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# Boeing defense workers ratify new contract to end 3-month strike in the Midwest

By RIO YAMAT

**Associated Press (AP)—**

Several thousand Boeing machinists in the Midwest who assemble military aircraft and weapons voted Thursday to approve a new contract, ending a three-month strike that saw them reject four earlier offers from the company.

The breakthrough five-year labor agreement includes a 24% wage hike across the life of the contract and a \$6,000 signing bonus, according to the union representing the 3,200 workers who walked off the job on Aug. 4.

"We're proud of what our members have fought for together and are ready to get back to building the world's most advanced military aircraft," the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers said in a statement.

With their new contract in hand, the machinists are set to return to work Sunday at manufacturing plants in the Missouri cities of St. Louis and St. Charles, as well as in Mascoutah, Illinois. The workers build fighter jets, weapons systems and the U.S. Navy's first carrier-



**Christy Williams greets people at the voting check-in table where International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers union members picked up their ballot in Maryland Heights, Mo., Sept. 12, 2025, to vote on a negotiated tentative labor agreement that would end their strike against Boeing Defense St. Louis regional operations.**

**Associated Press.**

based unmanned aircraft at those facilities.

Boeing said in a statement that it looks forward to "bringing our full team back together."

While the strike was smaller than last year's walkout by 33,000 Boeing workers who build commercial jetliners,

it still threatened to slow the aerospace company's efforts to regain its financial footing. Boeing's Defense, Space & Security division makes up more than a third of its revenue. Union leaders said talks broke down over pay and retirement benefits, while Boeing argued

workers' demands went beyond the Midwest's cost of living. The breakdown in negotiations prompted the Congressional Labor Caucus to send a letter to Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg, urging the company to return to the bargaining table.

"Boeing Defense work-

ers produce planes and other defense equipment that the United States government and our men and women in uniform rely upon," the letter said. "These workers are essential to the success of your company, and they deserve a fair contract that reflects their hard work and sacrifices."

Tensions rose long before the strike, with the workers rejecting a proposed 20% raise over the contract's term and \$5,000 ratification bonuses. Boeing responded with an offer that kept the same pay increases but dropped a scheduling rule that limited overtime opportunities.

Workers turned that down as well and went on strike the next morning, later rejecting two other company offers. Amid those failed votes, the union drafted its own four-year contract, which members quickly ratified. And in a move that flipped the script on traditional bargaining practices, the union sent the pre-approved contract to Boeing for its consideration. The company rebuffed the union's terms. □

## Trump administration designates 4 left-wing European networks as terrorist organizations

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI

**Associated Press (AP)—**

President Donald Trump's administration on Thursday designated four European left-wing groups as terrorist organizations, follow-

ing through on his vow to crack down on leftists after the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

The networks targeted by Trump's Republican ad-

ministration all appear to be based in Europe, with no operations in the United States.

They are an Italian anarchist front that sent explosive packages to the then-president of the European Commission in 2003, two Greek networks believed to have planted bombs outside riot police and labor department buildings in Athens, and an anti-fascist group whose members were prosecuted by German authorities for a hammer attack against neo-Nazis in Dresden.

Europe has a long history of left-wing political violence, while in the United States political violence has been more likely to come from the right in re-

cent decades, according to multiple studies, including by the Justice Department. However, there's been an uptick in American political attacks across ideologies in recent years, culminating in the September fatal shooting of Kirk by a gunman who prosecutors contend was driven by hostility toward Kirk's stance against transgenderism and other positions.

The Trump administration's online announcement contends that "Anarchist militants have waged terror campaigns in the United States and Europe, conspiring to undermine the foundations of Western Civilization through their brutal attacks."

**What does the designation mean?**

The designation by the administration allows it to target any financial support the networks may have in the U.S. Most anarchist and antifa, or anti-fascist, groups are technically not organizations but rather loose affiliations of individuals who join up for specific actions.

Some support violence only against property and not people. One of the Greek networks that authorities believe detonated bombs at a government building and train company headquarters called ahead of time to ensure people could evacuate, one reason no one was injured. □



**President Donald Trump speaks before signing the funding bill to reopen the government, in the Oval Office of the White House, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025, in Washington.**

**Associated Press.**



# What to know about how Florida will teach McCarthyism and the Cold War

By KATE PAYNE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) —

Students in Florida's public schools will soon be learning an interpretation of McCarthyism and the Cold War fight against communism that is steeped in the rhetoric of that era, after state education officials voted to approve sweeping new social studies teaching standards Thursday. The standards, which represent the core content Florida students are expected to learn, detail a communist "infiltration" of Civil Rights advocacy groups, include instruction on the use of "'McCarthyism' as an insult" and reference "slander against anti-communists," including the terms "red-baiter and Red Scare." The standards soften decades of reflection on work by former U.S. Sen. Joseph McCarthy, who led a political movement to root out what he saw as communism in political, civil rights and artistic communities during the early 1950s. The effort stripped employment opportunities and social reputations from many of the people McCarthy accused.

The new teaching benchmarks, which were prompted by a law signed by Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2024, have alarmed some educators and experts on McCarthyism, who say the standards appear deeply ideological and directed at "teaching students what to think, rather than how to think."

"If I were a teacher, I would feel really scared by this," said Tawny Paul, a professor of history and director of the Public History Initiative at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Collectively, Florida's sprawling new "History of Communism" standards span 29 pages, roughly three times the length dedicated to the teaching of American History (9 pages) and Civics and Government (11 pages).

The Florida Board of Education approved the standards Thursday, setting up textbook publishers and



A student raises her hand at A.D. Henderson School in Boca Raton, Fla., April 16, 2024.

Associated Press.

educators to implement them in the 2026-2027 school year.

**Here's what to know.**

**What's in the new standards?**

Florida's new history of communism teaching standards span Plato's Republic and the history of utopias to the Russian Revolution and the 1989 protests at Tiananmen Square. McCarthy and the House Committee on Un-American Activities are painted as champions of anti-communism, rather than the more commonly accepted interpretation that they fomented one of the most repressive chapters in modern American history. Absent from the standards' rendering of the Red Scare is the devastating impact the purge had on American society and free speech, said Ellen Schrecker, a retired Yeshiva University history professor and an expert on McCarthyism. She noted the movement spanned society and was marked by public inquisitions, ideological loyalty tests, blacklists and mass firings.

"McCarthyism was, up until the current moment, the longest lasting and most widespread episode of political repression within the United States," Schrecker said.

**What's behind this push?**

Last year, DeSantis signed into law legislation that required the State Board of Education to adopt new teaching standards on the history of communism for the 2026-2027 school year. The move follows the Republican-controlled Legislature's designation of Nov. 7 as Victims of Communism Day in Florida's public schools, to include at least 45 minutes of instruction on figures like Mao Zedong and Fidel Castro.

Overseeing implementation of the standards is the state's new education commissioner, Anastios Kamoutsas, who grew up in Miami as the grandchild of Cuban exiles who fled the Castro regime. □

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# Israeli settlers torch a mosque and scrawl hateful messages despite official condemnation

By **AREF TUFAHA and JULIA FRANKEL**

**DEIR ISTIYA, West Bank (AP)**

— Israeli settlers torched and defaced a mosque in a Palestinian village in the central West Bank overnight, scribbling hateful messages in a show of defiance, a day after some Israeli leaders condemned a recent attack by settlers against Palestinians.

One wall and at least three copies of the Quran and some of the carpeting at the mosque in the Palestinian town of Deir Istiya had been torched when an Associated Press reporter visited Thursday.

On one side of the mosque settlers had daubed graffiti, including “we are not afraid,” “we will revenge again,” and “keep on condemning.” The writing scrawled in Hebrew was difficult to make out. It appeared to reference Maj. Gen Avi Bluth, the chief of the military’s Central Command, who issued a rare denunciation of the violence on Wednesday.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it had sent troops to investigate the scene and hadn’t identified any suspects. It said that it was transferring the case to the Israeli police and security agency.

The attack on the mosque was the latest in a string of incidents that have provoked expressions of concern from top officials, military leaders and the Trump administration.

Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that there was “some concern about events in the West Bank spilling over and creating an effect that could undermine what we’re doing in Gaza.”

Israeli officials have sought to cast settler violence as the work of a few extremists.

But Palestinians and rights groups say that the violence is widespread and carried out by settlers across the territory, with impunity from Israel’s far-right



**A boy inspects burnt copies of Quran inside a mosque that was torched and defaced by Israeli settlers overnight, in the West Bank town of Deir Istiya Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.**

**Associated Press.**

government, led by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who hasn’t commented on the surge in violence.

## **Rare condemnation**

The round of recent denunciations were in reaction to a particularly brazen attack on Tuesday that saw dozens of masked Israeli settlers set fire to vehicles and other property in the Palestinian villages of Beit Lid and Deir Sharaf.

The army said that the settlers then fled to a nearby industrial zone and attacked soldiers responding to the violence, damaging a military vehicle. Four Israelis were arrested, and four Palestinians were wounded, authorities said. Israeli President Isaac Herzog described the attacks as “shocking and serious.” Herzog’s position, while largely ceremonial, is meant to serve as a moral compass and unifying force for the country.

Herzog said that the violence committed by a “handful” of perpetrators “crosses a red line,” adding in a social media post that “all state authorities must act decisively to eradicate the phenomenon.”

The Israeli army’s chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Eyal Zamir,

echoed Herzog’s condemnations of the West Bank violence, saying that the military “will not tolerate the phenomena of a minority of criminals who tarnish a law-abiding public.” He said that the army is committed to stopping violent acts committed by settlers, which he described as contrary to Israeli values and that “divert the attention of our forces from fulfilling their mission.”

On Wednesday, police said that three of the suspects were released. The fourth suspect, a minor arrested on suspicion of arson and assault, will remain in custody for six more days, as ordered by a judge. Police said that the actions of the three who were released are still under investigation “with the goal of bringing offenders to justice, regardless of their background.” When asked about the violence by reporters at a press briefing Thursday, Israeli government spokesperson Shosh Bedrosian said that the military “does not accept any situation in which lawbreakers harm property and civilians.”

She noted that Israelis have recently faced numerous militant attacks, saying that attacks in September had

killed nine people in Israel and injured 24, including members of the security forces. One was a shooting carried out by Palestinian attackers on a road leading to Jewish settlements in east Jerusalem that killed six people, the deadliest shooting in Israel since October 2024.

## **Decades of violence**

Settler violence has been steadily mounting for decades, and the mosque in Deir Istiya had previously come under attack by settlers.

Settlers vandalized the mosque in 2012, according to the U.S. State Department, and again in 2014, according to a roundup of settler violence from the website of the Anti-Defamation League.

The violence had reached peak highs before the war in Gaza erupted more than two years ago, and has only worsened since then. October was the month with the highest-ever number of recorded settler attacks in the West Bank since the U.N.

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, known as OCHA, began keeping track in 2006.

Palestinians say the goal of the violence is to push

them off their lands. OCHA said that 3,535 Palestinians have been displaced by settler violence or access restrictions since 2023, a major upswing from previous years.

## **Settlement expansion**

Emboldened by Netanyahu’s right-wing government, settlers have expanded beyond the bounds of preexisting settlements to establish new farming outposts, which they call “young settlements.”

The outposts usually little more than a few sheds and a pen for livestock now spill down settlement hilltops toward Palestinian villages, with some settlers gaining control of the villages’ agricultural land and water sources.

Palestinians and human rights workers accuse the Israeli army and police of failing to halt attacks by settlers. Israel’s government is dominated by far-right proponents of the settler movement including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who formulates settlement policy, and Cabinet minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees the nation’s police force.

About 94% of all investigation files opened by the Israeli Police into settler violence from 2005 to 2024 ended without indictment, according to monitoring by Israeli human rights group Yesh Din.

Since 2005, just 3% of the investigation files opened into settler violence led to full or partial convictions. □

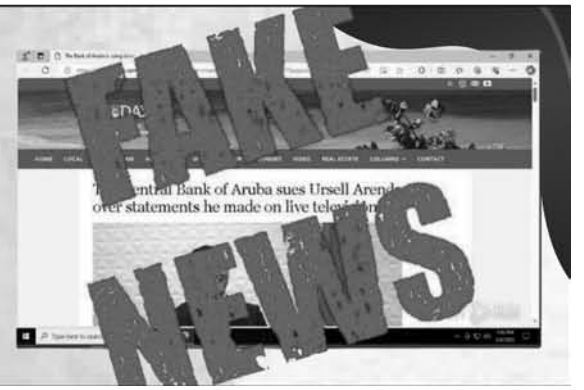




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## Syria reopens embassy in London after more than a decade



In this photo, released by the Syrian Presidency Press Office, Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa, right, listens as Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani, center, speaks during a meeting with representatives of Syrian American organizations in Washington, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025.

Associated Press.

### Associated Press

**BEIRUT (AP)** — Syria's foreign minister officially reopened the country's embassy in London on Thursday after

more than a decade-long closure, the latest step in Syria's reintegration into the international community after the ouster of former

President Bashar Assad. The visit by Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani to the United Kingdom came after a historic visit to Wash-

ington by interim President Ahmad al-Sharaa, the first by a president from Syria since the country's independence in 1946.

Al-Shibani, speaking at an event held by the London-based Chatham House international affairs think tank, said that his meeting with his British counterpart, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper, was "successful."

"Relations between Syria and Britain are advanced relations and we are not talking about opening a new page we are talking about deepening these relations," he said.

Following Assad's fall, while some countries were initially wary of al-Sharaa's past as an Islamist militant, he said that "the United Kingdom had a progressive position compared to other countries." "It removed sanctions early and opened relations with the new Syrian government quickly," he said. "It supported us in the (U.N.) Security Council and

also supported us in several thorny issues."

While the new Syrian government has won broad support from countries that shunned Assad's government after a brutal crack-down against protesters by his security forces in 2011 spiraled into a 14-year civil war, some have remained concerned about the situation of minorities in the new order.

Clashes broke out on Syria's coast and in the southern province of Sweida in recent months and spiraled into sectarian revenge attacks, with Sunni pro-government gunmen killing hundreds of civilians from the Alawite and Druze religious minorities.

Al-Shibani said Thursday that about 100 people are currently imprisoned over their role in the violence on the coast and that the government has made an effort to recruit Alawites to serve in the local police forces. □

## A truck hits pedestrians at a market in South Korea, killing 2 and injuring 18

### Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — A truck plowed into pedestrians at an outdoor market in South Korea on Thursday, killing two people and injuring 18, officials said.

The two people were pronounced dead at a hospital following the incident shortly before 11 a.m. in Bucheon city, near the capital of Seoul. Nine people sustained serious injuries among the 18 who were hurt, Bucheon's municipal government said, noting it wasn't immediately clear if any of the injuries were life-threatening. Police are questioning the



A truck crashes at a market in Bucheon, South Korea, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.

Associated Press.

unidentified truck driver in his 60s who was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, said Son Byeong-sam, a police official in Bucheon. Park Geum-cheon, an official at Bucheon's

fire station, said witnesses told investigators that the vehicle initially reversed about 28 meters (92 feet) before driving forward 150 meters (492 feet), hitting pedestrians on the way. □

## More rain falls in Taiwan after tropical depression causes flooding

### By SIMINA MISTREANU

#### Associated Press

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** — More heavy rain fell in parts of Taiwan on Thursday from a tropical depression that caused flooding and brought a continued risk of landslides. A total of 95 people were injured around the island due to the storm that made landfall in southern Pingtung County on Wednesday evening. Authorities had evacuated more than 8,500 people from coastal and mountainous areas as Fung-wong approached.

The depression had sustained winds of 54 kph (34 mph) near its center and higher gusts Thursday. Northern coastal areas around the city of Yilan have had more than 1.065 meters (42 inches) of rain since Monday. Heavy rain was expected to continue through Thursday near the northeastern port city of Keelung and around the capital, Taipei. Weather officials warned of the risk of flooding and landslides in mountainous areas. They also asked people to beware of flying debris or loose objects from buildings. □



# US proposal at the UN for Gaza stabilization force faces concerns from Russia, China and Arabs

By **FARNOUSH AMIRI** and **EDITH M. LEDERER**

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — A U.S. proposal to provide a United Nations mandate for an international stabilization force in Gaza is facing opposition from Russia, China and some Arab countries, which have expressed unease about a yet-to-be established board that would temporarily govern the territory and the lack of any transitional role for the Palestinian Authority.

The Chinese and the Russians — two veto-wielding members of the U.N. Security Council — have called for the “Board of Peace” under President Donald Trump’s ceasefire plan to be removed from the resolution entirely, according to four U.N. diplomats briefed on the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private, ongoing negotiations.

In the latest draft released late Wednesday and obtained by The Associated Press, the U.S. maintains the language around the board while providing further commitment to Palestinian self-determination. While some of the responses to the U.S. proposal reflect typical negotiations between countries with detailed back-and-forth and revisions in language the objection to the transitional board indicates that wide gaps have emerged between some members of the U.N.’s most powerful body and the U.S. following more than two years of war.

At the same time, other members said quick action would avoid upending the progress toward peace, one diplomat said.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio echoed the urgency, saying the resolution needs to be passed “right away.”

“I think we’re making good progress on the language of the resolution, and hopefully we’ll have action on it very soon,” he told reporters Wednesday before departing a G7 foreign ministers meeting in Canada. “We don’t want to lose mo-



**Trucks carrying humanitarian aid drive through Gaza City after entering from Israel via the Zikim crossing, northern Gaza Strip, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.**

mentum on this.”

## **UN Security Council members sought changes to the US proposal**

The U.S. first circulated a draft resolution last week to the 15 members of the Security Council that would give a broad international mandate to the stabilization force to provide security in Gaza through the end of 2027, working with the yet-to-be-established Board of Peace.

Arab and other countries that have expressed interest in participating in the force have indicated that such a mandate is necessary for them to contribute troops.

Russia, China and Algeria voiced their opposition to that draft, and all but two of the other Security Council members submitted amendments, one of the diplomats said.

The sticking points surrounded the pathway to an independent Palestinian state and the timeline for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip, according to two of the diplomats.

The new draft this week responds to objections that the resolution didn’t envision a future independent Palestinian state but without absolutes.

It says after reforms to the

Palestinian Authority are “faithfully carried out and Gaza redevelopment has advanced, the conditions may be in place for a credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood.”

“The United States will establish a dialogue between Israel and the Palestinians to agree on a political horizon for peaceful and prosperous coexistence,” it adds.

US makes changes but keeps transitional authority The new draft adds that as the stabilization force “establishes control and stability,” the Israeli military will withdraw from the Gaza Strip.

It reiterates that the step would be based on “standards, milestones and timeframes linked to demilitarization and agreed” by Israel, the stabilization force, the United States and others.

The United Arab Emirates, a major U.S. ally in the peace negotiations, said publicly this week that it does not yet see a clear framework for the proposed stabilization force in Gaza and, under the current circumstances, will not take part in it.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu opposes Palestinian statehood and

Gaza eventually being governed by the Palestinian Authority, which runs pockets of the West Bank. But the language in Trump’s plan seems to encourage a role for a Palestinian state. Besides China’s and Russia’s objections, other countries on the Security Council have asked for further clarification on the Board of Peace, including who will be on it and how it will operate.

The new draft did not make big changes regarding the board.

## **Some countries push quick action to preserve momentum**

Some council members, including those representing Arab countries, say swift adoption of any proposal with the U.N. stamp of approval would be wise to keep up with the positive momentum on the ground, one diplomat said.

That diplomat and others said the Americans could get frustrated with the negotiations and decide to go forward unilaterally with a force from willing countries that would not have U.N. backing.

A U.S. official, speaking Thursday on condition of anonymity to discuss private negotiations, expressed some of those frustrations, saying every day

spent negotiating “is a day that risks a return to fighting and suffering.”

The U.S. likely has three options going forward, another diplomat said:

- Accept some meaningful amendments.

- Put its draft to a vote, needing nine votes to pass and no veto by one of the Security Council’s five permanent members: Russia, China, France, Britain and the U.S.

- Bring together nations in a “coalition of the willing” outside the U.N. to take on and fund the stabilization of Gaza.

Whether Russia or China would veto a new draft if the U.S. puts it to a vote without significant changes is uncertain.

The same diplomat said Moscow and Beijing had sought more than half the draft gutted and only want the stabilization force and they want to know its composition and mandate. They also want the force to report to the Security Council.

## **Some details of the US draft resolution**

The current U.S. draft calls for the force to ensure “the process of demilitarizing the Gaza Strip” and “the permanent decommissioning of weapons from non-state armed groups.”

A big question in Trump’s 20-step plan for a ceasefire and reconstruction in the territory is how to disarm Hamas, which has not fully accepted that step.

The draft text says the stabilization troops would help secure border areas, along with a Palestinian police force that they have trained and vetted, as well as coordinate with other countries to secure the flow of humanitarian assistance. It calls for the force to closely consult and cooperate with neighboring Egypt and Israel.

It emphasizes the “full resumption” of aid to Gaza by the United Nations, Red Cross and Red Crescent and ensuring that those needed supplies are not diverted. □



## Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a

frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern

coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □



## Cas di Torto

**Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.**

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on

Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which



gives the white color and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a

porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □







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make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Barbie Welch from Boston, MA, USA.

She wrote to us saying: This says it all...Aruba to me is my happy place! I am a repeat visitor of 30 years, starting with a friends invitation to join them at Caribbean Palm Village and here I am now as an owner myself. I have met so many wonderful people who are now lifelong friends. Where do I begin, the weather, the food, the shopping! Aruba has it all but mostly the laidback lifestyle and friendly hospitality I receive year after year! Here now and already have next year booked for granddaughter's 18th birthday (her request) that says something. Dushi Tera Aruba."

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



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Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



## Paseo Herencia Welcomes All to Its Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony



Oranjestad, Aruba – Paseo Herencia invites you to officially welcome the holiday season at its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, November 14 at 9:00 PM.

The evening will feature traditional Christmas music performed live by Grupo di Gaita Mama Rosa, bringing the sounds and spirit of the season to life. Magia di Pasco

will also be on-site to film and capture the magic of the celebration. Guests can expect a beautiful display of Christmas lights, holiday ambiance, and family-friendly entertainment as Paseo Herencia

lights its iconic trees.

Everyone is invited to join, enjoy the holiday spirit, and celebrate the start of the Christmas season together at Paseo Herencia. □



## Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

### Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and

small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

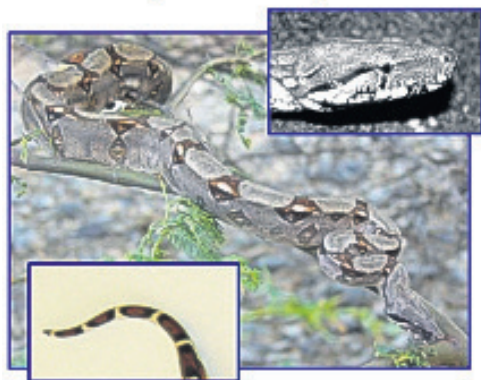
### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □



# Snakes of Aruba

**BOA**  
(*Boa constrictor*)



**CASCABEL**  
(*Crotalus unicolor*)



**SANTANERO**  
(*Leptodeira bakeri*)



**Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake (*Crotalus unicolor*). This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.**

## Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.



Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

## Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

## Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. □



# Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

**At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.**

## Where to find the anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you're visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean Sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

## About the anchor

### Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

## Where did the anchor come from?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

### Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles

and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

### Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

## How did the anchor become a landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr., local businessman. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas

area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

## Through the years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete

pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

## The best time to visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐



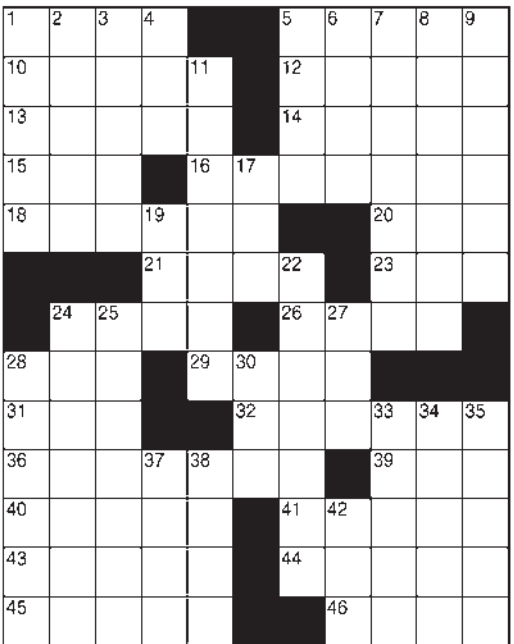


CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 44 Showed over  
1 Self-satisfied  
5 Sobbed  
10 Apartment sign  
12 Door feature  
13 Say  
14 Writer Chekhov  
15 Negative link  
16 Japanese "thanks"  
18 Italian "thanks"  
20 Model buy  
21 Shade providers  
23 Jargon suffix  
24 Have a repast  
26 Play group  
28 Stake  
29 Track item  
31 Good times  
32 Swahili "thanks"  
36 Spanish "thanks"  
39 History stretch  
40 Sachet scent  
41 Different  
43 Summon up

DOWN 1 Taken aback  
2 Car part  
3 Extreme  
4 "My word!"  
5 Spiced tea  
6 Bout site  
7 Gas pipes  
8 Selfish one  
9 Mean  
11 Movie preview  
17 "Stand" band  
19 Buddhism branch  
22 Cut  
24 Strip  
25 "That's expensive!"  
27 Imitating  
28 Made bull elk sounds  
30 Bond rating  
33 First Indian prime minister  
34 Pick up the tab  
35 Brings in  
37 Bakery buy  
38 Bakery worker  
42 High card



11-23

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

11-23 CRYPTOQUOTE

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

Cryptoquote: THE BOND THAT LINKS  
YOUR TRUE FAMILY IS NOT ONE OF BLOOD, BUT  
OF RESPECT AND JOY IN EACH OTHER'S LIFE. —  
RICHARD BACH

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 10 - 14 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
MON	10	ENCHANTED PRINCESS CORAL PRINCESS CARNIVAL PRIDE	07.00 08.00 09.00	16.00 17.00 22.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	11	CARNIVAL HORIZON BRILLIANT LADY	09.00 10.00	23.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	12	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS MAJESTIC PRINCESS ROTTERDAM FREEWINDS	08.00 08.00 07.00 06.00	**** **** 17.00 ****	B C I E	1 1 1 1
THU	13	BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS - Dept. MAJESTIC PRINCESS - Dept. MSC DIVINA	**** **** 07.00	18.00 16.00 14.00	B C I	  1
FRI	14	SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR KONINGS DAM	07.00 10.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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



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.



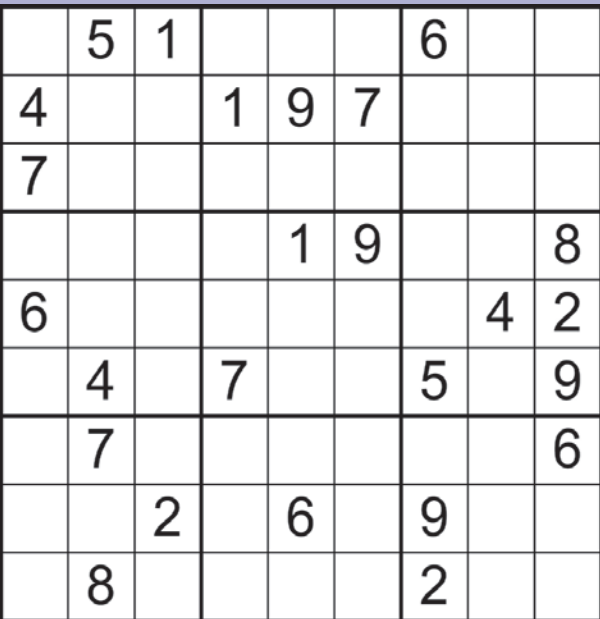
Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist 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



Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/14

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

11/13



# Families of two babies sickened by infantile botulism sue ByHeart over recalled formula

By JONEL ALECCIA

AP Health Writer

**Associated Press (AP)**—The parents of at least two babies sickened in an infantile botulism outbreak are suing the makers of the ByHeart baby formula at the heart of a nationwide recall.

Stephen and Yurany Dexter, of Flagstaff, Arizona, said their 4-month-old daughter, Rose, had to be flown by air ambulance to a children's hospital two hours from home and treated for several weeks this summer.

Michael and Hanna Everett, of Richmond, Kentucky, said their daughter, Piper, also 4 months, was rushed to a hospital Nov. 8 with worsening symptoms of the rare and potentially deadly disease.

The lawsuits, filed in federal courts in two states, allege that the ByHeart formula the babies consumed was defective and that the company was negligent in selling it. They seek financial payment for medical bills, emotional distress and other harm.

Both families said they bought the organic formula to provide what they viewed as a natural, healthier alternative to traditional baby formulas, and that they were shocked and angered by the suffering their children endured. "I wouldn't guess that a product designed for a helpless, developing human in the United States could cause something this severe," said Stephen Dexter, 44.

"She's so little and you're just helplessly watching this," said Hanna Everett, 28. "It was awful."

Outbreak began in August Rose Dexter and Piper Everett are among at least 15 infants in a dozen states who have been sickened in the outbreak that began in August, according to federal and state health officials. No deaths have been reported.

Both received the sole treatment available for botulism in children less



Stephen and Yurany Dexter hold their 4-month-old daughter, who was recently hospitalized for botulism, at their home in Flagstaff, Ariz. on Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025.

Associated Press.

than a year old: an IV medication called Baby-BIG, made from the blood plasma of people immunized against the neurotoxins that cause the illness. Investigations into more potential botulism cases are pending after ByHeart, the New York-based formula manufacturer, recalled all of its formula nationwide on Tuesday. At least 84 U.S. babies have been treated for infantile botulism since August, including those in the outbreak, California officials said.

The company sells about 200,000 cans of formula

per month. It can take up to 30 days for signs of infantile botulism infection to appear, medical experts said.

California officials confirmed that a sample from an open can of ByHeart formula fed to an infant who fell ill contained the type of bacteria that can lead to illness.

The lawsuits filed Wednesday could be the first of many legal actions against ByHeart, said Bill Marler, a Seattle food safety lawyer who represents Dexter.

"This company potentially faces an existential crisis,"

he said. ByHeart officials didn't respond to questions about the new lawsuits but said they would "address any legal claims in due course."



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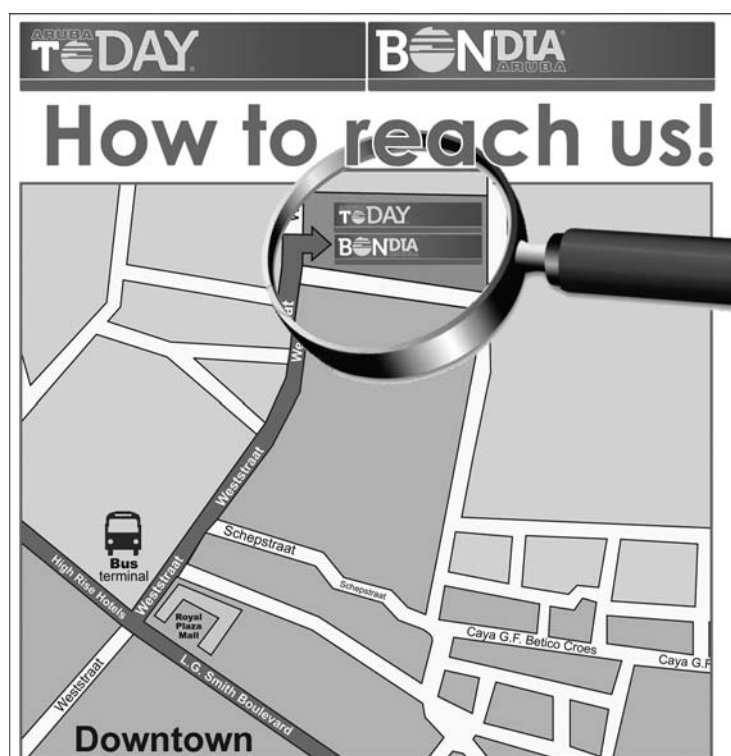
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HEALTH

## 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:

Kibrahacha: Tel. 583 4908

### San Nicolas:

Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

## 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

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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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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Bagpipers claim world record with AC/DC's 'It's a Long Way to the Top'

By **ROD McGUIRK**

**Associated Press**

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**

— Hundreds of bagpipers claimed a new world record on Wednesday by belting out AC/DC's rock and roll classic "It's a Long Way to the Top."

Billed as "The Great Melbourne Bagpipe Bash," the eclectic performance took place in Melbourne's Federation Square, on Swanston Street, which was the scene of the Australian hard rock band's 1976 film clip in which they played the hit on the back of a flat-bed truck traveling slowly through downtown traffic with music blaring from speakers.

Federation Square is also a short stroll from the Melbourne Cricket Ground where AC/DC is scheduled to play their first Australian gig in a decade on Wednesday. Guitarist Angus Young, 70, is the only band member who played on the truck and is performing on the latest Australian tour.

Thousands of spectators crammed the square for the world record attempt. Many of the 374 pipers had to squeeze through the crowd to the stage area. The oldest piper was 98-years-old, organisers said.

Among the bagpipers was Les Kenfield and Kevin



**Bagpipers gather to break a world record for the largest ever bagpipe ensemble playing "It's a Long Way to the Top" by Australian rock band AC/DC in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2025.**

Conlon, two of the three members of Rats of Tobruk Memorial Pipes and Drums who played with AC/DC on the truck 49 years ago.

"It didn't strike you at the time how big this event is until now," Kenfield told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"Now it's one of the greatest things probably the greatest thing I've ever done in my life."

Having been declared world record holders, the massed pipers played "Happy Birthday" on request, followed by an im-

promptu "Amazing Grace" to a cheering crowd, many using their phones to record the moment.

The Australian Book of Records, which has been certifying records since 2012, confirmed that 374 pipers had together broken a record set by 333 pipers in Bulgaria in 2012. The U.K.'s better known Guinness World Records, which confirmed the Bulgarian record, told The Associated Press that it hadn't been approached to assess the Melbourne record attempt.

Many of the enthusiastic

spectators wore AC/DC T-shirts. Asked from the stage who among them were going to the concert afterwards, many hands went up.

One AC/DC fan who didn't see the record set was Keegan Kohler, 23, a self-employed electrician from Columbus, Ohio. He had been waiting outside the concert stadium since 4:50 a.m. to ensure he'd be first in when the gates opened at 5 p.m. The bagpipes record was set nearby at 5:15 p.m.

Kohler had seen AC/DC

**Associated Press.**

perform their "Power Up Tour" this year in Cleveland, Washington, D.C., Detroit and Pittsburgh, but expects the experience will be better in the band's home country. He will see two shows in Melbourne and one in the band's hometown of Sydney.

"I think Aussie crowds are going to be way better than the U.S.," he said. "I think it's going to be more eventful, more head banging, more excitement with the crowds."

Kohler also reacquainted himself outside the stadium with Stephen Scott, from Charlotte, North Carolina. The pair first met in a line outside an AC/DC concert in Detroit.

Scott, a 33-year-old real estate agent, has seen the current tour multiple times in Europe as well as the United States and wanted to see the band perform in Australia.

"I've always talked about wanting to see them here. This is the first opportunity really to do it and maybe the last," Scott said.

His fiancée Amber Thompson, a 31-year-old artist, said it was Scott's idea to travel 10,000 miles for the concert.

"I enjoy it, but I probably wouldn't be here if I didn't know him," she said, referring to Scott, whom she described as the true fan. □

## Sarah Jessica Parker to be honored with Carol Burnett Award at the Golden Globes

By **MARK KENNEDY**

**AP Entertainment Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sarah

Jessica Parker is going from someone who gives out prizes to getting one.



**Sarah Jessica Parker attends the premiere of "And Just Like That..." Season 3 in New York on May 21, 2025.**

**Associated Press.**

The Emmy- and Screen Actors Guild Award-winner and judge for the 2025 Booker Prize was named Thursday as the recipient of the Carol Burnett Award for her "outstanding contributions to television on or off screen."

"Sarah Jessica Parker's career embodies the very spirit of the Carol Burnett Award," said Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes, in a statement. "Her trailblazing impact on television and her dedication to storytelling across stage and screen have left an indelible mark on popular culture. We are

honored to celebrate her extraordinary contributions to entertainment."

The award will be presented during a new annual prime-time special, "Golden Eve," honoring recipients of both the Carol Burnett Award and the Cecil B. DeMille Award, which this year goes to Helen Mirren.

That special will air Jan. 8 on CBS and stream on Paramount+.

The main Golden Globes ceremony is on Jan. 11, hosted for the second time by Nikki Glaser.

Parker is perhaps best known for her role as Carrie

Bradshaw in HBO's series "Sex and the City" and sequel "And Just Like That." Her films include "Hocus Pocus" and "Hocus Pocus 2," "Failure to Launch," "The First Wives Club," "Ed Wood" and "Mars Attacks!"

The Carol Burnett Award was inaugurated in 2019 and is presented to an honoree who has "made outstanding contributions to television on or off screen."

Past recipients include Ted Danson, Norman Lear, Ryan Murphy and Ellen DeGeneres. The first was Burnett herself. □



## Turkish soccer imposes temporary bans on 102 players over betting scandal

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Turkish soccer temporarily banned 102 professional players including 25 from the top-tier league on Thursday over a widening betting scandal that has implicated hundreds of referees.

The Turkish Football Federation imposed bans on 25 players from the Super Lig and 77 from the second-tier first division for terms ranging from 45 days to one year. It followed days after more than 1,000 players were provisionally suspended in the scandal.

Galatasaray and Turkey defender Eren Elmali was suspended for 45 days, three days after he was pulled out of the national-team squad for World Cup qualifying games.

Club teammate and former Turkey Under-21 center back Metehan Baltaci was suspended for nine months. Konyaspor winger Alassane Ndao, who is a former Senegal international, got a 12-month ban.

Elmali posted on Instagram this week that he bet on a game about five years ago that did not involve his own team.

He joined Galatasaray this year and played in all four of its Champions League



Turkish Football Federation president Ibrahim Haciosmanoglu talks during a news conference, in Istanbul, Turkey, Monday, Oct. 27, 2025.

games this season.

The 25-year-old Elmali's initial ban takes him out of Champions League games against Union Saint-Gilloise and Monaco, plus a Super Lig derby against fierce rival Fenerbahce.

Baltaci also admitted past bets but insisted they were not games he played in.

"Years ago I placed a bet at a time when I couldn't fully grasp the seriousness of the matter," he said. "I want to make it clear that

this action had nothing to do with matches played by the teams I represented." The bans apply to matches but the players can continue training, Haberturk television reported.

A total of 1,024 players have been referred to the federation's Professional Football Disciplinary Board in the ongoing investigation, including former Turkey midfielder Necip Uysal who is a 16-year veteran at Istanbul club Besiktas.

The federation has shut down the third- and fourth-tier divisions for two weeks but allowed the Super Lig led by defending champion Galatasaray and second tier to continue.

Federation president Ibrahim Haciosmanoglu vowed this week to cleanse Turkish soccer from corruption, scandal and unethical practices. "We took office 16 months ago with a promise to elevate Turkish football to the level it de-

serves," he said. "We will not compromise in our fight to protect Turkish football from scandal, decay, and corrupt relationships."

Turkish soccer has been rocked by investigations into alleged widespread betting by referees, and now players, on games which is prohibited by world soccer body FIFA., whose Code of Ethics states betting directly or indirectly on games can lead to a ban of up to three years and a fine of up to 100,000 Swiss francs (\$126,000).

More than 150 Turkish referees are alleged to have bet on games, including seven who are approved to handle top-level games and 15 top-level assistants. It is unclear if any of the match officials are on the FIFA list approved to handle international games for national or club teams.

The scandal is a setback to Turkish soccer's revival in recent years.

The country will co-host the men's 2032 European Championship with Italy, the national team reached the Euro 2024 quarterfinals, and Istanbul has been picked by UEFA to stage several finals in European club competitions. □

Associated Press.

## McIlroy outplays Penge at World Tour Championship as Kim leads after first round

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — The head-to-head between Rory McIlroy and Marco Penge at the season-ending World Tour Championship has gotten off to an extremely one-sided start.

While McIlroy rolled in seven birdies in a 6-under 66, Penge the young pretender trying to overhaul the established superstar in the European tour's Race to Dubai standings struggled to a 74 in the first round on Thursday. Penge's birdie at No. 18 meant he avoided being tied for last in the 52-player field in the final event of Europe's 2025 season, with the Englishman seeing close up just what it

will take to get to McIlroy's level. U.S. golfer Michael Kim shot a bogey-free 64 to lead by one stroke from Tommy Fleetwood, whose strong end-of-season form after winning for the first time on the PGA Tour and then starring in Europe's Ryder Cup win at Bethpage continued on the Earth Course with seven birdies and no bogeys in his 65.

McIlroy was tied for third place with Andy Sullivan and Thriston Lawrence and looks set to be crowned Europe's No. 1 player for a fourth straight year and the seventh time in his career. That would leave him one off Colin Montgomerie's record haul. "It was a really

solid start on a golf course that I'm very comfortable on and historically I've played very well on," said the No. 2-ranked McIlroy, who posted his 15th round of 66 or better at Jumeirah Golf Estates.

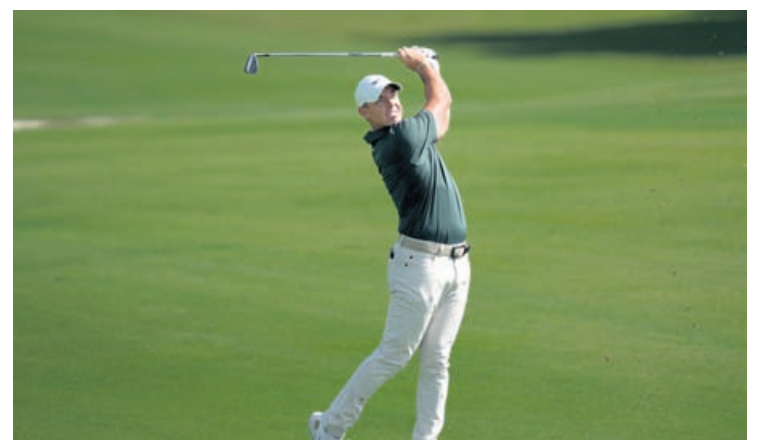
### Penge's problems

Penge, on the other hand, was playing his first competitive round there and it showed with some of his shot selections.

He made five bogeys in a 10-hole run from No. 5, the last coming at the par-5 14th after duffing a chip from the middle of the fairway. At least he had that final-hole birdie to cling to, even if it left Penge eight shots behind McIlroy al-

ready. Penge, who around this time last year was outside the top 400 in the world and had just secured his European tour card, is still

defying preseason expectations by being second in the Race to Dubai standings, around 767 points behind McIlroy. □



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays his second shot on the 1st hole during the first round of World Tour Golf Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.

Associated Press.



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## San Diego Padres could be up for sale as Seidler family considers options

By **GREG BEACHAM**  
AP Sports

**Associated Press (AP)**—The family of the late San Diego Padres owner Peter Seidler is exploring the possibility of selling the franchise.

The Padres announced the Seidler family's decision to examine a sale Thursday. The club has hired BDT & MSD Partners, which served as an adviser on similar discussions in recent years to the NBA's Boston Celtics and MLB's Chicago White Sox.

John Seidler, who became the Padres chairman after his brother's death in November 2023, said his family is "evaluating our future with the Padres, including a potential sale of the franchise." "We will undertake this process with integrity and professionalism in a way that honors Peter's legacy and love for the Padres and lays the foundation for the franchise's long-term success," John Seidler added in a statement. "During the process and as we prepare



San Diego Padres Chairman Peter Seidler speaks at a baseball news conference, Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, in San Diego.

Associated Press.

for the 2026 season, the Padres will continue to focus on their players, employees, fans and community while putting every resource into winning a World Series championship. We remain fully committed to this team, its fans, and the San Diego community." Peter Seidler was part of a group that purchased the Padres for \$800 million in 2012, and he became the team's pri-

mary owner in November 2020 after buying out Ron Fowler's majority stake. He quickly endeared himself to Padres fans with his aggressive spending in an attempt to win San Diego's first major professional sports championship.

After the two-time cancer survivor died two years ago, his wife, Sheel, sued her brothers-in-law Matthew and Robert in an attempt

to prevent John Seidler from becoming the team's control person. Sheel Seidler alleged Peter Seidler wanted her to succeed him, but Matthew Seidler said Sheel Seidler's claims were "entirely untrue, and we will vigorously defend ourselves against them."

Peter Seidler, a grandson of former Los Angeles Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley, built the foundation for the longest sustained stretch of winning in Padres history. San Diego has made the postseason four times in the past six years, winning at least 90 games in each of the last two seasons with an exciting roster built around stars Fernando Tatis Jr. and Manny Machado. The Padres continued to win despite reducing their payroll in 2024 following Peter Seidler's death, with general manager A.J. Preller maintaining the aggressive mindset encouraged by Peter Seidler with a series of ambitious moves.

The Padres won 90 games this year before losing a tense three-game Wild Card Series to the Chicago Cubs. Earlier this week, Preller introduced former Padres reliever Craig Stammen as the club's new manager.

The Padres' large, loyal fan base and their home the well-regarded Petco Park would be significant assets for a potential new owner. The club has set a franchise record for home attendance in each of the past three seasons while drawing more than 3 million fans for the first three times in team history, capped by 3,437,201 in 2025 — a record average of 42,435 per game.

The San Diego metropolitan area is among the top 20 largest markets in the U.S., yet the Padres were the only major professional sports team in town between the departure of the NFL's Chargers in 2017 and the arrival of Major League Soccer's expansion San Diego FC this season. □