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WING WEDNESDAYS



Immigration official defends tactics against criticism of a heavy hand as arrests rise nationwide

By LEAH WILLINGHAM

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The head of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Monday defended his tactics against criticism that authorities are being too heavy-handed as they ramp up arrests toward President Donald Trump's promises of mass deportations.

San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria said he was "deeply upset" by an ICE operation at a popular Italian restaurant just before the dinner rush on Friday. A chaotic showdown unfolded outside as customers and witnesses shouted, smoke bombs filled the air, and agents wore heavy tactical gear to face an angry crowd.

Todd Lyons, ICE's acting director, turned emotional when asked to explain why officials wear masks. He said some have received death threats and been harassed online.

"I'm sorry if people are offended by them wearing masks, but I'm not going to let my officers and agents go out there and put their lives on the line, their family on the line because people don't like what immigration enforcement is," he said at a news conference in Bos-



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Acting Director Todd Lyons announces that his agency took nearly 1,500 immigrants into custody in Massachusetts over the month of May during a news conference at the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston, Monday, June 2, 2025.

Associated Press

ton to announce nearly 1,500 arrests in the region as part of a month-long "surge operation."

Lyons was leaving the room when a reporter asked him about the masks. He returned to the podium.

"Is that the issue here that we're just upset about the masks?" he asked. "Or is anyone upset about the fact that ICE officers' families were labeled terrorists?"

Lyons may have been referring to comments by San Diego Councilman Sean Elo-Rivera, who called ICE officers "terrorists" after Friday's restaurant raid. "This isn't safety. It's state-sponsored terrorism," Elo-Rivera wrote on Instagram.

The Department of Homeland Security reposted Elo-Rivera's message, saying that likening ICE to terrorists was "sickening." The coun-

cilman stuck by his comments on Monday.

Other elected officials, such as Gloria and U.S. Rep. Scott Peters of San Diego, both Democrats, were more muted but also sharply critical of ICE and the Republican White House.

"Federal actions like these are billed as a public safety measure, but it had the complete opposite effect. What we saw undermines

trust and creates fear in our community," Gloria said.

ICE did not respond to questions about the operation at Buona Forchetta, an anchor of San Diego's trendy South Park neighborhood. The owners said they were closing their restaurants in Southern California for two days.

"We wish we could find stronger words, but the truth is we are heartbroken," the owners said in a statement. "The traumatic incident involving a federal enforcement operation at our original and beloved South Park location has left a mark on all of us. A wound that is still raw, still echoing in our kitchens, our dining rooms, and our hearts."

Lyons said in an interview on Fox & Friends Sunday that ICE was averaging about 1,600 arrests a day, a sharp increase from previous data that showed 78,155 arrests between Jan. 20 and May 19 a daily average of 656. He said ICE can and will do more.

Stephen Miller, the key architect of Trump's immigration policy, last week set a goal of 3,000 arrests a day and said the number could go higher. That pace would be a huge challenge with current funding. □

Romanian man pleads guilty to 'swatting' plot that targeted an ex-U.S. president and lawmakers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Romanian citizen pleaded guilty on Monday to engaging in a plot to use "swatting" calls and bomb threats to intimidate and threaten dozens of people with bogus police emergencies, including a former U.S. president and several members of Congress.

Thomasz Szabo, 26, is scheduled to be sentenced on Oct. 23 by U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson in Washington, D.C.

Szabo was extradited from Romania in November 2024. He was charged with Nemanja Radovanovic, 21, of Serbia.

Szabo pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy and one count of making bomb threats. The two men

targeted roughly 100 people with "swatting" calls to instigate an aggressive response by police officers at

the victims' homes, a federal indictment alleges.

A U.S. Secret Service agent's affidavit doesn't name the former U.S. president or any other officials identified as victims of the hoax calls.

The two defendants are not explicitly charged in the indictment with threatening a former president, but one of the alleged victims is identified as a "former elected official from the executive branch" who was swatted on Jan. 9, 2024. Radovanovic falsely reported a killing and threatened to set off an explosion at that person's home, the indictment says.

Szabo told Radovanovic

that they should pick targets from both the Republican and Democratic parties because "we are not on any side," the indictment says.

"This defendant led a dangerous swatting criminal conspiracy, deliberately threatening dozens of government officials with violent hoaxes and targeting our nation's security infrastructure from behind a screen overseas," Attorney General Pam Bondi said in a statement.

Charges against Radovanovic are still pending. Online court records indicate that he hasn't made any court appearances in Washington yet. □



Attorney General Pam Bondi speaks at a news conference at the Justice Department, Feb. 12, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Supreme Court rejects 2 gun rights cases, but assault weapons ban issue may be back soon

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A split Supreme Court on Monday rejected a pair of gun rights cases, though one conservative justice predicted the court would soon consider whether assault weapons bans are constitutional.

The majority did not explain its reasoning in turning down the cases over high-capacity magazines and state bans on guns like the AR-15, popular weapons that have also been used in mass shootings.

But three conservative justices on the nine-member court publicly noted their disagreement, and a fourth said he is skeptical that assault-weapons bans are constitutional.

Justices Samuel Alito and Neil Gorsuch said they would have taken a case challenging Maryland's ban, and Justice Clarence Thomas wrote separately to say the law likely runs afoul of the Second Amendment.

"I would not wait to decide whether the government can ban the most popular rifle in America," Thomas wrote. "That question is of critical importance to tens of millions of law-abiding



A semi-automatic rifle is displayed above shotguns at Rainier Arms, April 14, 2023, in Auburn, Wash.

AR-15 owners throughout the country."

Justice Brett Kavanaugh agreed with the decision to pass on the case now but indicated that he is skeptical such bans are constitutional and that he expects the court will address the issue "in the next term or two."

The Maryland law was passed after the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook

Elementary School in Connecticut that killed 20 children and six adults. The shooter was armed with an AR-15, one of the firearms commonly referred to as an assault weapon.

Several states have similar measures, and congressional Democrats have also supported the concept. The challengers had argued that people have a constitutional right to own

the firearms like the AR-15, which most gun owners use legally.

The case comes nearly three years after the high court handed down a landmark ruling that expanded Second Amendment rights and spawned challenges to firearm laws around the country.

Ten states and the District of Columbia have similar laws, covering major cities

like New York and Los Angeles. Congress allowed a national assault weapons ban to expire in 2004.

The gun control group Everytown Law applauded the high court's action, saying the measures make communities safer. "We will fight to ensure the courts continue to uphold these life-saving laws," said Janet Carter, managing director of Second Amendment litigation.

More than twice as many people died in mass shootings in which large-capacity magazines and assault weapons were used between 2015 and 2022, the group said.

Attorneys for Maryland argued the guns aren't protected by the Constitution because they're similar to military-grade weapons. The law bans dozens of firearms including the AR-15, the AK-47 and the Barrett .50-caliber sniper rifle and puts a 10-round limit on gun magazines.

The gun rights group Second Amendment Foundation said it has seven other cases challenging the bans and plans to continue to "aggressively litigate" them. □

Associated Press

To prevent blackouts, Trump administration keeps another aging power plant online through summer

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) —

The U.S. Department of Energy has ordered another power plant, this time an oil and gas plant in Pennsylvania, to keep its turbines running through the hottest summer months as a precaution against electricity shortfalls in the 13-state mid-Atlantic grid. The department's order to the grid operator, PJM Interconnection, regarding the Eddystone power plant just south of Philadelphia on the Delaware River, is the department's second use of federal power under President Donald Trump to require a power plant to keep op-

erating on the mainland United States.

Constellation Energy had planned to shut down Eddystone's units 3 and 4 on Saturday, but Trump's Department of Energy ordered the company to continue operating the units until at least Aug. 28. The units can produce a combined 760 megawatts.

The department, in its order, cited PJM's growing concerns about power shortfalls amid the shutdown of aging power plants and rising electricity demand. PJM last year approved Constellation's request to shut down the

units, but it welcomed the department's order to keep them operating, saying it's a "prudent, term-limited step" that allows PJM, the department and Constellation to study the longer-term need and viability of Eddystone's units. The department took a similar step last week, ordering Consumers Energy to keep the J.H. Campbell coal-fired power plant open in Michigan past its Saturday retirement.

The grid operator there, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, said the order was unnecessary, that there was no energy emergency there

and that there should be enough energy in the region through the summer. An environmental advocacy group, the Delaware

Riverkeeper Network, criticized the move to keep Eddystone operating as an "environmental injustice." □



Shown is the Eddystone Generating Station in Eddystone, Pa., Monday, June 2, 2025.

Associated Press

Northern lights could be visible again in some U.S. states after weekend solar storms

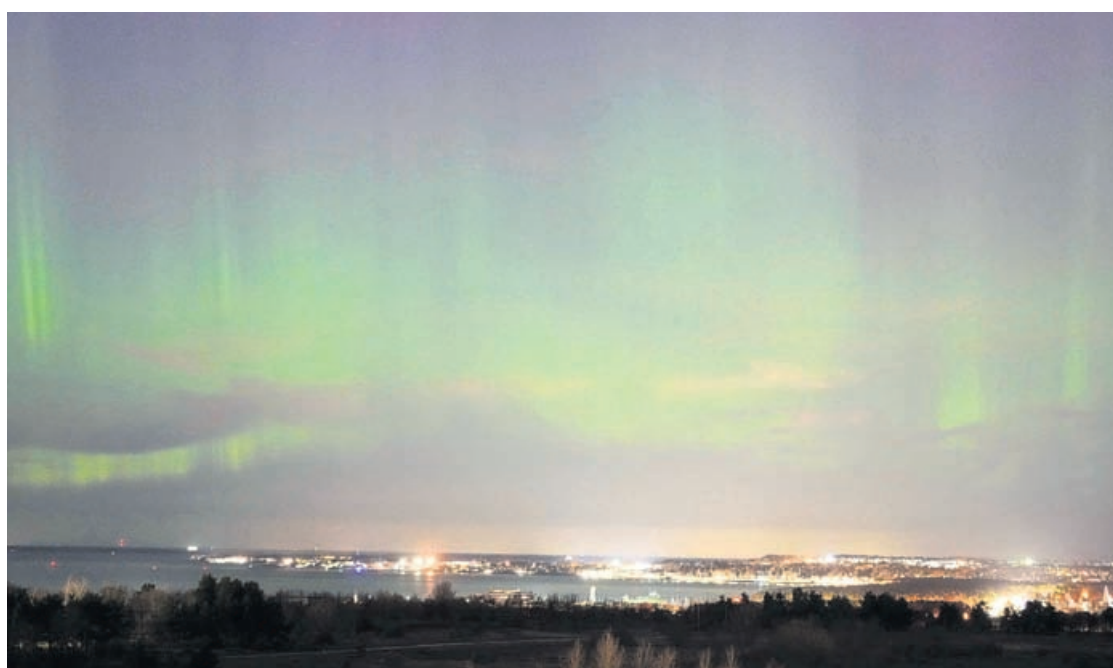
By **ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Northern lights may be visible in parts of the U.S. Monday night following weekend solar storms.

The sun burped out a huge burst of energy called a coronal mass ejection last week, prompting space weather forecasters to issue a rare, severe solar storm alert on Sunday, though it wasn't as strong as last year's record. Another one headed toward Earth on Monday could produce more aurora sightings.

Authorities are monitoring for possible disruptions, though the worst is already over. The weekend's storms may have caused brief disruptions to high-frequency radio, said Erica Grow Cej, a spokesperson with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Auroras could be visible especially in darker, rural areas in Alaska, Washington, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Maine and northern parts of Idaho, Wyoming, Iowa,



An aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights, is seen in the night sky over the Tallinn bay of the Baltic sea in Tallinn, Estonia, April 2, 2025.

Associated Press

New York, Vermont and New Hampshire.

Here's what to know about auroras and how to spot them.

What are northern lights?

The sun is at the maximum phase of its 11-year activity cycle, making the light displays more common and widespread. Colorful northern lights have decorated night skies in unexpected

places and space weather experts say there are more auroras still to come.

Last spring, the strongest geomagnetic storm in two decades slammed Earth, producing light displays across the Northern Hemisphere. And last fall, a powerful solar storm dazzled skygazers far from the Arctic Circle when dancing lights appeared in un-

expected places including Germany, the United Kingdom, New England and New York City.

Aurora displays known as the northern and southern lights are commonly visible near the poles, where charged particles from the sun interact with Earth's atmosphere. Skygazers are spotting the lights deeper into the United States and

Europe because the sun is going through a major facelift. Every 11 years, its poles swap places, causing magnetic twists and tangles along the way.

Severe storms are capable of scrambling radio and GPS communications.

The sun's active spurt is expected to last at least through the end of this year, though when solar activity will peak won't be known until months after the fact, according to NASA and NOAA.

What do solar storms do?

Solar storms can bring more than colorful lights to Earth. When fast-moving particles and plasma slam into Earth's magnetic field, they can temporarily disrupt the power grid. Space weather can also interfere with air traffic control radio and satellites in orbit.

In 1859, a severe solar storm triggered auroras as far south as Hawaii and caught telegraph lines on fire in a rare event. And a 1972 solar storm may have detonated magnetic U.S. sea mines off the coast of Vietnam. □

Baltimore schools sued for failing to protect students from a predatory teacher

By **LEA SKENE**
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Three women are suing Baltimore's public school sys-

tem, alleging they were sexually abused by a special education teacher decades ago while administrators failed to protect

students from his predatory behavior.

One of the plaintiffs was 14 when she alleges the teacher, whom the lawsuit names as Alvin Hunt, raped and impregnated her, according to the complaint. At a news conference Monday morning, attorneys for the women said school officials knew about the abuse and allowed it to continue. They said Hunt would lure students to his house under the pretense of after-school tutoring. The allegations contained in the lawsuits occurred in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Attempts to reach Hunt were unsuccessful. A message seeking comment was left for a spokesperson for Baltimore City Public Schools.

The lawsuits add to a growing pile of child sexual abuse claims filed in

Maryland since the state eliminated its statute of limitations for such cases. Lawmakers approved the Child Victims Act in 2023 with abuse findings against the Catholic Church in mind, but its impacts have extended well beyond religious institutions. The state's juvenile justice system in particular is facing widespread reckoning after thousands of victims came forward.

Pamela Coleman said she gave birth to Hunt's daughter after he drugged and raped her. Hunt offered the teen a ride home from school and gave her a cigarette laced with an illicit substance that caused her to lose consciousness, her complaint says.

"My childhood and teen years was just ripped from me," Coleman said at the news conference. She said

her mother reported the abuse and administrators transferred her to another school after learning she was pregnant.

The AP doesn't typically identify victims of abuse unless they want to be named.

Attorneys said Hunt, who was also a sports coach, never faced prosecution or accountability for his actions. Instead, he retired from the school system after a long career. He is not named as a defendant in the lawsuits, which were filed against the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners.

"This abuse was not just known, it was normalized," said attorney Janai Woodhouse with the Baltimore law firm Murphy, Falcon & Murphy. "This wasn't hidden. It was tolerated." □



Attorneys Billy Murphy, left, and Janai Woodhouse look on as Collette Lee speaks about how a Baltimore special education teacher sexually abused her decades ago during a news conference Monday, June 2, 2025 at the offices of Murphy, Falcon & Murphy in downtown Baltimore.

Associated Press

China says U.S. moves on computer chips and student visas 'seriously violate' tariffs truce

By **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China criticized the U.S. on Monday over moves it alleged harmed Chinese interests, including issuing AI chip export control guidelines, stopping the sale of chip design software to China, and planning to revoke Chinese student visas. "These practices seriously violate the consensus," the Commerce Ministry said in a statement, referring to a China-U.S. joint statement in which the United States and China agreed to slash their massive recent tariffs, restarting stalled trade between the world's two biggest economies.

But last month's de-escalation in President Donald Trump's trade wars did nothing to resolve underlying differences between Beijing and Washington and Monday's statement showed how easily such agreements can lead to further turbulence.

The deal lasts 90 days, creating time for U.S. and Chinese negotiators to reach a more substantive agreement. But the pause also



American flags are displayed together with Chinese flags on top of a trishaw on Sept. 16, 2018, in Beijing.

leaves tariffs higher than before Trump started ramping them up last month. And businesses and investors must contend with uncertainty about whether the truce will last.

U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said the U.S. agreed to drop the 145% tax Trump imposed last month to 30%. China

agreed to lower its tariff rate on U.S. goods to 10% from 125%.

The Commerce Ministry said China held up its end of the deal, canceling or suspending tariffs and non-tariff measures taken against the U.S. "reciprocal tariffs" following the agreement.

"The United States has uni-

laterally provoked new economic and trade frictions, exacerbating the uncertainty and instability of bilateral economic and trade relations," while China has stood by its commitments, the statement said. It also threatened unspecified retaliation, saying China will "continue to take resolute and forceful mea-

Associated Press

asures to safeguard its legitimate rights and interests."

Trump stirred further controversy Friday, saying he will no longer be nice with China on trade, declaring in a social media post that the country had broken an agreement with the United States.

Hours later, Trump said in the Oval Office that he will speak with Chinese President Xi Jinping and "hopefully we'll work that out," while still insisting China had violated the agreement.

"The bad news is that China, perhaps not surprisingly to some, HAS TOTALLY VIOLATED ITS AGREEMENT WITH US," Trump posted. "So much for being Mr. NICE GUY!"

In response to recent comments by Trump, the Commerce Ministry said of the U.S.: "Instead of reflecting on itself, it has turned the tables and unreasonably accused China of violating the consensus, which is seriously contrary to the facts." U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said that the Chinese were "just slow rolling the deal" from Geneva. □

More white South Africans arrive in the U.S. under a new refugee program

By **MICHELLE GUMEDE**
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A second group of white South Africans has arrived in the United States under a refugee program announced by the Trump administration, officials and advocacy groups said Monday. Nine people, including families, arrived late last week, said Jaco Kleynhans, head of international liaison at the Solidarity Movement, a group representing members of South Africa's white Afrikaner minority. The group traveled on a commercial flight to Atlanta, he said.

A spokesperson for the U.S. Embassy said in an email to The Associated Press that "refugees continue to arrive in the United States

from South Africa on commercial flights as part of the Afrikaner resettlement program's ongoing operations."

An initial group of 59 white South Africans arrived at Dulles International Airport in Virginia on a chartered flight last month under the new program announced by U.S. President Donald Trump in February. The Trump administration fast-tracked the resettlement of white South Africans after indefinitely suspending other U.S. refugee programs.

The Trump administration said it is offering refugee status to white South Africans it alleges are being persecuted by their Black-led government and are victims of racially motivat-

ed violence. The South African government has denied the allegations and said they are a mischaracterization of the country.

Trump has falsely claimed that white South African farmers are targeted in widespread attacks that amount to genocide and are having their land taken away. Trump confronted South African President Cyril Ramaphosa with those baseless claims during a meeting at the White House last month.

Ramaphosa has said the relatively small number of attacks on white farmers are part of South Africa's larger problems with violent crime, which affects all races. The Trump administration initially said the refugee program was

aimed at members of South Africa's Afrikaner minority, who are descendants of mainly Dutch and French colonial settlers. In new guidance published by the U.S. Embassy last

month, applicants must be "a member of a racial minority" in South Africa and "must be able to articulate a past experience of persecution or fear of future persecution." □



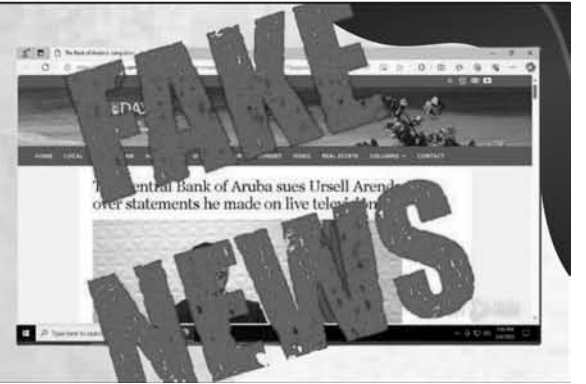
Deputy Secretary of State Christopher Landau greets Afrikaner refugees from South Africa, May 12, 2025, at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va.

Associated Press

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A lawyer's prolonged detention shows how El Salvador's gang emergency extends to common crimes

By YOLANDA MAGAÑA

Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — El Salvador's arrest of an anticorruption lawyer from a well-known human rights organization last month is the latest example of how special powers given to President Nayib Bukele to battle the country's gangs are being applied to a host of unrelated alleged crimes.

Police arrested Ruth Eleonora López at her home on May 18, for allegedly aiding one of her former employers being prosecuted for embezzlement. López has denied the accusations, but two weeks later she has yet to appear before a judge or be formally charged.

El Salvador's constitution gives authorities 72 hours to bring someone before a judge after an arrest. But criminal defense attorneys say most of the cases they see drunk driving, robberies, sexual assaults now aren't brought before a judge until 15 days after the arrest, the maximum allowed under the state of emergency the country's Congress approved in March 2022.

That month, Bukele asked lawmakers for extraordinary powers to respond to a gang massacre. Among the rights the Congress agreed to suspend were that window to take a prisoner before a judge, as well as fundamental protections like access to a lawyer.

Since then, more than 86,000 people have been arrested for alleged ties to gangs, with 90% still awaiting trial. But untold others — the attorney general's office did not respond to a



Alejandro Henriquez, left, and Jose Angel Perez, second from right, speak with their lawyers prior to their first court hearing in Santa Tecla, El Salvador, Friday, May 30, 2025.

Associated Press

request for statistics have been treated in the same manner for alleged crimes having nothing to do with the gangs. While the constitutional rights are suspended, the expansion into crimes unrelated to gangs is legal, but abusive, lawyers say.

In an address to the nation Sunday night about the first year of his new term, Bukele brushed off criticism of his heavy-handed tactics.

"I don't care that they call me dictator," he said. "I prefer they call me dictator than see how they kill Salvadorans in the streets. I prefer they call me dictator, but Salvadorans can finally live in peace. Let them keep arguing semantics and we're going to continue to be focused on results."

"They say we jail human rights defenders, dissidents, opponents of the regime," Bukele said. "I think to myself, 'How are we going to

battle corruption if all the opposition has guaranteed impunity?'"

With the gangs' severely weakened by the government's own accounts, human rights organizations in El Salvador like Cristosal where López worked and from abroad like the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have called for the end of the emergency declaration. They say the justification no longer exists, and rights should be restored.

Instead, lawyers say the extended state of emergency has become the norm, rather than the exception. "They've generalized it," said Oswaldo Feusier, lawyer and professor at the José Simeón Cañas Central American University, adding that more and more judges are applying the exceptional rules to a broader array of crimes. "To me it's an abuse of the spirit of the decree."

Just this month, Bukele called via the social platform X for the arrest of the heads of bus companies he said had ignored his call to provide free service during the closure of a major highway. The government said it would reimburse them. Despite arrests May 5 through May 7, the 12 people detained weren't formally charged until May 19. On May 12, dozens of people from an agricultural cooperative protested an eviction outside Bukele's home. One participant was arrested May 12 and another May 13 for alleged public disorder and aggressive resistance. Their cases weren't brought before a judge until May 27. The president also used the protest as an example of why the Congress should pass a foreign agents law which it did days later because he said they had been "manipulated by globalist NGOs."

The law would require all non-governmental organizations who receive international donations to register as "foreign agents" and the government can then impose a tax of 30%.

Jayne Magaña, a criminal defense lawyer working with an initiative called Wings of Freedom that seeks to draw attention to human rights violations, said she has seen the exceptions under the state of emergency applied to a variety of cases including sexual crimes, drunk driving and robberies. "They're applying 15 days to the majority," she said. "This is because the courts are saturated."

Criminal attorney Carlos Avelar said that since the state of emergency suspends constitutional guarantees, it can be applied to all crimes. "If they arrest someone, if the prosecutor wants to apply the 15-day term, he does it," he said. He estimated that 80% of the cases he sees in the courts now start 15 days after the arrest.

López's alleged wrongdoing dates to her time as an adviser to Eugenio Chicas, the former president of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal during the administration of President Salvador Sánchez Cerén (2014-2019). Chicas moved from the court to the Cabinet of Sánchez Cerén and also served as a congressman. Last November, he and some of his relatives were convicted in a civil case for illegal enrichment between 2009 and 2021.

Chicas, who was detained in February, is now being prosecuted on criminal charges of illegal enrichment. □

Aruba's nature is to be cherished

ST. CRUZ — The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There is numerous wildlife to discover like for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering

unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her

eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna.



You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu. This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands). (Source: arikok national park)

The aforementioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for your-

self. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island. Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

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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Create museum memories



ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you these museums.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th

century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundación Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information, check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at

Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's, AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997, the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeologi-



cal Museum project. In 2004, a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006, restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the soon-to-be exhibition space. In December 2007, the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location, the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its

permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueológico Nacional Aruba. □

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

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December

2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was

inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.



Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who

would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants.

The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the

route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

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

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The Lionfish And its threat to our marine wild life

(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea.

And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins

of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba,

lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker



with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. Van Brakel not only catches them himself, but also cooks them for locals and tourists at The LionFish Snack Aruba in Paradera. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □



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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 Quadirikiri 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...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

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

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 have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri

Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, 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 Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri 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 Awarak 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, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □



The district of Savaneta: The capital before Oranjestad

(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" 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 Curaçao 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 businessmen, 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



Commandeursbaai (Commander's Bay) at Savaneta



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 "sabana".

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.



Alonso de Ojeda



"Quebracho" (Kibrahacha) tree; used to make dye and paint

CROSSWORD

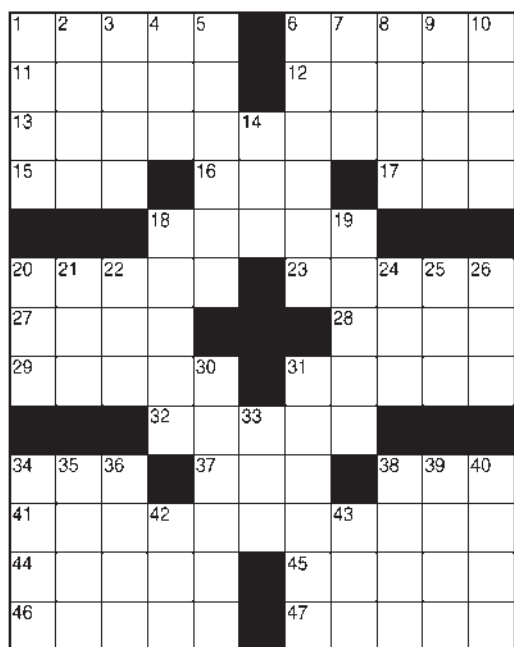
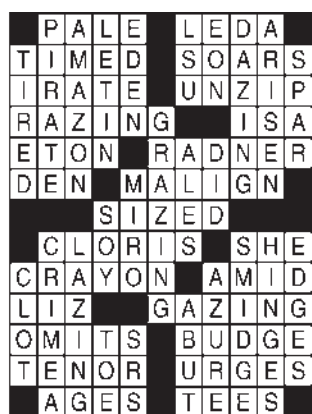
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 San Diego player
- 6 Steer clear of
- 11 Match in value
- 12 Pago Pago setting
- 13 Elevator features
- 15 Used a chair
- 16 Valuable rock
- 17 View
- 18 Little hooter
- 20 Injures
- 23 Un-important
- 27 Lotion additive
- 28 Account
- 29 Piquant
- 31 Was furious
- 32 Baseball's Judge
- 34 Maple fluid
- 37 "Survivor" network
- 38 Oahu souvenir
- 41 Batters who suffered from the shift
- 44 Worried
- 45 Foe
- 46 Map lines
- 47 Ouzo flavor

DOWN

- 1 Livens (up)
- 2 Blue hue
- 3 Maid's target
- 4 Cheering cry
- 5 Arm joints
- 6 High regard
- 7 Dyeing tub
- 8 Singer
- 9 Finished
- 10 Move slowly
- 14 Web address
- 18 Letter after psi
- 19 Moon of Saturn
- 20 Derby or boater
- 21 Copying
- 22 Harry's friend
- 24 Old horse
- 25 Bullring cry
- 26 Spectrum end
- 30 Marina boats
- 31 Raised platforms
- 33 Batter's stat
- 34 Prepare for a fight
- 35 Lot buy
- 36 Entreaty
- 38 Writer
- 39 Historic times
- 40 Cruise stop
- 42 Young fellow
- 43 Badge material



6-6

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.

6-6

CRYPTOQUOTE

UXQA WAXWHA XOHT PUE
XGIACU GX JX UXQAGIKOM. K
SAHKALA GIPG, FIT UIXYHJ K
FPKG NXC UXQAXOA AHUA?

— QPHPHP TXYUPNVPK

Cryptoquote: THE WORLD IS LIKE A GREAT EMPTY DREAM. WHY SHOULD ONE TOIL AWAY ONE'S LIFE? — LI BAI

Cruise ship Schedule: June 01 - 27 2025

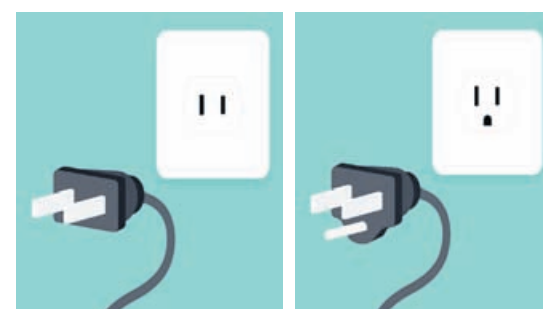
			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
SUN	01	SILVER SHADOW FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	23.00 22.30	C E	1 -
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	10	CARNIVAL HORIZON CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS	09.00 13.00	23.00 23.00	C I	1 1
TUE	17	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	07.00 13.00	16.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	18	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00 07.00	22.00 23.00 16.00	C B I	1 1 1
TUE	24	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
FRI	27	SEVEN SEAS MARINER	10.00	21.00	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.



Milky Way's chance of colliding with galaxy billions of years from now? New study puts odds at 50-50



In this combination of images from NASA/ESA shows three future scenarios for Milky Way & Andromeda encounter. Top left: Galaxies bypass at 1 million light-year separation. Top right: At 500,000 light-years, dark matter provides friction that brings galaxies to a close encounter. Bottom: A 100,000 light-year separation leads to a collision.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — It turns out that looming collision between our Milky Way and Andromeda galaxies might not happen after all.

Astronomers reported Monday that the probability of the two spiral galaxies colliding is less than previously thought, with a 50-50 chance within the next 10 billion years. That's essentially a coin flip, but still better odds than previous estimates and farther out in time. "As it stands, proclamations of the impending

demise of our galaxy seem greatly exaggerated," the Finnish-led team wrote in a study appearing in Nature Astronomy.

While good news for the Milky Way galaxy, the latest forecast may be moot for humanity.

"We likely won't live to see the benefit," lead author Till Sawala of the University of Helsinki said in an email. Already more than 4.5 billion years old, the sun is on course to run out of energy and die in another 5 billion years or so, but not before becoming so big it will engulf Mercury, Venus and possibly Earth. Even if it doesn't swallow Earth, the home planet will be left a burnt ball, its oceans long since boiled away.

Sawala's international team relied on the latest observations by NASA's Hubble Space Telescope and the European Space Agency's Gaia star-surveying spacecraft to simulate the possible scenarios facing the Milky Way and next-door neighbor Andromeda. Both already collided with other galaxies in their ancient past and, according to many, seemed destined for a head-on crash. Past theories put a collision between the two resulting in a new elliptical galaxy dubbed Milkomeda as probable if not inevitable.

Some predictions had that happening within 5 billion years, if not sooner.

For this new study, the scientists relied on updated galaxy measurements to factor in the gravitational pull on the Milky Way's movement through the universe. They found that the effects of the neighboring Triangulum galaxy increased the likelihood of a merger between the Milky Way and Andromeda, while the Large Magellanic Cloud decreased those chances. □

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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

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Old Dominion's new album, 'Barbara,' won't lean on band's record-breaking laurels

By **GARY GERARD HAMILTON**

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Old Dominion's eighth group of the year victory broke the tie for consecutive wins at the Academy of Country Music Awards last month, it changed the record books — but not their perspective.

"They're certainly wonderful honors that we get, but that's not in any way how we really measure our success or think. We can't let that kind of stuff creep in to the creative process because that's when we'll start to get off course," said Matthew Ramsey, lead vocalist and guitarist. "We try to protect each other from those outside influences a little bit and just make sure that we're ... not chasing after some sort of reaction or award, or chasing after what we think the radio wants to play. We just have to make what we love."

Old Dominion has been celebrated for intertwining different musical styles while within country music. Along with Ramsey, the band includes Brad Tursi (guitar/banjo), Trevor Rosen (guitar/piano), Geoff Sprung (bass) and Whit Sellers (percussion). They have spent the last two years crafting "Barbara," out Aug. 22 via Columbia Nashville/Sony Music Nashville.

The project follows 2023's



Old Dominion lead singer Matthew Ramsey performs prior to a NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Charlotte Motor Speedway, Sunday, May 25, 2025, in Concord, N.C.

Associated Press

"Memory Lane" album and last year's "Odies But Goodies" compilation, which Ramsey says is even more eclectic than past works.

"We just write constantly. And we've had albums where we've kind of gone deeper into the well and picked out older songs," explained the 47-year-old. "This one, not so much the case."

The 13-track album is not named after a real woman but is an imagined composite of a person who embodies many of the group's various personality traits. It includes the released

singles "Me Most Nights" and "Making Good Time," along with the four-on-the-floor "Talk Country" and the R&B-infused "What Doesn't Kill a Memory." Just as introspection is a fundamental element of country music, it's also the sweet spot on this album.

"Miss You Man" is dedicated to friend and writing collaborator Andrew Dorff, who died in 2016 during a vacation, while "Goodnight Music City" reflects on the band's career.

"It has all the reverence about Nashville and a little bit of the jaded side to it, too. We've been through it

in Nashville, as anyone goes through when they're trying to chase this crazy dream," said Ramsey, who revealed the song is inspired by the children's book "Goodnight Moon" by Margaret Wise Brown. "It's such a meaningful song to us all ... we've played it live one time at the Ryman Auditorium, and we were all crying by the end of it."

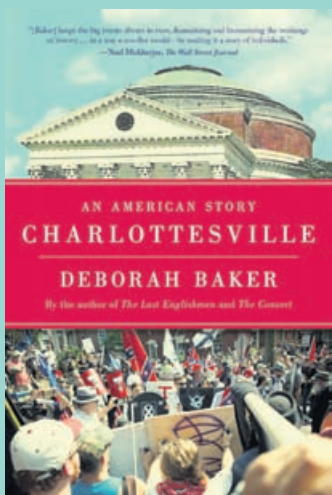
The band also looks within on "Man or the Song," as Ramsey questions, "If I put my guitar down, would I disappear? / Move back to my hometown, would you still be here?" Ramsey says it's his favorite song.

"That's kind of what it feels like once you get to this level and you're surrounded by all these people that are helping you make your dreams come true," he said. "Who's around for the right reasons can certainly creep into the conversation. It can be a lonely profession ... I hope you love me for me, and not for this crazy job I have."

Coinciding with the release of "Barbara," the band is prepping its "How Good Is That" world tour which launches Thursday at Credit One Stadium in Charleston, South Carolina.

Throughout the past decade, Old Dominion has earned a loyal fan base in a genre often criticized as rigid, with frequent debates about equal radio play, what determines pure country music and who should be allowed to participate. But while there's no denying the group is authentically country, the irony is not lost on them that they've been able to cut through the Nashville noise by not sticking to only traditional country sounds.

"Whenever we wrote a song and recorded it, we just wanted to make sure that we were not chasing anything other than the truest form of that song and what was going to deliver that message as clearly as we wanted it to be," said Ramsey. □



This cover image released by Graywolf Press shows "Charlotteville: An American Story" by Deborah Baker.

(Graywolf Press via Associated Press)

Book Review: 'Charlotteville' a dramatic account of deadly 2017 rally and history behind it

By **ANDREW DeMILLO**

Associated Press

Decades before the violent Unite the Right rally in 2017 in Charlottesville that drew white nationalists protesting the removal of a Robert E. Lee statue, the city was targeted by a white supremacist who hoped to ignite a race war. To understand the 2017 Unite the Right rally, Deborah Baker writes in "Charlotteville: An American Story," readers have to go back to 1956 and John Kasper's trip to Charlottesville to protest school integration.

That historical context combines with a vivid narrative of the 2017 demonstrations to give readers a better understanding of the combustible atmosphere that converged on Charlottesville.

The narrative is the heart of Baker's comprehensive history, including details of Heather Heyer's killing by James Alex Fields Jr. who kept a framed photograph of Adolf

Hitler by his bedside and drove his car into a crowd of counter protesters.

Baker's writing style delivers an on-the-ground feel of what it was like in Charlottesville, including a harrowing account of the night torch-wielding white nationalists marched through the University of Virginia's campus.

But Baker also dives into the history of key players in the events that day, including white nationalist leader Richard Spencer and Zyahna Bryant, who initiated the petition to remove the statues of Lee and Stonewall Jackson from the city's parks.

She also explores the shortcomings by authorities, including officials who credulously took white nationalist organizers at their word.

Baker's research and eye for detail give "Charlotteville" the historical authority necessary for understanding the tragic events that occurred over those two days. □

Mariners will retire Randy Johnson's No. 51 during the 2026 season

By **ANDREW DESTIN**
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Hall of Famer Randy Johnson's No. 51 will be retired by the Seattle Mariners during a pregame ceremony next season, the club announced Monday. Johnson threw the first no-hitter in Mariners' history on June 2, 1990, 35 years ago Monday, and in 1995 became their first Cy Young Award winner.

The exact date of the ceremony will be announced after the 2026 major league schedule is finalized.

Johnson, 61, went 130-74 with a 3.42 ERA across 10 seasons with the Mariners.

"I'm happy that my contributions over the 10 years that I was there are being acknowledged now," Johnson said via Zoom. "It's been a long time, that's for sure." Johnson enjoyed more success with the Arizona Diamondbacks, with whom he won four consecutive Cy Young Awards in addition to a World Series championship in 2001. However, the lanky left-hander nicknamed the "Big Unit" because of his 6-foot-10 frame fondly remembers his Seattle tenure.



Former Seattle Mariners pitcher Randy Johnson acknowledges an ovation from the fans as he walks onto the field for the ceremonial first pitch before the Mariners' baseball game against the Oakland Athletics on April 12, 2010, in Seattle.

Associated Press

A year Johnson looks back on with particular fondness is the 1995 season. The Mariners' future in Seattle was cast into doubt when in September of that year, King County voters rejected subsidy taxes to build a new stadium.

Simultaneously, the Mariners enjoyed a prosperous season on the field at the Kingdome, which culminated in reaching the AL Championship Series before falling to the Cleveland Indians. Ultimately, the King County Council ap-

proved funding for a new stadium. "Looking back at it now and that story being documented by the Mariners, it worked out," Johnson said. "I'm just thankful that I was a big part of that and everybody else was a big part of it, and everything just kind of jelled for all the players."

That season, Johnson went 18-2 with a 2.48 ERA during a 145-game season and won his first of five Cy Young Awards. But Johnson didn't hang around Seattle much longer; he was traded to

the Houston Astros midway through the 1998 season.

Johnson signed with the Diamondbacks as a free agent ahead of the 1999 campaign, and enjoyed some of the most successful seasons of his major league career across eight years in Arizona. As a result, Johnson was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame wearing a Diamondbacks cap.

"To me, it was a difficult choice," Johnson said. "But, it was the right choice because statistically, I did

more (in Arizona). Now if I could split the plaque and put a little bit of an M and a little bit of an A."

Even so, Johnson is grateful for his years in Seattle and looking forward to his moment in the sun. It will be a separate occasion from the No. 51 jersey retirement of right fielder Ichiro Suzuki, which is planned for Aug. 9. In 2001, three years after Johnson left Seattle, Suzuki arrived and wore jersey No. 51. Johnson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015. Suzuki will be inducted on July 27.

Johnson's No. 51 will be the fifth number retired in Mariners' history, joining Ken Griffey Jr. (No. 24), Edgar Martinez (No. 11) and Suzuki. All MLB teams have retired Jackie Robinson's No. 42. "I know the significance of Ichiro and his accomplishments, and I didn't want to interfere with his Hall of Fame induction this year or his number retirement this year," Johnson said. "And so, the one contingent factor I had was if this was going to happen that I didn't want to take away anything from his deserving day." □

Hall of Famer David Ortiz says leave Red Sox DH Rafael Devers alone on decision to play 1B

By **KEN POWTAK**
Associated Press

NEWTON, Mass. (AP) — The Boston Red Sox should just leave designated hitter Rafael Devers alone and let him decide if he wants to start playing first base, Hall of Famer David Ortiz told The Associated Press on Monday.

The Red Sox signed Alex Bregman to a \$120-million, three-year contract in spring training and told Devers he was going to be the fulltime DH.

That was, until first baseman Triston Casas was lost for the season after rupturing a tendon in his left knee and undergoing surgery in early May.

Speaking at his charity golf tournament the David Ortiz Soiree of Hearts, the former Red Sox slugger said

any move should be up to Devers.

"He's doing great as the DH. They asked for it, and he's doing great as the DH," Ortiz said. "Once (the) Casas situation goes down ... In people's minds, it was: 'Devers goes to first and (Masataka) Yoshida goes to DH and we are a better team'. Yeah, that's what you put in your mind. But guess what? The kid was asked in a spring training to just hit and now all of a sudden you want to switch him over. It takes time."

The 49-year-old Ortiz, who made his way to the Hall as mainly a DH, didn't say Devers shouldn't make the switch, but any choice should come after he learns the position.

"I will say this: At one point, if Devers would like to prac-

tice at first base, and would like to go back to playing the whole defense thing, that is all on him," said Ortiz, sitting down with the AP while signing souvenirs for

golfers.

"We asked him to be the DH. Fully asked him to be the DH," Big Papi said. "I remember that conversation in spring training. It's a



Boston Red Sox's Rafael Devers watches his two-RBI single during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in Milwaukee.

Associated Press

different situation and the guy's doing great at what you asked him for. He's giving you what you asked for, even if it wasn't what he was agreeing on."

During spring training, Devers initially balked at the move to DH.

Last month, Devers told the Red Sox he wasn't interested in playing first and owner John Henry flew to Kansas City to meet with him.

After a historically poor start, Devers enters Monday batting .286 with 12 homers and a major-league leading 52 RBIs.

Ortiz said the game has changed from when he was told he was going to be mainly a DH.

"They thought I was going to fit in good at DH and play first once in a while," he said. □

French Open: 361st-ranked Frenchwoman Boisson upsets No. 3 Pegula. Gauff and Djokovic win

By **JEROME PUGMIRE**
AP Sports Writer

PARIS (AP) — Loïs Boisson never had played at the French Open, let alone in the biggest arena at Roland-Garros. Nothing fazed the French wild-card entry and now she is in the quarterfinals.

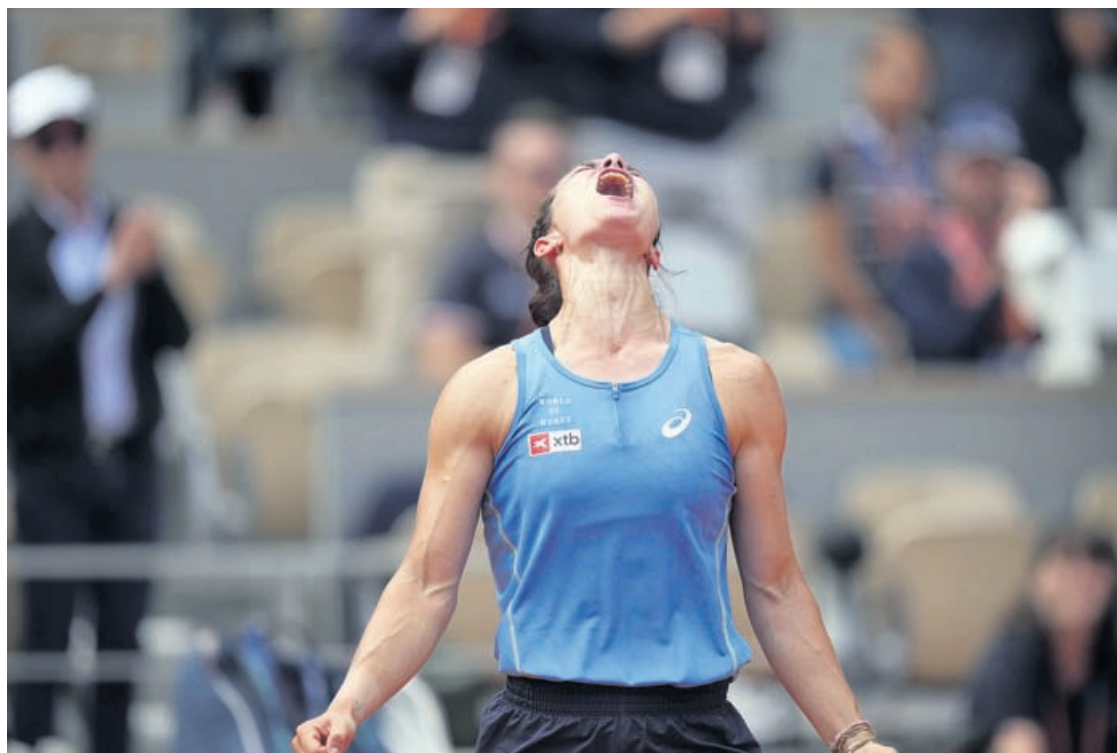
Boisson, ranked just 361st, threw her head back and roared after beating No. 3 seed Jessica Pegula 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 on Court Philippe-Chatrier in the fourth round Monday.

She is by far the lowest-ranked woman to beat someone ranked in the top five at the French Open in 40 years.

The lowest previously in that span was No. 179 Aniko Kapros, who eliminated No. 5 Justine Henin in the first round in 2002.

Boisson also is the lowest-ranked woman to reach the quarterfinals at Roland-Garros since at least 1985. Quite a victory, considering Pegula was the U.S. Open runner-up last year. Understandably, Boisson was nervous as she served for the match and saved three break points.

After Pegula missed an easy-looking winner at the net and clutched her head in her hands, Boisson had her first match point, the



France's Loïs Boisson celebrates as she won the fourth round match of the French Tennis Open against Jessica Pegula of the U.S. at the Roland-Garros stadium in Paris, Monday, June 2, 2025.

Associated Press

biggest point of her career. Pegula returned a strong serve to the back of the court, where Boisson unleashed a forehand winner down the line. She then raised her arms and realized the enormity of her win.

"Thank you to all of you," Boisson told the crowd in her post-match interview. "Playing on this court with such an atmosphere was really incredible."

Boisson made the notoriously hard-to-please crowd

laugh when she added: "I'm really happy on here. I can stay a long time if you like."

The crowd broke into chants of "Loïs! Loïs!" and she waved back to them. She is the only French singles player left in either bracket and feels comfortable on clay, having played on it regularly since taking up tennis when she was 8.

Asked what her ambitions were for the rest of the tournament she plays sixth-seeded Mirra Andreieva on

Wednesday in the quarterfinals Boisson replied, "I hope to win, right?"

That prompted more laughter from the crowd, which included tournament director Amelie Mauresmo, who has been criticized for the lack of women's matches during night sessions.

What else happened at the French Open on Monday?

Another women's quarterfinal was set up between No. 2 Coco Gauff and No. 7 Madison Keys, two Americans who each own one

Grand Slam title. Gauff, the 2023 U.S. Open champion, won 6-0, 7-5 against No. 20 Ekaterina Alexandrova, and Keys, the Australian Open title winner in January, defeated yet another American, Hailey Baptiste, 6-3, 7-5.

Over on Court Suzanne-Lenglen, the 18-year-old Andreieva, who reached the semifinals at Roland-Garros last year for her best performance at a major, got past No. 17 Daria Kasatkina 7-5, 6-3. They are pals, and Kasatkina playfully threw her wristband at Andreieva when they came to the net; Andreieva joked she would keep it.

In men's action, Novak Djokovic earned his 100th career French Open victory and set up a quarterfinal against No. 3 Alexander Zverev, last year's runner-up. No. 62 Alexander Bublik surprised No. 5 Jack Draper 5-7, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 and next meets either No. 1 Jannik Sinner or No. 17 Andrey Rublev, who were scheduled to play Monday night for the last men's quarterfinal spot.

Djokovic overwhelmed Cam Norrie 6-2, 6-3, 6-2, and Zverev was leading 6-4, 3-0 when Tallon Griekspoor quit because of an abdominal strain. □

Heisman winners Ingram, Newton, Griffin are among players on College Football Hall of Fame ballot



In this Sept. 18, 2010, file photo, Alabama running back Mark Ingram (22) carries the ball during the first quarter of an NCAA college football game against Duke in Durham, N.C.

Associated Press

By **ERIC OLSON**
AP College Football Writer

Heisman Trophy winners Mark Ingram, Cam Newton and Robert Griffin III and former AP National Player of the Year Ndamukong Suh are on the ballot for the 2026 College Football Hall of Fame class.

The National Football Foundation released the ballot Monday for the class that will be announced in January. It includes 79 players and nine coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision and 100 players and 35 coaches from lower levels.

Ingram became Alabama's first Heisman winner in 2009 after running for 1,658 yards and 20 touchdowns. Newton in 2010 was just the third player in FBS history with 20 passing and 20 rushing touchdowns. Griffin in 2011 led the nation in points responsible for and ranked second in total offense.

Suh was a force for Nebraska in 2009 and became the first defensive lineman in 15 seasons to be named a finalist for the Heisman Trophy. He finished fourth in voting but was honored as the nation's top player by The Associated Press.

Among other players on the ballot are Iowa's Brad Banks, Colorado's Eric Bieniemy, Oklahoma State's Dez Bryant, Penn State's Ki-Jana Carter, Pittsburgh's Aaron Donald, Syracuse's Marvin Harrison, Oklahoma's Josh Heupel, Ohio State's James Laurinaitis, Washington State's Ryan Leaf, California's Marshawn Lynch, Illinois' Simeon Rice and Florida State's Peter Warrick. □