



Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba



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California governor says 'democracy is under assault' by Trump as feds intervene in L.A. protests

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**
AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Calling President Donald Trump a threat to the American way of life, Gov. Gavin Newsom depicted the federal military intervention in Los Angeles as the onset of a much broader effort by Trump to overturn political and cultural norms at the heart of the nation's democracy.

In a speech Tuesday evening, the potential 2028 Democratic presidential candidate said the arrival of National Guard and Marine troops in the city at Trump's direction was not simply about quelling protests that followed a series of immigration raids by federal authorities. Instead, he said, it was part of a calculated "war" intended to upend the foundations of society and concentrate power in the White House. "California may be first, but it clearly will not end here. Other states are next," a somber Newsom warned, seated before the U.S. and California flags.

"Democracy is next. Democracy is under assault before our eyes. This moment we have feared has arrived."

As head of the heavily



Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during an address on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.
(Office of California Governor via Associated Press)

Democratic state known as the epicenter of the so-called Trump resistance, Newsom and the Republican president have long been adversaries. But the governor's speech delivered in prime time argued that Trump was not just a threat to democracy, but was actively working to break down its guardrails that reach back to the nation's founding.

"He's declared a war. A war on culture, on history, on science, on knowledge

itself," Newsom said. "He's delegitimizing news organizations, and he's assaulting the First Amendment."

Newsom added that Trump is attacking law firms and the judicial branch "the foundations of an orderly and civil society."

"It's time for all of us to stand up," Newsom said, urging any protests to be peaceful. "What Donald Trump wants most is your fealty, your silence, to be complicit in this moment. Do not give in to him."

His speech came the same day that Newsom asked a court to put an emergency stop to the military helping federal immigration agents, with some guardsmen now standing in protective gauntlet around agents as they carried out arrests. The judge chose not to rule immediately, giving the Trump administration several days to continue those activities before a hearing Thursday. Trump has activated more than 4,000 National Guard members and 700 Marines

over the objections of city and state leaders, though the Marines have not yet been spotted in Los Angeles and Guard troops have had limited engagement with protesters. They were originally deployed to protect federal buildings.

Newsom's speech capped several days of acidic exchanges between Trump and Newsom, that included the president appearing to endorse Newsom's arrest if he interfered with federal immigration enforcement. "I think it's great. Gavin likes the publicity, but I think it would be a great thing," Trump told reporters.

Over the years, Trump has threatened to intercede in California's long-running homeless crisis, vowed to withhold federal wildfire aid as political leverage in a dispute over water rights, called on police to shoot people robbing stores and warned residents that "your children are in danger" because of illegal immigration.

Trump relishes insulting the two-term governor and former San Francisco mayor frequently referring to him as Gov. "New-scum" and earlier this year faulted the governor for Southern California's deadly wildfires. □

Members of the Fulbright scholarship board resign, accusing Trump of meddling

By **CHEYANNE MUMPHREY**
AP Education Writer

All 12 members of the board

overseeing the prestigious Fulbright scholarships on Wednesday resigned in



President Donald Trump walks down the stairs of Air Force One upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews, Md., Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Associated Press

protest of what they call the Trump administration's meddling with the selection of award recipients, according to a statement. A statement published online by the board members said the administration usurped the board's authority by denying awards to "a substantial number of people" who already had been chosen. Another 1,200 award recipients who were already approved to come to the U.S. are undergoing an unauthorized review process that could lead to their rejection, the board members said.

"To continue to serve after the Administration has con-

sistently ignored the Board's request that they follow the law would risk legitimizing actions we believe are unlawful and damage the integrity of this storied program and America's credibility abroad," the statement reads.

Congress established the Fulbright program nearly 80 years ago to promote international exchange and American diplomacy. The highly selective program awards about 9,000 scholarships annually in the U.S. and in more than 160 other countries to students, scholars, and professionals in a range of fields.

A message seeking com-

ment was left with the State Department, which runs the scholarship program. The resignations were first reported by The New York Times.

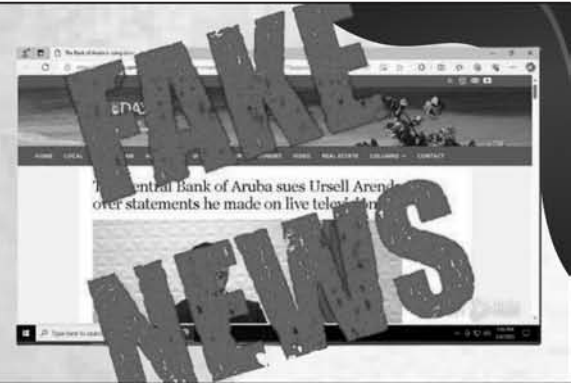
The intervention from the Trump administration undermined the program's merit-based selection process and its insulation from political influence, the board members wrote.

"We believe these actions not only contradict the statute but are antithetical to the Fulbright mission and the values, including free speech and academic freedom, that Congress specified in the statute," the statement said. □

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U.S. reduces the presence of people not deemed essential to work in the Middle East as tensions rise

By MATTHEW LEE, TARA COPP and JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is drawing down the presence of staffers who are not deemed essential to operations in the Middle East and their loved ones due to the potential for regional unrest, the State Department and military said Wednesday. The State Department said it has ordered the departure of all nonessential personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad based on its latest review and a commitment "to keeping Americans safe, both at home and abroad." The embassy already had been on limited staffing, and the order will not affect a large number of personnel.

The department, however, also is authorizing the departure of nonessential personnel and family members from Bahrain and Kuwait. That gives them the option of leaving those countries at government expense and with government assistance.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth "has authorized the voluntary departure of military dependents from locations" across the region, U.S. Central Command said in a statement. The command "is monitoring the developing tension in the Middle East."

White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly confirmed the moves.

"The State Department regularly reviews American personnel abroad, and this decision was made as a result of a recent review," Kelly said.

The top U.S. military officer for the Middle East, Gen.



Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrives on Air Force One at Hagerstown Regional Airport, in Hagerstown, Md., on his way to Camp David, Md., Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Associated Press

Erik Kurilla, was scheduled to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday, but that testimony has now been postponed, according to the committee's website. The Pentagon did not have an immediate comment on why Kurilla's testimony was postponed.

Tensions in the region have been rising in recent days as talks between the U.S. and Iran over its rapidly advancing nuclear program appear to have hit an impasse.

The talks seek to limit Iran's nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some of the crushing economic sanctions that the U.S. has imposed on the Islamic Republic. Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful.

The next round of talks the sixth had been tentatively scheduled for this weekend

in Oman, according to two U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss diplomatic matters. However, those officials said Wednesday that it looked increasingly unlikely that the talks would happen.

President Donald Trump, who has previously said Israel or the U.S. could carry out airstrikes targeting Iranian nuclear facilities if negotiations failed, gave a less-than-optimistic view about reaching a deal with Iran, telling the New York Post's "Pod Force One" podcast that he was "getting more and more less confident about" a deal.

"They seem to be delaying, and I think that's a shame. I'm less confident now than I would have been a couple of months ago. Something happened to them," he said in the interview recorded Monday and re-

leased Wednesday.

Iran's mission to the U.N. posted on social media that "threats of overwhelming force won't change the facts."

"Iran is not seeking a nuclear weapon, and U.S. militarism only fuels instability," the Iranian mission wrote. Iranian Defense Minister Gen. Aziz Nasirzadeh separately told journalists Wednesday that he hoped talks with the U.S. would yield results, though Tehran stood ready to respond.

"If conflict is imposed on us, the opponent's casualties will certainly be more than ours, and in that case, America must leave the region, because all its bases are within our reach," he said.

"We have access to them, and we will target all of them in the host countries without hesitation."

Meanwhile, the Board of

Governors at the International Atomic Energy Agency was potentially set to vote on a measure to censure Iran. That could set in motion an effort to snap back United Nations sanctions on Iran via a measure in Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers that's still active until October. Trump withdrew from that agreement in his first term.

Earlier Wednesday, a statement from the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center, a Mid-east-based effort overseen by the British navy, issued a warning to ships in the region that it "has been made aware of increased tensions within the region which could lead to an escalation of military activity having a direct impact on mariners."

It urged caution in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz. It did not name Iran, though those waterways have seen Iranian ship seizures and attacks in the past.

Meanwhile, Iraq's state-run Iraqi News Agency said in a statement attributed to an unnamed government official that the evacuation of some nonessential employees from the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad was part of "procedures related to the U.S. diplomatic presence in a number of Middle Eastern countries, not just Iraq" and that Iraqi officials "have not recorded any security indicators that warrant an evacuation."

"We reiterate that all security indicators and briefings support the escalating assessments of stability and the restoration of internal security," the statement said. □

Wisconsin lawsuit seeks to ban Elon Musk from offering \$1 million checks to voters

By **SCOTT BAUER**
Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A government watchdog group in Wisconsin filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to prohibit billionaire Elon Musk from ever again offering cash payments to voters in the battleground state like he did in this spring's hotly contested Supreme Court race.

Musk handed out \$1 million checks to three Wisconsin voters, including two in person just days before the state's April 1 Supreme Court election, in an effort to help elect conservative candidate Brad Schimel. Two weeks before the election, Musk's political action committee, America PAC, offered \$100 to voters who signed a petition in opposition to "activist judges," or referred someone to sign it. It was all part of more than \$20 million that Musk and groups he support spent on the race in an effort to flip majority control of the Wisconsin Supreme Court. More than \$100 million was spent by both sides, making it the most expensive court race in U.S. history. Musk's preferred candidate lost to Democratic-



Elon Musk hands over a million dollar check to Nicholas Jacobs during a town hall in Green Bay, Wis., March 30, 2025.

Associated Press

backed Susan Crawford by 10 percentage points. Her victory cemented the 4-3 liberal majority on the Wisconsin Supreme Court until at least 2028.

Since that election, Musk announced he will spend less on political campaigns and then feuded publicly with President Donald Trump after exiting his administration.

The lawsuit filed Wednesday in state court by the

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign says that Musk's actions create "the risk that Wisconsin elections will become an open auction, where votes go to the preferred candidates of the highest bidders and the election outcome is determined by which candidate has a patron willing and able to pay the highest sum to Wisconsin voters."

The lawsuit says that Musk and two groups he funds vi-

olated prohibitions on vote bribery and unauthorized lotteries and says his actions were an unlawful conspiracy and public nuisance. The lawsuit asks the court to order that Musk never offer similar payments to voters again. A spokesperson for Musk's America PAC did not immediately return a text message Wednesday seeking comment.

There is another Wisconsin Supreme Court election in

April. In November 2026, control of the Legislature and the governor's office, as well as the state's eight congressional districts, will be decided. The latest lawsuit was filed on behalf of the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign and a pair of voters by the liberal Wisconsin-based Law Forward and the Washington-based Democracy Defenders Fund. It was filed against Musk, his group America PAC that announced the petition and the Musk-funded group United States of America Inc. that made the payments.

The court that Crawford joins in August could ultimately hear the new lawsuit. Crawford would almost certainly be asked to recuse from the case, and if she did, the court would be left with a 3-3 split between conservative and liberal justices. The current court, also controlled 4-3 by liberals, declined to hear a similar hastily filed lawsuit brought by Wisconsin's Democratic attorney general seeking to block Musk's handing out of two \$1 million checks to voters two days before the election. □

World's most popular TikTok star Khaby Lama leaves the U.S. after being detained by ICE

By **RIO YAMAT**
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Khaby Lama, the world's most

popular TikTok personality with millions of followers, has left the U.S. after being detained by immigration

agents in Las Vegas for allegedly overstaying his visa. The Senegalese-Italian influencer, whose legal name is Seringe Khabane Lama, was detained Friday at Harry Reid International Airport but was allowed to leave the country without a deportation order, a spokesperson for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement confirmed in a statement.

Lama arrived in the U.S. on April 30 and "overstayed the terms of his visa," the ICE spokesperson said. The Associated Press sent a message seeking comment Tuesday to the email address listed on Lama's Instagram account. He has not publicly commented

on his detainment. His detainment and voluntary departure from the U.S. comes amid President Donald Trump's escalating crackdown on immigration, including raids in Los Angeles that sparked days of protests against ICE, as the president tests the bounds of his executive authority.

A voluntary departure which was granted to Lama allows those facing removal from the U.S. to avoid a deportation order on their immigration record, which could prevent them from being allowed back into the U.S. for up to a decade.

The 25-year-old rose to international fame during

the pandemic without ever saying a word in his videos, which would show him reacting to absurdly complicated "life hacks." He has over 162 million followers on TikTok alone.

The Senegal-born influencer moved to Italy when he was an infant with his working class parents and has Italian citizenship.

His internet fame quickly evolved.

He signed a multiyear partnership with designer brand Hugo Boss in 2022. In January, he was appointed as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador.

Last month, he attended the Met Gala in New York City, days after arriving in the U.S. □



Khaby Lama opens his shirt to reveal the image of Chadwick Boseman upon arrival for the premiere of the film 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' in London, Nov. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

More than 55,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Israel-Hamas war, Gaza health officials say

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — The Palestinian death toll from the 20-month Israel-Hamas war has climbed past 55,000, the Gaza Health Ministry said Wednesday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office meanwhile said that Israel's forces recovered the remains of two additional hostages held in Gaza since the Oct. 7, 2023 attack by Hamas on southern Israel that launched the war in Gaza. The Gaza Health Ministry doesn't distinguish between civilians and combatants, but has said that women and children make up more than half the 55,000 dead. Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among civilians, because they operate in populated areas. The ministry says 55,104 people have been killed since the start of the war and 127,394 wounded. Many more are believed to be buried under the rubble or in areas that are inaccessible to local medics. The Health Ministry is part of Gaza's Hamas-run govern-



Palestinians, who were injured last night while trying to get access to humanitarian aid, arrive at the al-Shifa Hospital, in Gaza City, Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

ment, but staffed by medical professionals who maintain and publish detailed records. Its tolls from previous conflicts have largely aligned with those of independent experts, though Israel has questioned the ministry's figures. Netanyahu's office identified the remains of one of the hostages recovered

Wednesday as Yair Yarkov, who was killed during the Oct. 7, 2023 attack. The identity of the second hostage whose body was recovered was not immediately disclosed. Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said the bodies were retrieved in a "complex" operation without disclosing details.

Israeli forces have destroyed vast areas of Gaza, displaced about 90% of its population and in recent weeks have transformed more than half of the coastal territory into a military buffer zone that includes the now mostly uninhabited southern city of Rafah. A 2½-month blockade im-

posed by Israel when it ended a ceasefire with Hamas raised fears of famine and was slightly eased in May.

The launch of a new Israeli- and U.S.-backed aid system has been marred by chaos and violence, and the U.N. says it has struggled to bring in food because of Israeli restrictions, a breakdown of law and order, and widespread looting.

Israel accuses Hamas of siphoning off aid, but the U.N. and aid groups deny there is any systematic diversion of aid to militants. Hamas has suffered major setbacks militarily, and Israel says it has killed more than 20,000 militants, without providing evidence. The militants still hold 53 hostages less than half of them believed to be alive and control areas outside of military zones despite facing rare protests earlier this year.

The war began when Hamas-led militants killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted 251 hostages. □

Associated Press

Netanyahu's government faces possible collapse as the opposition seeks to dissolve parliament

By MELANIE LIDMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government faced a major test Wednesday after the opposition submitted a bill to dissolve parliament, with his ultra-Orthodox coalition partners threatening to support the measure and force early elections. The ultra-Orthodox parties are furious that the government has failed to pass a law exempting their community from mandatory military service, an issue that has long divided the Jewish Israeli public, especially during the 20-month-long war in the Gaza Strip. While many expect a last-minute compromise, the

vote is the most serious challenge to Netanyahu's government since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack, the biggest security failure in Israel's history. The opposition submitted a bill to dissolve the Knesset, Israel's parliament. In response, coalition members submitted numerous bills, packing Wednesday's schedule and buying time for last-minute negotiations. The dissolution vote, if it is not pulled, is expected to take place late at night. Separately, Argentina's President Javier Milei will address the Knesset on Wednesday. The bill must pass another three readings before parliament is dissolved, a pro-

cess that could take days or weeks. Even if the bill passes, it could take weeks or months for new elections to be called. If the bill fails, another vote for dissolution cannot be brought again by the opposition for at least six months.

The opposition could still pull the bill if there isn't enough support and submit it again in the coming weeks. Netanyahu's coalition includes two ultra-Orthodox parties, and both would need to support the dissolution bill for it to pass. On Tuesday, top ultra-Orthodox, or Haredi, rabbis issued a religious decree emphasizing their stand against military service,

which complicates the Haredi politicians' ability to negotiate. Military service is mandatory for most Jews in Israel, but the politically powerful

ultra-Orthodox, who make up roughly 13% of Israeli society, have traditionally received exemptions if they are studying full-time in religious seminaries. □



Ultra-Orthodox Jewish men block a highway during a protest against army recruitment in Bnei Brak, Israel, Thursday, June 5, 2025.

Associated Press

EU and U.K. reach accord on cross-border trade and travel in Gibraltar

By LORNE COOK, JILL LAWLESS and SUMAN NAISHADHAM

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union and the U.K. announced Wednesday that they have reached an agreement to ease cross-border trade and travel in Gibraltar after years of post-Brexit wrangling over the contested territory at the tip of the Iberian peninsula.

In a post on social media, EU Trade Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič raised the deal as "a truly historic milestone: an EU-UK political agreement on the future relationship concerning Gibraltar. This benefits everyone and reinforces a new chapter in the relationship."

Britain left the European Union in 2020 with the relationship between Gibraltar and the bloc unresolved. Talks on a deal to ensure people and goods can keep flowing over the Gibraltar-Spain border previously had made only halting progress.

Gibraltar was ceded to Britain in 1713, but Spain has maintained its sovereignty



People walk past a Brexit information office at the British territory of Gibraltar, on Jan. 31, 2020. Associated Press

claim ever since. Relations concerning the Rock, as it is popularly referred to in English, have had their ups and downs over the centuries.

In Britain's 2016 Brexit referendum, 96% of voters in Gibraltar supported remaining in the EU. The tiny territory on Spain's southern tip depends greatly on ac-

cess to the EU market for its 34,000 inhabitants.

The British government said the agreement "resolves the last major unresolved issue from Brexit," while Spanish Foreign Minister José Albares said the deal was historic and marked "a new beginning" in the relationship between the U.K. and Spain.

He said that Spain "will guarantee free movement of people and goods," adding that Gibraltar would now be linked to Europe's free travel zone known as the Schengen Area with Spanish authorities controlling entry and exit.

The deal, which must be ratified by parliaments in Spain and the U.K., will re-

move all physical barriers, checks and controls on people and goods moving between Spain and Gibraltar, the EU said in a statement.

In order to preserve The EU's free travel zone and borderless single market for goods, entry and exit checks will instead be conducted at Gibraltar's airport and port by both U.K. and Spanish border officials. The arrangement is similar to that in place at Eurostar train stations in London and Paris, where both British and French officials check passports.

The U.K. and Gibraltar had previously resisted Spain's insistence that Spanish border officials be based at the airport, which is also home to a Royal Air Force base.

An agreement was also reached Wednesday for visas and travel permits.

The U.K. said that half Gibraltar's population crosses the border each day and that without an agreement, new EU entry-exit rules mean every one would have to have their passports checked. □

Gang violence displaced a record 1.3 million people in Haiti, U.N. report finds

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Gang violence has displaced a record 1.3 million people across Haiti as the local government

and international community struggle to contain the spiraling crisis, according to a new report released Wednesday.

The U.N.'s International Organization for Migration

warned of a 24% increase in displaced people since December, with gunmen now having chased 11% of Haiti's nearly 12 million inhabitants from their home. Much of the gang violence remains centered in Port-au-Prince, but more than 230,000 people alone have been left homeless as gunmen continue to lay siege in the two largest regions north of the capital, officials said.

"We need to act urgently. The strength of the Haitian people is humbling, but resilience cannot be their only refuge," Amy Pope, IOM's director general, said in a statement.

The number of makeshift shelters also has skyrocketed by more than 70%, from 142 to 246, with much

of the increase reported in Haiti's once peaceful central region. The IOM noted that for the first time, regions outside Port-au-Prince have more shelters than the capital, given the ongoing violence in towns like Mirebalais and Petite Rivière.

Overall, more than 80% of those displaced are staying with friends or family, although in Port-au-Prince, the majority of those displaced are staying in crowded and unsanitary makeshift shelters that include abandoned government buildings.

"Many now face life without access to health care, schools, and clean water, leaving already vulnerable families struggling to survive," according to the

IOM. Hours after the report was released, officials with the U.N., the Inter American Development Bank and Haiti's government and civil society gathered behind closed doors to talk about the situation.

"The crisis...is only getting worse," Bob Rae, president of the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council, said ahead of the meeting.

He and other officials said it's not enough to only tackle Haiti's security crisis. Gangs that control at least 85% of Port-au-Prince are recruiting a growing number of children in the deeply impoverished country.

"Without development, we have no security, without security, we have no development," Rae said. □



A man sleeps on a car at a shelter for families displaced by gang violence in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Thursday, June 5, 2025. Associated Press

A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels



or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last

lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many

years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that

measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



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Experience the modern twist of tradition at L'Avenue Belgian Bistro Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—Nuzzled up in a cozy nook of The Cove Mall in the sun-kissed paradise of Palm Beach, L'Avenue takes you on a journey to experience the true flavors of Belgium. Offering a selection of traditional Belgian and French cuisine, this bistro brings the old into the new against a backdrop of laid-back luxury.

The new kid on the block, L'Avenue currently holds a unique position in the island's culinary

scene; being the only Belgian-owned, Belgian restaurant on the island. This winning hand is not obtained by many, and L'Avenue's delicious menu and wide selection of Belgian beer, and European and New World wine emphasizes the bistro's unique vision to bring Europe into the palm of your hands!

Once part of the famous Taste of Belgium restaurant, L'Avenue offers a new point of view and brings a fresh life to what was once beloved by both locals and tourists. Crafted by Chef Juan Ludeña and his team, enjoy a superb variety of classic Belgian and French dishes



served with a touch of innovation for lunch and dinner, including stews, steak-house quality meat and their famous Moules-frites, served with a variety of delicious and rich broth.

As if that wasn't enough, enjoy your meal under warm, starry lights accompanied by live music performances every day, seated either in a relaxing and cool interior area of the restaurant, or outside against a backdrop of the bright, colorful lights of the Palm Beach strip!

More information

L'Avenue is situated at The Cove Mall in Palm Beach and is open every day from 11am to 10pm for lunch and dinner. To book a reservation or ask for more information, please contact their phone line at +297 6996400, send an e-mail info@lavenuearuba.com, or visit their website at lavenuearuba.com ☐



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 "Wil-

lem 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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Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses.

Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you're wanting to try a new experience! With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only



to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi



Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Known locally as Fisher-

man's Hut, here is where

you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □





ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlap-

ping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4-5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega Phyllodactylus Julieni is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the

island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

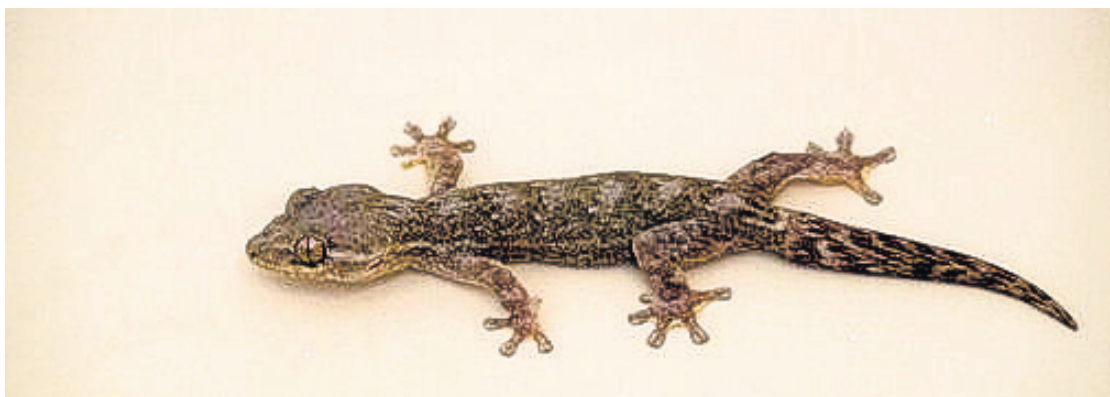
Striped anole

The striped anole (Anolis lineatus) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



Adriaan Laclé

One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century



(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Laclé may ring a bell to locals as one of the bigger roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Laclé was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of

land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Today his house still stands in good condition and can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as a townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □



Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.

A guide for the perfect picture

Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

"I LOVE ARUBA"

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be

a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way!

The sitting bull

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back en-



trance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Renaissance Dock

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! □



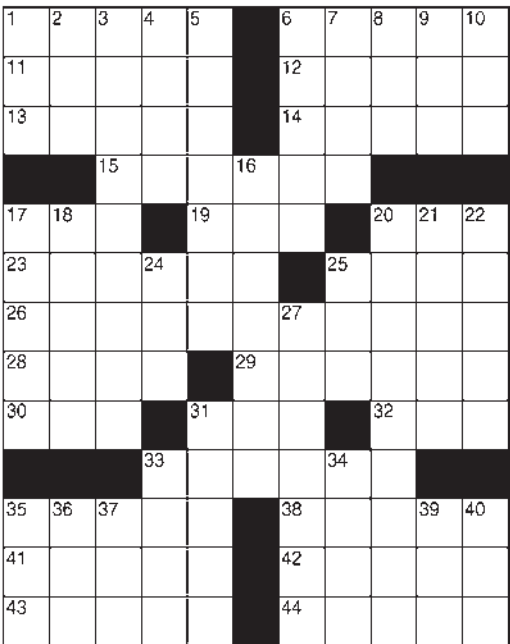
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Gaggle group
1 Aspirations
6 Was sore
11 Like good sentries
12 Roulette bet
13 Old photo tint
14 Boarded
15 Become cheerful
17 Take in
19 Kickoff aid
20 Scathing review
23 Hard to control
25 Head, to Henri
26 Energy-boosting drink
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29 Stamping need
30 Go bad
31 Finish
32 Print units
33 Engaged
35 Cargo spots
38 Battery part
41 Parting word
42 Bolshevik leader

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2 Spanish cheer
3 West Indian stew
4 Buffalo's lake
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6 Bicker
7 Hen pen
8 Crude home
9 Swelled head
10 Cub's cave

16 Belt loop attachment
17 "Great!"
18 Madrid month
20 Pizzeria supply
21 Top players
22 Uncool group
24 Good times
25 Toll hwy.
27 Still in the deck
31 Follow
33 March time
34 Fresh
35 Crone
36 Lyric work
37 Tell stories
39 Jumble of noise
40 Print units



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.

6-15 CRYPTOQUOTE

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Q I T O M ' N A T F M A K R J K M Y T O O

C I K Q I U J F N ' O B P H J N .

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			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E	1 -
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I	1 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I	1 1 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	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 basicbut 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

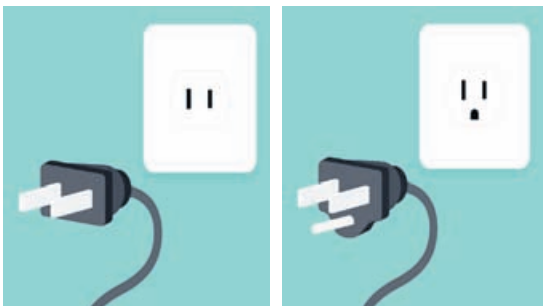
The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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.



Nvidia chief calls AI 'the greatest equalizer' but warns Europe risks falling behind



NVIDIA CEO Jensen Huang delivers his keynote address Wednesday, June 11, 2025 at the Vivatech fair in Paris.

Associated Press

By THOMAS ADAMSON and
KELVIN CHAN

Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Will artificial intelligence save humanity or destroy it? Lift up the world's poorest or tighten the grip of a tech elite?

Jensen Huang, the global chip tycoon, offered his opinion on Wednesday: neither dystopia nor domination. AI, he said, is a tool for liberation.

Wearing his signature biker jacket and mobbed by fans for selfies, the Nvidia CEO cut the figure of a tech rockstar as he took the stage at VivaTech in Paris.

"AI is the greatest equalizer of people the world has ever created," Huang said, kicking off one of Europe's biggest technology indus-

try fairs.

But beyond the sheeny optics, Nvidia used the Paris summit to unveil a wave of infrastructure announcements across Europe, signaling a dramatic expansion of the AI chipmaker's physical and strategic footprint on the continent. In France, the company is deploying 18,000 of its new Blackwell chips with startup Mistral AI. In Germany, it's building an industrial AI cloud to support manufacturers. Similar roll-outs are underway in Italy, Spain, Finland and the U.K., including a new AI lab in Britain.

Other announcements include a partnership with AI startup Perplexity to bring sovereign AI models to European publish-

ers and telecoms, a new cloud platform with Mistral AI, and work with BMW and Mercedes-Benz to train AI-powered robots for use in auto plants. The announcements reflect how central AI infrastructure has become to global strategy, and how Nvidia the world's most valuable chipmaker is positioning itself as the engine behind it. At the center of the debate is Huang's concept of the AI factory: not a plant that makes goods, but a vast data center that creates intelligence. □

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Brian Wilson, Beach Boys leader and summer's poet laureate, dies at 82

By **HILLEL ITALIE**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Brian Wilson, the Beach Boys' visionary and fragile leader who helped compose and arrange "Good Vibrations," "California Girls" and dozens of other summertime anthems and became one of the world's most influential and admired musicians, has died at 82.

Wilson's family posted news of his death to his website Wednesday. Further details weren't immediately available. Since May 2024, Wilson had been under a court conservatorship to oversee his personal and medical affairs, with Wilson's longtime representatives in charge.

The eldest and last surviving of three musical brothers Brian played bass, Carl lead guitar and Dennis drums he and his fellow Beach Boys rose from local act to national hitmakers to international ambassadors of the American dream. Wilson himself was celebrated for his beautiful music and pitied for his demons. He was one of rock's great Romantics, a tortured soul who in his peak years embarked on an ever-steeper quest for aural perfection.

The Beach Boys rank among the most popular acts of the rock era, with more than 30 singles in the Top 40 and worldwide sales of more than 100 million. 1966's "Pet



Musician Brian Wilson poses for a portrait at his home in Los Angeles on July 28, 2008.

Associated Press

Sounds" was voted No. 2 in a 2003 Rolling Stone list of the best 500 albums, losing out, as Wilson did from the start, to the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band." The Beach Boys, who also featured Wilson cousin Mike Love and family friend Al Jardine, were voted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 1988.

Fans ranged from Elton John and Bruce Springsteen to Katy Perry and Bob Dylan. The Who's drummer, Keith Moon, fantasized about joining the Beach Boys. Paul McCartney cited

"Pet Sounds" as a direct inspiration on the Beatles and said the ballad "God Only Knows" often moved him to tears.

Their music was like an ongoing party, with Wilson as mastermind and wallflower. He was a tall, shy man, partially deaf (allegedly because of beatings by his father, Murry Wilson), with a sweet, crooked grin, and he rarely touched a surfboard unless for publicity. But out of the lifestyle that he observed and such musical influences as Chuck Berry and the Four Freshmen,

he devised a magical and durable soundscape easy melodies, bright harmonies, vignettes of beaches, cars and girls that resonated worldwide.

Decades after its first release, a Beach Boys song can still conjure up instant summer the wake-up guitar riff that opens "Surfin' USA"; the melting harmonies of "Don't Worry Baby"; the chants of "fun, fun, fun" or "good, good, GOOD, good vibrations"; the behind-the-wheel chorus "'Round, 'round, get around, I get around." Beach Boys songs

have cheered on generations from iPods and boom boxes, radios and 8-track players, and any device that could be placed on a beach towel.

The Beach Boys' innocent appeal survived changing trends and times and the group's increasingly troubled backstory Brian's many personal trials; allegations of their father's mismanagement and physical abuse; feuds and lawsuits; the alcoholism of Dennis Wilson, who drowned in 1983. Brian Wilson's ambition took the Beach Boys into territory far beyond the simple pleasures of their early hits transcendent, eccentric and destructive. They seemed to live out every fantasy, and every nightmare, of the California myth.

Brian Wilson was born June 20, 1942, two days after McCartney. His musical gifts were obvious and as a boy he was playing piano and teaching his brothers to sing harmony. The Beach Boys started as a neighborhood act, rehearsing in Brian's bedroom and in the garage of their house in suburban Hawthorne, California. Surf music was catching on locally and Dennis, the group's only real surfer, suggested they cash in. Brian and Love hastily wrote up their first single, "Surfin,'" a minor hit released in 1961. □

Springsteen's Berlin concert echoes with history and a stark warning



Bruce Springsteen performs with the E Street Band at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin, Germany, Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

Associated Press

By **STEFANIE DAZIO**

BERLIN (AP) — Veteran rock star Bruce Springsteen, a high-profile critic of President Donald Trump, slammed the U.S. administration as "corrupt, incompetent and treasonous" during a concert Wednesday in Berlin. He was addressing tens of thousands of fans at a stadium built for the 1936 Olympic Games that still bears the scars of World War II and contains relics from the country's dark Nazi past.

"Tonight, we ask all who believe in democracy and the best of our American experiment to rise with us, raise your voices, stand with us against authoritarianism, and let freedom reign," he said.

Springsteen, long a political opponent

of the president, has made increasingly pointed and contentious public statements in recent concerts.

He denounced Trump's politics during a concert last month in Manchester, calling him an "unfit president" leading a "rogue government" of people who have "no concern or idea for what it means to be deeply American."

Springsteen is no stranger to Berlin.

In July 1988, he became one of the first Western musicians to perform in East Germany, performing to a ravenous crowd of 160,000 East Germans yearning for American rock 'n' roll and the freedom it represented to the youth living under the crumbling communist regime. □

On first 4-game losing streak since 2007, U.S. looks unprepared with World Cup a year away

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The only bright side for the U.S. soccer team is the World Cup starts in a year, not this week.

The Americans conceded four goals in the first half, failed to get a shot on target and were embarrassed in a 4-0 blowout loss to Switzerland in a friendly on Tuesday night.

"It's really easy to look at one game, one half, and be like, oh, this is all going to pieces, they can't come back from this," defender Walker Zimmerman said. "But you look even the build-up to the 2022 (World Cup), we take down Morocco 3-0 and they make it into the semifinal. Things change that was six months apart. It's not the end of the world."

Heading into their CONCACAF Gold Cup opener against Trinidad and Tobago on Sunday, the Americans are on a four-game losing streak for the first time since 2007 and have dropped four consecutive home games for just the third time overall and first time since 1988.

U.S. coach Mauricio Po-



United States forward Damion Downs (9) and defender Walker Zimmerman, right, look to the fans after the team's loss in an international friendly soccer match against the Switzerland, Tuesday, June 10, 2025, in Nashville, Tenn.

chettino blamed himself for picking a starting lineup that included four players with two or fewer international appearances. He wanted them to gain international experience but the Americans gave up four goals by the 40th minute for the first time since Nov. 9, 1980, at Mexico and

the first time ever at home, according to Opta.

"It was my decision and the decision didn't work," he said. "It's painful because you don't want to improve losing games."

A dismayed fan base, angered by first-round elimination at last year's Copa America and two losses in

the CONCACAF Nations League final four in March, is questioning the commitment of the team's player pool.

The U.S. was missing star Christian Pulisic (wanted time off); Yunus Musah (personal reason not disclosed); Weston McKennie, Tim Weah, Gio Reyna

(headed to the Club World Cup); Antonee Robinson, Tyler Adams and Folarin Balogun (injured); and Sergiño Dest (regaining fitness). Dan Ndoye scored in the 13th minute, Michel Aebischer in the 23rd, Breel Embolo in the 33rd and Johan Manzambi in the 36th. Goalkeeper Matt Turner, playing his first match for club or country since March 23, spilled a shot that led to Embolo's goal. Defenders left the Swiss lots of space. "You have to take your licks and understand where things went wrong and try to put them right in the next five days," said defender Tim Ream, among five players who entered at the start of the second half. "There's some individual errors that we make and we get punished for them at this level."

Instead of a steady improvement, the U.S. has regressed since reaching the second round of the 2022 World Cup. The Americans are 5-5 under Pochettino, who took over after the Copa America flop led the U.S. Soccer Federation to fire coach Gregg Berhalter. □

Associated Press

Anti-doping watchdog urges U.S. authorities to shut down planned drug-fueled event in Las Vegas

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland

(AP) — The global watchdog of doping in sports said Wednesday it will urge public authorities to shut down the drug-fueled Enhanced Games planned in Las Vegas next year.

"We will urge the U.S. authorities to find legal ways to block this initiative," World Anti-Doping Agency president Witold Banka said on the sidelines of a meeting of Olympic sports bodies.

Organizers of the games scheduled for next May promise \$1 million bonuses to beat world-record times by athletes who will be encouraged to use performance-enhancing drugs under medical supervision.

"This initiative seeks to normalize the use of potentially dangerous drugs," Banka told leaders of Summer Olympics sports at the annual meeting of their umbrella group, known as ASOIF.

"For the sake of athlete health and the purity of sport of course it must be stopped," the WADA leader said.

Banka, a former sports minister in Poland, suggested the Enhanced Games could be legally exposed in the state of Nevada or federally.

"This is something that has to be explored from the legal perspective," he told The Associated Press. "I cannot imagine, for instance, doctors giving the drugs to the athletes. It is

completely against the values of their work."

"The main thing is this event is going to be located in the U.S., so I think there is a strong role to be played by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency," said Banka, whose Montreal-based organization has long had a troubled relationship with the American agency.

Said USADA's chief executive, Travis Tygart: "Banka's indignation equals his misinformation or ignorance about how free democratic societies and markets work."

He challenged Banka to testify at a U.S. Senate hearing next week at which WADA will be the topic.

"If he really wants to ask U.S. authorities to do some-

thing, he should show up and ask the Senate to do something," Tygart said. Investors in the project which aims to sell person-

alized supplements and substances plans to subscribers include one group backed by Donald Trump Jr. □



The President of World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Witold Banka speaks during the opening of the WADA Symposium for Anti-Doping Organizations at the SwissTech Convention Center in Lausanne, Switzerland, March 18, 2025.

Associated Press

Luzardo returns to form with 10 strikeouts and Phillies bats come alive to end prolonged slumps

By **DAN GELSTON**

AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Ricky Stenhouse Jr. admired Kyle Schwarber's shot deep into the right-field seats "that's a bomb!" and got a thrill when Nick Castellanos came inches away from his own solo homer. Castellanos settled for a triple, showing that in baseball unlike in NASCAR good things happen when a long drive ends with a smack off the wall. Alec Bohm also went deep and teamed with Schwarber and Castellanos to contribute three of the Phillies' five extra-base hits in a win the team can only hope revived an offense that's been punch-



Philadelphia Phillies' Jesús Luzardo pitches during the first inning of a baseball game against the Chicago Cubs, Wednesday, June 11, 2025, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

less this month.

Another encouraging sign? Jesús Luzardo put two disastrous starts behind him and struck out 10 in six innings to lead the Phillies past the Chicago Cubs 7-2 on Wednesday.

The Phillies had lost nine of 10 games overall headed into the Cubs' series and suffered the double whammy of losing first baseman Bryce Harper to wrist soreness and starter Aaron Nola adding a stress reaction in one of his right ribs.

They returned home and split the first two games of the three-game set against the Cubs in underwhelming fashion: Of their 26 hits in two games, 23 were singles. Schwarber hit his 21st homer a Monster Mile Stenhouse attended to promote the July 20 NASCAR race at Dover Motor Speedway and Bohm added four RBIs to help the Phillies win the series.

Schwarber is averaging one home run for every 10.94 at-bats during June in his career, which ranks third in MLB history with at least 600 at-bats behind Babe Ruth (10.64 AB/HR) and Mark McGwire (10.80 AB/HR). Luzardo handled the rest. The left-hander was an early season success story in his first season since he was acquired from Miami in what looked like the heist of the winter. He struck out 11 in his Phillies' debut and followed in his second start with seven scoreless innings. Luzardo struck out a combined 20 batters in consecutive starts in late May as the Phillies surged to the lead in the NL. Luzardo's next two starts were somehow about as bad as it gets he was rocked for 12 runs in 3 1/3 innings that skyrocketed his ERA from 2.15 to 3.58 and he gave up eight runs in 2 1/3 innings in his last outing in Toronto.

Luzardo insisted he was healthy and still hit the high 90s with his fastball, forcing him to study game film with a bit of a detective's eye to find out why his season soured. □



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