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Page 9



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## Some airports refuse to play Noem video on shutdown impact, saying it's political

By **ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON**  
 Associated Press

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)**

— Several large airports around the country are refusing to play a video with a message from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem in which she blames Democrats for the federal government shutdown and its impacts on TSA operations because of its political content.

Airports in New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Las Vegas, Charlotte, Phoenix, Seattle and more say the video goes against their airport policy or regulations which prohibit political messaging in their facilities.

Various government agencies, in emails to workers and on websites, have



Transportation Security Administration employees leave a security checkpoint during a shift change at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport, Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025, in Baltimore.

TSA employees are working without pay," she continues.

The Transportation Security Administration falls under the Department of Homeland Security. Roughly 61,000 of the agency's 64,130 employees are required to continue working during the shutdown. The Department said Friday that the video is being rolled out to airports across the country.

A DHS spokeswoman responded to a request for comment restating some of the message from Noem's video.

"It's unfortunate our workforce has been put in this position due to political gamesmanship. Our hope is that Democrats will soon recognize the importance of opening the government," spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates JFK International Airport, LaGuardia Airport and Newark Liberty International Airport, said it would not air the videos, citing rules against "politically partisan messages."

The Chicago Department of Aviation said advertising and public service announcements must follow guidelines that "prohibit content that endorses or opposes any named political party."

The Harry Reid International Airport, in Las Vegas, said it had to "remain mindful of the Hatch Act's restrictions."

"Per airport regulations, the terminals and surrounding areas are not designated public forums, and the airport's intent is to avoid the use of the facility for political or religious advocacy," the statement said. □

Associated Press

adopted language that blames Democrats for the shutdown, with some experts arguing it could be in violation of the 1939 Hatch Act, which restricts certain political activities by federal employees.

The shutdown has halted routine operations and left airports scrambling with flight disruptions. Democrats say any deal to reopen the government has to address their health care demands, and Republicans say they won't negotiate until they agree to fund the government. Insurance premiums would double if Congress fails to renew the subsidy payments that expire Dec. 31.

In the video, Noem says that TSA's "top priority" is to help make travel pleasant and efficient while keeping passengers safe.

"However, Democrats in Congress refuse to fund the federal government, and because of this, many of our operations are impacted, and most of our

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# U.S. strikes another boat accused of carrying drugs in waters off Venezuela, killing 6, Trump says



President Donald Trump speaks as he meets with Argentina's President Javier Milei in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and KONSTANTIN TOROPIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States struck another small boat accused of carrying drugs in the waters off Venezuela, killing six people, President Donald Trump said on Tuesday. Those who died in the strike were aboard the vessel, and no U.S. forces were harmed, the Republican president said in a social media post. It's the fifth deadly strike in the Caribbean as Trump's administration has asserted it's treating alleged drug traffickers as unlawful combatants who must be met with military force. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the strike Tuesday morning, said Trump, who released a video of it, as he had in the past. Hegseth later shared the video in a post on X. Trump said the strike was conducted in international waters and "Intelligence" confirmed the vessel was trafficking narcotics, was associated with "narcoterrorist networks" and was on a known drug trafficking route. The Pentagon did not im-

mediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking more information on the latest boat strike. Frustration with the Trump administration has been growing on Capitol Hill among members of both major political parties. Some Republicans are seeking more information from the White House on the legal justification and details of the strikes. Democrats contend the strikes violate U.S. and international law. The Senate last week voted on a war powers resolution that would have barred the Trump administration from conducting the strikes unless Congress specifically authorized them, but it failed to pass. In a memo to Congress that was obtained by The Associated Press, the Trump administration said it had "determined that the United States is in a non-international armed conflict with these designated terrorist organizations" and that Trump directed the Pentagon to "conduct operations against them pursuant to the law of armed conflict."

The Trump administration has yet to provide underlying evidence to lawmakers proving that the boats targeted by the U.S. military in a series of fatal strikes were in fact carrying narcotics, according to two U.S. officials familiar with the matter who were not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The strikes followed a buildup of U.S. maritime forces in the Caribbean unlike any seen in recent times. Last week, Venezuelan Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino told military leaders that the U.S. government knows the drug-trafficking accusations used to sup-

port the recent actions in the Caribbean are false, with its true intent being to "force a regime change" in the South American country. He added that the Venezuelan government does not see the deployment of the U.S. warships as a mere "propaganda-like action" and warned of a possible escalation. "I want to warn the population: We have to prepare ourselves because the irrationality with which the U.S. empire operates is not normal," Padrino said during the televised gathering. "It's anti-political, anti-human, warmongering, rude, and vulgar." □



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## Supreme Court rejects Alex Jones' appeal of \$1.4 billion defamation judgment in Sandy Hook shooting



The Supreme Court is seen in the distance, framed through columns of the U.S. Senate at the Capitol in Washington, Feb. 20, 2025.

Associated Press

By **MARK SHERMAN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Supreme Court on Tuesday rejected an appeal from conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and left in place the \$1.4 billion judgment against him over his description of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting as a hoax staged by crisis actors.

The Infowars host had argued that a judge was wrong to find him liable for defamation and infliction of emotional distress without holding a trial on the merits of allegations lodged by relatives of victims of the shooting, which killed 20 first graders and six educators in Newtown, Connecticut.

The justices did not comment on their order, which they issued without even asking the families of the Sandy Hook victims to respond to Jones' appeal. An FBI agent who responded to the shooting also sued.

A lawyer who represents Sandy Hook families said the Supreme Court had

properly rejected Jones' "latest desperate attempt to avoid accountability for the harm he has caused." "We look forward to enforcing the jury's historic verdict and making Jones and Infowars pay for what they have done," lawyer Christopher Mattei said in a statement.

A lawyer representing Jones in the case didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment. During his daily show on Tuesday, Jones said his lawyers believed his case was "cut and dry," while he had predicted the high court wouldn't take up his appeal. "I said no, they will not do it because of politics," Jones said.

Jones mocked the idea that he has enough money to pay the judgement, saying his studio equipment, including five-year-old cameras, was only worth about \$304,000.

"It's all about torturing me. It's all about harassing me. It's about harassing my family. It's about getting me off the air," said Jones, who urged his listeners to

buy merchandise to keep show running.

Jones filed for bankruptcy in late 2022, and his lawyers told the justices that the "plaintiffs have no possible hope of collecting" the entire judgment.

He is separately appealing a \$49 million judgment in a similar defamation lawsuit in Texas after he failed to turn over documents sought by the parents of another Sandy Hook victim.

In the Connecticut case, the judge issued a rare default ruling against Jones and his company in late 2021 because of what she called Jones' repeated failure to abide by court rulings and to turn over certain evidence to the Sandy Hook families. The judge convened a jury to determine how much Jones would owe.

The following year, the jury agreed on a \$964 million verdict and the judge later tacked on another \$473 million in punitive damages against Jones and Free Speech Systems, Infowars' parent company, which is based in Austin, Texas.

In November, the satirical news outlet The Onion was named the winning bidder in an auction to liquidate Infowars' assets to help pay the defamation judgments. But the bankruptcy judge threw out the auction results, citing problems with the process and The Onion's bid.

The attempt to sell off Infowars' assets has moved to a Texas state court in Austin. Jones is now appealing a recent order from the court that appointed a receiver to liquidate the assets. □



Former President Barack Obama speaks at the Obama Foundation Democracy Forum in Chicago, Dec. 5, 2024.

Associated Press

## Barack Obama joins fight for US House control, urges vote for California districts to counter Trump

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

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Barack Obama is entering the fight for U.S. House control by appearing in a 30-second ad urging California voters to approve a November ballot proposal that could add as many as five Democrat-held House seats in California.

Proposition 50 would dramatically reshape California's congressional districts with the intent of adding Democratic seats in Congress. It's crafted to gain Democratic House control, aimed at offsetting President Donald Trump's moves in Texas and elsewhere to help win more Republican seats in the 2026 midterm election.

"Republicans want to steal enough seats in Congress to rig the next election and wield unchecked power for two more years," Obama says in the ad, looking directly into the camera. "You can stop Republicans in their tracks."

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has framed the election as a referendum on all things Trump, who is unpopular in liberal-leaning California outside of his conservative base. Voting on the proposal is underway and concludes Nov. 4.

Republicans and other opponents say the proposal amounts to a Democratic power grab that would set aside district lines crafted by an independent commission that was created by voters more than a decade ago.

The duel between California and Texas, the nation's two most populous states, has spread nationally. North Carolina Republican legislative leaders announced plans Monday to vote next week on redrawing the state's House district map, taking up Trump's call to secure more GOP seats nationwide and resist rival moves by Democrats. □

# China sanctions 5 U.S. units of South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean over probe by Washington

By CHAN HO-HIM  
AP Business Writer

**HONG KONG (AP)** — China's Commerce Ministry said Tuesday it was banning dealings by Chinese companies with five subsidiaries of South Korean shipbuilder Hanwha Ocean in the latest swipe by Beijing at U.S. President Donald Trump's effort to rebuild the industry in America.

The ministry also announced that it was investigating a probe by Washington into China's growing dominance in world shipbuilding, and threatened more retaliatory measures. It said the U.S. probe endangers China's national security and its shipping industry and cited Hanwha's involvement in the investigation.

The U.S. Trade Representative launched the Section 301 trade investigation in April 2024. It determined that China's strength in the industry was a burden to U.S. businesses.

"China just weaponized shipbuilding," said Kun Cao, deputy chief executive at consulting firm Reddal. "Beijing is signaling it will hit third-country



The Kaimana Hila at the Philly Shipyard in Philadelphia, on March 19, 2019.

firms that help Washington counter China's maritime dominance." International shipping and shipbuilding have yet another areas of friction between Washington and Beijing.

Each side has imposed new port fees on each others' vessels that took effect on Tuesday.

South Korea and the U.S. have been building closer ties in shipbuilding in response to China's domi-

nance as the world's largest shipbuilder.

In late 2024, Hanwha Ocean acquired the Philly Shipyard in Pennsylvania for \$100 million. It announced in August that it plans to invest \$5 billion in new docks and quays as part of its support for U.S. efforts to restore globally competitive shipbuilding capacity.

Last year, Hanwha Ocean secured contracts with the U.S. Navy to perform

maintenance, repair and overhaul work for U.S. naval vessels. The company said via email that "Hanwha Ocean is aware of the announcement made by the Chinese government and is closely reviewing its potential business impact on the company."

Hanwha Ocean's shares traded in South Korea fell as much as over 8% on Tuesday, closing 5.8% lower. In a statement to The Asso-

ciated Press, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said the Seoul government was assessing how the sanctions might affect the Hanwha companies and related South Korean industrial sectors.

The ministry said it will "communicate with relevant ministries, industry representatives and the Chinese side to minimize damages resulting from these measures."

The sanctioned entities are Hanwha Shipping LLC, Hanwha Philly Shipyard Inc., Hanwha Ocean USA International LLC, Hanwha Shipping Holdings LLC and HS USA Holdings Corp.

A truce in the trade war between the world's two biggest economies appears to have unraveled after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened a new 100% tariff on imports from China, expressing frustration over new Chinese export controls on rare earths.

The escalation of antagonisms raised doubts over whether Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping will go ahead with a meeting planned for late this month. □

Associated Press

## Police fire tear gas at Brussels protest against austerity measures

By SYLVAIN PLAZY and  
MARK CARLSON  
undefined

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Belgian police used tear gas and a water cannon in an attempt to disperse tens of thousands of people who flooded Brussels on Tuesday to protest Prime Minister Bart De Wever's proposed austerity measures. Minor scuffles broke out between police and protesters, some of whom played drums and horns and set off flares and smoke bombs, while chanting against cuts to social welfare programs. The unusually large protest crippled traffic in the heart of the Belgian capital, blocking major roads.

Strikes led to most flights being canceled at Brussels' airport.

Organizers estimated more than 150,000 people joined the demonstration, while the police put the crowd at 80,000.

Police vehicles chasing protesters were seen to smash up bicycles. Officers out of uniform but identified by red arm bands detained protesters, tying their hand with plastic bands. At one point, police officers on bicycles sheltered inside a hotel from a large group of protesters.

Belgium's Migration Minister Anneleen Van Bossuyt said on X that she had filmed protesters vandalizing the immigration office building downtown.

Belgium's three major trade unions organized the protest and nationwide strikes against cuts to the

pension, unemployment benefits, and health care systems proposed by De Wever.

He has vowed to slash spending to try and overcome the country's economic problems, which include a national debt totaling just over 100% of GDP, putting it among the worst in the 27-nation European Union.

"All the austerity measures, whether in terms of pensions, reductions of family allowances, all that, nothing is working anymore," said Frédéric Kulcsar, a health care worker from the southern Belgian city of Charleroi.

Those policies drove people "to fight for greater job security and greater security for young people," said Eric Manzi, Deputy Secre-

tary General of the International Trade Union Confederation, a transnational labor rights organization.

"The Belgian government, as in most countries today, is implementing policies

that do not really guarantee future employment, where work is becoming increasingly precarious and where retirement is not really granted," he said. □



Police use a water cannon against protesters during a demonstration and general strike in Brussels, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025.

Associated Press

## Madagascar's president is ousted in a military coup after weeks of youth-led protests

By NQOBILE NTSHANGASE, BRIAN INGANGA, SARAH TETAUD and GERALD IMRAY  
Associated Press

**ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar (AP)** — Madagascar President Andry Rajoelina was toppled Tuesday in a military coup that capped weeks of youth protests over poverty, power outages and a lack of opportunity in the Indian Ocean island country. Right after parliament voted to impeach Rajoelina, who fled the country fearing for his safety, the leader of Madagascar's elite CAPSAT military unit said the armed forces would form a council made up of officers from the armed forces and gendarmerie, a military unit that polices civilians, and would appoint a prime minister to "quickly" form a civilian government.

"We are taking power," Col. Michael Randrianirina told reporters in front of a ceremonial presidential palace in the capital, Antananarivo, as protesters celebrated the news with soldiers. He said the constitution and High Constitutional Court's powers had been suspended, and that a referendum would be held in two years, though



**CAPSAT military unit commander Col. Michael Randrianirina, center, reads a statement saying that the armed forces are taking control of the country from the steps of the Presidency in Antananarivo, Madagascar, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025.**

he didn't go into detail. From an undisclosed location after fleeing, Rajoelina issued a decree Tuesday trying to dissolve parliament's lower house in an apparent attempt to preempt being impeached. But lawmakers ignored it and voted overwhelmingly to end the rule of the 51-year-old leader, who himself came to power as a transitional leader in a mili-

tary-backed coup in 2009. Rajoelina's office released a statement condemning Randrianirina's announcement as an "illegal declaration" and "a serious breach of the rule of law." "The Republic of Madagascar cannot be taken hostage by force. The State remains standing," it said. Madagascar, a sprawling island country off the east coast of southern Africa, is

home to about 30 million people. It is the world's biggest vanilla producer and, because of its geographic isolation, is known for its biodiversity. Since gaining its independence from French colonial rule in 1960, it has struggled to overcome poverty and political instability, including a series of coups.

Rajoelina's fall capped weeks of Gen Z-led protests

that started over persistent electricity and water outages but snowballed into demonstrations of frustration with the government and Rajoelina's leadership. Protesters raised a range of issues, including government corruption, access to higher education, the cost of living and poverty, which affects about 75% of Madagascar's population, according to the World Bank. Although young people led the demonstrations, others also took part, including civic groups and unions. The turning point came Saturday, when Randrianirina and CAPSAT troops joined the protests and turned against Rajoelina, which led the president to go into hiding. In a Monday night speech broadcast on social media, Rajoelina said he left the country for a "safe place" in fear for his life.

The protesters, who have been on the streets for weeks and packing a main square since Saturday, have said they were inspired by other Gen Z-led movements that toppled leaders in Nepal and Sri Lanka. The young protesters have made clear they don't have a leader. □

Associated Press

## Erdogan opposed Netanyahu's attendance at summit, Turkish official confirms

By SUZAN FRASER  
Associated Press

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)** — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made clear he would not accept Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's presence at a high-level summit in Egypt, a senior official said Tuesday, adding that Ankara had made plans to prevent the Israeli leader from attending the meeting.

The remarks by Omer Celik, spokesman for Erdogan's ruling party, marked the first public confirmation that Turkey had actively worked to block Netanyahu's participation in Monday's summit at the

Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh aimed at supporting the ceasefire in Gaza.

Erdogan, whose government maintains ties with Hamas, was one of the



**Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan holds a signed document during a summit to support ending the more than two-year Israel-Hamas war in Gaza after a breakthrough ceasefire deal, Monday, Oct. 13, 2025, in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.**

Associated Press

signatories of a four-party declaration alongside U.S. President Donald Trump and the leaders of Egypt and Qatar.

Netanyahu's office declined to comment Tuesday.

Although Netanyahu initially accepted a last-minute invitation to attend the summit, his office later announced that he would not participate due to a Jewish holiday.

On Monday, a Turkish government official who requested anonymity to discuss the issue, told The Associated Press that Erdogan, a vocal critic of Netanyahu's military actions in Gaza, had launched a

diplomatic effort to prevent his attendance. The official said Turkey's initiative gained support from several other nations, ultimately leading to Netanyahu's withdrawal.

"Our president's stance is absolutely clear," Celik told journalists. "He would never accept being in the same photo frame as Netanyahu. He would not accept being at the same summit. He wouldn't accept sitting at the same table."

Celik said Turkey always prepares for multiple scenarios ahead of such summits. "Netanyahu's participation was not initially on the table," he said. □

## PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a “lora”

(Oranjestad)— The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the ‘Lora,’ relies on how we act as humans. We’ve seen many hikers who’ve encountered the ‘Lora’ in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here

to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the ‘Lora.’ Please, don’t just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

**No interfering, please**  
Please refrain from interfering with the “Lora”. The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps

slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

**Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away**  
Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

**Do not feed them food or water**  
You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.



Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let’s work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □



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## Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.



At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. ☐

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point

on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Ja-

manota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it.

## Aruba Tourism Authority Honors Loyal Visitors at Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the pleasure of recognizing one of Aruba's Emerald Ambassadors. The honorees were presented with a certificate in appreciation of their many years of visits, loyalty,

and love for the island.

This honorary certification is awarded on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who

have visited Aruba for 10, 20, or 35 consecutive years or more.

The three levels of recognition are:

- Distinguished Visitor – 10+ consecutive years visiting Aruba

- Goodwill Ambassador – 20+ consecutive years visiting Aruba
- Emerald Ambassador – 35+ consecutive years visiting Aruba

**Emerald Ambassadors Honored:**  
**Mr. Arthur & Mrs. Juanita Gill from Poinciana, Florida, United States.**

Mr. Jorgino Willems, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, along with staff members of Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort, presented the certificate, offered gifts, and expressed heartfelt thanks to the honorees for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination their home away from home.

**Top reasons for returning to Aruba, as shared by the honorees:**

- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's weather.
- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's wonderful shopping options.
- "Safety"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island." ☐

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**Explore**

**Aruba**

(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

**Arikok National Park**

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and



protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 34 square kilometers of protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just

some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website [www.acf.aw](http://www.acf.aw)

**Natural Bridge**

One of Aruba's favorite tourist attractions is the Natural Bridge. For thousands of years, pounding waves and strong winds have slowly chiseled away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create several natural bridges. The largest of these bridges used to be the famous Natural Bridge. The bridge was a formation of coral limestone cut out by years of pounding surf, and was one of the largest of these types of spans in the world. It stood some 23 feet (7 meters) above sea level and spans more than 100 feet (30 meters). Unfortunately the bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Despite this, it is still the most photographed natural bridge and it remains a



popular tourist attraction in Aruba, with the adjacent and intact Baby Bridge also meriting a visit. The Natural Bridge is the perfect stop while touring Aruba. There is no admission fee or set hours for visiting. Quench your thirst with refreshing beverages & refuel your tank with local snacks.

**The Lourdes Grotto**

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners

in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas. A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresa church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the event you wish to stop for pictures at this location. □

**Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals**

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant

experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment.

Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □





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



**New Episode CCCXXV-325**

## Where Turtles Swim and Stories Live

The narrative of Etnia Nativa—which means Native Ethnicity—highlights the importance of recovering and preserving Aruba’s cultural identity and heritage. Through this platform, we share an authentic native perspective, educate the public, and inspire readers to adopt a mindset of being an “island caretaker.”

In this episode, we explore the delicate relationship between tourism, nature, and marine biodiversity, focusing on one of the ocean’s most iconic and vulnerable species: the sea turtle.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 years ago, hunters and gatherers first arrived on Aruba’s shores and encountered thousands of sea turtles nesting along the beaches. For generations, these turtles and their eggs were a crucial source of food for the native people.

Today, however, sea turtles are protected by law. (See Episode 155: “Sea Turtles” for more details.) By educating visitors about how human behavior impacts the island’s fragile ecosystems, we can help reduce harmful interactions and support biodiversity conservation.

On Aruba, Tres Trapi has become a popular site for snorkeling and spotting sea turtles. These gentle creatures are now central to many tourists’ island experience. Encouragingly, this trend isn’t unique to Aruba. A World Wildlife Fund study found that sea turtle tourism generates three times more revenue than the trade in turtle products such as meat or shells—a hopeful sign that protection can be both ethical and economically viable.

However, tourism can also pose risks if not carefully managed. One growing concern is diver habituation—when turtles become too accustomed to human presence, their natural behaviors can be disrupted.

Sea turtles are extremely sensitive to disturbances. Boats, swimmers, and divers—especially those who get too close or try to touch them—can cause stress and interfere with essential behaviors such as feed-



ing, mating, or resting.

On land, coastal development has reduced the already limited nesting spaces where turtles can safely lay eggs or bask without disruption.

At Tres Trapi, the “famous turtles” often forage in shallow waters, making them especially vulnerable to human interference. This forces them to expend more energy just to feed—often with poor nutritional outcomes. Without adequate food, turtles grow more slowly, their immune systems weaken, and their risk of predation or even drowning from exhaustion increases. Compounding this problem is the pollution left behind by sunscreens and skincare products, which can contaminate the water and harm marine life.

Sea turtles are more than just charismatic marine animals. They play a vital role in maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems, including coral reefs, seagrass beds, and numerous other marine species.

Yet today, six out of seven sea turtle species are classified as endangered. As ocean lovers and stewards of nature, we have a choice to make. Through conscious, respectful tourism and active support for marine conservation, we can help ensure that future generations will still have the opportunity to witness sea turtles in the wild.

Swimming with Sea Turtles: Do It Right, Do It Clean

If you want to swim with marine animals, do it with respect.

It’s not just about snapping a selfie—you’re a guest in their home, so behave accordingly.

Always keep a distance of at least 5

meters (15 feet).

If you accidentally get too close, back away slowly and calmly.

Let the animal approach you—if it chooses to.

Be guided by luck and patience. If a turtle swims up to you, stay still and allow it to go about its business.

Remember: You are the visitor.

Explore Aruba’s Roots at Etnia Nativa  
 If you’ve enjoyed discovering our ancestral stories and want to delve deeper into the true identity of the Aruban people, we invite you to experience Etnia Nativa—the Caribbean’s only “living museum” of its kind, celebrating the island’s rich mestizaje (cultural blending). □

Founded in 1994, Etnia Nativa has been a cultural pioneer—co-founding Aruba’s National Park, the Archaeological Museum, artisan foundations, and several grassroots initiatives dedicated to heritage and conservation.

But Etnia Nativa isn’t just a place — it’s a gateway. Quietly tucked away near the high-rise hotels, this private residence also serves as a cultural sanctuary, unknown to most tourists. And that’s part of its magic. Intentionally exclusive, it welcomes only those with a genuine curiosity and a thirst for authentic discovery.

Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba’s ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702 or  
 Email: [etnianativa03@gmail.com](mailto:etnianativa03@gmail.com)



# Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury



**(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.**

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before

being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out. During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination

and oppression. After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance. Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness. In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebel-



lious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless. In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities. Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjehotel" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being given away by an acquaintance, he

himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face." On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old. Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem. Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor."

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

## Aruba to me

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

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

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



**CROSSWORD**

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**



**ACROSS** 37 Mystery

1 Castor or writer  
Pollux Peters

5 Olympian 39 Fuming  
in a sled 40 Flower

10 Keyed up girl, often

12 Laughable 41 VCR

13 Skip a inserts  
ceremony 42 Seine

14 Japanese assassins  
summers

15 Relay section

16 That woman

18 Clinic nickname

19 Wall art

21 Debt reminder

22 Starfish's cousin

24 Columbus's home

25 Come around, say

29 Coop group

30 Small quake

32 Leaf lifter

33 Cart puller

34 Part of college addresses

35 Water softener

7 Kingsley 25 Lady of  
role Spain

8 Legally 26 Catch  
prohibit 27 Brunch

9 Gasp, say dish

11 Hero, 28 "Forget it!"  
often 29 Custom

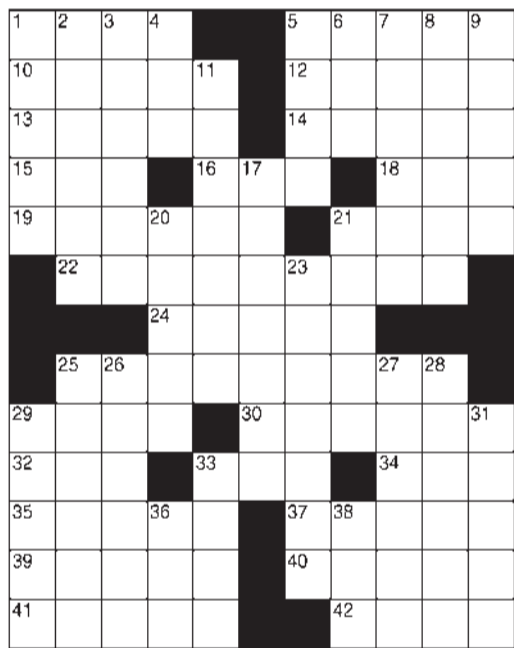
17 Charlotte 31 Tricks

18 Charlotte team 33 Symmetry

20 Wise ones lines

21 Pursue 36 Noshed

23 Make 38 Golf  
rough position



10-21

A XYDLBAAXR  
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.

10-21 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

DMNZN TI OPD NOPRHM DTXN

DP AP EVV DMN OPDMTOH

CN CEOD DP AP. — JTVV

CEDDNZIPO

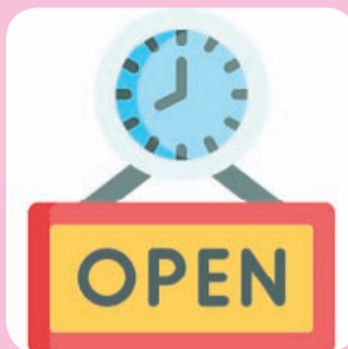
**Cryptoquote:** THERE ARE MORE THINGS IN HEAVEN AND EARTH, HORATIO, THAN ARE DREAMT OF IN YOUR PHILOSOPHY. — SHAKESPEARE, "HAMLET"

**Cruise ship Schedule: Oct. 14 - 26 2025**

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	14	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	15	SERENADE OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
FRI	17	CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	07.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	19	NORWEGIAN ESCAPE CARIBBEAN PRINCESS FREEWINDS - Dept.	07.00 09.00 ****	17.00 22.00 22.30	B C E	1 1 -
TUE	21	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
WED	22	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 07.00 06.00	23.00 16.00 ****	C I E	1 1 1
THU	23	EURODAM	08.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	26	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	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.



**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.



**Safety**

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

**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**

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

**Answer to previous puzzle**

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

Difficulty: ★

10/13

Difficulty: ★★

10/14

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# Instagram says it's safeguarding teens by limiting them to PG-13 content

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer

Teenagers on Instagram will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default and won't be able to change their settings without a parent's permission, Meta announced on Tuesday.

This means kids using teen-specific accounts will see photos and videos on Instagram that are similar to what they would see in a PG-13 movie — no sex, drugs or dangerous stunts, among others.

"This includes hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors, such as posts showing marijuana paraphernalia," Meta said in a blog post Tuesday, calling the update the most significant since it introduced teen accounts last year.

Anyone under 18 who signs up for Instagram is automatically placed into restrictive teen accounts unless a parent or guardian gives them permission to opt out. The teen accounts are private by default, have usage restrictions on them and already filter out more "sensitive" content such as those promoting cosmetic procedures. But kids often lie about their ages when they sign up for social media, and while Meta has begun using artificial intelligence to find such accounts, the company declined to say how many adult accounts it has determined to be minors since rolling out the feature earlier this year.

The company is also adding an even stricter setting that parents can set up for their children.

The changes come as the social media giant faces relentless criticism over harms to children. As it seeks to add safeguards for younger users, Meta has already promised it wouldn't show inappropriate content to teens, such as posts about self-harm, eating disorders or suicide. But this does not always



The Instagram logo is seen on a cell phone in Boston, Oct. 14, 2022.

Associated Press

work. A recent report, for instance, found that teen accounts researchers created were recommended age-inappropriate sexual content, including "graphic sexual descriptions, the use of cartoons to describe demeaning sexual acts, and brief displays of nudity."

In addition, Instagram also recommended a "range of self-harm, self-injury, and body image content" on teen accounts that the report says "would be reasonably likely to result in adverse impacts for young people, including teenagers experiencing poor mental health, or self-harm

and suicidal ideation and behaviors."

Meta called the report "misleading, dangerously speculative" and that it misrepresents its efforts on teen safety. Josh Golin, the executive director of the nonprofit Fairplay, said he's "very skeptical about how this will be implemented."

"From my perspective, these announcements are about two things. They're about forestalling legislation that Meta doesn't want to see, and they're about reassuring parents who are understandably concerned about what's happening on Instagram," he said. "Splashy press re-

leases won't keep kids safe, but real accountability and transparency will," Golin said, adding that passing the federal Kids Online Safety Act would push for this accountability.



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**HEALTH**

**DOCTOR ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad**  
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**  
Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

**PHARMACY ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad:**  
**Oduber:** Tel.587 9011  
**San Nicolas:**  
**Seroe Preto:**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

Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional  
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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Phone Directory Tel. 118

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**ARUBA TODAY NEWS**

# D'Angelo, Grammy-winning R&B singer who became an icon with 'Untitled (How Does It Feel),' dies

By **JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.**  
AP Entertainment Writer

D'Angelo, the Grammy-winning R&B singer recognized by his raspy yet smooth voice and for garnering mainstream attention with the shirtless "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" music video, has died. He was 51.

The singer, whose real name was Michael Eugene Archer, died Tuesday after a long bout with cancer, his family said in a statement. It called him "a shining star of our family and has dimmed his light for us in this life," adding that they are "eternally grateful for the legacy of extraordinarily moving music he leaves behind."

In his music, D'Angelo blended hip-hop grit, emphatic soul and gospel-rooted emotion into a sound that helped spearhead the neo-soul movement of the 1990s. Earlier this year, the Virginia native celebrated the 30th anniversary of his debut studio album "Brown Sugar," a platinum-selling offering that produced signature hits like "Lady" and the title track. The 1995 album earned him multiple Grammy nominations and cemented him as one of R&B's most original new voices.

D'Angelo's sultry vocal style a mix of raspy texture and church-bred fluidity set him apart from his peers. That voice became inseparable from the striking visuals



D'Angelo performs during FYF Fest at L.A. Memorial Sports Arena & Exposition Park in Los Angeles, Aug. 23, 2015.

of his 2000 single "Untitled (How Does It Feel)." The minimalist, shirtless music video became a cultural touchstone, igniting conversations around artistry, sexuality and vulnerability in Black male representation. The song earned him a Grammy for best male R&B vocal performance and propelled his sophomore album "Voodoo," topping the Billboard 200 chart and winning the Grammy for best R&B album.

With an idiosyncratic spirit not unlike Prince, D'Angelo's devotion was always to the craft not the machinery around it. In a 2000 interview with The Associated Press, he spoke candidly about the cost of

chasing commercial success.

"(Musicians) have gotten trapped into that mode of thinking marketable and commercial. That destroys art, that destroys the essence of what it is about," he said. "You cannot, you cannot work like that. You cannot make music like that. That's not what this is about."

That same year, D'Angelo reflected on his need for solitude amid fame: "I used to hang out a lot, but now I've become more of a recluse," he told AP. "I long for just peace and silence." Beyond his own catalog, D'Angelo's artistry shined in collaborations. He memorably duetted with Lauryn

Hill on the soulful ballad "Nothing Even Matters," a highlight of her landmark 1998 album "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill." He also contributed to The Roots' 1996 album "Illadelph Halflife" and was part of the supergroup Black Men United, which yielded one song: "U Will Know," which D'Angelo wrote and co-produced, for the film "Jason's Lyric" in 1994.

"I remember hearing your music for the first time... I said to myself damn whoever this is they are anointed," Jamie Foxx said on social media. "Then when I finally got a chance to see you... Like everyone when they saw the most incredible music video of our

time... I was blown away... I thought to myself I have to see this person in concert... I had my chance to see you at the house of blues... You came out and got right down to business... Your voice was silky and flawless... I was graciously envious of your style and your swag..."

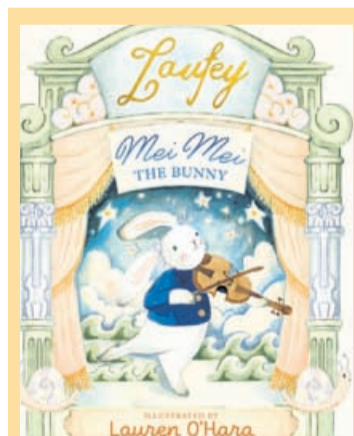
Years before stepping back from public view, D'Angelo's life and music were closely intertwined with Grammy-nominated R&B singer Angie Stone in the '90s. The pair met while he was finishing "Brown Sugar" and bonded over their shared Southern roots and deep church upbringing. Stone contributed to the album and later collaborated with him on "Everyday," a song from her 1999 debut album, "Black Diamond."

Stone once described D'Angelo as her "musical soul mate," to the AP in 1999, adding that their working relationship was "like milk and cereal. Musically, it was magic. It's something that I have not been able to do with any other producer or musician." They had a son together, the artist Swayvo Twain, born Michael Archer Jr.

Stone died earlier this year in a car crash. She was 63. D'Angelo also has a daughter, Imani Archer, who is also a music artist. In the years that followed, D'Angelo's life became as defined by absence as by acclaim.

After "Voodoo," he withdrew from the spotlight for more than a decade, fueling speculation about personal struggles and creative battles. His long-awaited return came in 2014 with "Black Messiah," credited to D'Angelo and The Vanguard. The urgent and politically charged album that arrived amid nationwide protests and helped usher in a wave of activist music responding to police killings of Black Americans and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. □

Associated Press



This cover image released by Penguin Workshop, an imprint of Penguin Young Readers, shows "Mei Mei the Bunny," by Laufey, with illustrations by Lauren O'Hara.

Associated Press

## From Grammy winner to children's author: Laufey's new book is 'Mei Mei The Bunny'

**NEW YORK (AP)** — She's won a Grammy, collaborated with Barbra Streisand and performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Now Laufey is taking on a new challenge: creating a children's story inspired by her mascot-alias, Mei Mei The Bunny. Penguin Workshop announced Tuesday that Laufey's picture book, "Mei Mei The Bunny," will be published April 21. Illustrated by Lauren O'Hara, the book tells of Mei Mei's determination to become a professional musician even as she encounters some initial struggles.

"I'm so excited to now share Mei Mei The Bunny in storybook form!" Laufey said in

a statement. "Mei Mei has been a part of my life for over the last few years and opening up the world around her has been the most beautiful exploration. I hope that anyone at any age can find something in Mei Mei's story that inspires them and connects them to the people in their lives."

Born Laufey Lín Bing Jónsdóttir in Iceland, the 26-year-old Laufey is known for her distinctive blend of pop, classical and jazz. Her release from 2023, "Bewitched," won a Grammy for best traditional pop vocal album. Earlier this year, she released the album "A Matter of Time." □

Data	Unlimited*	Unlimited*
SETAR min	200	300
Other min	30	60
SMS	50	50
Duration	7 Days	14 Days
Price	\$30	\$50

\* Every bundle offers a 5GB daily data allowance based on our Fair Use Policy.  
\* International Minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.

## Brian Callahan becomes first NFL head coach fired this season and others are on the hot seat

By **ARNIE STAPLETON**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Brian Callahan is the first NFL head coach to be fired this season and chances are he'll have some company in the unemployment line in the not-too-distant future.

Last year, three head coaches were fired mid-season.

With the Dolphins off to a 1-5 start, Miami's Mike McDaniel has been a central figure in coaching hot seat discussion this fall. The Dolphins find themselves answering questions again about their team culture following Tua Tagovailoa's comments Sunday calling out unnamed teammates for being late to player-led meetings.

Aaron Glenn, the hottest candidate in the 2024-25 coaching carousel cycle, is making rookie mistakes like letting the clock run out at halftime rather than try a Hail Mary and having Justin Fields drop back on fourth down from the Denver 44 rather than attempting a long go-ahead field goal in the closing minutes of the Jets' 13-11 loss to the Broncos in London on Sunday. The Jets put up a franchise-worst minus-10 net yards passing as Fields completed just nine passes and got sacked nine times. The loss made Glenn the first Jets coach to begin his tenure with six losses.

The Baltimore Ravens, a popular pick to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl, aren't much better off at 1-5 with Lamar Jackson sidelined. Coach John Harbaugh, who's won 187 NFL games, was catching flack from fans during the Ravens' fourth consecutive loss Sunday, 17-3 to the Los Angeles Rams.



Tennessee Titans head coach Brian Callahan walks on the sidelines during the second half of an NFL football game between the Las Vegas Raiders and the Tennessee Titans, Sunday, Oct. 12, 2025, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

The three head coaches who didn't make it through the 2024 season were Robert Saleh (Jets, Week 5), Dennis Allen (Saints, Week 9) and Matt Eberflus (Bears, Week 14).

Joining them in the unemployed ranks after the season in January were Jerod Mayo (Patriots), Antonio Pierce (Raiders), Doug Pederson (Jaguars) and Mike McCarthy (Cowboys).

### How have the replacements fared?

Here's the twist: the three head coaches who were fired midseason last year had a combined record of 8-18. Their interim replacements finished a combined 7-18 in 2024 and their full-time replacements so far this season are a cumulative 4-13.

In addition to Glenn (0-6), Kellen Moore is 1-5 in New Orleans. The only early suc-

cess is from Ben Johnson (3-2) in Chicago, where the Bears have scored 20-plus points in their first five weeks for the first time since 1995. The four teams that waited until after the season to fire their head coach have so far fared better than those teams that pulled a quick hook.

Mayo, Pierce, Pederson and McCarthy were a combined 19-49 last season. Their replacements are 12-11-1 with Mike Vrabel 4-2 in New England, Brian Schottenheimer 2-3-1 in Dallas, Pete Carroll 2-4 in Las Vegas and Liam Coen 4-2 in Jacksonville.

Vrabel has already matched Mayo's four wins in 2024 and Coen has already equaled Pederson's four victories from a year ago, too.

A 3-14 record in his first year after replacing Vrabel allowed Callahan to get the

No. 1 overall draft pick in Cam Ward. But that certainly hasn't been the recipe for job security.

Callahan's firing with the Titans at 1-5 marks the fourth time in five years that a team that picked a quarterback with the No. 1 selection fired the coach during the season. The others were Eberflus in 2024, Frank Reich in Carolina in 2023 and Urban Meyer in Jacksonville in 2021.

### Changes in the college ranks

Callahan joined seven FBS head coaches who have already been dismissed during the 2025 college football season.

Bad starts cost Oklahoma State's Mike Gundy, Arkansas' Sam Pittman, UCLA's DeShaun Foster, Virginia Tech's Brent Pry, Oregon State's Trent Bray and UAB's Trent Dilfer their jobs.

Penn State's James Franklin, whose Nittany Lions were ranked No. 3 in the nation less than three weeks ago, was fired over the weekend amidst a three-game skid, the latest FBS head coach to pay the price for a rocky start to the season. Well, paying the price — and getting paid.

Franklin's buyout is nearly \$50 million, and if you add the buyouts the other six fired coaches are due, it's nearly \$100 million that universities owe their fired head coaches so far.

Callahan was fired just two dozen games into his five-year contract that paid him about \$3 million a season, so the Titans are on the hook for a parachute of more than \$10 million.

It's an accepted part of the job. Coaches know the only way to avoid the pink slip is with a gold watch and most are relieved of their duties long before it's time to retire.

Even Bill Belichick, winner of six Super Bowls with the Patriots, was fired last year by team owner Robert Kraft after nearly a quarter-century of excellence in New England. Belichick shocked many a football fan when he decided after a year's sabbatical to take the head coaching job at North Carolina.

Yet, he spent his weekly news conference Monday talking not about the Tar Heels' upcoming opponent in Cal but about his own job and defending the state of the program. He suggested reports of him looking for a buyout or trying to leave the program were "categorically false."

"There's no truth to any of that," Belichick said. "I'm glad I'm here." □

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## L.A. Angels should be held responsible for pitcher Skaggs' overdose death, lawyer says

By **AMY TAXIN**  
**Associated Press**

**SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)** — The Los Angeles Angels should be held responsible for the drug overdose death of one of its star pitchers because the team failed to follow its own drug policies and let an addicted and drug dealing employee stay on the job and have access to the players,

a lawyer for the pitcher's family said on Tuesday. The allegations came in opening statements of the long-awaited civil trial in a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the wife and parents of Tyler Skaggs. The family contends that the MLB team should be held responsible for the 27-year-old pitcher's death after its communication director, Eric Kay, was

convicted of providing the fentanyl-tainted pill that led to Skaggs' fatal overdose on a team trip to Texas in 2019.

Plaintiffs' attorney Shawn Holley told jurors that Angels officials knew Kay was addicted to opioids and showing up high to work, and providing drugs to at least six players including Skaggs. Holley said the An-



Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Tyler Skaggs (45) talks with catcher Martin Maldonado, left, after warming up in the bullpen prior to a spring training baseball game against the Chicago White Sox, March 4, 2017, in Glendale, Ariz.

**Associated Press**

gels repeatedly failed to follow the team's drug policies when it came to Kay, even assigning him to accompany the team to Texas soon after he had gone through rehab, but fully enforced the rules when it came to lower-level employees who had stadium jobs.

"They buried their heads in the sand over and over and over again, and as a result Tyler Skaggs is dead," Holley told jurors.

Lawyers for the Angels, who will address the jury later on Tuesday, contend that despite Kay's conviction, the autopsy results showed Skaggs had also been drinking and taking oxycodone when he died, and was snorting painkillers instead of taking them as they would be prescribed. The team also argues that Skaggs and Kay were off duty and the player's actions in the privacy of his hotel room could not have been prevented by the Angels. Skaggs' wife and mother were in court for opening statements, as were Angels owner Arte Moreno, the team's president John Carpino, lawyers and news reporters.

The civil case in a Santa Ana courtroom — which seeks hundreds of millions of dollars — comes more than six years after Skaggs was found dead in the suburban Dallas hotel room where he was staying as the Angels were supposed to open a four-game series against the Texas Rangers. A coroner's report says Skaggs choked to death on his vomit and that a toxic mix of alcohol, fentanyl and oxycodone was found in his system.

Kay was convicted in 2022 of providing Skaggs with an oxycodone pill laced with fentanyl and sentenced to 22 years in federal prison. His federal criminal trial in Texas included testimony from five MLB players who said they received oxycodone from Kay at various times from 2017 to 2019, the years he was accused of obtaining pills and giving them to Angels players. Holley told jurors that Angels players were buying drugs from Kay at the clubhouse, in the locker room and in the parking lot of the team's Southern California stadium to help them play through the pain. □

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