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# Trump administration's lawsuit against all of Maryland's federal judges meets skepticism in court

By **LEA SKENE**  
**Associated Press**

**BALTIMORE (AP)** — A judge on Wednesday questioned why it was necessary for the Trump administration to sue Maryland's entire federal bench over an order that paused the immediate deportation of migrants challenging their removals.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Cullen didn't issue a ruling following a hearing in federal court in Baltimore, but he expressed skepticism about the administration's extraordinary legal maneuver, which attorneys for the Maryland judges called completely unprecedented.

Cullen serves in the Western District of Virginia, but he was tapped to oversee the Baltimore case because all of Maryland's 15 federal judges are named as defendants, a highly unusual circumstance that reflects the Republican administration's aggressive response to courts that slow or stop its policies.

At issue in the lawsuit is an order signed by Chief Maryland District Judge George L. Russell III that prevents the administration from immediately deporting any immigrants seeking review of their detention in a Maryland federal court. The order blocks their removal



**U.S. Attorney Thomas Cullen, center, speaks with the media in Charlottesville Federal Court in Charlottesville, Va, March 27, 2019.**

**Associated Press**

until 4 p.m. on the second business day after their habeas corpus petition is filed. The Justice Department, which filed the lawsuit in June, says the automatic pause impedes President Donald Trump's authority to enforce immigration laws. But attorneys for the Maryland judges argue that the suit was intended to limit the power of the judiciary to review certain immigration proceedings while the administration pursues a mass deportation agenda.

"The executive branch seeks to bring suit in the name of the United States against a co-equal branch of government," said Paul Clement, a prominent conservative lawyer who served as Republican President George W. Bush's solicitor general. "There really is no precursor for this suit" Clement listed several other avenues the administration could have taken to challenge the order, such as filing an appeal in an individual habeas case.

Cullen also asked the government's lawyers whether they had considered that alternative, which he said could have been more expeditious than suing all the judges. He also questioned what would happen if the administration accelerated its current approach and sued a federal appellate bench, or even the Supreme Court.

"I think you probably picked up on the fact that I have some skepticism," Cullen told Justice Depart-

ment attorney Elizabeth Themins Hedges when she stood to present the Trump administration's case.

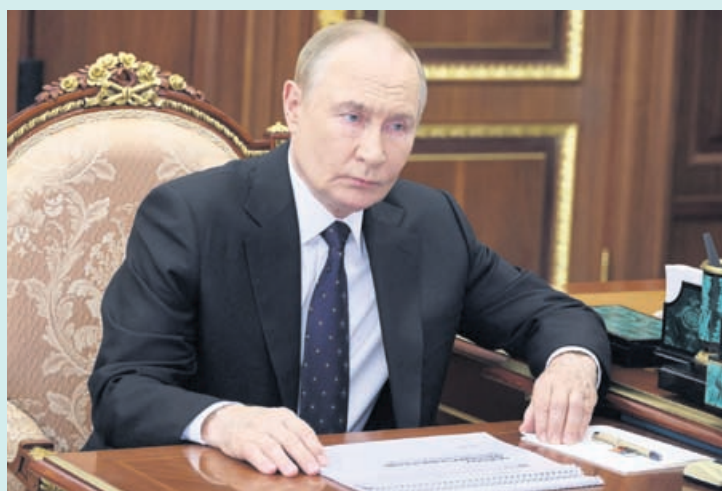
Hedges denied that the case would "open the floodgates" to similar lawsuits. She said the government is simply seeking relief from a legal roadblock preventing effective immigration enforcement.

"The United States is a plaintiff here because the United States is being harmed," she said.

Cullen, who was nominated to the federal bench by Trump in 2020, said he would issue a ruling by Labor Day on whether to dismiss the lawsuit. If allowed to proceed, he could also grant the government's request for a preliminary injunction that would block the Maryland federal bench from following the conditions of the chief judge's order.

The automatic pause in deportation proceedings sought to maintain existing conditions and the potential jurisdiction of the court, ensure immigrant petitioners are able to participate in court proceedings and access attorneys and give the government "fulsome opportunity to brief and present arguments in its defense," according to the order. □

## Trump and Putin will meet at an Alaska military base long used to counter Russia



**Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to the head of the Federal Taxation Service Daniil Yegorov during their meeting at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025.**

**Associated Press**

By **KONSTANTIN TOROPIN and MICHELLE L. PRICE**  
**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — In an ironic twist, President Donald Trump is set to discuss the war in Ukraine with Russian leader Vladimir Putin at a military base in Alaska that was crucial to countering the Soviet Union during the height of Cold War and still plays a role today.

The meeting is scheduled to take place Friday at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, according to a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning.

The base created by merging Elmendorf Air Force Base and Army Fort Richardson in 2010 has played a key strategic role in monitoring and deterring the Soviet Union during much of the Cold War.

Throughout its long history, the base hosted large numbers of aircraft and oversaw operations of a variety of early warning radar sites that were aimed at detecting Soviet military activity and any possible nuclear launches. It earned the motto "Top Cover for North America" at this time, according to the base website.

While much of the military hardware has since been deactivated, the base still hosts key aircraft squadrons, including the F-22 Raptor stealth fighter jet. Planes from the base also still intercept Russian aircraft that regularly fly into U.S. airspace. □



# Federal agents will be out 24/7 on patrol in Washington, the White House says

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**  
and **ASHRAF KHALIL**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — As a wary Washington waited, the White House promised a ramp-up of National Guard troops and federal officers on the streets of the nation's capital around the clock starting Wednesday, days after President Donald Trump's unprecedented announcement that his administration would take over the city's police department for at least a month.

The city's Democratic mayor walked a political tightrope, referring to the takeover as an "authoritarian push" at one point and later framing the infusion of officers as boost to public safety, though one with few specific barometers for success.

The Republican president has said crime in the city was at emergency levels that only such federal intervention could fix even as District of Columbia leaders pointed to statistics showing violent crime at a 30-year low after a sharp rise two years ago.

For two days, small groups of federal officers have been visible in scattered areas of the city. That is about to change, the ad-



**Agents from various agencies including Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Park Police, and FBI, question a couple who had been parked outside a legal parking zone while eating McDonald's takeout, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, in northwest Washington near Kennedy St. NW. The couple were released after a search of the car.**

ministration says.

A "significantly higher" presence of guard members was expected Wednesday night, and federal agents will be out during the day as well as at night, according to the White House. Hundreds of federal law enforcement and city police officers who patrolled the streets Tuesday night made 43 arrests, compared with about two dozen the night before.

In one neighborhood, officers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the FBI could be seen along with the U.S. Park Police searching the car of a motorist parked just outside a legal parking area to eat takeout and drop off a friend. Two blocks away, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers gathered in a parking lot before driving off on patrol. In other parts of the

city, including those with popular nightlife hot spots, federal patrols were harder to find. At the National Mall, there was little law enforcement activity aside from Park Police cruisers pulling over a taxi driver near the Washington Monument. Unlike in other U.S. states and cities, the law gives Trump the power to take over Washington's police for up to 30 days. Extending his power over the city for

longer would require approval from Congress, and that could be tough in the face of Democratic resistance.

Trump suggested Wednesday that he could seek a longer period of control or decide to call on Congress to exercise authority over city laws his administration sees as lax on crime. "We're gonna do this very quickly. But we're gonna want extensions. I don't want to call a national emergency. If I have to, I will," he said.

Targeting a variety of infractions. The arrests made by 1,450 federal and local officers across the city included those for suspicion of driving under the influence and unlawful entry, as well as a warrant for assault with a deadly weapon, according to the White House. Seven illegal firearms were seized.

There have now been more than 100 arrests since Trump began beefing up the federal law enforcement presence in Washington last week, White House spokeswoman Taylor Rogers said.

"President Trump is delivering on his campaign promise to clean up this city and restore American Greatness to our cherished capital," she said. □

# Jury finds Texas couple guilty of concealing and harboring bakery workers in the U.S. illegally

By **VALERIE GONZALEZ**

**Associated Press**

Two South Texas bakery owners are guilty of concealing and harboring employees in the U.S. illegally, a jury found Wednesday afternoon following a trial that only lasted three days. Leonardo Baez and Nora Avila-Guel, a Mexican couple who have legal permanent residence in the U.S., were charged after being arrested at their bakery along with eight employees in February. It's a rare case in which business owners are charged with criminal offenses rather than just a fine. Six of the employees

had visitor visas, and two were in the country illegally. None had permission to work in the U.S. Employees lived in a room with six beds and shared two bathrooms in the same building as the bakery, according to the federal affidavit. Baez and Avila-Guel were tried this week in Brownsville, a border city about a 20 minutes' drive southeast of their Los Fresnos bakery.

The jury heard from five government witnesses, including an agent who was present during the raid, before U.S. District Judge Fernando Rodriguez, Jr. The defense presented no wit-

nesses.

Videos of the interviews with the two employees in the country without visas or work authorization were played during the trial. Both employees said they were not held against their will and were compensated for their work, according to local reporting.

Baez and Avila-Guel were allowed to return to work while they awaited trial. When they reopened their bakery in April, the business had a steady stream of customers return to lend their support. They will continue to be released on bond until their sentenc-

ing, which is scheduled for November. □



**Customers visit Abby's Bakery after the owners reopened their doors following their arrest for allegedly harboring unauthorized workers in their building in Los Fresnos, Texas, March 4, 2025**

**Associated Press**



# Environmental concerns could halt construction at Florida's 'Alligator Alcatraz' immigration jail

By DAVID FISCHER  
Associated Press

**MIAMI (AP)** — The fate of a makeshift immigrant detention center in the Florida Everglades dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" hung in the balance on Wednesday as a federal judge considered whether building on sensitive wetlands violated environmental laws.

Last week, U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams ordered a 14-day halt on additional construction at the site while witnesses testified at a hearing, part of a lawsuit seeking to halt operations and further construction. The temporary order doesn't include any restrictions on law enforcement or immigration enforcement activity.

The judge concluded a multi-day hearing on Wednesday without making an immediate decision on whether to issue a preliminary injunction.

President Donald Trump toured the facility last month and suggested it could be a model for future lockups nationwide as his administration races to expand the infrastructure necessary for increasing deportations.

Environmental groups and



A protestor stands outside the migrant detention dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz" at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Facility, July 12, 2025, in Ochopee, Fla.

a Native American tribe have sued over the facility, saying it was hastily set up without the environmental impact considerations needed for all federal projects, even though it deals with immigration, a federal matter. "It just flies in the face of what NEPA requires," said Paul Schwiep, an attorney for the environmental groups, referring to the National Environmental

Policy Act.

Florida and the Trump administration argue that the state is building and operating the detention center, so those rules about an environmental review don't apply. Adam Gustafson, an attorney for the federal government, said during the hearing's closing arguments Wednesday that the federal government only plays an advisory role at

the facility.

The judge last week said the center was, at a minimum, a joint partnership between the state and federal government.

The first phase of "Alligator Alcatraz" opened in July atop a lightly used, single-runway training airport. Less than 1,000 detainees were being held there as of last week, and it's designed to eventually hold up to 3,000

Associated Press

people. Inside the compound's large white tents, rows of bunkbeds are surrounded by chain-link cages. People held there say worms turn up in the food, toilets don't flush and flood floors with fecal waste, while mosquitoes and other insects are everywhere. At times the air conditioners abruptly shut off in the sweltering heat. Detainees are said to go days without showering or getting prescription medicine, and can only speak to lawyers and loved ones by phone. Gov. Ron DeSantis has said the location in the rugged and remote Everglades was meant as a deterrent against escape, much like the island prison in California that Republicans named it after. The detention center has an estimated annual cost of \$450 million, according to a public database. When asked by the judge why a detention facility needed to be located in the middle of the Everglades, Jesse Panuccio, an attorney representing the state of Florida, referred to government officials' statements that the remote location and existing runway made it ideal for immigration detention. □

## Armed robbers in latest Philadelphia-area Brinks truck heist took \$700,000 or more, police say

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Police are investigating whether the armed robbery of a Brinks truck on Tuesday outside a Philadelphia-area store is related to four other attacks on

armored vehicles in and around the city this summer.

Two armed males got away with between \$700,000 and \$800,000 in the midday Tuesday heist

at an H Mart in Elkins Park, according to Cheltenham Township police. The robbers one described as armed with an AR-15-style pistol, the other with a handgun fled with the cash and later abandoned their vehicle nearby, police said. No shots were fired, and no one was injured.

Cheltenham Township Police Lt. Andrew Snyder said it's the first such robbery in their township, but authorities are looking into whether it may be connected to four robberies of armored cars in and around Philadelphia since June that police and the FBI are investigating as possibly re-

lated.

Federal prosecutors announced Wednesday that three people from Philadelphia who were arrested in early August are charged in connection with the \$2 million armed robbery of a Brink's armored vehicle outside a Home Depot on June 21.

A Loomis armored transport vehicle was held up outside an Aldi in a different neighborhood five days later. Then on July 2, a Brinks truck was held up outside a Dollar General at a shopping center. And on July 15, police had a report of two suspects robbing one of the armored vehicles in northeast Phila-

delphia.

FBI agent Wayne Jacobs told CBS News Philadelphia that law enforcement recovered most of the money stolen in the June 21 heist, as well as a number of long weapons and handguns.

Some of the money had been spent on jewelry, clothes and other items, he said.

"If this is the type of activity you're going to engage in, if you look at the timeline, six weeks from the time of the incident until the time of the arrest," Jacobs said, "it's just a matter of time before you're held accountable for your actions." □



This photo taken from video shows a suspect pointing a gun after police say two armed men committed a robbery outside a store on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, in Elkins Park, Pa.

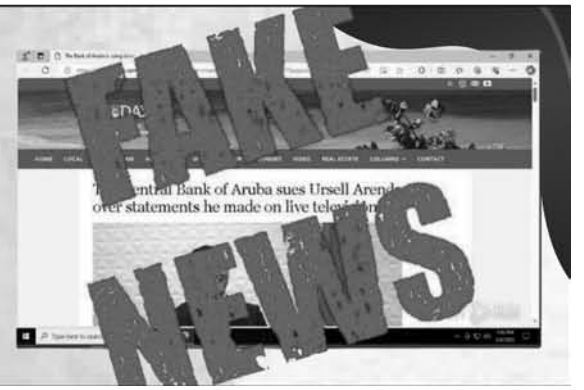
Associated Press



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## Russia restricts calls via WhatsApp and Telegram, the latest step to control the internet

By DASHA LITVINOVA  
Associated Press

Russian authorities announced Wednesday they were "partially" restricting calls in messaging apps Telegram and WhatsApp, the latest step in an effort to tighten control over the internet.

In a statement, government media and internet regulator Roskomnadzor justified the measure as necessary for fighting crime, saying that "according to law enforcement agencies and numerous appeals from citizens, foreign messengers Telegram and WhatsApp have become the main voice services used to deceive and extort money, and to involve Russian citizens in sabotage and terrorist activities."

The regulator also alleged that "repeated requests to take countermeasures have been ignored by the owners of the messengers." There was no immediate comment from either platform.



Police detain an activist protesting a bill that punishes online searches for information that is deemed "extremist" outside the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, in Moscow, Russia, July 22, 2025.

Associated Press

Russian authorities have long engaged in a deliberate and multipronged effort to rein in the internet. Over the years, they have adopted restrictive laws and banned websites and

platforms that won't comply. Technology has been perfected to monitor and manipulate online traffic. While it's still possible to circumvent restrictions by using virtual private network

services, those are routinely blocked, too. Authorities further restricted internet access this summer with widespread shutdowns of cellphone internet connections.

Officials have insisted the measure was needed to thwart Ukrainian drone attacks, but experts argued it was another step to tighten internet control.

Russia's Digital Development and Communications Ministry said this month that along with internet providers, it was working on a "white list" of essential websites and services users could access during shutdowns.

In Crimea, which Moscow illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, Russian-installed officials said Wednesday that shutdowns of cellphone internet may last indefinitely.

The government adopted a law last month punishing users for searching for content they deem illicit and threatened to go after WhatsApp one of the most popular platforms in the country while rolling out a new "national" messaging app that's widely expected to be heavily monitored. □

## New draft of global plastic pollution treaty wouldn't limit plastic production

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT  
Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — Negotiators working on a treaty to address global plastic pollution discussed a new draft of the text Wednesday that wouldn't limit plastic production or address chemicals used in plastic products.

The biggest issue of the talks has been whether the treaty should impose caps on producing new plastic or focus instead on things like better design, recycling and reuse. About 100 countries want to limit production as well as tackle cleanup and recycling. Many have said it's essential to address toxic chemicals.

Powerful oil and gas-producing nations and the plastics industry oppose production limits. They want a treaty focused on better waste management and reuse.

Countries with very divergent views expressed disappointment with the draft. It could change significantly and a new version is expected Thursday, the last scheduled day of the negotiations.

When they convened Wednesday night, Colombia's delegation said that the text was entirely unacceptable, because it was unbalanced, and lacked the ambition and global obligations needed to end plastic pollution. The delegation said that it wouldn't accept the wording as the basis for negotiations.

The head of Panama's delegation to the talks, Juan Carlos Monterrey Gómez, stood up and cheered. Many delegations made statements to agree, including Mexico, Chile, Ghana, Canada, Norway, the United Kingdom, the European Union and the group of small island developing states. □



People protest with placards as delegates arrive prior to a session of the second part of the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, Saturday, Aug. 9, 2025.

Associated Press



# Wildfires kill at least 3 and displace thousands across southern Europe

By **DEREK GATOPOULOS**  
and **LLAZAR SEMINI**  
Associated Press

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — Wildfires intensified across southern Europe on Wednesday with a round-the-clock battle to protect the perimeter of Greece's third-largest city and at least three deaths reported in Spain, Turkey and Albania.

Outside the Greek port city of Patras, firefighters struggled to protect homes and agricultural facilities as flames tore through pine forests and olive groves. Tall columns of flames rose behind apartment blocks on the outskirts of the city, while dozens of vehicles were torched as flames swept through a nearby impound lot.

"Today is another very difficult day with the level of fire risk remaining very high across many parts of the country," Fire Service spokesman Vassilis Vathrakoyiannis said. At least 15 firefighters were hospitalized or received medical attention for burns, smoke inhalation or exhaustion, he added.

As water-dropping planes and helicopters swooped overhead, residents joined



**A man carries a sheep on the motorcycle during a wildfire in Patras city, western Greece, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025.**

the effort, beating back flames with cut branches or dousing them with buckets of water.

After heatwaves, resources stretched thin  
Firefighting resources were stretched thin in many affected countries as they battled multiple outbreaks following weeks of heat waves and temperature spikes across the Mediterranean region. On the Greek island of Chios, exhausted

firefighters slept on the roadside following a night-long shift.

Aircraft rotated between blazes on the western Greek mainland, the Patras area and the island of Zakynthos.

Athens also sent assistance to neighboring Albania, joining an international effort to combat dozens of wildfires. An 80-year-old man died in one blaze south of the capital, Tirana,

officials said Wednesday.

Residents of four villages were evacuated in central Albania near a former army ammunition depot. In the southern Korca district, near the Greek border, explosions were reported from buried World War II-era artillery shells. Authorities said dozens of homes were gutted in a central region of the country.

Deaths in Spain and Turkey  
Spanish Prime Minister Pe-

dro Sánchez expressed condolences after the death of a firefighting volunteer in the hard-hit Castile and León region north of the capital, Madrid, where thousands have been displaced by evacuations.

"The wildfire situation remains serious, and taking extra precautions is essential," Sánchez wrote in an online post. "Thank you, once again, to all those working tirelessly to fight the flames."

Evacuation centers were filled to capacity in parts of central Spain, with some spending the night outdoors on folding beds. The most severe fires pushed northward into more rural areas, where some residents hosed the walls of their homes to try and protect them from fire.

Services along a high-speed rail link between Madrid and the northwestern Galicia region were suspended after fires got close to some sections of the tracks, state rail company Renfe said.

In Turkey, a forestry worker was killed Wednesday while responding to a wildfire in a southern region, officials said. □

Associated Press

## U.S. sanctions Mexican drug cartel associates accused of scamming elderly Americans

Associated Press **MEXICO CITY (AP)** — The U.S. Treasury Department imposed

sanctions Wednesday on more than a dozen Mexican companies and four

people it says worked with a powerful drug trafficking cartel to scam elderly Americans in a multimillion-dollar timeshare fraud.

The network of 13 businesses in areas near the seaside tourist destination of Puerto Vallarta were accused of working with the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, a group designated by the U.S. government as a foreign terrorist organization.

In a scheme dating back to 2012, four cartel associates are accused of defrauding American citizens of their life savings through elaborate rental and resale schemes, according to a Treasury statement. In

the span of six months, officials said they were able to document \$23.1 million sent from mostly people in the U.S. to scammers in Mexico.

The sanctions imposed by the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump would prohibit Americans from doing business with the alleged cartel associates and block any of their assets in the U.S..

"We will continue our effort to completely eradicate the cartels' ability to generate revenue, including their efforts to prey on elderly Americans through timeshare fraud," U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

In past years, the administration of then-President Joe Biden also sanctioned associates and accountants related to such schemes. The Wednesday announcement was made amid an ongoing effort by the Trump administration and the Mexican government to crack down on cartels and their diverse sources of income.

The U.S. Treasury Department has slapped sanctions on a variety of people from a Mexican rapper who it accused of laundering cartel money to Mexican banks facilitating money transfers in sales of precursor chemicals used to produce fentanyl. □



**Mexican Security and Citizen Protection Minister Omar Garcia Harfuch gives a news conference about Mexico having sent 29 Mexican drug cartel figures to the U.S., in Mexico City, Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025.**

Associated Press



# Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center- it is free for all! □



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en Platters loaded with jumbo shrimp, Crunchy Grouper Fillet or golden calamari rings. Our Tuna, chicken and beef burgers are crafted to perfection and our chicken wings are a must try favorite.

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tails. Sip on a Blackberry Mojito and dance under the stars, because at Drunken Fish, every meal comes with a side of rhythm. ☐

Drunken Fish Kitchen is open during the week from 11am till 11pm. On Fridays and Saturdays from 11am till 12am. While the bar team entertains you at the weekend till 2am. Daily Fish Has daily happy hours from 5pm-7pm and from 9pm-10pm.



(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Sec-

ondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

## Blackstone Beach

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike

towards Blackstone Beach. This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the

current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! ☐





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## Aruba: The island of Aloes

**ORANJESTAD** – Aloe vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.



History reveals that Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.



However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe

is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

## Aruba's kite flying tradition

**(Oranjestad)**—Every year for King's Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King's Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi\* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from

flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was

especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs—the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest.

In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air. □





# Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino celebrates 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary

*Honoring hospitality pioneers*



On July 18th 1959 the opening ceremony of a new resort on Palm Beach was held in the presence of invited guests, dignitaries and both Dutch and Aruban government representatives.

The Aruba Caribbean, as it was called at the time, was the first luxury property built on Palm Beach, with just 125 rooms and a similar number of just-hired service employees. The property occupied 15 acres of the island's most spectacular oceanfront with tropical gardens reflecting Aruba's indigenous vegetation. It offered a host of luxurious, innovative amenities to its guests.

Over the years, the resort gained a stellar reputation as a beacon of island hospitality with 358 luxurious guest rooms. Its loyal, dedicated team members who come to work every day to share the island's culture and heritage with guests, leave each day with smiles on their faces, knowing they contributed to the evergreen appeal and popularity of Aruba, the resort and the island's most important economic pillar.

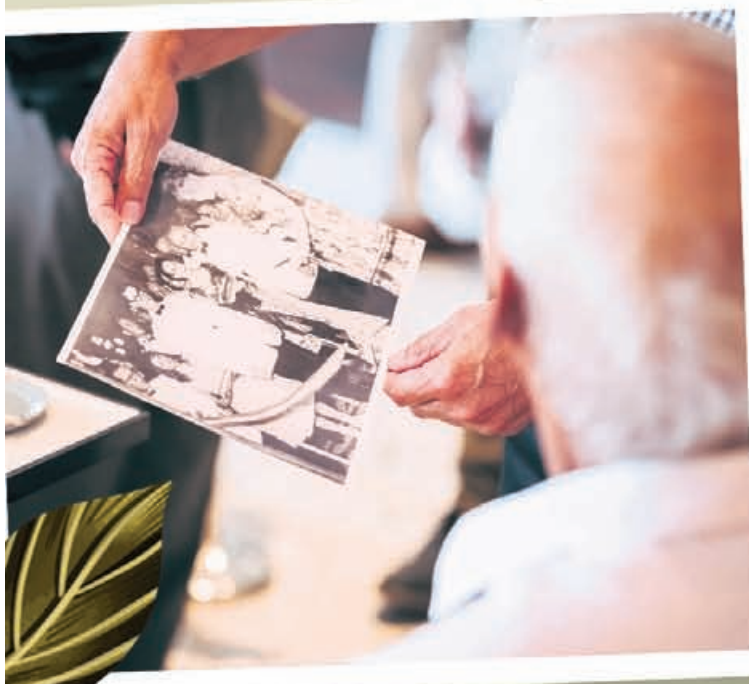
Branded under the Hilton flag for the past ten years, in celebration of its 66th anniversary, the resort hosted a special lunch to honor its local hospitality pioneers, most of them long retired, but not forgotten.

With the kind assistance of Jeffrey Matos, of Club Kibrahacha 60+, the event brought together cherished former team members of the historic Aruba Caribbean Hotel for a memorable gathering. Among honored guests Josephine Panthoflet, Eddy Tromp, Ruben Pieters, Ruben Boekhoudt, Thomas Giel, Henry Scott, Judith Koeiman, Vera Franken, Orvin Croes, and Johnny Geerman.

Accompanied by a guest of their choice, the resort's current directors and General Manager warmly welcomed the former team members. The gathering was filled with nostalgic heartfelt stories and laughter, combined with a delicious lunch at the resort's Sunset Grille, expertly prepared by the culinary team.

Several of the resort retirees once served in iconic roles, including working at the famous Klompen Club and in leadership positions in the Food & Beverage department. Notably, Orvin Croes and Johnny Geerman are still proudly serving as part of the resort banquet and bellman team. Each attendee shared an important memory of their Aruban Caribbean time and expressed their gratitude for the unexpected lunch invitation. The afternoon of delightful, filled with fascinating stories and fond memories from the resort's early days, supported by historic photographs, shared with the current executives, sparking fun reflections and lively conversations.

By honoring former team members, the Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino reinforced its ongoing commitment to the preservation of the resort's time-honored legacy and the spirit of genuine Aruban hospitality.





## Did you know about...?

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

### Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

### 50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

### 100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

### 200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

### Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba





**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

- 1 Puccini work  
6 River to the Rio Grande  
11 "— and his money ..."  
12 Fragrance  
13 Island off Naples  
14 Plug part  
15 Composer Stravinsky  
17 Tell whoppers  
18 Beach atmosphere  
22 Horse strap  
23 Quick drawing  
27 Co-op's cousin  
29 Find darling  
30 Declare  
32 Rain heavily  
33 Rams from behind  
35 Dict. entry  
38 Sticky stuff  
39 Menzel of "Frozen"  
41 Puccini work  
45 Sheets and such  
46 Party prep  
47 Slow tempo  
48 Chaplin persona

**DOWN**

- 1 Tic-toe link  
2 One — kind  
3 Soak up  
4 Cook's seasoning  
5 Straighten  
6 Cook's seasoning  
7 Screw up  
8 Put in the fridge  
9 Old Atlanta arena  
10 Cook's seasoning  
16 Treaty org. since 1948  
18 Killer whale  
19 Corp. bigwigs  
20 Start of a German count  
21 Cook's seasoning  
24 Animated character  
25 Engine gunk  
26 That woman's  
28 Cook's seasoning  
31 Eastern "way"  
34 Perch  
35 Cook's seasoning  
36 Falco of TV  
37 Helsinki native  
40 Trawling need  
42 Greek vowel  
43 Toddy base  
44 Phone download

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

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
		15		16			17		
18	19	20				21			
22				23		24	25	26	
27				28		29			
30				31		32			
		33		34					
35	36	37		38					
39			40		41	42	43	44	
45					46				
47					48				

8-21

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

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

8-21

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

I N A O Q B D I Y K H N Z H T W D L N Z N R  
N W Q A O T C A K V O C K D W H Y  
B K F T N Q O U T E Q O M M K B  
R L M W Q K D . — K T L S O U K I Y  
H O Q I K Q

**Cryptoquote:** YOU CAN POUR  
MELTED ICE CREAM ON REGULAR ICE CREAM.  
IT'S LIKE A SAUCE! — CHRIS PRATT

**Cruise ship Schedule: Aug 14 - 31 2025**

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00 08.00	18.00 17.00	C I	1 1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	19	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	20	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	24	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
WED	27	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
SUN	31	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	04.00	E	-

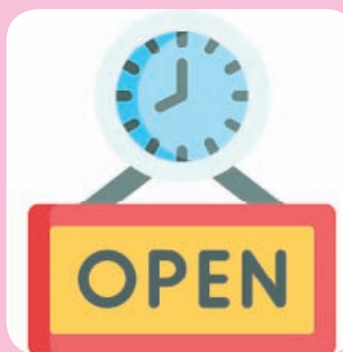
**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

(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.



**Supermarket hours**

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



**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.

**SUDOKU**

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

**King Classic Sudoku**

	9		8		3			
		8	5			6	2	
		3	1			5	7	
	5					9		2
7				6		3		
1	4			2			9	5
9	2	5	4			1		
			9					6

Difficulty: ★★★

8/14

**Answer to previous puzzle**

7	1	9	4	8	6	5	3	2
6	4	3	5	7	2	1	9	8
5	2	8	9	3	1	6	7	4
3	6	2	7	9	5	4	8	1
4	8	1	2	6	3	9	5	7
9	5	7	8	1	4	3	2	6
1	9	4	3	2	8	7	6	5
8	7	5	6	4	9	2	1	3
2	3	6	1	5	7	8	4	9

Difficulty: ★★★

8/13



# How to get kids back on a sleep schedule for the school year

By ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN  
AP Science Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — After a summer of vacations and late nights, it's time to set those back-to-school alarms.

A good night's sleep helps students stay focused and attentive in class. Experts say it's worth easing kids back into a routine with the start of a new school year.

"We don't say 'get good sleep' just because," said pediatrician Dr. Gabrina Dixon with Children's National Hospital. "It really helps kids learn and it helps them function throughout the day."

The amount of sleep kids need changes as they age. Preschoolers should get up to 13 hours of sleep. Tweens need between nine and 12 hours. Teenagers do best with eight to 10 hours of shut-eye.

Set an earlier bedtime  
Early bedtimes can slip through the cracks over the summer as kids stay up for sleepovers, movie marathons and long plane flights. To get back on track, experts recommend setting earlier bedtimes a week or two before the first day of school or gradually going to bed 15 to 30 minutes earlier each night.

Don't eat a heavy meal before bed and avoid TV or screen time two hours before sleep. Instead, work in relaxing activities to slow



Students make their way to classes on the first day of school in Land O' Lakes, Fla., Thursday, Aug. 10, 2023.

Associated Press

down like showering and reading a story.

"You're trying to take the cognitive load off your mind," said Dr. Nitun Verma, a spokesperson for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine. "It would be like if you're driving, you're slowly letting go of the gas pedal."

Parents can adjust their back-to-school plans based on what works best for their child. Nikkya Hargrove moves her twin daughters' bedtimes up by 30 minutes the week before school starts.

Sometimes, her 10-year-olds will negotiate for a few extra minutes to stay up and read. Hargrove said those conversations are important as her children get older and advocate for themselves. If they stay up too late and don't have the best morning, Hargrove said that can be a learning

experience too.

"If they're groggy and they don't like how they feel, then they know, 'OK, I have to go to bed earlier,'" said Hargrove, an author and independent bookstore owner from Connecticut.

In the morning, soaking in some daylight by sitting at a window or going outside can help train the brain to power up, Verma said.

Squash back-to-school sleep anxiety. □



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Tel. 527 4000

### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

## PHARMACY ON DUTY

### Oranjestad:

Eagle: Tel.587 9011

San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

## OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850

Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

+297 588 0539

## EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

## TAXI SERVICES

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

## TRAVEL INFO

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

## AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank	Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired	Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous	Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous	Tel. 583 8989
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Shopping for school supplies becomes a summer activity as families juggle technology and tariffs

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Feeling nostalgic for the days when going back to school meant picking out fresh notebooks, pencils and colored markers at a local drugstore or stationary shop? The annual retail ritual is both easier and more complicated for today's students.

Chains like Walmart generate online lists of school supplies for customers who type in their zip codes, then choose a school and a grade level. One click and they are ready to check out. Some schools also offer busy parents a one-stop shop by partnering with vendors that sell pre-made kits with binders, index cards, pens and other needed items.

Yet for all the time-saving options, many families begin their back-to-school shopping months before Labor Day, searching around for the best deals and making purchases tied to summer sales. This year, the possibility of price increases from new U.S. tariffs on imports motivated more shoppers to get a jump start on replacing and refilling school backpacks, according to retail analysts. Retail and technology consulting company Coresight Research estimates that back-to-school spending from June through August will reach \$33.3 billion in the U.S., a 3.3% increase from the same three-month period a year ago. The company predicted families would complete about 60% of their shopping before August to avoid extra costs from tariffs.

"Consumers are of the mindset where they're being very strategic and conscientious around price fluctuations, so for back to school, it prompts them to shop even earlier," said Vivek Pandya, lead analyst at Adobe Digital Insights, the research division of software company Adobe Inc.

## Getting a head start

Miami resident Jacqueline Agudelo, 39, was one of the early birds who started



Kylie and Cash Zimmerman shop in the back-to-school supplies section of a Target in Sherwood, Ore., Friday, Aug. 8, 2025.

Associated Press

shopping for school supplies in June because she wanted to get ahead of possible price increases from new U.S. tariffs on imported products.

The teacher's supply list for her 5-year-old son, who started kindergarten earlier this month, mandated specific classroom items in big quantities. Agudelo said her shopping list included 15 boxes of Crayola crayons, Lysol wipes and five boxes of Ticonderoga brand pencils, all sharpened.

Agudelo said she spent \$160 after finding plenty of bargains online and in stores, including the crayons at half off, but found the experience stressful.

"I am overwhelmed by the need to stay on top of where the deals are as shopping has become more expensive over the years," she said.

A lot of the backpacks, lined paper, glue sticks and Ticonderoga pencils sold in the U.S. are made in China, whose products were subjected to a 145% tariff in the spring. Under the latest agreement between the countries, Chinese goods are taxed at a 30% rate when they enter the U.S.

Many companies accelerated shipments from China early in the year, stockpiling inventory at pre-tariff

prices. Some predicted consumers would encounter higher prices just in time for the back-to-school shopping season. Although government data showed consumer prices rose 2.7% last month from a year earlier, strategic discounting by major retailers may have muted any sticker shock for customers seeking school supplies.

Backpacks and lunchboxes, for example, had discounts as deep as 12.1% during Amazon's Prime Day sales and competing online sales at Target and Walmart in early July, Adobe Insights said.

Throughout the summer, some of the biggest chains have are advertising selective price freezes to hold onto customers.

Walmart is advertising a 14-item school supplies deal that costs \$16, the lowest price in six years, company spokesperson Leigh Stidham said. Target said in June that it would maintain its 2024 prices on 20 key back-to-school items that together cost less than \$20. An analysis consumer data provider Numerator prepared for The Associated Press showed the retail cost of 48 products a family with two school age children might need two lunchboxes, two scientific calcula-

tors, a pair of boy's shoes averaged \$272 in July, or \$3 less than the same month last year.

## Digital natives in the classroom

Numerator, which tracks U.S. retail prices through sales receipts, online account activity and other information from 200,000 shoppers, reported last year that households were buying fewer notebooks, book covers, writing instruments and other familiar staples as students did more of their work on computers.

The transition does not mean students no longer have to stock up on plastic folders, highlighters and erasers, or that parents are spending less to equip their children for class. Accounting and consulting firm Deloitte estimates that traditional school supplies will account for more than \$7 billion of the \$31 billion it expects U.S. parents to put toward back-to-school shopping.

Shopping habits also are evolving. TeacherLists, an online platform where individual schools and teachers can upload their recommended supply lists and parents can search for them, was launched in 2012 to reduce the need for paper lists. It now has

more than 2 million lists from 70,000 schools.

Users have the option of clicking on an icon that populates an online shopping cart at participating retail chains. Some retailers also license the data for use on their websites and in their stores, said Dyanne Griffin, the architect and vice president of TeacherLists.

The typical number of items teacher request has remained fairly steady at around 17 since the end of the coronavirus pandemic, Griffin said. "The new items that had come on the list, you know, in the last four or five years are more the tech side. Everybody needs headphones or earbuds, that type of thing, maybe a mouse," she said.

She's also noticed a lot of schools requiring clear backpacks and pencil pouches so the gear can't be used to stow guns.

## Enter artificial intelligence

For consumers who like to research their options before they buy, technology and retail companies have introduced generative AI tools to help them find and compare products. Rufus, the AI-powered shopping assistant that Amazon launched last year, is now joined by Sparky, an app-only feature that Walmart shoppers can use to get age-specific product recommendations and other information in response to their questions.

Just over a quarter of U.S. adults say they use AI for shopping, which is considerably lower than the number who say they use AI for tasks such as searching for information or brainstorming, according to an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll in July.

## Some traditions remain

Before the pandemic turned a lot more people into online shoppers, schools and local Parent Teacher Associations embraced the idea of making back-to-school shopping easier by ordering ready-made bundles of teacher-recommended supplies. □



# Keegan Bradley as a playing captain? Rory McIlroy thinks the Ryder Cup is too big for that now

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP) —

Rory McIlroy believes the Ryder Cup has become too big of an event for a captain to play in the matches and said Wednesday he already shot down the idea when approached about doing it himself someday. But he is no less fascinated by the conundrum facing U.S. captain Keegan Bradley.

"I definitely think he's one of the best 12 American players right now," McIlroy said Wednesday ahead of the BMW Championship. "That's why everyone is so interested and it's such a compelling case. I'm just as interested as everyone else to see how it all plays out." That includes Bradley, who is no ordinary Ryder Cup captain.

He is 39, the youngest U.S. captain since Arnold Palmer at age 34 in 1963. He also is the defending champion of the BMW Championship, one of his two PGA Tour titles over the last year that has put him in position to make the team on his own. He would have to win at Caves Valley to earn one of six automatic spots. Then, he makes six captain's picks after next week's Tour Championship.

The Ryder Cup is Sept. 26-28 at Bethpage Black.



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland acknowledges the crowd as he walks onto the 18th green during the final round of the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland, Sunday, July 20, 2025.

"I can truly sit here right now and say I don't know what's going to happen," Bradley said. "I have to look at myself just like any other player trying to make the team." The Ryder Cup hasn't had a playing captain since Palmer at East Lake 62 years ago, when the King was still in his prime (he won the Masters the following year) and matches were not much of a competition against players from only Britain and Ireland.

Bradley is No. 10 in the Ryder Cup standings. He is No.

12 in the world, with only six other Americans ranked ahead of him. He also is No. 14 in the FedEx Cup, with only eight other Americans ahead on that list.

"If I was the captain, I'd pick Keegan. I think he's played great," Patrick Cantlay said. Scottie Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world who long ago clinched his spot on another American team, said Bradley could only add to what he considers a strong team.

"If that's something that Keegan wants to be part

of the team and wants to play, I think he's a guy we'd all love to have on the team," Scheffler said.

McIlroy played with him for two days in the Travelers Championship. Bradley went on to win that week and said at the time, "If he doesn't finish in the top six and he doesn't pick himself, then you could say America aren't going with their very best."

Even so, McIlroy has his doubts. The Ryder Cup has become the largest spectacle in golf. Bradley is on

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calls every week for planning and other logistics that are involved. There are media responsibilities daily during the Ryder Cup. There are lineups to consider.

"You think about the extra media that a captain has to do, you think about the extra meetings that the captains have to do with the vice captains, with the PGA of America, preparing your speech for the opening ceremony," McIlroy said. "There's a lot of things that people don't see that the captain does the week of the Ryder Cup, especially now that the Ryder Cup has become so big."

"If you'd have said it 20 years ago, I'd say, yeah, it was probably possible to do," he said. "But how big of a spectacle and everything that's on the line in a Ryder Cup now, I just think it would be a very difficult position to be in."

He also suggested Bradley probably would be limited to playing one of the two sessions on Friday and Saturday, which might hurt the U.S. team if Bradley had a hot hand that week.

Tiger Woods was playing captain at the 2019 Presidents Cup far less intense, and an event the Americans haven't lost since 1998 and played only one session a day at Royal Melbourne. □

## NFL appeals Nevada Supreme Court ruling allowing Jon Gruden's lawsuit to proceed



Las Vegas Raiders head coach Jon Gruden speaks with the media following an NFL football game against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Pittsburgh, Sept. 19, 2021.

Associated Press

By MARK ANDERSON

AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The NFL will appeal the Nevada Supreme Court's ruling Monday that former Las Vegas Raiders coach Jon Gruden can proceed with his lawsuit and not go through the league for arbitration. The league will request a rehearing from the same court that overturned a prior Nevada Supreme Court panel ruling in May 2024 that the matter could go to arbitration. But in October, Gruden was granted a hearing by the full court.

Gruden filed a lawsuit in 2021 against the NFL and Commissioner Roger Goodell, alleging a "malicious and orchestrated campaign" to destroy his career by leaking old emails he sent that included racist, misogynistic and homophobic comments

that pressured the Raiders to fire him.

"I'm looking forward to having the truth come out and I want to make sure what happened to me doesn't happen to anyone else," Gruden said in a statement to ESPN. Gruden resigned from the Raiders in October 2021 and sued the league a month later.

In 2022, the NFL appealed to Nevada's high court after a judge in Las Vegas rejected league bids to dismiss Gruden's claim outright or to order out-of-court talks through an arbitration process that could be overseen by Goodell.

The Nevada Supreme Court, in a 5-2 ruling, said that "the arbitration clause in the NFL Constitution is unconscionable and does not apply to Gruden as a former employee." □



# Venus Williams gets a U.S. Open wild card at age 45 and will be the oldest in singles since 1981

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

**AP Tennis Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Venus Williams will make her return to Grand Slam tennis at the U.S. Open after a two-year absence, receiving a wild-card invitation on Wednesday to compete in singles at Flushing Meadows at age 45.

The American will be the oldest entrant in singles at the tournament since Renee Richards was 47 in 1981, according to the International Tennis Federation.

Williams already had been given a wild-card entry by the U.S. Tennis Association for next week's mixed doubles competition. Singles matches begin in New York on Aug. 24. She is the owner of seven major singles champion-



Venus Williams lunges for the ball during a match against Magdalena Frech, of Poland, at the Citi Open tennis tournament Thursday, July 24, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

ships including at the U.S. Open in 2000 and 2001 along with another 14 in women's doubles, all won with her younger sister, Serena, plus two in mixed doubles. Serena retired with 23 Slam singles trophies after playing at the 2022 U.S. Open.

The older Williams last participated in a Grand Slam tournament at the 2023 U.S. Open, losing in the first round. She hasn't won a singles match there since 2019.

When Williams came back to the tour last month at the DC Open for her first match anywhere in 16 months, a reporter asked whether that would be a one-time thing or if there were plans for other tournaments.

"I'm just here for now, and who knows?" she replied then.

"Maybe there's more. But at the moment, I'm focused just on this. I haven't played in a year. There is no doubt I can play tennis, but obviously coming back to play matches, it takes time to get in the swing of things. I definitely feel I'll play well. I'm still the same player. I'm a big hitter. I hit big. This is my brand."

Last year, Williams had surgery to remove uterine fibroids and missed most of the season.

In Washington this July, she competed for the first time since March 2024 at the Miami Open and became the oldest woman to win a tour-level singles match since Martina Navratilova was 47 at Wimbledon in 2004; Williams also won a doubles match at the DC Open.

In the process, Williams drew a ton of attention for her tennis, yes, but also for letting the world know she's engaged to an Italian actor and for her half-joking comments about needing to get back on court to get covered by health insurance.

"I love Venus. We're friends. I didn't really know this was something she was still wanting to do. But I also didn't know it was something she didn't want to do," said Mark Ein, the chairman of the hard-court tournament in Washington. "I was surprised. And it was a wonderful surprise." □



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