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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY  
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

<b>SUNDAY:</b> MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>MONDAY:</b> ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>TUESDAY:</b> JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>THURSDAY:</b> MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>FRIDAY:</b> MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	<b>SATURDAY:</b> RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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Happy Hour  
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10





# Emails reveal Epstein's network of the rich and powerful despite sex offender status

By JESSE BEDAYN

**Associated Press (AP)**—By the time Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl, he had established an enormous network of wealthy and influential friends. Emails made public this week show the crime did little to diminish the desire of that network to stay connected to the financier.

Thousands of documents released by the House Oversight Committee on Wednesday offer a new glimpse into what Epstein's relationships with business executives, reporters, academics and political players looked like over a decade.

They start with messages he sent and received around the time he finished serving his Florida sentence in 2009 and continue until the months before his arrest on federal sex trafficking charges in 2019.

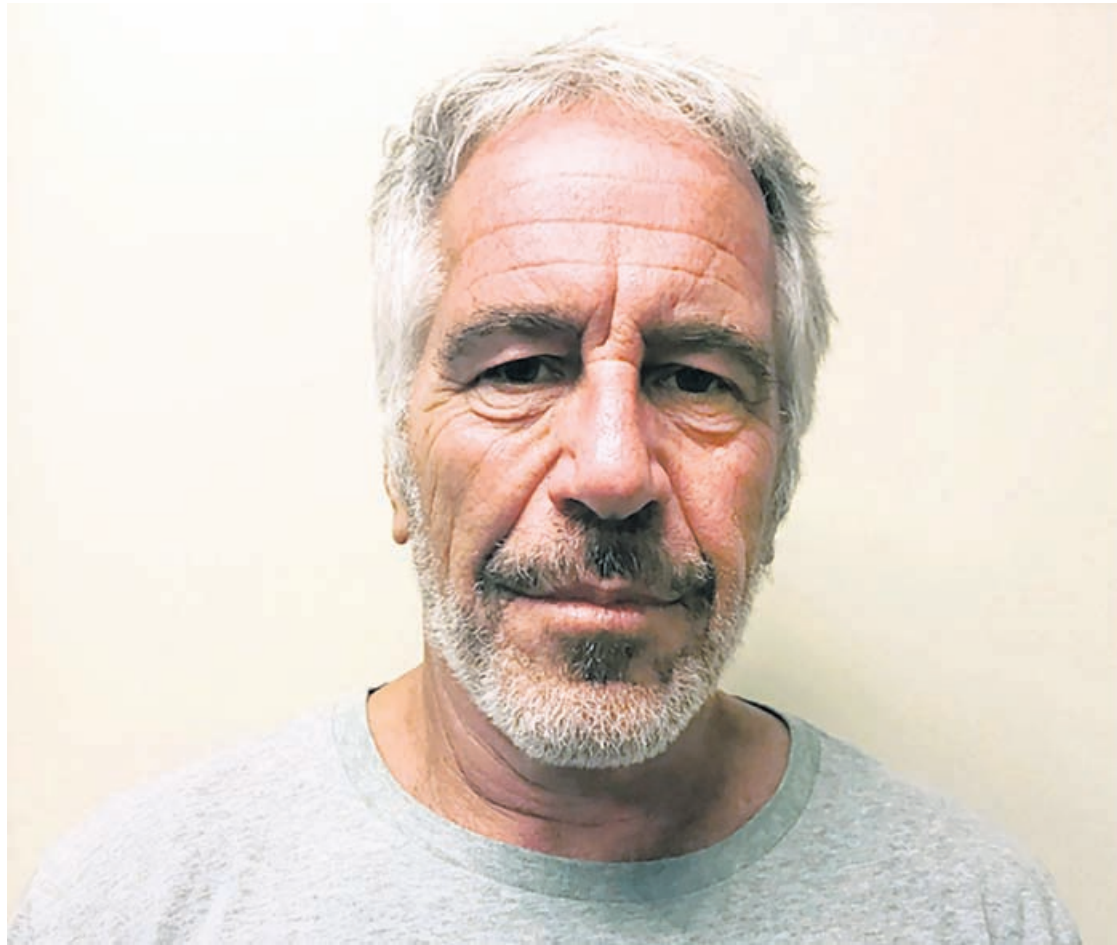
During that time, Epstein's network was eclectic, spanning the globe and political affiliations: from the liberal academic Noam Chomsky to Steve Bannon, the longtime ally of President Donald Trump. Some reached out to support Epstein amid lawsuits and prosecutions, others sought introductions or advice on everything from dating to oil prices. One consulted him on how to respond to accusations of sexual harassment.

Epstein was charged with sex trafficking in 2019, and killed himself in jail a month later. Epstein's crimes, high-profile connections and jailhouse suicide have made the case a magnet for conspiracy theorists and online sleuths seeking proof of a cover-up.

The emails do not implicate his contacts in those alleged crimes. They instead paint a picture of Epstein's influence and connections over the years he was a registered sex offender.

Epstein kept a diverse political network

Epstein emailed current and former political figures



This photo provided by the New York State Sex Offender Registry shows Jeffrey Epstein, March 28, 2017.

on all sides, sending news clips and discussing strategy or gossip often in short, choppy emails laden with spelling and grammatical errors.

In several emails in 2018, Epstein advised Bannon on his political tour of Europe that year. Bannon first forwarded Epstein a news clip that described the German media as "underestimating" Bannon and that he was "As Dangerous as Ever."

"luv it," Epstein responded. Epstein wrote that he'd just spoken to "one of the country leaders that we discussed" and that "we should lay out a strategy plan. . how much fun."

Several months later, Epstein sent some advice: "If you are going to play here, you'll have to spend time, europe by remote doesn't work."

"its doable but time consuming," Epstein continued in a follow-up email, "there are many leaders of countries we can organize for you to have one on ones."

Just a few months earlier, Epstein was insulting Trump

whose movement Bannon was a representative of in emails to Kathryn Ruemmler, the former White House counsel under President Barack Obama.

Ruemmler sent a message to Epstein calling Trump "so gross." A portion of that message was redacted, but Epstein replied, "worse in real life and upclose."

In other emails with Ruemmler, Epstein detailed a whirlwind of well-known people he appears to have been meeting, hosting or speaking with that week, including an ambassador, a tech giant, foreign business people, academics and a film director.

"you are a welcome guest at any," he wrote.

Jennifer Zuccarelli, a spokesperson for Goldman Sachs, where Ruemmler now works, declined to comment.

Epstein's wealthy social circles

The financier emailed often with people in the upper echelons of wealth around the world, brokering introductions and chatting about politics and foreign

affairs.

That included Silicon Valley investor Peter Thiel, who Epstein sent an email to in 2014 saying "that was fun, see you in 3 weeks."

Four years later, Epstein asked if Thiel was enjoying Los Angeles, and, after Thiel said he couldn't complain, replied "Dec visit me Caribbean." It's unclear if Thiel ever responded.

In emails with Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, an Emirati businessman, Epstein complimented Bannon, saying in 2018 that "We have become friends you will like him."

"Trump doesn't like him," responded Sulayem.

A year earlier, Sulayem asked Epstein about an event where it appeared Trump would be in attendance, asking,

"Do you think it will be possible to shake hand with trump."

"Call to discuss," Epstein wrote back.

In January 2010, biotech venture capitalist Boris Nikolic was attending the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzer-

land, and Epstein emailed to ask, "any fun?"

Nikolic replied that he had met "your friend" Bill Clinton, as well as then-French President Nicolas Sarkozy and "your other friend," Prince Andrew, "as he has some questions re micro-soft."

But then Nikolic said he was getting sick of meetings. Later, he wrote Epstein that "it would be blast that you are here." He mentioned flirting with a 22-year-old woman.

"It turns out she is with her husand. Did not have chance to check him out. But as we concluded, anything good is rented ;)" Nikolic wrote.

Epstein kept in touch with academics

The theoretical physicist and cosmologist Laurence Krauss was among them. In 2017, Krauss reached out to Epstein via email for advice on responding to a reporter writing a story about allegations of sexual harassment against him.

"Is this a reasonable response? Should i even respond? Could use advice," Krauss asked Epstein.

In an explicit exchange, Epstein asked Krauss if he'd had sex with the person in question and then suggested he should not reply to the journalist.

"No. We didn't have sex. Decided it wasn't a good idea," replied Krauss.

Krauss said in an email to The Associated Press that he never hid the fact that he knew Epstein, and interacted with him several times.

"I sought out advice from essentially everyone I knew when false allegations about me were circulated in the press in 2018," said Krauss. "I was as shocked as the rest of the world when he was arrested" in 2019.

In an August 2015 email exchange, Epstein told Chomsky, the famed linguist and social scientist, to only fly to Greece if he feels well, joking he previously had to send a plane for another "lefty friend" to see a doctor in New York. □

Associated Press.



# Preliminary findings show a fatigue crack caused a Keystone Pipeline oil spill in North Dakota

By JACK DURA  
Associated Press

**BISMARCK, N.D. (AP)** — A fatigue crack in the Keystone Pipeline led to an oil spill in North Dakota earlier this year that released thousands of barrels of oil onto farmland, according to the pipeline operator. In a quarterly report released Thursday, South Bow said initial findings show, "the failure resulted from a fatigue crack that originated along the pipe's manufactured long-seam weld." A fatigue crack develops from stress over time. A mechanical and metallurgical analysis found the pipe and welds met industry standards, the company said. Spill-related costs total around \$55 million, which the company said it expects to recover through insurance early next year. Through September, South Bow had received about \$16 million in reimbursements from its insurance policies. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ordered several corrective



This image provided by South Bow shows a spill from the Keystone oil pipeline that occurred Tuesday, April 8, 2025 near Fort Ransom, N.D.

actions after the spill. The federal government shutdown delayed the release of a third-party "root cause analysis," South Bow said. It's unclear when those findings will come. A South Bow spokesperson said PHMSA is leading that process and "out of respect for the pro-

cess, we can't speak for them." The spill occurred April 8. An employee at the rural site about 60 miles southwest of Fargo heard a "mechanical bang" and shut down the pipeline within two minutes, a state official has said.

An estimated 3,500 barrels or 147,000 gallons of oil spilled in a field near Fort Ransom, a small town in a forested area with outdoor recreation and scenic views. South Bow sent vacuum trucks and more than 200 workers to aid the cleanup. The pipeline re-

started after a six-day shutdown. State regulators inspected the site several times in the months after the spill, noting in September that "the vegetation is recovering well," and that it should be checked again in spring 2026, according to an incident report. Nearly 90% of the spilled oil was recovered, according to the report. Crews removed impacted soil to be disposed of elsewhere. Local landowner Myron Hammer said South Bow's cleanup was completed in time for him to plant a soybean crop on the land. "I'm surprised that they got everything put back in place as quick as they did. It was a big project," he said. Roughly 5 acres of land were impacted by the spill, though South Bow utilized 40 acres or more for the entire staging area and access, Hammer said. People and vehicles were on site as recently as Thursday, he said. The area of the spill is in gently rolling farmland. □

Associated Press.

# Man charged with 4 counts of murder in mass shooting at South Carolina bar

By JEFFREY COLLINS  
Associated Press

**COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)** — Authorities have charged a man with murder in a mass shooting that killed four people and injured 15 more last month at a bar on a South Carolina island. Anferny Freeman, 27, was already in jail on a charge of possessing a machine gun when investigators served arrest warrants on him Friday, Beaufort County Sheriff P.J. Tanner said. About 350 people were at a 25th high school reunion party in the early morning of Oct. 12 when gunfire broke out at Willie's Bar and Grill on St. Helena Island, deputies said. Freeman and a man who ended up being killed in the shooting had an encounter "that was not very friendly" and started shoot-

ing at each other, Tanner said. Freeman was shot in the stomach and driven to the hospital, the sheriff said. Investigators have determined through bullets, shell casings, videos and interviews that there was a third person shooting too, said the sheriff, who expects more arrests. "I expect more charges to be made. We have not forgotten about the other 15 victims," Tanner said. A judge denied bond for Freeman on the four murder charges. Jail and court records did not list a lawyer representing him. The shooting happened near last call for drinks at a party celebrating the 25th anniversary of the class of 2000 at Battery Creek High School in Beaufort. Tanner said the shooters were firing

indiscriminately. In a news conference several days after the shooting, Tanner said he was frustrated that none of the people at the party were identifying the shooter. He said Friday that they did finally get witnesses to talk and help them make their case. The sheriff would not say who shot first, what kinds of weapons were used, how Freeman got his gun or how many other people might be charged. "How all that happened is for a courtroom and not here," Tanner said. Willie's Bar serves Gullah-inspired cuisine and describes itself on its website as "not just a restaurant but a community pillar committed to giving back, especially to our youth." An estimated 5,000 or more

Gullah people living on St. Helena Island trace their ancestry back to enslaved West Africans who once worked rice plantations in the area before being eventually freed by the Civil War.

Someone affiliated with the business was at Tanner's news conference Friday and asked him several questions about why the sheriff was trying to get the bar declared a nuisance and closed. □



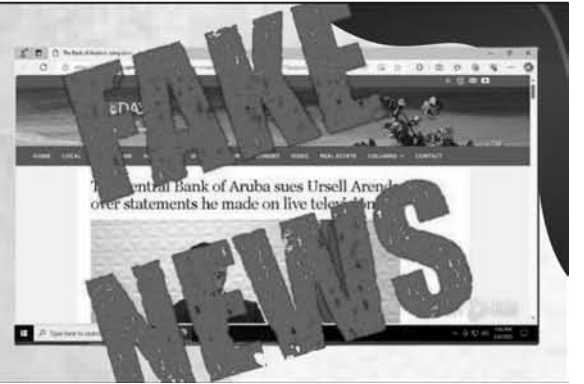
This Oct. 21, 2025, photo provided by the Beaufort County Detention Center in South Carolina shows Anferny Freeman. Associated Press.



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## 19 migrants deported by US to Ghana have been moved to an unknown location, lawyer says

By **EDWARD ACQUAH** and **MARK BANCHEREAU**  
Associated Press

**ACCRA, Ghana (AP)** — Nineteen West African nationals deported by the U.S. to Ghana have been moved to an unknown location, a lawyer for one of the deportees said.

Ana Dionne-Lanier, who represents one of the nationals, told The Associated Press on Thursday the group arrived in Ghana on Nov. 5 and were put in a hotel. They are protected from deportation to their home countries due to the risk of torture, persecution or inhumane treatment, she said. "We don't know the location of any of them," Dionne-Lanier said, adding that neither she nor her client's family has been able to reach him.

She said part of the group was sent by bus to an unknown border location be-



Ghana's President John Mahama speaks during a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, unseen, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025.

Associated Press.

tween last weekend and Monday, while a second group, which included her client, was moved "under

heavy armed guard" from the hotel around Wednesday.

The Ghanaian govern-

ment didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Dozens of deportees have

been sent to Africa from the U.S. since July after the Trump administration struck largely secretive agreements with at least five African nations including Eswatini, Rwanda and South Sudan to take migrants under a new third-country deportation program.

The Trump administration's deportation program has faced widespread criticism from human rights experts, who cite international protections for asylum-seekers and question whether immigrants will be appropriately screened before being deported.

The administration has been seeking ways to deter immigrants from entering the U.S. illegally and remove those who already have done so, especially those accused of crimes and including those who cannot easily be deported to their home countries. □

## London judge finds global mining company BHP Group liable in Brazil's worst environmental disaster

By **BRIAN MELLEY**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A London judge ruled Friday that global mining company

BHP Group is liable in Brazil's worst environmental disaster when a dam collapse a decade ago unleashed tons of toxic waste



Debris is visible after a dam burst at the small town of Bento Rodrigues in Minas Gerais state, Brazil, Nov. 6, 2015.

Associated Press.

into a major river, killing 19 people and devastating villages downstream. High Court Justice Finola O'Farrell said that Australia-based BHP was responsible, despite not owning the dam at the time, finding its negligence, carelessness or lack of skill led to the collapse.

Anglo-Australian BHP owns 50% of Samarco, the Brazilian company that operates the iron ore mine where the tailings dam ruptured on Nov. 5, 2015. Sludge from the burst dam destroyed the once-bustling village of Bento Rodrigues in Minas Gerais state and badly damaged other towns. Enough mine

waste to fill 13,000 Olympic-size swimming pools poured into the Doce River in southeastern Brazil, damaging 600 kilometers (370 miles) of the waterway and killing 14 tons of freshwater fish, according to a study by the University of Ulster in the U.K. The river, which the Krenak Indigenous people revere as a deity, has yet to recover. A decade later, legal disputes have prolonged reconstruction and reparations and the river is still contaminated with heavy metals. Even as Brazil tries to define itself as a global environmental leader while hosting the U.N. COP30 climate summit,

advocacy groups say the dam collapse is a reminder of industry-friendly policies that have ecological protection.

Victims of the disaster called the ruling a historic victory in seeking justice.

"We had to cross the Atlantic Ocean and go to England to finally see a mining company held to account," said Mônica dos Santos of the Commission for Those Affected by the Fundão Dam.

Gelvana Rodrigues, whose 7-year-old son, Thiago, was killed in a mudslide, celebrated the step forward and said she wouldn't rest until those responsible are punished. □



# South Africa investigates mystery of a plane that arrived with more than 150 Palestinians from Gaza

By **GERALD IMRAY, ALFONSO NQUNJANA and JULIA FRANKEL**

**Associated Press**

**JOHANNESBURG (AP) —**

South Africa's intelligence services are investigating who was behind a chartered plane that landed in Johannesburg with more than 150 Palestinians from war-ravaged Gaza who did not have proper travel documents and were held onboard on the tarmac for around 12 hours as a result, the country's president said Friday.

The plane landed Thursday morning at O.R. Tambo International Airport, but passengers were not allowed to disembark until late that night after immigration interviews with the Palestinians found they could not say where or how long they were staying in South Africa, South Africa's border agency said.

It said the Palestinians also did not have exit stamps or slips that would normally be issued by Israeli authorities to people leaving Gaza.

The actions of South African authorities in initially refusing to allow the passengers off the plane provoked fierce criticism from non-governmental organizations, who said the 153 Palestinians who included families with children and one woman who is nine months pregnant were kept in dire conditions on the plane, which was extremely hot and had no food or water.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said there was an investigation to uncover how the Palestinians came to South Africa via a stopover in Nairobi, Kenya. "These are people from Gaza who somehow mysteriously were put on a plane that passed by Nairobi and came here," Ramaphosa said.

**Palestinians being 'exploited'**

The Palestinian Embassy in South Africa said in a statement the flight was arranged by "an unregistered and misleading organization that exploited the



**Hussein and Khawla Abu Arabiya adjust their tent to protect the interior from a rainstorm at a temporary camp in Deir al-Balah, in the central Gaza Strip, on Friday, Nov. 14, 2025.**

**Associated Press.**

tragic humanitarian conditions of our people in Gaza, deceived families, collected money from them, and facilitated their travel in an irregular and irresponsible manner. This entity later attempted to disown any responsibility once complications arose."

It didn't name who chartered the flight, but an Israeli military official, speaking anonymously to discuss confidential information, said an organization called Al-Majd arranged the transport of about 150 Palestinians from Gaza to South Africa.

The official said that Israel escorted buses organized by Al-Majd that brought Palestinians from a meeting point in the Gaza Strip to the Kerem Shalom crossing. Then buses from Al-Majd picked the Palestinians up and brought them to Ramon airport in Israel, where they were flown out of the country.

South African authorities said 23 of the Palestinians had traveled onwards to other countries, without naming those countries, but 130 remained and were allowed in after intervention from South Africa's Ministry of Home Affairs and an offer by an NGO called Gift of the Givers to ac-

commodate them.

"Even though they do not have the necessary documents and papers, these are people from a strife-torn, a war-torn country, and out of compassion, out of empathy, we must receive them and be able to deal with the situation that they are facing," Ramaphosa said.

**Shadowy operation**

The secretive nature of the flight raised fears among rights groups that it marked an attempt by the Israeli government to push Palestinians from Gaza.

Israel's foreign ministry referred questions to the Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the Israeli authority responsible for implementing civilian policies in the Palestinian territories. It said the Palestinians on the charter plane left the Gaza Strip after it received approval from a third country to receive them as part of an Israeli government policy allowing Gaza residents to leave. It didn't name the third country.

Around 40,000 people have left Gaza since the start of the war under the policy.

Israel's government had embraced a pledge by U.S. President Donald Trump to

empty Gaza permanently of its more than 2 million Palestinians a plan rights groups said would amount to ethnic cleansing. At the time, Trump said they would not be allowed to return. Trump has since backed away from this plan and brokered a ceasefire between Israel and the militant group Hamas that allows Palestinians to remain in Gaza.

South African leader Ramaphosa said that it appeared the Palestinians who arrived in Johannesburg were being "flushed out" of Gaza, without elaborating. The comment followed allegations by two South African NGO representatives who claimed that Al-Majd was affiliated with Israel and working to remove Palestinians from Gaza. They offered no evidence for the claims and COGAT didn't respond to a request for comment on those allegations.

Gift of the Givers founder Imtiaz Sooliman, one of those to allege involvement by what he called "Israel's front organizations," said this was the second plane to arrive in South Africa in mysterious circumstances after one that landed with more than 170 Palestinians onboard on Oct. 28. The

arrival of that flight was not announced by authorities. Sooliman said the passengers on the latest plane did not initially know where they were going and were given no food for the two days it took to travel to Johannesburg.

"They were given nothing on the plane itself and this must be challenged and investigated," Sooliman said.

South Africa has long been a supporter of the Palestinian cause and a critic of Israel and has led the international pro-Palestinian movement by accusing Israel of committing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza in a highly contentious case at the United Nations' top court. Israel denies committing genocide and has denounced South Africa as the "legal arm" of Hamas.

The people that ended up in South Africa underlined the desperation of Palestinians following a two-year war that has killed more than 69,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, and reduced the territory to rubble. The ministry's death toll does not distinguish between militants and civilians, but it says more than half of those killed were women and children. A fragile ceasefire is in place.

**Jerusalem-based organization**

An organization called Al-Majd Europe has previously been linked to facilitating travel for Palestinians out of Gaza. It describes itself on its website as a humanitarian organization founded in 2010 in Germany and based in Jerusalem that provides aid and rescue efforts to Muslim communities in conflict zones.

The website does not list office phone numbers or its exact address. It states that Al-Majd Europe works with a variety of organizations including 15 international agencies, but no organizations are listed and a "will be announced soon" message was displayed in that section on Friday. □



# Ex-Congolese rebel leader on trial for war crimes in Paris begins hunger strike

By **JEAN-YVES KAMALE** and **MARK BANCHEREAU**

**Associated Press**

**KINSHASA, Congo (AP)** —

Ex-Congolese rebel leader Roger Lumbala began a hunger strike on Friday to protest his trial, which began this week over atrocities committed two decades ago during the Second Congo War.

Lumbala, who dismissed his lawyers and refused to appear in court after the first day of the trial on Wednesday claiming the French court has no legitimacy to try him, announced his hunger strike in a statement read by the head of the Paris criminal court, Marc Sommerer.

The ex-rebel leader has been charged with "criminal conspiracy to prepare crimes against humanity" and "complicity of crimes against humanity" during the conflict from 1998 to 2003.

He faces a possible sentence of life in prison. A verdict is expected Dec. 19 following the trial at the Paris criminal court.



The Palais de Justice courthouse during nationwide confinement measures to counter the Covid-19, in Paris, Wednesday, April 8, 2020.

Lumbala's trial is made possible under a French law that recognizes universal jurisdiction for crimes against humanity.

His case marks the first time

a Congolese political or military leader has been tried for mass atrocities before a national court under the universal jurisdiction principle.

Congo has been wracked by deadly conflict in its mineral-rich east since the 1990s, with more than 100 active armed groups. The conflict escalated earlier

this year when the M23 rebel group seized two key cities with the help of neighboring Rwandan forces.

The 67-year-old led the Congolese Rally for National Democracy, a rebel group backed by neighboring Uganda and accused of atrocities against civilians, particularly targeting the Nande and Bambuti ethnic minorities in eastern Congo in 2002 and 2003.

The group committed widespread torture, executions, rape, forced labor and sexual slavery, according to U.N. reports.

Lumbala was arrested in Paris in 2020 and indicted by a French court in 2023. His lawyers have claimed that the Congolese government made an extradition request to France.

Henri Thulliez, an attorney who represents the victims in the case, said Congo made a first extradition request in 2013 but it addressed Lumbala's alleged ties to the M23 rebel group, not the war crimes for which he is being pursued. □

# Pakistan arrests 4 militants in connection to suicide bombing at Islamabad court

By **MUNIR AHMED**

**Associated Press**

**ISLAMABAD (AP)** —

Pakistan on Friday announced the arrest of four militants over their alleged involvement in a deadly suicide bombing outside a dis-

trict court in the capital, a breakthrough in an investigation launched after the attack killed 12 people and wounded 28 others.

The men are suspected members of the outlawed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan,

or TTP, which is a separate group but closely allied to the Afghanistan Taliban. One of the suspects, Sajid Ullah, is believed to have handled the bomb used in the suicide attack on the court in Islamabad on Tuesday, the government said in a post on social media platform X.

The men were detained in a joint operation by the nation's Intelligence Bureau and Counter-Terrorism Department, the government said.

The arrests came a day after Pakistan's Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Afghan nationals carried out suicide bombings in Islamabad and northwest Pakistan earlier this week.

Ullah told investigators that Saeed-ur-Rehman, a TTP commander, ordered the attack in Islamabad

through the Telegram messaging app. The commander, also known as Daadullah, sent Ullah photographs of the suicide bomber, an Afghanistan citizen, with orders to receive him after he crossed the border into Pakistan from Afghanistan, where he was a resident of Nangarhar province, the government said.

Ullah arranged accommodation for the attacker near Islamabad and later retrieved an explosive suicide vest from a graveyard in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Daadullah's instructions before transporting the vest to the capital, the government said. Daadullah, originally from Pakistan's Bajaur region, is part of TTP's intelligence wing and currently hiding in Afghanistan, the government said.

Naqvi, Pakistan's interior minister, said Thursday that Afghan citizens were involved in the Islamabad bombing on Tuesday and an attack Monday in the northwestern city of Wana, where gunmen stormed a cadet college and began a gun battle that lasted nearly 20 hours. Three soldiers and all the attackers were killed.

The attacks underscored Pakistan's deteriorating security climate as the country faces a resurgence in militancy, increasingly fraught relations with Afghanistan's government in its capital, Kabul, and a fragile cross-border ceasefire.

Until Tuesday's blast, Islamabad was considered safer than the country's northwest, which has suffered from repeated violence. □



Army soldiers stand guard next to a damaged area at the main gate of an army-run cadet college that was assaulted by militants on Monday, in Wana, a city in the northwestern Pakistani district South Waziristan bordering with Afghanistan, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.

Associated Press.



## Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

### California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest points easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

### Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky



and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!

### Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sun-

set. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

### Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

### Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back. hue. □

## Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

### Trupial



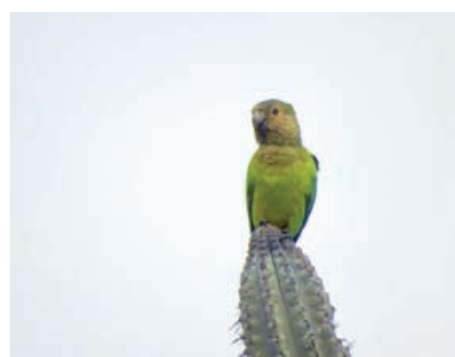
Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Trupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be

spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

### Prikichi (parakeet)

The Brown-throated Prikichi (*Aratinga pertinax*) became the national

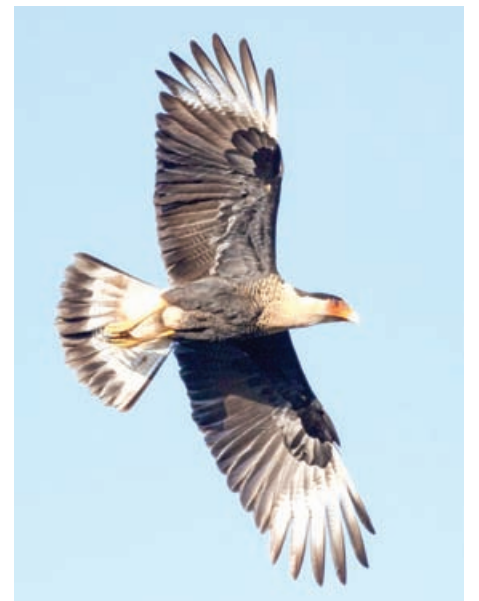


bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

### Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throw-



ing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature.

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation □



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## The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history



(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the

gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assign-

ment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The

next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa



## Aruba celebrates 70th anniversary of our Coat of Arms

(Oranjestad)—Today, Aruba celebrates 70 years since our Coat of Arms was inaugurated. The six national symbols of Aruba are the Coat of Arms, Anthem, Flag, Papiamentu Language, Currency, and the Shoco. All of them symbolize our identity as the country of Aruba.

Our first national symbol is:

**Our Coat of Arms:**

On March 27, 1953, the Government announced a competition to establish

Aruba's Coat of arms. Afterwards, the Atelier voor Heraldische Kunsten of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, was given the task of creating a basic design for the Coat of Arms.

On November 15, 1955, the Government of the Insular Territory of Aruba officially approved our Coat of arms. A people's Coat of arms is a symbol of different typical aspects of that people.

**Our Coat of Arms symbolizes:**

**In the first quarter: The Aloe plant**

The Aloe plant symbolizes our first source of income, the Aloe industry.

**In the second quarter: The Hooiberg hill**

This symbolizes our island that rose out of the sea. The green color is the color of the joy we feel since our self-determination, and the lines like waves symbolize our sea.

**In the third quarter: A handshake**

This handshake symbolizes the bonds of friendship between our people and other nations in political, economic, and cultural areas. The heart-red color signifies our generous character, our simplicity, and the value of work to strengthen these ties.

**In the fourth quarter: The wheel**

The wheel symbolizes a helm that guides our industry, which is the most important source of life on our island. The central cross



of the Coat is a symbol of devotion and faith. The red lion on the Coat symbolizes strength and generosity. The laurel branches at the bottom of the Coat symbolize peace and friendship. □



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## Visit the island's popular cave sites!



**(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves.**

### Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadiriki Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

### Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would

loved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love bird found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

### Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not



have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

### The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy. Take care to not disturb the bats' habitat. □





## Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

### Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this

raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.



### Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In es-

sence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

**Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris**



## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista

(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful



names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with

Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

### Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means

the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.





# The district of Savaneta: A quick history guide to the island's first capital

(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take



notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" (Kibrahacha) trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

## The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The

Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's

first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name  
The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "savana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta*  
(History of Savaneta) by Adolf  
"Dufi" Kock.





## CROSSWORD

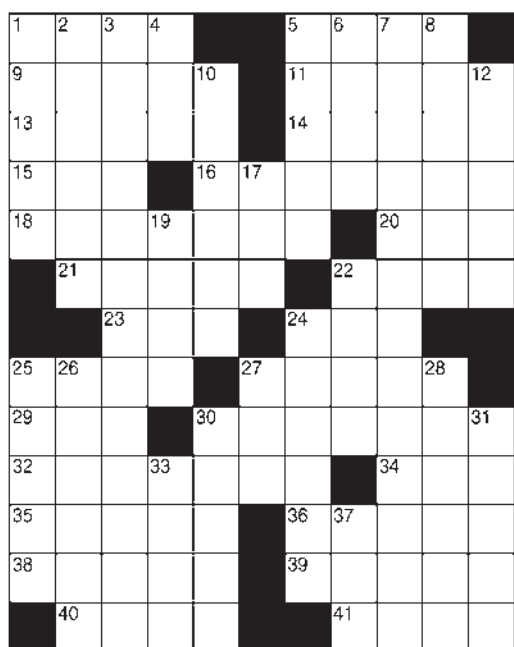
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 38 Splinter  
1 It's true groups  
5 Radiator 39 Tiny dot  
sound 40 Enjoys  
9 Needed a Aspen  
massage 41 Hardy  
11 Despise heroine  
13 Peach  
center



## DOWN

- 14 — Janeiro 1 Forgoes 7 Black 24 Tribe  
15 Pointer food Friday symbols  
16 Tennis 2 Director's outing 25 Lock  
champ's cry 8 Salt base 26 Pound  
forte 3 Cusp of 10 Tear off parts  
18 Met elimination 12 Doesn't 27 Table part  
performer 4 Decimal own 28 Morality  
20 Place base 17 Count topic  
21 Flower 5 Brother of starter 30 Attire  
girl, often Chico 19 Old 31 Goes  
22 Edges 6 Sacred autos under  
23 Japanese bird of 22 Took the 33 Opposed  
drama Egypt bus 37 Fitting



11-24

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.

## 11-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

DC YDYP'C JWCCHU VKR GDE KQU  
VKQNH RWN; DC JWCCHUHY  
CVWC CVHUH RWN AKSH DP  
DC. — OHCHU GQTTTHCC

**Cryptoquote:** AS WE EXPRESS  
OUR GRATITUDE, WE MUST NEVER FORGET  
THAT THE HIGHEST APPRECIATION IS NOT TO  
UTTER WORDS, BUT TO LIVE BY THEM.  
— JOHN F. KENNEDY

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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



### Electrical power

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



### Supermarket hours

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



### Drinking water

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



### 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: ★★★★★

11/15

### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/14



# Opioid settlement with OxyContin maker Purdue and Sackler family could end years of legal battles

By GEOFF MULVIHILL

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Lawyers representing OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, cities, states, counties, Native American tribes, people with addiction and others across the U.S. delivered a nearly unanimous message for a bankruptcy court judge Friday: Approve a plan to settle thousands of opioid-related lawsuits against the company and members of the Sackler family who own it.

If U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane abides, it will close a long chapter and maybe the entire book on a legal odyssey over efforts to hold the company to account for its role in an opioid crisis connected to 900,000 deaths in the U.S. since 1999, including deaths from heroin and illicit fentanyl.

Friday's closing arguments were wrapping up a three-day hearing over the bankruptcy plan for the company, which filed for protection six years ago as it faced lawsuits with claims that grew to trillions of dollars.

Marshall Huebner, a lawyer for Purdue, told the judge that he wishes he could "conjure up \$40 trillion or \$100 trillion to compensate those who have suffered unfathomable loss." But without that possibility, he said: "The plan is entirely lawful, does the greatest good for the greatest number in the shortest available timeframe."

The opposition is much quieter this time around. The saga has been emotional and full of contentious arguments between the many groups that took Purdue to court, often exposing a possible mismatch between the quest for justice and the practical role of bankruptcy court.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected a previous deal because it said it was improper for Sackler family members to receive immunity from lawsuits over opioids. In the new arrangement, entities who don't opt into the settlement can



Jen Trejo holds a photo of her son Christopher as she is comforted outside the Supreme Court Dec. 4, 2023, in Washington.

Associated Press.

sue them. Family members are collectively worth billions, but much of their assets are held in trusts in offshore accounts that would be hard to access through lawsuits. This time, the government groups involved have reached an even fuller consensus and there's been mostly subdued opposition from individuals. Out of more than 54,000 personal injury victims who voted on whether the plan should be accepted, just 218 said no. A larger number of people who are part of that group didn't vote. Unlike with other proceed-

ings, there were no protests outside the courthouse. A handful of objectors spoke Thursday at the hearing, sometimes interrupting the judge. Some said that only the victims, not the states and other government entities, should receive the funds in the settlement. Others wanted the judge to find the members of the Sackler family criminally liable something Lane said is beyond the scope of the bankruptcy court, but that the settlement doesn't bar prosecutors from pursuing. A Florida woman whose

husband struggled with addiction after being given OxyContin following an accident told the court that the deal isn't enough. □



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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.  
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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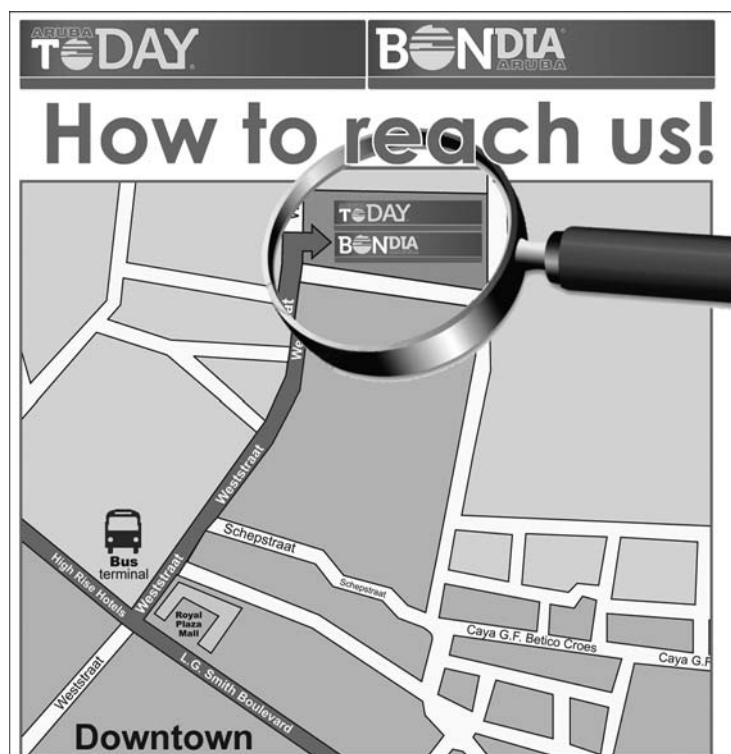
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### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
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Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

Walk-In Doctor's Clinic

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Noord	527 3200
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San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



## Suriname and Curacao move closer to historic World Cup qualification

**Associated Press**

**PARAMARIBO, Suriname (AP)** — Richonell Margaret

scored twice in two-minute span in the second half on Thursday as Suriname defeated El Salvador 4-0 in CONCACAF qualifying to move closer to securing a spot in the World Cup for the first time.

Tjaronn Cherry opened the scoring with a penalty kick in the 44th minute and Richonell Margaret scored in the 74th and 76th minutes while Dhoraso Moreo Klass added a goal in the 83rd.

With the win, Suriname remains undefeated and reached nine points in Group A, the same as Panama which defeated Guatemala 3-2.

Suriname, that has a better goal difference over the Panamanians, will visit Guatemala next Tuesday, while Panama hosts El Salvador. Twelve teams, divided into three groups, are vying for three direct spots from regional qualifying for next year's World Cup. The United States, Canada and



**Jamaica's Jonathan Russell, center, appeals after his goal against Trinidad and Tobago was disallowed during a World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025.**

Mexico have qualified automatically as World Cup co-hosts. Suriname, one of CONCACAF's founding nations in 1961, is playing in the final round of qualifying for the first time since 1978. El Salvador suffered its fourth straight loss and with

three points is eliminated. Curacao controls destiny. Also on Thursday, Jordi Paulina scored twice and Curacao beat Bermuda 7-0 and will play against Jamaica for a spot in the World Cup. Paulina scored in the 48th and 63rd minutes, while Le-

andro Vacuna (7), Juninho Vacuna (32), Sontje Hansen (59), Ar' Jany Martha (82), and Roshon van Eijma (90) added goals for Curacao, which is coached by Dick Advocaat.

Advocaat was at the helm of the Netherlands national

team for three stints and managed South Korea, Belgium and Russia before taking the job with Curacao, which has never qualified for a World Cup.

With the convincing win, Curacao has 11 points and leads Group B over Jamaica, which had a 1-1 draw against Trinidad and Tobago.

Jamaica, which has only ever qualified for the 1998 World Cup in France, is coached by former England's national team mentor Steve McLaren. The Reggae Boys will host Curacao in Kingston's National Stadium next Tuesday.

Curacao needs a win or a draw to qualify while Jamaica requires a win.

Group C is up for grabs. Bancy Hernandez and Jaime Moreno scored goals and Nicaragua upset Honduras 2-0 to leave the group undecided going into the last round next Tuesday. Hernandez opened the scoring in the 12th minute and Moreno secure the win at the 82nd minute for the Nicaraguans. □

**Associated Press.**

## Hojgaard leads World Tour Championship with McIlroy among Ryder Cup stars in pursuit

**Associated Press**

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)** — Nicolai Hojgaard

moved into position to win the season-ending World Tour Championship for a second time by taking a three-stroke lead on Friday, though a slew of Europe's Ryder Cup stars were well placed to pounce.

The chasing pack included Rory McIlroy, whose brilliant short game salvaged a 69 in the second round that kept him on track to capture a fourth straight year-long Race to Dubai title for being Europe's No. 1 player. McIlroy was tied for second place in a five-man group that included Justin Rose (67) and Shane Lowry (67). Fellow Ryder Cuppers Robert MacIntyre (67) and Tommy Fleetwood (71) were a further stroke back and Tyrrell Hatton (67) one

more shot adrift.

They were all looking up at the 70th-ranked Hojgaard, who didn't make the Ryder Cup team this time that honor fell to his twin brother, Rasmus but is showing a reminder of his ability at the

Earth Course this week.

The 24-year-old Dane shot 65, the low round of the day, to back up his opening 67 and was 12 under for the week. Hojgaard won the tournament in 2023, didn't qualify for it last year,



**Nicolai Hojgaard of Denmark lines up a putt on the 5th green during the second round of World Tour Golf Championship at Jumeirah Golf Estates, in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Friday, Nov. 14, 2025.**

**Associated Press.**

but is dominating a star-studded field on his return. His only other 36-hole lead on the European tour was at the World Tour Championship two years ago. That remains his last win, too.

"It's one of my favorite tournaments to play," Hojgaard said. "It's great to be back in a bit of form."

"It suits my eye. It plays into my strengths, which is mid-irons. It's just a really good fit for me."

McIlroy stays patient. McIlroy mixed six birdies with three bogeys on a day when he was poor by his standards off the tee but his wedge play was magical. "I felt like I showed my scoring skills today, and battled well and stayed patient, and got the ball up and down when I needed to," McIlroy said. "And overall, to shoot 69, I'm pretty

pleased considering some of the spots that I found myself."

Alongside McIlroy, Lowry and Rose in a tie for second was Rasmus Neergaard-Petersen (67) and Daniel Hillier (68).

Only Marco Penge and Hatton second and third in the Race to Dubai standings, respectively can overhaul McIlroy this week. Penge (70) appears out of it in 44th place, 12 shots off the lead, so only Hatton can realistically stop the Northern Irishman.

Hatton, who is five behind Hojgaard, needs to win and for McIlroy to finish worse than tied for eighth with one other.

"You start every tournament week trying to win the tournament," said Hatton, who plays on the break-away LIV Golf circuit. □



# Ohtani is unanimous MVP for 4th time in winning NL honor as Judge edges Raleigh for 3rd AL accolade

By DAVID BRANDT  
AP Baseball

**Associated Press (AP)**— Shohei Ohtani likes winning Most Valuable Player awards. He loves winning the World Series even more. The two-way Japanese star did both for a second season in a row for the Los Angeles Dodgers, earning his fourth career MVP on Thursday night while unanimously earning the National League honor. He's just the second to win four MVPs after Barry Bonds with seven and the only player to win unanimously more than once.

Considering Ohtani is 31, overtaking Bonds doesn't seem out of the question. Especially if it leads to more Fall Classic opportunities.

"If I'm playing well as an individual that means I'm helping the team win, so in that sense, hopefully I can end up with a couple more MVPs," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "But at the end of the day, it's all about winning games." In the American League, Aaron Judge became the New York Yankees' fourth three-time winner, edging Seattle's Cal Raleigh with 17 first-place votes to 13 for the switch-hitting catcher. The vote was the closest for an MVP since the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout topped Houston's Alex Bregman by 17-13 in 2019. Judge, who won the AL



Los Angeles Dodgers' Shohei Ohtani watches his home run against the Toronto Blue Jays during the seventh inning in Game 3 of baseball's World Series, Monday, Oct. 27, 2025, in Los Angeles. Associated Press.

award in 2022 and 2024, joined Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle as three-time MVPs with the Yankees. The 33-year-old outfielder led the majors with a .331 batting average and 1.144 OPS while hitting 53 homers.

When asked about his place in MLB and Yankees lore, Judge acknowledged he's in rare company.

"It's tough for me to wrap my head around," Judge said. "It's mind blowing from my side of things, because I play this game to win, I play this game for my teammates, my family, all the fans in New York."

Later he added: "You've got to pinch yourself every single day. It's truly an incredible honor."

Ohtani won a MVP for the third straight year, his second in the NL with the Dodgers after two in the AL with the Angels. He became the first to win in each league twice after getting the AL honor in 2021 and 2023. Ohtani signed with the crosstown Dodgers the following offseason and won NL MVP in 2024 during his first season in Chavez Ravine. He's also won the World Series in both his seasons with the Dodgers.

Philadelphia Phillies slug-

ger Kyle Schwarber finished second in the NL with 23 second-place votes and New York Mets outfielder Juan Soto was third with four.

Ohtani hit .282 and led the NL with a 1.014 OPS. He also had 55 homers, 102 RBIs and 20 stolen bases.

The right-hander returned to pitching in June after missing 1 1/2 seasons on the mound because of an elbow injury. He struck out 62 batters over 47 innings, slowly increasing his workload while preparing for the postseason.

Ohtani continued to shine in October with arguably

the greatest single game in MLB history. He hit three homers while striking out 10 over six dominant innings on Oct. 17, leading the Dodgers over Milwaukee to finish an NL Championship Series sweep.

Schwarber, who earned a \$50,000 bonus for finishing second, hit an NL-best 56 homers and led the big leagues with 132 RBIs for Philadelphia.

Soto overcame a slow start to the season to have his typically stellar offensive output. The four-time All-Star who signed a \$765 million, 15-year deal last December had 43 homers, 105 RBIs and an NL-best 38 stolen bases. He received a \$150,000 bonus for finishing third in the MVP voting.

Judge is the first AL player to win back-to-back MVPs since Detroit's Miguel Cabrera in 2012 and 2013.

Raleigh, nicknamed "Big Dumper," led the big leagues with 60 homers, the most for a player primarily a catcher. He started 119 games behind the plate and another 38 at designated hitter.

The 28-year-old also had a career-high 125 RBIs, leading the Mariners to one of their best seasons in franchise history.

Judge said he got to know Raleigh a little during the All-Star break and the catcher asked for some leadership tips. □

# Carlos Alcaraz beams with pride as he lifts trophy for year-end No. 1 player

Associated Press

**TURIN, Italy (AP)** — Carlos Alcaraz was full of smiles as he lifted the trophy for the year-end No. 1 tennis player on Friday. After a scintillating tussle with Jannik Sinner, Alcaraz secured the ranking on Thursday by sealing a sweep of his three group-stage matches at the ATP Finals. The 22-year-old Spaniard was presented with the trophy at the Inalpi Arena in Turin, shortly before Sinner's match against Ben Shelton. "It's a great pleasure for me to be No. 1 in the world again," Alcaraz said. "It's something that I'm working really hard for, with my team every day. It is a goal, to be honest, but I think it is a journey that you're not going through alone."

"It's with your whole team, with your family, with your close people behind you, always supporting you, in the tough and in the good moments."

It is the second time in his career that Alcaraz has ended the year at the top of the rankings.

He became the youngest player to finish a year at No. 1 when he achieved the feat as a 19-year-old in 2022.

"Having this trophy once again, the first one back in 2022, I have the same team. I'm still really proud of the team that I have right now," Alcaraz added.

"So for me, it's a great achievement. It means the world to me, to be honest, and I'm just really proud and happy." □



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz holds the trophy for finishing the year ranked No. 1 as ATP world best player during the ATP World Tour Finals, in Turin, Italy, Friday, Nov. 14, 2025.

Associated Press.



# Conor Benn seeks revenge against Chris Eubank Jr. in British boxing family feud

By **KEN MAGUIRE**

**AP Sports**

**LONDON (AP)** — Nigel Benn came up short against Chris Eubank twice in the early 1990s.

Conor Benn plans to take advantage of his second chance against Chris Eubank Jr. when the sons square off again Saturday in the latest edition of British boxing's biggest family feud.

The duo will meet again at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in a scheduled 12-round middleweight bout nearly seven months after their first fight a slugfest that Eubank Jr. won by unanimous decision.

"I genuinely thought I would knock you out in three rounds," the 29-year-old Benn said at Thursday's press conference. "I almost did, and I'm not going to let you go this time Chris." Eubank Sr. beat Nigel Benn with a ninth-round stoppage in 1990 to take the WBO middleweight title. The rematch three years later drew more than 16 million U.K. viewers on free-to-air ITV and ended in a



**Chris Eubank Sr. with father Chris Eubank Jr. and Conor Benn with father Nigel Benn during a press conference at The Pelligon, London, Thursday Nov. 13, 2025.**

split-decision draw.

No titles are on the line Saturday, though, just family pride and big paydays.

Conor eyes revenge

In late April, Eubank (35-3, 25 KOs) handed Benn (23-1, 14 KOs) his first professional loss. All three judges scored the fight 116-112.

"The truth is we both ended up in hospital," the 36-year-

old Eubank Jr. said Thursday. "I was there for dehydration. You were there for the beating you took."

Benn, usually a welterweight, came up two divisions for the fight.

"You got beat up by a welterweight," he told Eubank Jr. "Did you see your face? Has any other middleweight done that to you?"

They were originally set to fight in 2022 but it was canceled after Benn's voluntary urine test showed trace amounts of the fertility drug Clomiphene, a banned substance that boosts testosterone levels while burning fat.

Benn argued successfully that his consumption of eggs elevated his testoster-

one levels.

In the buildup to the first fight, Eubank Jr. smacked an egg on Benn's face. Eubank Jr. then weighed in half an ounce (14 grams) over the 160-pound (72.5-kilogram) limit. That meant he had to pay a fine of \$500,000 to Benn, who said he used the money to buy a Rolls-Royce.

Neither have held a major world title.

Eubank Sr. says 'you can't pay me'

The big surprise of the first fight was Chris Eubank Sr. showing up at Tottenham and accompanying his son to the ring. They had not been on speaking terms.

The fathers both men are former two-division world champions were on hand Thursday, when Eubank discredited allegations he was paid to attend the first bout.

"You can't pay me anything. I'm here for heart love," he said. "So, whoever told Nigel that I was paid whatever sum of money, they lied to you. You actually spouting what they told you makes you a liar." □

**Associated Press.**

## Illegal bets in the Dominican Republic come under scrutiny after MLB pitchers arrested

By **MARTÍN ADAMES**

**Associated Press**

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — Baseball and bets go hand-in-hand in the Dominican Republic, where professional athletes, musicians and even legislators go public with their wagers.

But for every legal bet in the Caribbean country, officials say there are countless more illegal ones.

It's a widespread, multimillion-dollar industry that has come under scrutiny following U.S. federal indictments of Cleveland Guardians pitchers Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz. They are accused of taking bribes from unnamed sports bettors in the Dominican Republic to throw certain pitches and help those bettors win at least \$460,000, according

to an indictment unsealed Sunday in New York. Ortiz and Clase have both pleaded not guilty.

The accusations have dismayed and embarrassed many in the players' native country.

"The case of Emmanuel Clase and Luis Ortiz tarnishes the image of Dominican baseball players," said José de los Santos, a fan of Dominican and Major League Baseball. "Actions of that nature put Domini-



**Cleveland Guardians pitcher Emmanuel Clase during a baseball game against the San Francisco Giants, in San Francisco, June 17, 2025.**

**Associated Press.**

can and Latino players in the spotlight."

The DR has 3,500 registered betting shops, and those are just the legal ones. Sports betting shops are widespread in the Dominican Republic, a country of more than 11 million people where baseball is king. According to data from the Dominican Association of Sports Betting Shops, there are about 3,500 registered businesses, and countless more illegal ones.

Quico Tabar, head of the country's national lottery who was tasked by the president to regulate gambling, recently stated in a public letter that officials have been working for years to regulate betting shops but that "circumstances beyond our control" have not allowed

that to happen. He did not elaborate.

For Raymond Jiménez, a self-described frequent sports gambler, it's all the same.

He said he chooses the biggest and closest businesses that allow big wagers, regardless of whether they're legal or not.

"I don't know of any illegal betting shops," he said.

Jiménez said most bets in the Dominican Republic focus on sports including MLB, NBA and NFL games. "I've been gambling since 1998, when I was underage," Jiménez said. "I used to jump the school fence to go into a betting shop at 14 years old. I've heard everything, from athletes who sell themselves to gamblers to others who bet against them." □