



Glenn and Sandy Olson:  
"Aruba, we love you for all that you are"

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Family-friendly beaches!



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Featured Property:

**JARDINES DEL MAR**  
Eagle Beach \$ 595,000  
2bed 2.5 bath



**BLUE 536**  
Eagle Beach \$785,500  
2 bed 2 bath



**DIAMANTE 52**  
Gold Coast \$450,000  
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# Tens of billions in Hurricane Helene aid to start by March 21

By **JEFF AMY** and **RUSS BYNUM**

**Associated Press**

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Tens of billions in aid for victims of Hurricane Helene should start flowing later this month, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins pledged Wednesday, but delays are already making it hard this year for some farmers to plant crops.

Congress set a deadline of March 21 to hand out the money when it passed a \$100 billion disaster relief package on Dec. 21. The late September storm cut a swath from Florida's Big Bend across eastern Georgia and upstate South Carolina before causing historic flooding in western North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

The National Centers for Environmental Information says Helene is the seventh-most expensive disaster in the United States since 1980, causing an estimated \$78 billion in damage and 219 deaths.

At a news conference in Atlanta on Wednesday, Rollins pledged the aid would begin to be disbursed before the deadline.

"That money will begin to move in the next few weeks," she said.

That's not a moment too



A cotton picker moves through Chris Hopkins' cotton field, Friday, Dec. 6, 2024, near Lyons, Ga. **Associated Press**

soon for Chris Hopkins, who farms near Lyons in south Georgia. Helene wiped out half the cotton Hopkins was growing on 1,400 acres (560 hectares). He said Tuesday that he began planting 300 acres (121 hectares) of corn this month, and plans to start planting cotton in late April.

Hopkins said the big losses forced him to dip into emergency reserve funds to pay off \$200,000 in 2024 loans for seed, fertilizer and other materials. Some

neighboring farmers hit hard by the storm still have unpaid debts from last year, he said, leaving them unable to borrow more to start planting 2025 crops.

"It's desperately needed," Hopkins said of federal aid. "What we're seeing is that producers are almost in a holding or pause pattern because they can't afford to pay their rent or their loans."

Hopkins said farmers had hoped the money would come sooner, in January

or February, so they could pay off creditors before planting season. He said some have sold equipment or even land to generate enough cash to get new crops started.

"The general consensus in the farming and ag community is that it would have been much better earlier," Hopkins said. "Ag producers are thankful for it by all means. But taking the full 90 days to get it is tough."

In South Carolina, Republican legislative leaders de-

cidated to wait to approve Helene damage relief money in the state's regular budget instead of an emergency bill in part because they expected federal officials to get relief money out quickly.

Most but not all of the disaster relief bill is earmarked for Helene. It includes \$21 billion to help farmers, \$8 billion to rebuild damaged roads and highways, \$12 billion in grants to help communities and individuals recover and \$2.2 billion in low-interest loans for businesses, nonprofits and homeowners.

Officials have estimated that Helene caused property and economic damage to the agriculture sector totaling \$5.5 billion in Georgia and \$4.9 billion in North Carolina.

Beyond the cotton crop, the storm toppled pecan trees and flattened chicken houses in Georgia. Farming in western North Carolina is dominated by specialty crops including Christmas trees and nursery plants, with fewer growers covered by crop insurance.

South Carolina officials estimated \$620 million in agriculture damage in 2024, not just from Helene, but also from other weather disasters. □

## USDA ends program that helped schools serve food from local farmers

By **ANNIE MA**  
**AP Education Writer**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The

U.S. Agriculture Department is ending two pandemic-era programs that

provided more than \$1 billion for schools and food banks to purchase food from local farmers and producers.

About \$660 million of that went to schools and child-care centers to buy food for meals through the Local Foods for Schools program. A separate program provided money to food banks.

In Maine, the money allowed the coastal RSU 23 school district to buy food directly from fisherman, dairy producers and farmers for school meals, said Caroline Trinder, the district's food and nutrition services director.

"I think everyone can say that they want kids at school to receive the healthiest meals possible," Trinder said. "It's the least processed, and we're helping our local economy, we're helping farmers that may be the parents of our students."

The cuts will hurt school districts with "chronically underfunded" school meal budgets, said Shannon Gleave, president of the School Nutrition Association.

"In addition to losing the benefits for our kids, this loss of funds is a huge blow to community farmers and ranchers and is detrimental

to school meal programs struggling to manage rising food and labor costs," Gleave said in a statement.

USDA said the programs are a legacy of the pandemic and no longer supported the agency's priorities.

"The COVID era is over USDA's approach to nutrition programs will reflect that reality moving forward," a USDA spokesperson said in a statement.

Massachusetts received roughly \$12 million in federal funding for school districts and childcare programs to buy food from local producers. □



Seventh graders sit together in the cafeteria during their lunch break at a public school, Friday, Feb. 10, 2023, in the Brooklyn borough of New York.

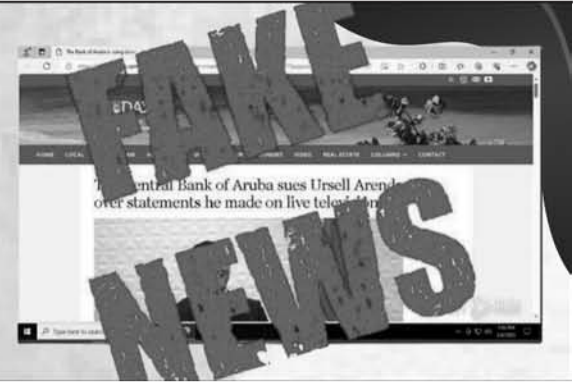
**Associated Press**



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## Most AAPI adults don't support cutting agencies and want a focus on costs: AP-NORC/AAPI Data poll

By TERRY TANG and  
LINLEY SANDERS

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Most Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders do not agree with the strategy of putting entire federal agencies on the chopping block, nor are they broadly on board with mass layoffs of federal workers, according to a new poll.

The survey, released Wednesday from AAPI Data and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, shows that AAPI adults want the government to concentrate more on everyday costs. They feel the federal government should do more to address high prices. About 8 in 10 AAPI adults say the federal government should make health care costs "a high priority," while about 7 in 10 say the same about the cost of food, and roughly 6 in 10 feel similarly about housing.

The poll is part of an ongoing project exploring the views of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders, whose views are usually not highlighted in other surveys because of small sample sizes and lack of linguistic representation. The results come as President Donald Trump continues what his administration says are cost-cutting measures under the newly formed Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, led by adviser Elon Musk. This has included layoffs of thousands of government workers and discussion of dismantling entire agencies like the Department of Education.

About 6 in 10 AAPI adults "strongly" or "somewhat"



Elon Musk speaks during an event with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House, Feb. 11, 2025, in Washington.

oppose eliminating entire federal agencies, while about 1 in 10 are in favor, which is slightly below the roughly 2 in 10 U.S. adults overall who expressed the same sentiments in a January AP-NORC poll. About 3 in 10 are neutral, saying they neither favor nor oppose this move. Nearly half oppose eliminating a large number of federal jobs, while about one-quarter are in favor.

The recent cuts have left Celeste Hong, a 56-year-old registered Democrat living in Los Angeles, feeling angry about where the cost-saving efforts have focused.

"Understandably, people don't like inefficiency and waste. Well, I kind of feel the Pentagon is the most wasteful area of our federal government," Hong said.

She thinks the government

isn't concentrating enough on lowering the costs of health care, child care and food. Hong worries Trump's tariff policies will end up increasing costs.

"You know, I can afford to absorb an extra cost," said Hong, who is semi-retired. "But, what about the family of four whom you know is living paycheck to paycheck?"

The poll found that amid nationwide problems that often cannot be solved easily there are about two-thirds of AAPI adults who think the country is "spending too little" on improvements for the nation's education system. Around 6 in 10 say the same about improving the nation's health, protecting the environment and addressing the problem of homelessness.

There is one area where more AAPI adults see

spending as excessive: Like Hong, about half of AAPI adults say "too much" is being spent on the military, armaments and defense.

Stacy Armstrong, 61, and a registered Republican in Bay City, Michigan, is an exception he thinks the government is not spending enough on defense. He thinks more money should also go toward higher education and health care. Spending inefficiencies, in his view, stem from aid to other countries like Ukraine.

"We need to take care of our own," said Armstrong, who is half Japanese. "I think it's an important thing, but I think there's other countries that can help out, too. We need to at least reduce it drastically, if not cut it off altogether." But Armstrong, who voted for Trump last year, thinks it's wrong to excise federal agencies. To him, it would

be better if the Trump administration could instead work to streamline or consolidate operations. However, he added he's not privy to information the administration has and said every president has to make hard choices to get results.

"I know he's going to do some good things," Armstrong said.

Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and researcher at the University of California, Berkeley, said it's not surprising that some conservative AAPI adults would hold nuanced views on government spending, including opposition to dismantling federal agencies or a desire for greater government spending in some areas.

AAPI adults "tend to be focused on solutions and less so on partisanship," Ramakrishnan said.

At the same time, they may be willing to give the Trump administration a chance to keep trying new strategies to save money. AAPI voters, who are more Democratic-leaning than the electorate as a whole, shifted slightly to the right in November.

"A certain chunk of voters were persuaded that the Republican Party would do a better job on the issues and the economy," Ramakrishnan said. □

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Wisconsin clerk who failed to count almost 200 ballots is suspended

By **TODD RICHMOND**  
Associated Press

**MADISON, Wis. (AP)** — The mayor of Wisconsin's capital city said Wednesday she has placed the municipal clerk on leave as investigators work to determine how she failed to count almost 200 absentee ballots in the November election. Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway said in a statement that the city has launched an investigation and that she needed to suspend City Clerk Maribeth Witzel-Behl to maintain public confidence in the clerk's office. The mayor added that the city will spare no expense to ensure every vote is counted heading into the swing state's spring election. The state Elections Commission also is investigating whether Witzel-Behl violated any state laws or abused her discretion.

The uncounted ballots did not change the results of any races but four Madison voters whose ballots weren't counted filed claims last week for \$175,000 each from the city



Madison Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway speaks at a news conference, Dec. 17, 2024, in Madison, Wis.

and Dane County, the first step toward initiating a lawsuit. The mayor's spokesperson, Dylan Brogan, said Witzel-Behl will continue to be paid during her suspension. She makes \$152,300 annually. No listing for her

personal contact information could be immediately found.

The suspension comes with the state's April 1 general election just weeks away. The highest-profile race is between conservative

Brad Schimel and liberal Susan Crawford for an open state Supreme Court seat. The outcome will determine the ideological balance of the court as it ponders cases involving abortion, the strength of public

Associated Press

sector unions, voting rules and congressional district boundaries. Early voting begins next week.

Rhodes-Conway said in her statement that she has appointed City Attorney Michael Haas as interim city clerk and that she expects he will ensure the election runs smoothly in Madison. Haas has previously worked as administrator and attorney for the state elections commission.

Aides for Democratic and Republican legislative leaders didn't immediately respond to messages Wednesday inquiring about whether Witzel-Behl's suspension has affected their confidence in how the city will conduct the spring election.

According to commission investigators, Witzel-Behl's office discovered 67 unprocessed absentee ballots in a courier bag that had been placed in a security cart. The discovery came on Nov. 12, seven days after the election, while county workers were conducting the official count of election results. □

# Oregon appeals court says voter-approved gun law is constitutional, reversing lower court ruling

**SALEM, Ore. (AP)** — An Oregon appeals court on Wednesday found that a gun control law approved by voters over two years ago is constitutional, reversing a lower court ruling from a state judge who had kept it on hold.

The law, one of the toughest in the nation, requires people to undergo a criminal background check and complete a gun safety training course in order to obtain a permit to buy a firearm. It also bans high-capacity magazines holding more than 10 rounds. Measure 114 has been tied up in state and federal court since it was narrowly approved by voters in November 2022.

It was among the first gun restrictions to be passed after a major 2022 U.S.

Supreme Court ruling changed the guidance judges are expected to follow when considering Second Amendment cases.

A state judge in rural southeastern Oregon temporarily blocked the law from tak-

ing effect after gun owners filed a lawsuit claiming it violated the right to bear arms under the Oregon Constitution.

Circuit Court Judge Robert S. Raschio then presided over a 2023 trial in Harney

County and ruled that the law violated the state constitution. The Oregon attorney general's office appealed the ruling.

In their Wednesday opinion, a three-judge panel of the Oregon Court of Appeals found that the law's permit-to-purchase program and high-capacity magazine ban do not "unduly frustrate" the right to armed self-defense under the state constitution.

The attorney general's office said the law won't go into effect immediately, as those challenging the law have 35 days to seek further appellate review.

Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield welcomed the ruling. "Oregonians voted for this, and it's time we move ahead with common-sense safety mea-

asures," he said in a statement.

Tony Aiello Jr., the lead counsel representing the gun owners in the case, said he intends to appeal the ruling to the Oregon Supreme Court. In a statement Wednesday, he said Measure 114 "has turned millions of Oregonians into criminals because their right to bear arms has been erased by Oregon's Judiciary."

In a separate federal case over the measure, a judge ruled it was lawful under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The plaintiffs in that federal case, which include the Oregon Firearms Federation, appealed the ruling to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. □



Firearms are displayed at a gun shop, Feb. 19, 2021, in Salem, Ore.

Associated Press



## Canada and the EU swiftly retaliate against Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs

By LORNE COOK, DAVID McHUGH and ROB GILLIES  
Associated Press

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — Major trade partners swiftly hit back at President Donald Trump's increased tariffs on aluminum and steel imports, imposing stiff new taxes on U.S. products from textiles and water heaters to beef and bourbon.

Canada, the largest steel supplier to the U.S., said Wednesday it will place 25% reciprocal tariffs on steel products and also raise taxes on a host of items: tools, computers and servers, display monitors, sports equipment, and cast-iron products.

Across the Atlantic, the European Union will raise tariffs on American beef, poultry, bourbon and motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans.

Combined, the new tariffs will cost companies billions of dollars, and further escalate the uncertainty in two of the world's major trade partnerships. Companies will either take the losses and earn fewer profits, or, more likely, pass costs along to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Prices will go up, in Europe and the United States, and jobs are at stake, said Eu-



European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen addresses European Parliament members on new plans to ramp up defense spending agreed at last week's summit, Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

ropean Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. "We deeply regret this measure. Tariffs are taxes. They are bad for business, and even worse for consumers," von der Leyen said.

The EU duties aim for pressure points in the U.S. while minimizing additional damage to Europe. EU officials have made clear that the tariffs taxes on imports are aimed at products made

in Republican-held states, such as beef and poultry from Kansas and Nebraska and wood products from Alabama and Georgia. The tariffs will also hit blue states such as Illinois, the No. 1 U.S. producer of soybeans, which are also on the list.

Spirits producers have become collateral damage in the dispute over steel and aluminum. The EU move "is deeply disap-

pointing and will severely undercut the successful efforts to rebuild U.S. spirits exports in EU countries," said Chris Swonger, head of the Distilled Spirits Council. The EU is a major destination for U.S. whiskey, with exports surging 60% in the past three years after an earlier set of tariffs was suspended.

Could there be an agreement that takes increasing tariffs off the table?

Associated Press

Von der Leyen said in a statement that the EU "will always remain open to negotiation."

"We firmly believe that in a world fraught with geopolitical and economic uncertainties, it is not in our common interest to burden our economies with tariffs," she said.

The American Chamber of Commerce to the EU said the U.S. tariffs and EU countermeasures "will only harm jobs, prosperity and security on both sides of the Atlantic." "The two sides must de-escalate and find a negotiated outcome urgently," the chamber said Wednesday.

What will actually happen? Trump slapped similar tariffs on EU steel and aluminum during his first term in office, which enraged European and other allies. The EU also imposed countermeasures in retaliation at the time, raising tariffs on U.S.-made motorcycles, bourbon, peanut butter and jeans, among other items.

This time, the EU action will involve two steps. First on April 1, the commission will reimpose taxes that were in effect from 2018 and 2020, but which were suspended under the Biden administration. □

## Somali forces end a 24-hour siege by al-Shabab militants on a hotel, leaving all fighters dead

By OMAR FARUK  
Associated Press

**MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)** — Somali security forces on Wednesday ended a 24-hour siege at a hotel in the central city of Beledweyne, leaving an unknown number of people dead, including all the al-Shabab militants who launched the attack, officials said.

The attack began when a car bomb exploded Tuesday at the Cairo Hotel, which houses traditional elders and military officers involved in coordinating the government's offensive against al-Shabab.

The mayor of Beledweyne, Omar Alasow, on Wednesday said security forces had "successfully ended the siege" and that six al-Shabab militants died. It is still unclear how many civilians were killed in the attack.

The al-Qaida-affiliated al-Shabab claimed responsibility for the attack. Beledweyne, about 335 kilometers (208

miles) north of the capital, Mogadishu, is the capital of the Hiran region and a strategic location in the ongoing campaign against al-Shabab.

Estimates of the death toll from the attack varied. One local resident, Muhsin Abdullahi, said six people, including two well-known traditional elders, were killed. But witness Hussein Jeelle Raage said three of his family members were among at least 11 people he knew were dead.

Footage shared on social media showed thick smoke rising from the hotel, with significant destruction to the building.

Al-Shabab, which opposes Somalia's federal government, frequently carries out bombings and assaults targeting government officials and military personnel in the Horn of Africa nation. The group controls parts of rural Somalia and poses a significant threat despite sustained military operations by government troops and African Union peacekeepers. □



Frame grab from video shoot Wednesday, March 12, 2025, showing the aftermath of a car bomb exploded Tuesday at a hotel in the central Somali city of Beledweyne, kicking off an hourslong militant attack that killed an unknown number of people.

Associated Press



# Colombia's new defense minister vows to reclaim territory lost to rebel groups

By **MANUEL RUEDA** and **ASTRID SUÁREZ**

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** —

Colombia's newly appointed defense minister said Tuesday that he will focus on taking back territory lost to rebel groups that have forced thousands to flee their homes this year.

In an address to the nation's troops, Defense Minister Pedro Sánchez said that it was time for Colombia's military to "strengthen national sovereignty and protect" the nation's population.

The retired general hinted that Colombia's military, which had been recently asked to refrain from attacking rebel groups by the nation's government, will now take a more offensive role.

"We cannot continue to allow our police and military to be spat at, attacked and have their throats slit as if they were inanimate objects" he said.

The comments by Sánchez come just days after 28 police officers and a soldier were kidnapped by a group of civilians in the western Cauca province amid clashes with the FARC-EMC rebel group. The soldiers were released on Sunday.

Sánchez, a former air force



From left, Colombian Air Force Commander Gen. Luis Carlos Cordoba, Defense Minister Pedro Sanchez, President Gustavo Petro and Armed Forces Commander Adm. Francisco Cubides, review the troops during a military ceremony where Sanchez formally takes command of the military in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday, March 11, 2025.

general, was named defense minister in late February as the country faces its worst security crisis in a decade.

In January, more than 36,000 people were displaced from their homes in the northeastern Catatumbo region, following a wave of attacks by the National Liberation Army in which an estimated 80 people were killed.

The attacks prompted President Gustavo Petro to

cancel peace talks with the rebel group that had begun in late 2022.

Petro, who was a member of a rebel group during his youth, has attempted to launch peace negotiations with various armed groups under a strategy known as total peace.

But while the strategy has led to some temporary ceasefires, it has failed to produce lasting results.

Analysts say that groups like the ELN and the FARC-EMC

have also taken advantage of ceasefires to recruit more fighters and tighten their grip over remote areas where they extort local businesses and control drug trafficking routes.

"Our president has been very generous in searching for peace," Sánchez said on Tuesday. "But that genuine generosity has been betrayed by those who have continued to exert violence against our citizens."

**Associated Press**

In 2016, Colombia signed a peace deal with the nation's largest rebel group, the FARC, in which more than 13,000 fighters laid down their weapons.

But smaller criminal groups have filled the power vacuum left by the rebels, promoting the drug trade and illegal mining.

Petro has accused the ELN's leadership of betraying its revolutionary ideals and of becoming "greedy" drug traffickers.

Colombia's President said last week that the government would pay farmers in the Catatumbo region to replace coca plantations for legal crops in a bid to boost the region's development and starve ELN fighters in the area of cocaine funding.

Sánchez is the first retired member of the military to serve as defense minister in Colombia in three decades.

His appointment breaks with a tradition of selecting civilians to lead the defense ministry.

The 52-year-old became a local celebrity in 2023, when he led an effort to rescue four indigenous children who had survived a plane crash in a remote patch of the Amazon rainforest. □

# U.S. bans flights to Haiti's capital until Sept. 8 as U.N. expert says gang violence is more dire

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**  
**Associated Press**

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — The United States on Tuesday



A police officer patrols the entrance of the Toussaint Louverture International Airport, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Nov. 12, 2024.

**Associated Press**

extended its ban on flights to Haiti's capital until Sept. 8 because of escalating gang violence, which the U.N.'s human rights expert on the Caribbean nation said is more dire than ever. The Federal Aviation Administration's announcement extends a ban on U.S. flights to Port-au-Prince that began in November after gangs opened fire on three commercial planes. The initial ban was set to expire on Wednesday.

William O'Neill, the U.N. human rights commissioner's expert on Haiti, who just visited the country for the fourth time since his ap-

pointment two years ago, told U.N. reporters on Tuesday that the gang violence is worse, as is "the pain and despair of an entire population."

Despite efforts by Haiti's national police and a U.N.-backed Kenya-led multinational police force, he said, "the risk of the capital falling under gang control is palpable."

"These violent criminal groups continue to extend and consolidate their hold even beyond the capital," O'Neill said. "They kill, rape, terrorize, set fire to homes, orphanages, schools, hospitals, places of worship."

He said the gangs have infiltrated all spheres of society, "with the utmost impunity and, sometimes, as many sources point out, with the complicity of powerful actors."

The gangs have grown in power since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse and are now estimated to control up to 85% of the capital.

O'Neill said over 1 million people have been displaced, with nowhere to go. In makeshift camps, he said, hunger and sexual violence are widespread and "for many it's a matter of survival." □



## Aruba's most family-friendly beaches

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when travelling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to travelling parents to list off some of 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 the Pos Chiquito city. 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 in the hotel area

Yet another highly popular beach site, 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.

### Palm Island

Ok, this one is technically not a beach, but a must-visit attraction for family fun. This small water park oasis is located further down the Mangel Halto Beach and is reachable by boat. This water park offers 6 hours of fun activities, food, drinks, and a chance to see pink flamingoes up close! □

## Food culture in Aruba



(Oranjestad) - Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

### Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

#### Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

#### Main Meal

The main meal is typically eaten in

most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands\* include sopi di bonchi cora (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

#### Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

#### (Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham\* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with



stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include, bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (dark fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

#### Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba



also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco\*, basket, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

\*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

\*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

\*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba



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We pride ourselves on our deep local knowledge and our ability to adapt swiftly to the dynamic real estate market in Aruba. By focusing on building genuine relationships and understanding the unique needs of our clients, we stand out from larger agencies by delivering customized experiences that truly resonate with those we serve.



### The Moon Project: Off to a Strong Start!

Location: Noord, Aruba  
Starting at: USD\$340,600

We're thrilled to announce that two units have already been sold in the highly anticipated Moon Residential Development in Noord! This exclusive 89-unit gated community offers fully furnished condos in one of Aruba's most sought-after neighborhoods.

Notary will start a full check on the property for a clear title. Your Transfer Tax is 6%, and your closing costs are about 2%. Closing will occur in approximately 6-8 weeks!

Don't worry, a Power of Attorney will be in place if you are not in Aruba.☐

**Find all our listings on our website**  
[www.hkgrealestatearuba.com](http://www.hkgrealestatearuba.com)

### Contact us!

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(+297) 6992000

**Jax** – [jax@hkgrealestatearuba.com](mailto:jax@hkgrealestatearuba.com)  
(+297) 5688010



### The buying process in Aruba

Here is an info-refreshment of the buying process for your convenience:

Once an offer is agreed upon by buyer and seller, we start the compliance process, for which a contract is created, and then your 10% security deposit is wired to the Notary. The



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

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to

## Aruba to me

The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Glenn and Sandy Olson from Hammond, Wisconsin, USA.

### They wrote to us saying:

"Aruba to me is a place in the sun  
Where we can relax and have some fun.  
We can play some golf on its beautiful courses,  
Or ride hills or beaches upon some horses.

The dining experiences simply can't be beat.  
So many places to try, so many dishes to eat.  
I wonder how every place is so delicious.

Are they stealing the world's top chefs - I am suspicious!

The Aruban people are as warm as can be.  
They treat us like friends, even as royalty!  
Genuine and honest, I feel safe in their care.  
These beautiful people, their home they share.

We've enjoyed Aruba for over 30 years.  
It makes us so happy it brings us to tears.  
The weather is perfect - not too hot or too cold.  
So much to do, whether young or old.

I am always so grateful we're able to return,  
Their history and culture so amazing to learn.  
Aruba, we love you for all that you are,  
That jewel of the ocean, that bright shining star!"

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



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**\$1,500 in Cash Prizes**  
**SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME**  
 Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200  
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**Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!**

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach (Near the Ling & Song Supermarket) ☐



**Aruba: The island of Aloes**

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

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

According to the website of Royal Aruba Aloe, Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little

means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

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

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

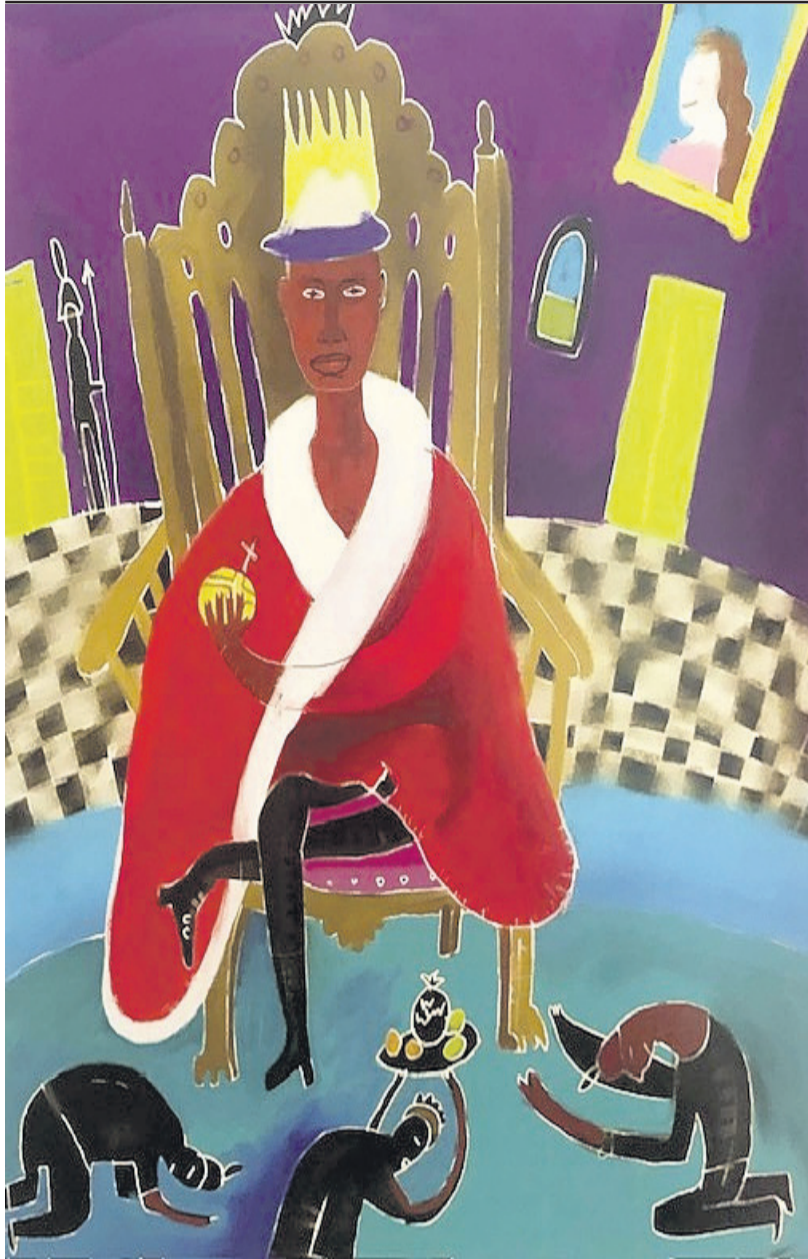
However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it

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

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

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.





## The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

**(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.**

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time

he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder. The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what, there is so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

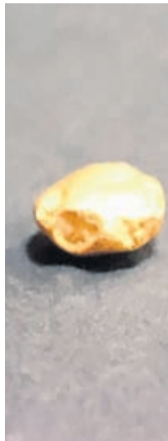
“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

**Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nék Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.**



## In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



**(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”**

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, 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 specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. 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.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henry Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.



**CROSSWORD**

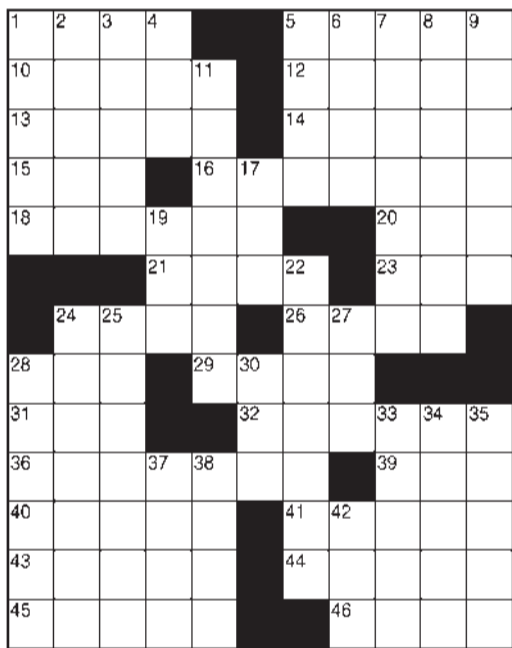
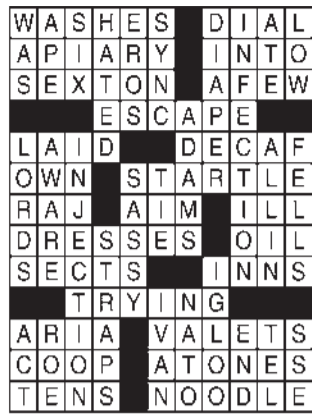
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 44 Caller's

- 1 Florida need
- city, for 45 Furtive
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- 10 Not fitting ponents
- 12 Bangor's
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- 13 Ocean
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- down
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- 16 Dwells
- 18 Play-
- ground
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- 20 Vein
- yield
- 21 Feedbag
- fill
- 23 Petite
- 24 Come
- together
- 26 Look after
- 28 A thou
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- 29 Go to sea
- 31 Early hour
- 32 Lion
- groups
- 36 Separates
- 39 French
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- from
- 41 Hungry,
- probably
- 43 Crew
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**DOWN**

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- 25 Raise
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- tions
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- "Platoon"
- 34 Correct,
- as text
- 35 Flanks
- 37 Creative
- germ
- 38 Cubicle
- fixture
- 42 Devils'
- grp.



3-14

A XYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

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

3-14

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

FQRUQIQ UH RUOQ! KRTKBE  
L D J K H F Q U H Z E T U R R  
Y C N Z C Q E E S N Z C Q K S ,  
F C N K W Q C , K H W O D R R Q C  
RUOQ. — T.Q.F. W D F N U E

**Cryptoquote:** MISTRUST ALL  
ENTERPRISES THAT REQUIRE NEW CLOTHES.  
— F.M. FORSTER

**Cruise ship Schedule: March 10 - 14 2025**

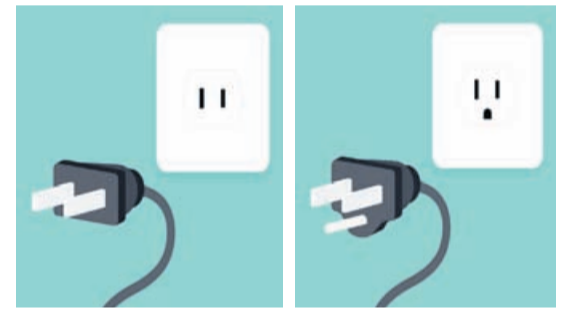
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	10	QUEEN VICTORIA	08.00	17.00	B	1
		COSTA FORTUNA	08.00	17.30	C	1
		ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	09.00	22.00	I	1
TUE	11	ROTTERDAM	08.00	****	B	1
		CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN VIVA	13.00	21.00	I	1
WED	12	ROTTERDAM - Dept.	****	17.00	B	-
		GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	08.00	****	C	1
		CORAL PRINCESS	09.00	18.00	I	1
THU	13	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS - dept.	****	17.00	C	-
FRI	14	CLUB MED 2	08.00	13.00	C	1

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

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

**Electrical power**

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



**Drinking water**

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



**Supermarket hours**

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.



**Safety**

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





# Classifieds

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**Marriott surf club**  
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**Ambassador Suites**  
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2 BR 2 Bath  
Ground floor  
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219021



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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



# Egg prices continue to hit records as Easter and Passover approach, but some relief may be coming

By MAE ANDERSON  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Egg prices again reached a record high in February, as the bird flu continues to run rampant and Easter and Passover approach.

The latest monthly Consumer Price Index showed a dozen Grade A eggs cost an average of \$5.90 in U.S. cities in February, up 10.4% from a year ago. That eclipsed January's record-high price of \$4.95.

Avian flu has forced farmers to slaughter more than 166 million birds, mostly egg-laying chickens. Just since the start of the year, more than 30 million egg layers have been killed.

If prices remain high, it will be third year in a row consumers have faced sticker shock ahead of Easter on April 20 and Passover, which starts on the evening of April 12, both occasions in which eggs play prominent roles.

The price had consistently been below \$2 a dozen for decades before the disease struck. The U.S. Department of Agriculture ex-



A sign is mounted on a shelf of eggs at a grocery store in Northbrook, Ill., Feb. 28, 2025.

Associated Press

pects egg prices to rise 41% this year over last year's average of \$3.17 per dozen. But there may be light at the end of the tunnel. The USDA reported last week that egg shortages are easing and wholesale prices are dropping, which might provide relief on the retail side before this year's late Easter, which is three weeks

later than last year. It said there had been no major bird flu outbreak for two weeks.

"Shoppers have begun to see shell egg offerings in the dairy case becoming more reliable although retail price levels have yet to adjust and remain off-putting to many," the USDA wrote in the March 7 report.

David Anderson, a professor and extension economist for livestock and food marketing at Texas A&M University, said wholesale figures dropping is a good sign that prices could go down as shoppers react to the high prices by buying fewer eggs.

"What that should tell us is things are easing a little bit

in terms of prices," he said. "So going forward, the next CPI report may very well indicate falling egg prices." However, he doesn't expect lasting changes until bird stock can be replenished and production can be replaced.

"Record high prices is a market signal to producers to produce more, but it takes time to be able to produce more, and we just haven't had enough time for that to happen yet," he said. "But I do think it's going to happen. But it's going to take some more months to get there."

Emily Metz, president and CEO of the American Egg Board, said wholesale prices dropping is good news, but noted that increased demand for Easter could drive a temporary increase in prices.

"In addition, egg farmers are closely watching spring migration of wild birds, recognizing that wild birds are a leading cause of the spread of this virus and pose a great and ongoing threat to egg-laying flocks," she said. □

# Indonesian fishermen sue Bumble Bee and say the canned tuna giant knew of abuse in its supply chain

By JULIE WATSON  
Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO (AP)** — Lawyers representing four Indonesian fishermen who say they were beaten and trapped on vessels that were part of the global supply chain that provided tuna to Bumble Bee Seafoods filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the canned seafood giant. It is believed to be the first such case of forced labor at sea brought against a U.S. seafood company, the men's lawyer, Agnieszka Fryszman, said. U.S. companies that benefit from forced labor and undercut other businesses need to be held accountable, Fryszman said. "What you see is really devastating," she said. The lawsuit accuses the company headquartered in San Diego of violating the Trafficking Vic-

tims Protection Act. The law allows foreigners who suffered from human trafficking to sue U.S. businesses that knew or should have known that they were profiting from forced labor.

Bumble Bee said in an email to The Associated Press that it does not com-

ment on pending litigation. The fishermen are all from villages in Indonesia and worked for longline vessels owned by Chinese companies from which Bumble Bee sourced its albacore tuna, according to the lawsuit. They say they were beaten regularly by their

captains. One fisherman named Akhmad, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, said he was hit by a metal hook and forced to work even after being injured on the job by a load of fish that gashed open his leg to the bone. Another fisherman, Syafi'i, said he received no medical care for severe burns and was ordered to return to work to pay to eat. All the men said they asked to go home and even tried to go on strike on board, according to the lawsuit.

The boats stayed out at sea while supply ships provided provisions and collected the catch. The men were strapped with debt from food bills and other fees and the threat of fines if they quit, Fryszman said.

Bumble Bee had been warned of inhumane con-

ditions in its supply chain over the years. In 2020, accounts of abusive conditions and forced labor prompted the U.S. to halt imports from a Taiwan-based fishing vessel that reportedly supplied the global tuna trading company that acquired Bumble Bee Seafoods that same year. None of these fishermen worked on that vessel.

The lawsuit seeks compensation for their unpaid wages and abuse, Fryszman said. The men are also seeking systemic changes, she said. For example, they want companies like Bumble Bee to require in their contracts that the vessels in their supply chain bring in their catch rather than remain out at sea, and have medical care on board and Wi-Fi service for workers to get help. □



This Oct. 15, 2012 file photo shows the front of the Bumble Bee tuna processing plant in Santa Fe Springs, Calif.

Associated Press



# Tiger Woods faces another injury and another lost year. Has golf seen the last of him?

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla.

(AP) — Golf without Tiger Woods was inevitable simply because of age.

He turns 50 at the end of this year and once leaned on the adage that “Father Time remains undefeated.” But for Woods, it has been the mother lode of injuries that is keeping him from going out on his own terms. The latest was revealed in a social media post saying he had ruptured his left Achilles tendon and had surgery Tuesday the minimally invasive variety, but one that keeps him out of the Masters next month and likely everything else the rest of the year.

“It sucks,” Rory McIlroy said Wednesday at The Players Championship. “He doesn’t have much luck when it comes to injuries and his body. Hoping he’s in good spirits and hoping he’s OK. We obviously won’t see him play golf this year, and hopefully we see him maybe play in 2026.”

Everything is “maybe” with Woods, the player who made golf cool to watch, who caused TV ratings to



Tiger Woods walks on the 18th hole during the weather delayed second round of the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club on April 8, 2023, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

spike and prize money to soar, who delivered a level of dominance measured not only by his 15 majors and 82 titles on the PGA Tour but the fact that he had no lasting rival until the injuries and surgeries began to accumulate.

His mother, Kultida, died last month and Woods withdrew from the Genesis Invitational as he coped

with the loss. He chose not to be at The Players Championship, the final year of his exemption from winning the 2019 Masters.

“As I began to ramp up my own training and practice at home, I felt a sharp pain in my left Achilles, which was deemed to be ruptured,” he said in the post.

Another lost year for a

player running out of time. The list of injuries is staggering.

The left knee. The lower back. Two stress fractures in his left tibia while winning the 2008 U.S. Open. An injury to his right Achilles tendon while running. An injury to his left Achilles tendon from hitting a shot off an awkward lie at the Masters.

Six back surgeries, the most significant to fuse his lower back in 2017. A car crash on a coastal road outside Los Angeles that so badly damaged his right leg and ankle that he said doctors contemplated amputation. Plantar fasciitis. A strained oblique. Surgery to fuse his right ankle.

He kept coming back, and he remained a must-see attraction even though his appearance were largely limited to the majors. He has played eight majors since the 2021 car crash and only twice finished all 72 holes — both at the Masters. He was never in hunt at either one. There was a time when Woods was on pace to break the gold standard in golf 18 majors won by Jack Nicklaus until that looked more unlikely with each injury.

“If he’d have been healthy, I think he would have got it,” Nicklaus said in an interview two weeks ago with Golf Channel. “But he didn’t remain healthy. We all have injuries, we all have different things that change things. Tiger had his problems. I feel bad for him.” □

## Dodgers reward manager Dave Roberts with 4-year contract extension that runs through 2029

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Dave Roberts has signed a four-year contract extension to manage the defending World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers through 2029, the team announced Tuesday.

Multiple reports on Monday said it was worth \$32.4 million. At that figure he could have the highest average salary among managers, topping a five-year deal in 2024 for Chicago Cubs manager Craig Counsell worth more than \$40 million.

Roberts heads into his 10th season at the helm with the highest winning percentage in major league history at .627 (851-507).

The 52-year-old manager guided the team to World Series titles last year and in the pandemic-shortened

2020 season.

He is well-liked by his players and known for a calming presence that has



Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts smiles at fans as he heads to the dugout prior to a spring training baseball game against the Cleveland Guardians, Tuesday, March 11, 2025, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

helped integrate superstar Shohei Ohtani and his fellow Japanese pitchers Yoshinobu Yamamoto and Roki Sasaki into the clubhouse.

Under Roberts, the Dodgers have reached the playoffs nine straight years a National League record while winning four NL pennants and eight NL West titles.

“I am excited and grateful to continue this great journey with the Los Angeles Dodgers, the best organization in sports,” Roberts said in a statement. “Building my relationships with the players and the fans has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life, and it’s a privilege I

do not take lightly.”

The Japan-born Roberts became the first manager of color in franchise history on Nov. 23, 2015, following a 10-year major league career.

“We could not be more thrilled about continuing our long-running partnership with Dave,” Andrew Friedman, president of baseball operations, said in a statement. “As we’ve preached time and time again, continuity and stability are staples of this organization, and we are incredibly excited that this agreement allows us to maintain our focus of working together towards bringing more championships to Los Angeles.” □



# Monahan says PGA Tour won't compromise essence of its sport just to get a deal done with Saudis

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
 AP Golf Writer  
**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)** — PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan wants to get a deal done with the Saudi backers of LIV Golf provided it doesn't compromise what he considers the essence of the tour. Monahan said Tuesday that President Donald Trump's involvement makes the prospect of reunification "very real." Missing were details on how to get there, only a suggestion that the PGA Tour and the Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia were at a standstill. "We're doing everything that we can to bring the two sides together," Mo-



Commissioner of the PGA Tour, Jay Monahan IV speaks during a news conference ahead of the Tour Championship golf tournament, Aug. 28, 2024, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

hanan said ahead of The Players Championship. "That said, we will not do so in a way that diminishes the strength of our platform or the very real momentum we have with our fans and our partners. So while we've removed some hurdles, others remain. "But like our fans, we still share the same sense of urgency to get to a resolution."

Monahan and Adam Scott met with Trump at the White House on Feb. 4. The next meeting included Tiger Woods and Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the PIF governor behind LIV and its concept of team golf. It was the second meeting where progress slowed. Monahan said no other meetings currently are scheduled.

"President Trump is a lifelong golf fan. He believes strongly in the game's power and potential, and he has been exceedingly generous with his time and influence to help bring a deal together," Monahan said. "He wants to see the game reunified. We want to see the game reunified. His involvement has made the prospect of reunification very real.

"When you're in the midst of complex negotiations, particularly when you may be near a breakthrough, there are ebbs and flows in the discussion." That began a year ago when several players accompanied Monahan to the Bahamas to start the conversation with PIF. The PGA Tour last year brought on the private equity Strategic Sports Group and its \$1.5 billion investment in a commercial venture. That raised questions whether the tour even needed a deal with the Saudis. Driving the current discussion is how to repair the divide in golf, with players like Jon Rahm, Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka part of LIV Golf and banned from playing on the PGA Tour. The best players are together only four times a year at the majors. □



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