 years we want any youth in America to feel very, very welcome to come into our programs," Roger Krone, who took over last fall as president and chief executive officer, said in an interview before the announcement.

The organization began allowing gay youth in 2013 and ended a blanket ban on gay adult leaders in 2015. In 2017, it made the historic announcement that girls would be accepted as Cub Scouts as of 2018 and into the flagship Boy Scout program — renamed Scouts BSA — in 2019. Over 6,000 girls have now achieved the vaunted Eagle Scout rank.

There were nearly 1,000 young women in the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts in 2021, including Selby Chipman. The all-girls troop she was a founding member of in her hometown of Oak Ridge, North Carolina, has grown from five girls to nearly 50, and she thinks the name change will encourage even more girls to realize they can join. "Girls were like: 'You can join Boy Scouts of America?'" said Chipman, now a 20-year-old college student and assistant scoutmaster of her troop.

When people question the need to change the name, Krone points out that membership is at historic lows. "Part of my job is to reduce all the barriers I possibly can for people to accept us as an organization and to join," he said. Like other organizations, the scouts lost members during the pandemic, when participation was difficult. After a highpoint over the last decade of over 2 million members in 2018, the organization currently services just over 1 million youths, including more than 176,000 girls and young women. Membership peaked in 1972 at almost 5 million.

David Aaker, vice chairman of the national branding and marketing firm Prophet, author and professor emeritus at the University of California-Berkeley, called the name change an "excellent" move that gives the organization a chance to start a new conversation about itself, while not being so drastic that it strays too far from its original scouting mission.❑



Roger Krone, president and chief executive officer of the Boy Scouts of America, poses at the organizations headquarters in Irving, Texas, Monday, April 29, 2024.

Associated Press

More GOP states challenge federal rules protecting transgender students



Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin speaks at a news conference at the attorney general's office in Little Rock, Ark., Tuesday, May 7, 2024, about a lawsuit challenging a new regulation aimed at protecting the rights of transgender students in schools.

Associated Press

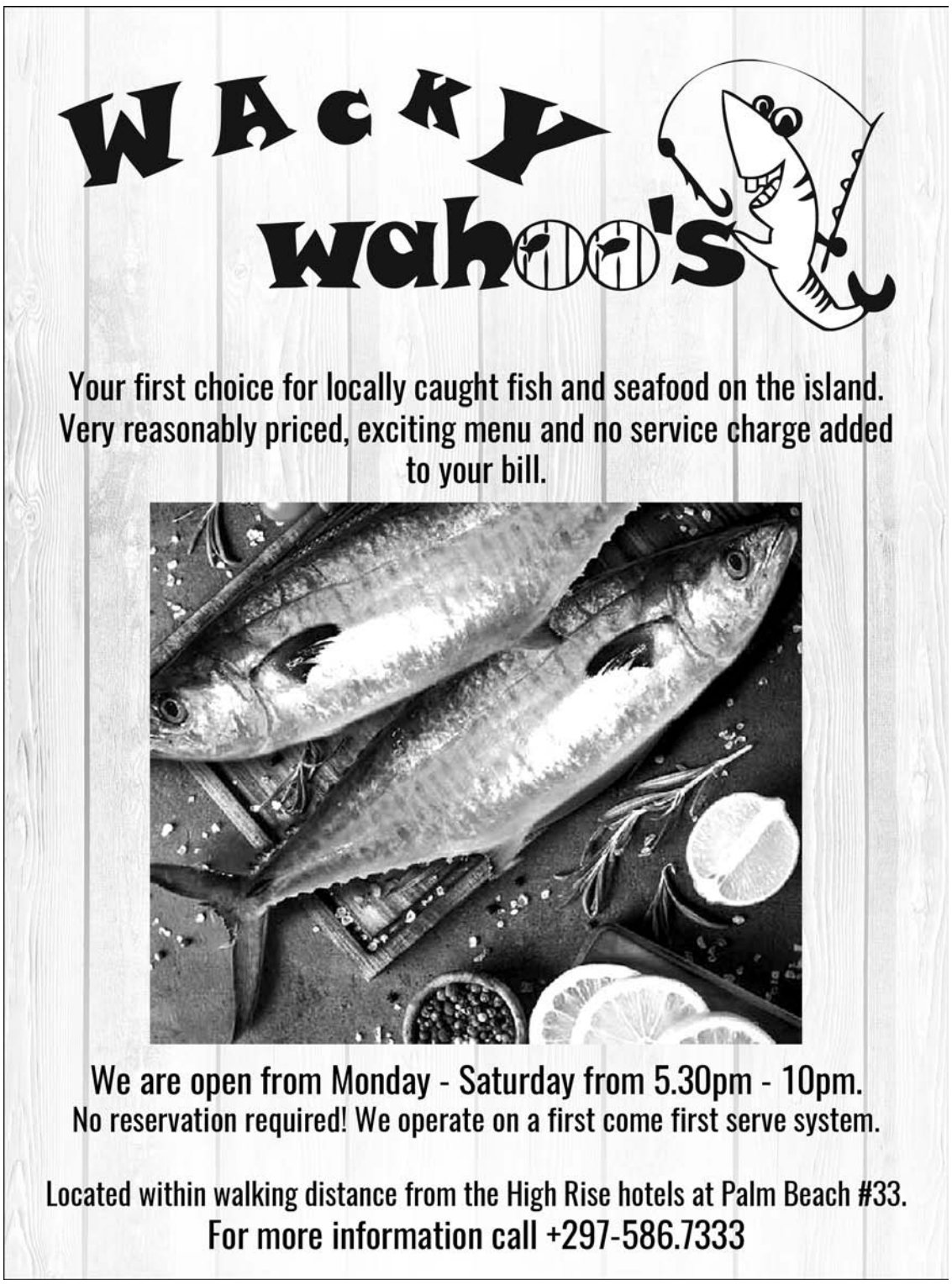
By ANDREW DeMILLO
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Seven more Republican-led states sued Tuesday to challenge a new federal regulation that seeks to protect the rights of transgender students in the nation's schools. Republican plaintiffs call the effort to fold protection for transgender students under the 1972 Title IX law unconstitutional.

The lawsuits filed in federal courts in Missouri and Oklahoma are the latest GOP attempts to halt the new regulation seeking to clarify Title IX, a landmark 1972 sex discrimination law originally passed to address women's rights and applied to schools and colleges receiving federal money. The rules spell out that Title IX bars discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, too.

Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota joined as plaintiffs in the Missouri lawsuit.

The cases come as many Republicans seek to limit the rights of transgender youth, including restricting which bathrooms or pronouns they can use in school. Such prohibitions that could be invalidated by the new federal regulation. The GOP states suing argue that the new federal rules goes beyond the intent of Title IX and that the Biden administration doesn't have the authority to implement them.❑



FBI lays out detailed case against Florida man accused in wife's disappearance in Spain

By TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The FBI has laid out a detailed case showing why agents believe a Florida man is behind his estranged wife's disappearance from her apartment in Spain but gave no indication about what they think happened to her.

Court documents released late Monday show that agents believe David Knezevich resembles the man wearing a motorcycle helmet who spray painted the security camera lens outside Ana Knezevich's Madrid apartment on Feb. 2. The man left an hour later carrying a suitcase.

Spanish police say they have security video of the 36-year-old Fort Lauderdale business owner purchasing the same brand of paint and duct tape hours earlier. Investigators also interviewed a woman who says Knezevich asked her to translate a text message that was sent to his wife's friends after her disappearance.

Knezevich's attorney, Ken Padowitz, did not return a call or email on Tuesday seeking comment. He has said his client is innocent and was in his native Serbia on the day his 40-year-old wife disappeared, 1,600 miles (2,500 kilometers) away. But agents say Knezevich rented a Peugeot in the Serbian capital Belgrade four days earlier.



A banner of a Colombian-born American missing woman Ana Maria Knezevich Henao, 40, is displayed on a streetlight in Madrid, Spain, Feb. 16, 2024.

Associated Press

A few days later, a Spanish driver reported his license plates were stolen. On the night Ana Knezevich disappeared, a license plate reader on her Madrid street recorded the stolen plate number, Spanish police found.

Additionally, hours after she disappeared, a Peugeot bearing the stolen license plates went through a suburban Madrid toll booth, surveillance video showed. The driver could not be seen behind the tinted windows. The rental agency told investigators that when Knezevich returned the car five weeks later, the license plates had been replaced and the windows had been tinted. It had been driven almost 4,800 miles (7,700 kilometers).

The FBI arrested Knezevich, a naturalized American, at Miami International Airport on Saturday. He is charged with kidnapping and is being held pending a bail hearing. The Knezeviches, who sometimes spell their surname "Knezevic," have been married for 13 years. They own EOX Technology Solutions Inc., which does computer support for South Florida businesses. Records show they also own a home and two other Fort Lauderdale properties, one of those currently under foreclosure. Ana's brother, Juan Henao, called the couple's divorce "nasty" in an interview with a Fort Lauderdale detective, a report shows. He told police David was angry that they would be dividing a substantial amount of money. Ana is a naturalized American from Colombia.

The most detailed section of the FBI's 11-page complaint against Knezevich involves an unnamed Colombian woman he met on a dating app last fall, about the time his wife moved to Europe.

On the morning after his wife disappeared, the FBI says Knezevich texted the woman seeking a favor — would she translate into "perfect Colombian" Spanish a few English sentences for a friend who was writing a screenplay?

The woman replied she doesn't speak English and would have to use a generic online Spanish translator. Knezevich replied that's fine, she could then tweak it to make it sound Colombian.

According to the FBI, he then sent the woman this passage in English: "I met someone wonderful. He has a summer house about 2h (two hours) from Madrid. We are going there now and I will spend a few days there. There is barely any signal though. I will call you when I come back. Kisses."

The woman made her translation and sent it back.

That morning, that translated message was texted to two of Ana's friends from her phone.

They said it didn't sound like her. They contacted Spanish police, launching the investigation.

One of those friends, Sanna Rameau, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that after reading the FBI's report, she no longer believes Ana will be found alive.

"I'm in shock," she said. "When it's presented in black-and-white, it's different than when you only have suspicions and speculations."❑



New York Gov. Kathy Hochul speaks in Syracuse, N.Y., April 25, 2024.

Associated Press

New York governor regrets saying Black kids in the Bronx don't know what a computer is

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York Gov. Kathy Hochul says she regrets making an offhand remark that suggested Black children in the Bronx do not know what the word "computer" means.

Hochul, a Democrat, made the extemporaneous comment Monday while being interviewed at a large business conference in California to discuss expanding economic opportunities in artificial intelligence for low-income communities.

"Right now, we have young Black kids growing up in the Bronx who don't even know what the word computer is. They don't know, they don't know these things," Hochul said while on stage at the Milken Institute Global Conference. The remark was not addressed during the interview and the governor went on to explain that her goal is to provide avenues for communities of color to access emerging artificial intelligence technologies as a means to address social inequality.

Still, the comment drew immediate criticism from some political leaders in New York, including state Assemblywoman Amanda Septimo, a Bronx Democrat, who said the remark was "harmful, deeply misinformed, and genuinely appalling." In a statement later Monday, Hochul said "I misspoke and I regret it."

"Of course Black children in the Bronx know what computers are — the problem is that they too often lack access to the technology needed to get on track to high-paying jobs in emerging industries like AI," Hochul said. "That's why I've been focused on increasing economic opportunity since Day One of my Administration, and will continue that fight to ensure every New Yorker has a shot at a good-paying job."❑

Australia accuses China of unsafe behavior when fighter jet released flares in a helicopter's path

By ROD McGUIRK
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Australia has protested to Beijing through multiple channels that a Chinese fighter jet endangered an Australian navy helicopter with flares over international waters, the prime minister said Tuesday.

Beijing retorted that the Australian aircraft deliberately flew close to China's airspace in a "provocative move" and had to be warned off.

The incident occurred Saturday as the Australian air warfare destroyer HMAS Hobart was enforcing U.N. Security Council sanctions against North Korea in international waters in the Yellow Sea, Australian officials said Monday. There were no injuries or damage reported.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the Australian public expected an explanation from China.

"We've just made it very clear to China that this is unprofessional and that it's unacceptable," Albanese told Nine Network television.

"We've made it very clear ... through all of our channels, at all measures at our disposal, including here publicly," Albanese said.



Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles, left, speaks alongside Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong during an Australia and South Korea Foreign and Defence Ministers meeting in Melbourne, Australia, on May 1, 2024.

Associated Press

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said at a regular briefing Tuesday that China lodged an official protest with Australia over its military's "risky moves."

"What truly happened is an Australian military aircraft deliberately flew within close rage of China's airspace in a provocative move that endangers China's maritime and air security in the name of enforcing a U.N. Security Council resolution," spokesperson Lin Jian said.

"The Chinese military took necessary measures at the scene to warn and alert the Australian side," he added.

Lin said China urged Australia to stop its "provocations" to prevent "misunderstanding and miscalculation."

Albanese said it was important for Australian officials to speak out when such events occur.

"It's important that we make clear our position, which has been done at the diplomatic levels, at government-to-government, but also defense-to-defense as well. And all of those avenues have been made clear. This issue, we have made public in order to be able to speak out very clearly and unequivocally that this behavior is unacceptable," the prime minister said.

Defense Minister Richard Marles said Monday that a Chinese Chengdu J-10 fighter jet released flares in the flight path of an Australian navy Seahawk helicopter deployed from the Hobart.

He said the flares were 300 meters (986 feet) in front of the helicopter and 60 meters (197 feet) above it and the helicopter pilot had to "take evasive action in order to not be hit by those flares."

"The consequence of being hit by the flares would have been significant," Marles said.

"We will not be deterred from engaging in lawful activities and activities which are there to enforce U.N. sanctions in respect of North Korea," Marles added.

It was the most serious encounter between the two nations' forces since Australia accused the Chinese destroyer CNS Ningbo of injuring Australian navy divers with sonar pulses in Japanese waters in November.

Australia said China disregarded a safety warning to keep away from the Australian frigate HMAS Toowoomba.

China maintains that encounter happened outside Japanese territorial waters and that the Chinese warship caused no harm.

Albanese said the encounter would be raised with Chinese Premier Li Qiang when he visits Australia next month.❑

3 Indian nationals charged with killing Canadian Sikh separatist leader make first court appearance

By JIM MORRIS
Associated Press

SURREY, British Columbia (AP) — Two of the three men charged in the slaying of Canadian Sikh separatist leader Singh Nijjar in June made a brief first court appearance on Tuesday morning.

The killing of the prominent activist became the center of a diplomatic spat after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in September that there were "credible allegations" of Indian involvement.

Canadian police said Friday they arrested the three Indian nationals in Edmonton, Alberta for shooting and killing the 45-year-old in his pickup truck after he left the Sikh temple over which he presided in the city of Surrey.

Kamalpreet Singh, 22, Karan Brar, 22, and Karanpreet Singh, 28, have been charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

On Tuesday, Brar and Karanpreet appeared in court via a video link and agreed to a trial in English. They were ordered to appear in British Columbia Provincial Court again on May 21.

Kamalpreet didn't attend the court session as he waited to speak to a lawyer.

The small provincial courtroom was filled with spectators. Others crowded into an overflow room to watch the proceedings via video.

Richard Fowler, the defense lawyer representing Brar, said the case will eventually be moved from the British Columbia Provincial Court to the Supreme Court and combined into one case.

About 100 people gathered outside the courthouse waving yellow flags and holding photos of Indian government officials whom they accuse of being involved in Nijjar's killing.



Superintendent Mandeep Mooker, Officer-in-Charge of IHIT listens to questions from media during a news conference for an update on the Hardeep Singh Nijjar homicide investigation from June 18, 2023, in Surrey, B.C., Friday, May 3, 2024.

Associated Press

Canada police say the three suspects had been living in Canada as non-permanent residents.❑

Iran and the U.N. nuclear agency are still discussing how to implement a 2023 deal on inspections

By JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Iran and the United Nations' nuclear watchdog are still negotiating over how to implement a deal struck last year to expand inspections of the Islamic Republic's rapidly advancing atomic program, officials said Tuesday.

The acknowledgment by the International Atomic Energy Agency's leader Rafael Mariano Grossi shows the challenges his inspectors face, years after the collapse of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers and the wider tensions gripping the Mideast over the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's Hezbollah militia launched attacks on Israel on Tuesday as Yemen's Houthi rebels were suspected of targeting a commercial ship in the Gulf of Aden.

Grossi has already warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. He has acknowledged the agency cannot guarantee that none of Iran's centrifuges may have been peeled away for clandestine enrichment.

Grossi spoke to journalists at a news conference in the city of Isfahan, alongside Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran. While both men said there would be no immediate new deal struck during the visit, they pointed to a March 2023 joint statement as a path forward for cooperation between the IAEA and Iran.



International Atomic Energy Organization, IAEA, Director General Rafael Grossi, left, and head of Iran's atomic energy department Mohammad Eslami shake hands at the conclusion of their joint press conference after their meeting in the central city of Isfahan, Iran, Tuesday, May 7, 2024.
Associated Press

That 2023 statement included a pledge by Iran to resolve issues around sites where inspectors have questions about possible undeclared nuclear activity, and to allow the IAEA to "implement further appropriate verification and monitoring activities."

Grossi and Eslami offered few specifics from the ongoing discussions, though Grossi said technical teams from the two sides were talking over specifics.

"What we are looking at is concrete measures that could make this operational," Grossi said.

Eslami said: "The important point is that Mr. Grossi takes the necessary actions to settle the problems that are mainly political."

Speaking to reporters later Tuesday in Vienna, Grossi reiterated that the joint statement between Iran and the IAEA agreed in March 2023 was still very much "alive" and that it contained all the necessary points.

"I want results and I want them soon," Grossi told reporters at Vienna airport. "The present state is completely unsatisfactory," he said.

Grossi explained that there was no timeframe or deadline agreed on the implementation of the various points but added that he was told by Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian that Iran was "ready to engage in very concrete measures."

He also said that no technical team was left behind in Tehran to continue discussions.

Tensions have grown between Iran and the IAEA since 2018, when then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the United States from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. Since then, Iran has abandoned all limits the deal put on its program and enriches uranium to up to 60% purity — near weapons-grade levels of 90%.

IAEA surveillance cameras have been disrupted, while Iran has barred some of the agency's most experienced inspectors. Iranian officials also have increasingly threatened they could pursue atomic weapons.

Meanwhile, tensions between Iran and Israel have hit a new high. Tehran launched an unprecedented drone-and-missile attack on Israel last month, after years of a shadow war between the two countries reached a climax with Israel's apparent attack on an Iranian consular building in Syria that killed two Iranian generals and others.❑



Togo's President Faure Gnassingbe waves before a working lunch at the Elysee Palace in Paris on April 9, 2021.
Associated Press

Togo's longtime leader signs a new constitution that eliminates presidential elections

By ERICK KAGLAN
Associated Press

LOME, Togo (AP) — Togo's president has signed a new constitution eliminating presidential elections, his office said late Monday, a move that opponents say will allow him to extend his family's six-decade rule. Civil society groups in the West African nation have called for protests.

Parliament will now choose the president. The new constitution comes days after the election commission on Saturday announced that President Faure Gnassingbe's ruling party had won a majority of parliament seats.

There was a crackdown on civic and media freedoms ahead of the vote. The government banned protests against the proposed new constitution and arrested opposition figures. The electoral commission banned the Catholic Church from deploying election observers. Togo's media regulator suspended the accreditation process for foreign journalists. The new constitution also increases presidential terms from five to six years and introduces a single-term limit. But the nearly 20 years that Gnassingbe has served in office would not count, and the political opposition, religious leaders and civil society say it's likely that Gnassingbe will stay in power when his mandate expires in 2025.

Togo has been ruled by the same family for 57 years, first by Eyadema Gnassingbe and then by his son. Faure Gnassingbe took office after elections that the opposition described as a sham.

The new constitution also creates a figure similar to a prime minister, to be selected by the ruling party. Critics fear that could become another way for Gnassingbe to extend his grip on power.

A group of about 20 civil society organizations in Togo have called for protests to reinstate the previous constitution.

"We will never accept this new constitution, even after its promulgation," David Dosseh, a spokesperson for the civil society groups, told The Associated Press, calling the 2025 election "absolutely necessary for the people to choose a new president and finally achieve a democratic transition in Togo."❑

Play and Win Big at LIV Casino, Your Premier Gaming Destination in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Are you ready for an exhilarating gaming experience? Look no further than LIV Casino, situated at the luxurious Barcelo Aruba resort. Whether you're a seasoned gambler or a casual player, LIV Casino offers an unmatched atmosphere of excitement and entertainment.

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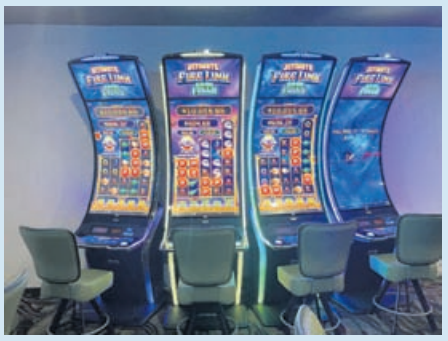
Operating from 11 AM to 3 AM, LIV Casino provides ample opportunities for gaming excitement throughout the day and into the night. Our table games are available for play from 4:30 PM until closing, ensuring that you can enjoy your favorite games whenever the mood strikes.





Exciting news for our patrons: We've recently expanded our gaming floor to include several new machines, including the captivating Light n Wonder Cosmic cabinets featuring the Ultimate Fire Link Cash Falls with the China Streets & Olvera Streets themes. With these additions, there's never been a better time to try your luck at LIV Casino.



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Don't miss your chance to win big and have a blast at LIV Casino. Join us today and discover why we're Aruba's premier gaming destination.

For more information, visit www.livaruba.com

About LIV Casino, Barceló Aruba: LIV Casino, located within the lavish Barceló Aruba resort, offers a premier gaming experience on the stunning island of Aruba. With a wide range of slot machines and table games, as well as the allure of progressive jackpots, LIV Casino provides endless entertainment for both novice and seasoned players. The casino operates from 11 AM to 3 AM, while table games are available from 4:30 PM till closing. ❑

Barcelo's held an Earth Day cleanup with members of I Love Barcelo Aruba!

(Oranjestad)—For this year's Earth Day holiday, Barcelo organized a clean-up between Barcelo Managers and Barcelo guests. Management was lead by Aurelia Croes and Jane Braafhart. The guests that participated were members of the I Love Barcelo Aruba facebook group page.

The cleanup began at 8:00 am and finished around 11:00 am behind Barcelo and was represented by managers Aurelia Croes, Sandra Steba, Kathleen Green and HR Director Jane Braafhart, as well as other employees from various departments throughout the Resort.



The Guests that participated were members of a Facebook group page I Love Barcelo Aruba Group, with moderator Ricky Grosser assisting in the cleanup. Early in the morning, the participants were ready to assist with raking, bagging and disposing multiple bags of various papers, cups buried under the sand, all for an important cause to preserve out nature. Staff and Barcelo guests cleaned the entire beach front of the Barcelo Beach, raking a collecting waste in the area.

Barcelo think it's important to keep raising awareness for the protection of Mother Nature. Hopefully through events like beach cleanups, they hope to inspire their guests and other to keep fighting for the well-being of our environment, not just on Earth Day. ❑







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Aruba to me

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

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from our fellow native Andrina van der Sloot.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is ... mi isla natal! My birth country!

I was born and raised on Aruba, but I've been living in The Netherlands for 21 years. The last time we were here for vacation was 8 years ago, when my son turned 2. In June he will be 10 years old. Right there's the 'mei-vakantie' (may vacation) in The Netherlands which is the high season. This is why we are taking an amazing 3-week vacation. At the same time my husband Lodewijk and I are celebrating our "copper wedding" (12.5 year/koperen bruiloft). And after a long time, we are surprising my mother with some wonderful presents on mothers day.

So we are enjoying the warmth, sun, beach (our favorite is Arashi!), and not forgetting all the (touristic) sights like Casibari, Ayo, Donkey Sanctuary, Bushiribana, NaturalBridge, Parke Arikok, etc."

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

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Fusion - Piano Wine & Cigar Bar | Shalom Body & Soul Spa
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Palm Beach Tower to be designed by artist Paul Wong

In October last year, the Minister of Tourism, Dangui Oduber, announced the search for local artists to participate in the Palm Beach Tower Art Project. On April 29th, it was announced regarding the conceptual design that will be in the hands of artist Paul Wong.

At that time, the minister informed that the first phase had already been completed, where they worked on the platform used by both locals and tourists from previous years, and in the last months of the past year, it was seen that the first phase of the platform renovation was completed.

According to Oduber, the second phase involved inviting local artists to use their creativity and present ideas on what could be placed in the white tower to begin the search for "what design the community wants to see or what design we need to implement."

Previously, there was the flag of Aruba, and tourists used it to take pictures and post them on social media, which is also why they called on local artists to participate in the request for proposal (RFP) so that they could get an idea or thoughts on what should be put in the tower to become a tourist attraction in the Palm Beach area.

Minister Oduber announced that since October, they have been posting on their social media this invitation called "Palm Beach Tower Art Project," aimed at local artists who want to be part of it. "This is a beautiful project to showcase not only in our local market but also to our tourists, and that's why we're extending the invitation to start participating for 10 days, and then when we receive those who want to participate, we will evaluate them with a commission, and finally, in approximately a month, the official work can begin." Now, finally, the minister informed that "after we have fixed the platform at Palm Beach, the next phase will be a design for the tower. This is the conceptual design by local artist Paul Wong to be completed with it. This is the front part; the back part also has a conceptual one that will be posted."



On social networks, Minister Oduber's publication received quite a reaction, where both locals and tourists will surely make this platform a new point of attraction. ❑

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!



(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.❑

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

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ISLAND INSIGHT



Article by Etnia Nativa

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

Pia abao, bare feet

Episode CCLIV - 254

This week, it is all about connecting with the native aspects of your visit. A local spot links you with the mystical past, the island's ethnic heritage, and colonial history. Ground yourself in an artistic-inspired occasion and widen your perception.



During this episode, we will share the benefits of walking barefoot and feel each grain of sand rubbing the soles of your feet, enjoying one of the greatest native pleasures known in Papiamento language as "pia abao," feet down, down to earth, barefoot.
Practice and discover the benefits of walking completely barefoot—grounding to calibrate!

Walking barefoot on grass, sand, dirt, stones, etc. and letting these elements "massage" your feet has multiple benefits as it activates your circulatory system, improves your nervous system, and at the same time, if you walk barefoot on the beach, the salt and sand will act as natural exfoliators. Besides, when the waves break on your feet and legs, it helps us by tuning our muscles into relaxation mode.
In Aruba, children start walking barefoot and could remain barefoot, except for social and cultural limitations. We get so used to "being comfortable" and feeling our feet healthy that the greatest pleasure, even when we are old, is walking "pia abao."
Barefoot gives the notion of being free of all discomfort; feet are more powerful, well developed, and versatile. The foot deformations in a growing part of the population that wears shoes, especially females, are attributed to the use of inappropriate shoes. Contact with the earth, practiced by diverse cultures around the world, yields great benefits, enhances health, and provides feelings of well-being.
Grounding is based on the idea that your body carries a positive charge that can build up inside of you, while the earth has a negative charge. By physically connecting with the Earth in some way, some scientists theorize that you are able to discharge your excess energy (positive charge), therefore potentially balancing a healing effect in your electrical body.

According to scientific studies, the modern lifestyle has separated most people from physically connecting with the earth in this way, and the result of that has been physiological imbalance and illness. But when you reconnect with the Earth, you're able to plug in a healing and renewal mode.
For the most part, grounding is a safe practice, but you should be aware of what is going on around you. For instance, some experts indicate that walking barefoot through the grass can increase your risk of insect stings. There is also a chance of stepping on something that could injure your foot, like glass or thorns. If you are sensitive to insect stings, you will have to weigh the pros and cons of walking barefoot. Many times we have little idea of the state of our feet, and sometimes shoes are an enemy of our health. If you have taken your first steps in a shoe, your foot has taken shape and developed habits according to the shoe you have worn. The footwear has even been able to compress your foot and even modify the way you walk and run.
Therefore, enjoy your vacation by putting into practice the return to a habit as natural as "pia abao." Walking barefoot will allow you to achieve greater sensory stimulation; it will give you greater movement; you will perceive different temperatures; and you can do it like babies who use their little fingers to hold on to certain surfaces.

You can practice grounding in the traditional way: outside and reconnecting with the earth's surface. Don't miss the fantastic chance to go barefoot indoors at Etnia Nativa, where our main cultural columnist soaks adventurous travelers in a unique learning adventure through his private and magnificent museum-home dwelling that integrates reused materials with nature, bursting with culture and island heritage. Commendatory! Appointment by Whats App: +297 592 2702 or etnianativa03@gmail.com❑

Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year- round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture–more so than snap beans–and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups.❑

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

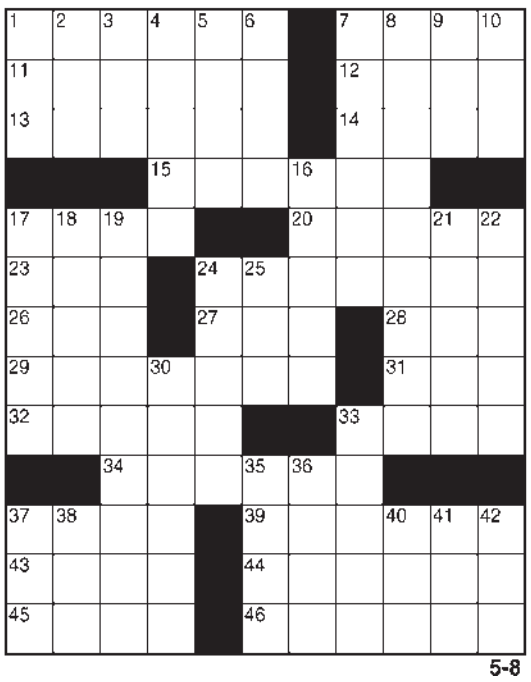
1 Wine holder
7 Mall unit
11 "Twelfth Night" heroine
12 Hockey's Gordie
13 Piano parts
14 Prayer ender
15 Tawdry nature
17 Church group
20 Cookie quantity
23 Summer sign
24 These days
26 Ulna's place
27 — Alamos
28 Misery
29 Baker's needs
31 Silent approval
32 Rental choice
33 Inquires
34 King of the fairies
37 Cry like a baby
39 Bird abode
43 Skin woe
44 Meat pie
45 Ordeal
46 Sacks out

DOWN

1 Beat walker
2 Saloon order
3 Free (of)
4 Nautical call
5 Crowd into
6 Move carefully
7 Captain Marvel's magic word
8 Origins
9 Have debts
10 Signing need
16 Ocean trench
17 Strikes, in a way
18 Like Poe tales
19 Dis-appoint-ments
21 Swindler
22 Listens to
24 Flared dress
25 Dijon denial
30 Laptop's kin
33 Biscotti flavor
35 Hip-hop songs
36 Track shape
37 Softball need
38 Court feat
40 Chowed down
41 Shred
42 "You bet!"

F	R	O	Z	E	■	R	E	S	I	N
I	O	N	I	C	■	A	G	A	V	E
L	A	U	G	H	I	N	G	G	A	S
E	D	S	■	O	L	D	■	A	N	T
■	■	■	B	E	L	O	W	■	■	■
S	Q	U	A	D	■	M	I	X	E	D
O	U	R	S	■	■	■	D	E	M	O
B	O	N	E	S	■	J	E	S	S	E
■	■	■	S	A	L	O	N	■	■	■
S	A	D	■	I	O	U	■	J	O	B
C	R	Y	I	N	G	S	H	A	M	E
A	L	E	R	T	■	T	O	K	E	N
M	O	D	E	S	■	S	P	E	N	T

Yesterday's answer



5-8

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

5-8 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

L JXYXK AXXB GCKX IBCJX POIJ ROXJ L'G PKMLJU PC SVP EVJEQKXXJ CJ GM WIQH.

— TLGGM HLGGXB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TO HOPE IS TO GIVE YOURSELF TO THE FUTURE — AND THAT COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE IS WHAT MAKES THE PRESENT INHABITABLE. — REBECCA SOLNIT

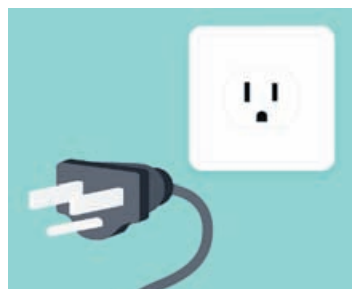
Cruise ship Schedule: May 01 - May 28 2024

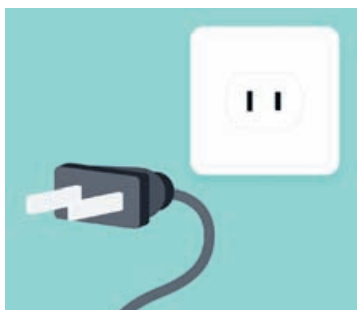
TUE	07	CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	14	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
WED	15	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	21	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
MON	27	ISLAND PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	28	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power





Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety



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



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217750



Apple's biggest announcements from its iPad event: brighter screen, faster chips and the Pencil Pro

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP) — Apple on Tuesday unveiled its next generation of iPad Pros and Airs — models that will boast faster processors, new sizes and a new display system as part of the company's first update to its tablet lineup in more than a year.

The showcase at Apple's headquarters in Cupertino, California, comes after the company disclosed its steepest quarterly decline in iPhone sales since the pandemic's outset, deepening a slump that's increasing the pressure on the trendsetting company to spruce up its products. Apple is expected to make a much bigger splash next month during an annual conference devoted to the latest version of its operating systems for iPhones, iPads and Mac computers — software that analysts expect to be packed with more artificial intelligence technology.

Both lines of new iPads add bells and whistles but have adjusted prices to match. The iPad Pro sports a new thinner design, a new M4 processor for added processing power, slightly upgraded storage and incorporates dual OLED panels for a brighter, crisper display. Prices have been hiked to match its new offerings, with the 11-inch model going for $999 and the 13-inch model fetching $1,299.

The new iPad Air has the faster M2 chip, boasts a new design, more base storage, a new 13-inch display option and a recentered camera. It will also support use of the new Apple Pencil Pro, which was a function previously exclusive to the Pro models. The 11-inch display will sell for $599 while the new 13-inch model will fetch $799.

Apple is trying to juice demand for iPads after its sales of the tablets plunged 17% from last year during the January-March period. After its 2010 debut helped redefine the tablet market, the iPad has become a minor contributor to Apple's success. It currently accounts for just 6% of the company's sales.

"The enhancements were both needed and predictable, in a maintenance sort of way, and may help stanch some of the revenue loss in that product line," Forrester Research analyst Dipanjan Chatterjee said of the new iPads. "But it's nothing to get terribly excited about."❑



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San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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

TRAVEL INFO

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118



TikTok has sued the U.S. over a law that could ban its app. What's the legal outlook?

By WYATTE G. PHILIPS
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A newly minted law forcing TikTok's parent company to sell the video-sharing platform or face a ban in the U.S. could be in for an uphill battle in court.

The app's China-based owner, ByteDance, filed a lawsuit Tuesday, calling the measure unconstitutional. Critics of the sell-or-be-banned ultimatum argue it violates TikTok users' First Amendment rights.

But a court challenge's success is not guaranteed. The law's opponents, which include advocacy organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union, maintain that the government hasn't come close to justifying banning TikTok, while others say national-security claims could still prevail.

For years, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have expressed concerns that Chinese authorities could force ByteDance to hand over U.S. user data, or influence Americans by suppressing or promoting certain content on TikTok. The U.S. has yet to provide public evidence to support those claims, but political pressures have piled up regardless.

If upheld, legal experts also stress that the law could set a precedent carrying wider ramifications for digital media in the U.S.

Here's what you need to know.

IS A TIKTOK BAN UNCONSTITUTIONAL?

That's the central question. TikTok and opponents of the law have argued that a ban would violate First Amendment rights of the social media platform's 170 million U.S. users.

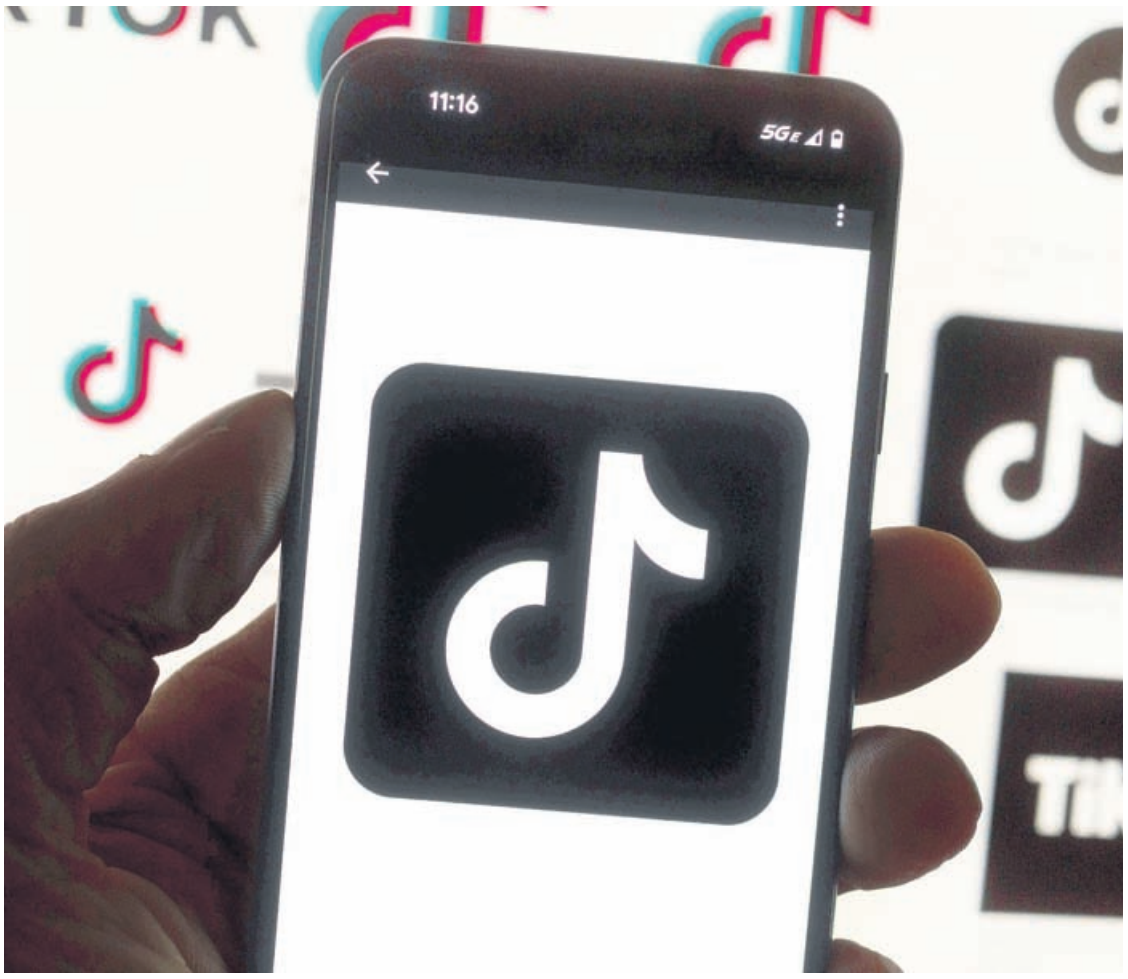
Patrick Toomey, deputy director of the ACLU's National Security Project, previously told The Associated Press that a TikTok ban would "stifle free expression and restrict public access" to a platform that has become central source for information sharing.Among key questions will be whether the legislation interferes with the overall content of speech on TikTok, Elettra Bietti, an assistant professor of law and computer science at Northeastern University, noted following the law's passage last month — as content-based restrictions meet a higher level of scrutiny.

"Congress has taken the unprecedented step of expressly singling out and banning TikTok: a vibrant online forum for protected speech and expression used by 170 million Americans to create, share, and view videos over the Internet," ByteDance said in its lawsuit Tuesday.

"For the first time in history, Congress has enacted a law that subjects a single, named speech platform to a permanent, nationwide ban, and bars every American from participating in a unique online community with more than 1 billion people worldwide."

COULD TIKTOK SUCCESSFULLY PREVENT THE BAN IN COURT?

TikTok has expressed confidence about the prospects of its legal challenge.



The TikTok logo is displayed on a mobile phone in front of a computer screen, Oct. 14, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

"Rest assured, we aren't going anywhere," TikTok CEO Shou Chew said in a video response posted to X shortly after the legislation was signed into law on April 24. "The facts and the Constitution are on our side, and we expect to prevail again."

Toomey also said that he was optimistic about the possibility of TikTok being able to block the measure in court, noting that both users and the company "have extremely strong" First Amendment claims.

"Many of the calls to completely ban TikTok in the U.S. are about scoring political points and rooted in anti-China sentiment," Toomey added. "And to date, these steps to ban TikTok had not been remotely supported by concrete public evidence."

Still, the future of any litigation is hard to predict, especially for this kind of case. And from a legal perspective, it can be difficult to cite political motivations, even if they're well-documented, as grounds to invalidate a law.

The battle could also string along for some time, with the potential for appeals that could go all the way to the Supreme Court, which would likely uphold the law due to its current composition, said Gus Hurwitz, a senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Carey Law School.

HOW MIGHT THE GOVERNMENT RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE?

TikTok's legal challenge won't go on without a fight. The government will probably respond with national-security claims, which were already cited prominently as the legislation made its way through Congress.

Toomey maintains that the government hasn't met the high bar required to prove imminent national-security risks, but some other legal experts note that it's still a strong card to play.

"One of the unfortunate and really frustrating things about national-security legislation (is that) it tends to be a trump card," Hurwitz said.

"Once national-security issues come up, they're going to carry the day either successfully or not."

Hurwitz added that he thinks there are legitimate national-security arguments that could be brought up here. National security can be argued because it's a federal measure, he noted. That sets this scenario apart from previously unsuccessful state-level legislation seeking to ban TikTok, such as in Montana.

But national-security arguments are also vulnerable to questioning as to why TikTok is getting specific scrutiny.

"Personally, I believe that what TikTok does isn't that different from other companies that are U.S.-based," Bietti said, pointing to tech giants ranging from Google to Amazon. "The question is, 'Why ban TikTok and not the activities and the surveillance carried out by other companies in the United States?'"

IF THE LAW IS UPHELD, COULD THERE BE WIDER RAMIFICATIONS?

Still, legal experts note that there could be repercussions beyond TikTok in the future.

The measure was passed as part of a larger $95 billion package that provides aid to Ukraine and Israel. The package also includes a provision that makes it illegal for data brokers to sell or rent "personally identifiable sensitive data" to North Korea, China, Russia, Iran or entities in those countries.

That has encountered some pushback, including from the ACLU, which says the language is written too broadly and could sweep in journalists and others who publish personal information.

"There's real reason to be concerned that the use of this law will not stop with TikTok," Toomey said. "Looking at that point and the bigger picture, banning TikTok or forcing its sale would be a devastating blow to the U.S. government's decades of work promoting an open and secure global internet."❑



PGA Championship invites 7 LIV players to get top 100 in the world

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

The PGA Championship officially has Tiger Woods in a field released Tuesday that includes invitations to seven players from Saudi-funded LIV Golf, giving the major the entire top 100 in the world ranking at Valhalla next week.

The PGA of America strives to have the top 100 in the world to maintain its reputation for having the strongest field of the four majors, although it is not part of the criteria.

Instead, the PGA uses a catch-all category of "special invitations." The group of LIV players includes Patrick Reed, whose tie for 12th in the Masters moved him inside the top 100. He is at No. 92, and the invitation keeps alive his streak of playing every major since the 2014 Masters.

The PGA Championship returns to Valhalla in Louisville, Kentucky, for the fourth time on May 16-19. Rory McIlroy won at Valhalla the last time it was there in 2014. The course is best known for Woods winning a playoff over Bob May in 2000 for his third straight major.



Talor Gooch, of Smash GC, hits during the second round of LIV Golf Singapore at Sentosa Golf Club, Saturday, May 4, 2024, in Sentosa, Singapore.

Associated Press

Joaquin Niemann, who won the Australian Open in December and has two LIV Golf wins this year, already received an invitation. The surprise was Talor Gooch announcing in an X post on Monday that he had received an invitation.

It was a sign the PGA of America's selection committee was looking at LIV results on their own, as Gooch doesn't play much outside the Saudi league. He won three times on LIV in 2023 and won the season points list.

Other invitations went to Dean Burmester, Lucas Herbert, Adrian Meronk, all of them inside the top 100 in the world. The seventh invitation went to David Puig, the 22-year-old from Spain who is No. 106 in the world ranking. Puig has finished in the top 10 in six of his last seven tournaments on the Asian Tour, including two wins.

LIV will be represented by 16 players, down from 18 a year ago.

There might have been one more, except British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen turned down his invitation. Oosthuizen, who is No. 125 in the world, won twice late last year in South Africa in tournaments co-sanctioned by the European tour.

His manager, Carlos Rodriguez, said in a text message that Oosthuizen already had some personal commitments.

The LIV group includes defending champion Brooks Koepka, who goes for a fourth PGA Championship title. He is the only active LIV player to win a major.

Kerry Haigh, the championship director for the PGA of America, has said he would consider deserving players from tours around the world. Invitations were given to Tim Widing of Sweden, who has won consecutive tournaments on the Korn Ferry Tour.

Another invitation went to Kazuma Kobori, a 22-year-old born in Japan who now plays under the New Zealand flag. He has won three times this year in the Webex Players Series on the PGA Tour of Australasia.

The field has 21 club professionals — 20 from the PGA Professional Championship last week, and Michael Block, who qualified by finishing among the top 15 last year at Oak Hill.

The PGA is keeping two spots open in case the winners of the Wells Fargo Championship and the Myrtle Beach Classic are not already eligible. Only four players in the 69-man field at the Wells Fargo Championship have not qualified. The first alternate is Doug Ghim.❑

Giro leader Tadej Pogacar finally takes it easy in Stage 4. Jonathan Milan takes a sprint victory

ANDORA, Italy (AP) — On the fourth day of his first Giro d'Italia, Tadej Pogacar finally took it easy.

The Slovenian's overall lead remained unchanged as he let the sprinters assume the spotlight and Jonathan Milan won the fourth stage on Tuesday in a bunch finish. Pogacar, who is attempting to win both the Giro and Tour de France this year, had been at the center of attention in the opening three stages.

In Stage 1, he immediately gained time on all of his direct rivals and finished third in a sprint. Then he claimed the pink jersey by winning the second stage and nearly caught the sprinters by surprise in Stage 3 with a late attack.

This time, Pogacar sat tight in the peloton as Milan edged Kaden Groves and Phil Bauhaus at the line for his second victory at the Giro after claiming the second stage last year.

Milan, who rides for the Lidl-Trek team, also reclaimed the points jersey that he won last year.

Milan also competes in track cycling and he helped Italy to the gold medal in team pursuit at the Tokyo Olympics.

Pogacar, the two-time Tour de France champion, remained 46 seconds ahead of Geraint Thomas and 47 seconds ahead of Daniel Martinez.

Milan required slightly more than 4 hours to complete the 190-kilometer (118-mile) route from Acqui Terme to the seaside town of Andora — which followed some of the same roads used in the Milan-San Remo classic.

There was a third-category climb midway through the stage and then a short ascent to Capo Mele that ended with less than three kilometers to the finish — followed by a short but high-speed descent. Then the final 800 meters were flat.❑



Italy's Jonathan Milan celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 4th stage of the of the Giro d'Italia, Tour of Italy cycling race from Acqui Terme to Andora, Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

Associated Press



Team Penske suspends senior leadership. What to know about the scandal that has rocked IndyCar

By JENNA FRYER AP
Auto Racing Writer

Roger Penske took a tough stance this week by suspending two senior leaders and two engineers ahead of the Indianapolis 500 as punishment for a cheating scandal that has engulfed his IndyCar team.

The issue centers on Indianapolis 500 winner Josef Newgarden's illegal use of his car's push-to-pass system in his March 10 season-opening victory at St. Petersburg, Florida. IndyCar stripped Newgarden of the win and teammate Scott McLaughlin of his third-place finish, docking both and fellow Penske driver Will Power 10 points each and hitting all three with $25,000 fines.

The Penske suspensions are the latest fallout from an incident that is unusual for IndyCar (first disqualification in 29 years) and for Penske, the IndyCar series owner and motorsports giant whose image has generally been considered one of the most impeccable in auto racing.

WHAT HAPPENED?

The push-to-pass software provides extra horsepower for a brief amount of time depending on the track. IndyCar controls the system from race control and deactivates it during starts and restarts.

Team Penske installed a version of the system on its cars while testing hybrid engines last August that allowed push-to-pass to be used on starts and restarts. Penske told The Associated Press this week the coding was not reverted back to its legal form before the March 10 race.

That meant the three Penske drivers hit the track able to push the button for the extra horsepower during starts and restarts.

IndyCar didn't catch it at St. Pete and in fact did not become aware of the problem until six weeks later, just before the third race of the season.

In the aftermath, McLaughlin said he hit the button once, out of habit, and the less than 2 seconds it was utilized gained him no on-track position. Newgarden has admitted to using it three times; he says he assumed a rule had been changed. Power did not use the system.

HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

Penske has been adamant there was no "malicious intent" to cheat, and chalked up the oversight as a breakdown of both processes and communication at Team Penske.

There was sharp skepticism from other team owners and drivers, who wondered how an entire pit crew would not be aware its driver was using P2P against the rules during a race. Engine data would have shown usage.

IndyCar is also trying to figure out how it missed it during the first two races of the season; it was only noticed April 21 when a glitch knocked out the software at Long Beach on all cars except the Penske entries.

THE FALLOUT

To counter the growing outrage, Penske suspended team president Tim Cindric, team managing director Ron Ruzewski and engineers Luke Mason and Robbie Atkinson.❑

