



Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins



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Trump's takeover of Washington law enforcement begins as National Guard troops arrive

By **ASHRAF KHALIL** and **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The new picture of law enforcement in the nation's capital began taking shape Tuesday as some of the 800 National Guard members deployed by the Trump administration began arriving as police and federal officials took the first steps in an uneasy partnership to reduce crime in what President Donald Trump called without substantiation a lawless city.

The influx came the morning after the Republican president announced he would be activating the guard members and taking over the District's police department, something the law allows him to do temporarily. He cited a crime emergency but referred to the same crime that city officials stress is already falling noticeably. Mayor Muriel Bowser pledged to work alongside the federal officials Trump has tasked with overseeing the city's law enforcement, while insisting the police chief remained in charge of the department and its officers.

"How we got here or what we think about the circumstances right now we have more police, and we want to make sure we use them," she told reporters. The tone was a shift from the day before, when Bowser said Trump's plan to take over the Metropolitan Police Department and call in the National Guard was not a productive step and argued his perceived state of emergency simply doesn't match the declining crime numbers. Still, the law gives the federal gov-



Protesters demonstrate against President Donald Trump's planned use of federal law enforcement and National Guard troops in Washington at a rally in Dupont Circle, Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, in Washington.

ernment more sway over the capital city than in U.S. states, and Bowser said her administration's ability to push back is limited.

Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on social media that the meeting was productive.

The law allows Trump to take over the D.C. police for up to 30 days, though White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt suggested it could last longer as authorities later "re-evaluate and reassess." Extending federal control past that time would require Congressional approval, something likely tough to achieve in the face of Democratic resistance.

About 850 federal law enforcement officers were deployed in Washington on Monday and arrested 23 people overnight, Leavitt said. The charges, she said, included gun and

drug crimes, drunk driving, subway fare evasion and homicide.

The U.S. Park Police has also removed 70 homeless encampments. People who were living in them can leave, go to a homeless shelter or go into drug addiction treatment, Leavitt said. Those who refuse could face fines or jail time.

The city and Trump have had a bumpy relationship. While Trump invokes his plan by saying that "we're going to take our capital back," Bowser and the MPD maintain that violent crime overall in Washington has decreased to a 30-year low after a sharp rise in 2023. Carjackings, for example, dropped about 50% in 2024 and are down again this year. More than half of those arrested, however, are juveniles, and the extent of those punishments is a point of

contention for the Trump administration.

Bowser, a Democrat, spent much of Trump's first term in office openly sparring with the Republican president. She fended off his initial plans for a military parade through the streets and stood in public opposition when he called in a multi-agency flood of federal law enforcement to confront anti-police brutality protesters in summer 2020. She later had the words "Black Lives Matter" painted in giant yellow letters on the street about a block from the White House.

In Trump's second term, backed by Republican control of both houses of Congress, Bowser has walked a public tightrope for months, emphasizing common ground with the Trump administration on issues such as the successful effort to bring the NFL's

Washington Commanders back to the District of Columbia.

She watched with open concern for the city streets as Trump finally got his military parade this summer. Her decision to dismantle Black Lives Matter Plaza earlier this year served as a neat metaphor for just how much the power dynamics between the two executives had evolved.

Now that fraught relationship enters uncharted territory as Trump has followed through on months of what many D.C. officials had quietly hoped were empty threats. The new standoff has cast Bowser in a sympathetic light, even among her longtime critics.

"It's a power play and we're an easy target," said Clinique Chapman, CEO of the D.C. Justice Lab. A frequent critic of Bowser, whom she accuses of "over policing our youth" with the recent expansions of Washington's youth curfew, Chapman said Trump's latest move "is not about creating a safer D.C. It's just about power." Where the power actually lies

Bowser contends that all the power resides with Trump and that local officials can do little other than comply and make the best of it. As long as Washington remains a federal enclave with limited autonomy under the 1973 Home Rule Act, she said, it will remain vulnerable to such takeovers.

Trump is the first president to use the law's Section 740 to take over Washington's police for up to 30 days during times of emergencies. □

Associated Press

Shooter attacked CDC headquarters to protest COVID-19 vaccines

By **CHARLOTTE KRAMON**
and **JEFF MARTIN**
Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The man who fired more than 180 shots with a long gun at the headquarters of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention broke into a locked safe to get his father's weapons and wanted to send a message against COVID-19 vaccines, authorities said Tuesday.

Documents found in a search of the home where Patrick Joseph White had lived with his parents "expressed the shooter's discontent with the COVID-19 vaccinations," Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Chris Hosey said.

White, 30, had written about wanting to make "the public aware of his discontent with the vaccine," Hosey added.

White also had recently verbalized thoughts of suicide, which led to law enforcement being contacted several weeks before the shooting, Hosey said. He died at the scene Friday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after killing DeKalb County Police Officer David Rose.

The shooting reflects the dangers public health leaders have been experiencing around the country since anti-vaccine vitriol took root during the pandemic. Such rhetoric has been amplified as President Donald Trump's Health Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., has repeatedly made false and misleading statements about the safety of immunizations.

Calling for 'rational, evidence-based discourse' "We know that misinformation can be dangerous. Not only to health, but to those that trust us and those we want to trust," Dr. Susan Monarez told CDC employees in an "all-hands" meeting Tuesday, her first since the attack capped her first full week on campus as CDC director.

"We need to rebuild the trust together," Monarez said, according to a tran-



Chris Hosey, Director of Georgia Bureau of Investigation, speaks about the details of the shooting near the CDC and Emory University at the GBI headquarters, Tuesday, Aug., 12, 2025, in Decatur, Ga.

Associated Press

script obtained by the AP. "The trust is what binds us. In moments like this, we must meet the challenges with rational, evidence-based discourse spoken with compassion and understanding. That is how we will lead."

White's parents have fully cooperated with the investigation of their son, who had no known criminal history, Hosey said Tuesday. With a search warrant at their home in the Atlanta suburb of Kennesaw, authorities recovered written documents and electronic devices that are being analyzed.

Investigators also recovered five firearms, including a gun of his father's that he used in the attack, Hosey said.

White did not have a key to the gun safe, Hosey said: "He broke into it."

CDC security guards stopped White from driving into the campus on Friday before he parked near a pharmacy across the street and opened fire from a sidewalk.

The bullets pierced "blast-resistant" windows across the campus, pinning employees down during the barrage.

The GBI said more than 500 shell casings were recovered from the scene, underscoring the level of fire-

power involved. Authorities haven't said how many shots were fired by White and how many by police. The GBI said forensic testing was still pending. It could have been much worse.

In the aftermath, CDC officials are assessing security and encouraging staff to alert authorities to any new threats, including those based on misinformation regarding the CDC and its vaccine work.

"We've not seen an uptick, although any rhetoric that suggests or leads to violence is something we take very seriously," said FBI Special Agent Paul Brown, who leads the agency's Atlanta division. □

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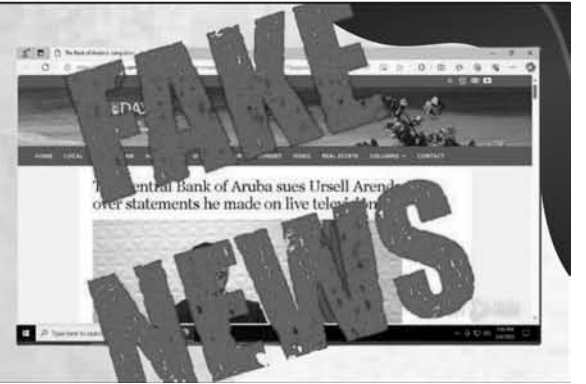
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Desperate parents pleaded with officers to act during Uvalde school shooting, video shows

By JIM VERTUNO and JOHN SEEWER

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Desperate parents begged law enforcement officers to storm an elementary school in Uvalde, Texas, in the frantic minutes after a gunman opened fire in one of the deadliest classroom attacks in U.S. history, police body camera video released Tuesday shows.

"Whose class is he in?" one parent can be heard asking. Another comes up and yells, "Come on man, my daughter is in there!"

The heartbreaking videos show the agonizingly slow law enforcement response along with confusion and delays. Authorities failed to confront 18-year-old gunman Salvador Ramos for more than an hour after the attack at Robb Elementary School began on May 24, 2022. Nineteen students and two teachers were killed.

The records released Tuesday are the final batch of documents that local au-



In this image from police body cam video provided by the Uvalde County Sheriff's Department, law enforcement agents ready their weapons during the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, on May 24, 2022.

Associated Press

thorities withheld during a yearslong legal battle over public access. Family members of the victims were among those pushing for the records to be released.

Several bodycam videos show officers from multiple departments inside the school hallway and stand-

ing outside, some suggesting throwing gas in the window or searching for a key to the locked classroom. But it's unclear who is in charge.

Within minutes, parents making their way to a fence near the school yell at officers to do something. One parent angrily says,

"Either you go in or I'm going in bro," adding a few seconds later, "My kids are in there, bro. ... Please!"

In one video, an officer involved in the initial response can be heard saying, "We can't see him at all" before adding, "We were at the front and he started shooting."

The officer wearing the bodycam asks: "He's in a classroom right?" Another officer responds: "With kids."

Documents released Monday by the school district offer the most detailed look yet at the gunman whose downward spiral began in middle school with a series of suspensions and warnings for harassment and bullying. He dropped out of school just months before the shooting.

Sheriff's deputies went to the gunman's home on two consecutive nights just three months before the attack because he was arguing with his mother over Wi-Fi and broken video game equipment after she turned off the internet, county's records released Tuesday reveal.

Adriana Reyes said her son never hit her but told deputies she was scared of him and needed help, a report said. Ramos' grandmother picked him up one night, and deputies drove him there the next night. □



This photo provided by U.S. Dept. of Justice, shows intercepted eastern box turtles that a New York man pleaded guilty Monday, Aug. 11, 2025, in federal court in New York to exporting more than 220 parcels containing around 850 eastern box turtles and three-toed box turtles, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

Associated Press

Man admits trying to smuggle 850 protected turtles valued at \$1.4 million to Hong Kong

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York resident has admitted he tried to smuggle protected turtles worth more than \$1 million from the United States to Hong Kong by shipping them in boxes labeled "plastic animal toys."

Wei Qiang Lin, a Chinese national who lives in Brooklyn, pleaded guilty Monday in federal court in New York to attempting to export more than 220 parcels containing around 850 eastern box turtles and three-toed box turtles, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

The turtles, with an estimated market value of \$1.4 million, were intercepted by law enforcement at a border inspection, prosecutors said. Officers saw them bound and taped inside knotted socks within the shipping boxes.

Eastern box turtles and three-toed box turtles feature colorful markings and are a "prized feature" in the domestic and foreign pet market, particularly in China and Hong Kong, prosecutors said. The reptiles are protected by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Lin also shipped 11 other parcels filled with reptiles, including venomous snakes, prosecutors said. He faces up to five years in prison when he's sentenced Dec. 23. □

U.S. designates Baloch separatists as a terror group over role in attacks in Pakistan

By **MUNIR AHMED**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani officials on Tuesday welcomed a move by the U.S. State Department to designate a Pakistani separatist group as a foreign terrorist organization.

The designation of the Balochistan Liberation Army and its fighting wing, the Majeed Brigade, blamed for deadly attacks in Balochistan province, coincides with a visit to the U.S. by Pakistan's army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir.

The announcement comes less than two weeks after Washington and Islamabad reached a trade agreement expected to allow U.S. firms to help develop Pakistan's largely untapped oil reserves in resource-rich Balochistan and lower trade tariffs for Islamabad.

Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomed the designation Tuesday, noting that the BLA was banned at home in 2024.

"Pakistan remains a steadfast bulwark against terrorism. Our sacrifices have secured critical counterter-



In this photo released by the Inter Services Public Relations, newly elevated Field Marshal General Asim Munir prays after laying wreath on the Martyrs monument during a special guard of honor ceremony at General Headquarters, in Rawalpindi, Pakistan., May 21, 2025.

Associated Press

rorism successes, not only for the country, but for regional stability and global security," it said in a statement.

The BLA was first designated as a terrorist group in 2019 by the U.S. Treasury Department after several attacks. The State Department said its new designation was

added because the group has since claimed responsibility for additional attacks. The new designation means the BLA is now considered a foreign terrorist organization and its supporters will face tougher scrutiny in the U.S. and Europe, analysts said.

The BLA claimed responsi-

bility for suicide bombings near the airport in Karachi and in the port city of Gwadar in Balochistan in 2024, the U.S. statement said.

It added that the group said it carried out the March hijacking of the Jaffar Express train traveling from Quetta to Peshawar, killing 31 civilians and security personnel

and holding more than 300 passengers hostage.

"Today's action taken by the Department of State demonstrates the Trump administration's commitment to countering terrorism," the statement said.

Also on Tuesday, Pakistan and the United States held the latest round of their counterterrorism dialogue in Islamabad, "reaffirming their shared commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said.

It said the talks were co-chaired by Nabeel Munir, Pakistan's special secretary for the United Nations, and Gregory D. LoGerfo, the U.S. State Department's acting coordinator for counterterrorism. The ministry said both sides stressed the need for effective strategies against threats from the BLA, Islamic State group and the Pakistani Taliban.

Syed Muhammad Ali, an Islamabad-based security analyst, said the designation of the BLA and its Majeed Brigade fighting wing follows Munir's visits to the U.S. □

U.S. announces sanctions against armed group and companies profiting from conflict minerals in Congo

By **MARK BANCHEREAU,**
JEAN-YVES KAMALE and
JUSTIN KABUMBA

Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) — The U.S. government on Tuesday sanctioned an armed group accused of illicit trading in minerals in eastern Congo as Washington tries to spearhead peace efforts there while pushing for U.S. access to the region's minerals.

A senior U.S. government official said the state and treasury departments are sanctioning the CODECO armed group, which controlled the key coltan mining site of Rubaya from 2022 to early 2024.

"During this period, CODECO generated revenue by overseeing mining op-

erations, collecting illegal fees and taxes for miners and engaging in mineral smuggling. It also imposed forced labor and executed civilians in mining areas under its control," the official said.

The U.S. is also sanctioning the Congolese mining company CDMC, saying it sold minerals that were sourced and smuggled from mines near Rubaya, and two Hong Kong exporters, East Rise and Star Dragon, that purchased minerals from the mining area.

The State Department said it is freezing the assets of the armed group and companies in the U.S. or under U.S. control and banning all transactions

with them.

Rubaya is currently under control of the M23 rebel group, which is already targeted by U.S. sanctions. The mining site lies in the heart of eastern Congo, a mineral-rich part of the Central African nation, which for decades has been ripped apart by violence from government forces and different armed groups, including the Rwanda-backed M23, whose recent resurgence has escalated the conflict, worsening an already acute humanitarian crisis.

In June, Congo and Rwanda signed a peace deal facilitated by the U.S. to help end the conflict while helping the U.S. government and American com-

panies gain access to critical minerals in the region. Congo and the M23 rebels have also agreed to sign a permanent peace deal by Aug. 18 but renewed fighting has threatened this ef-

fort.

On Tuesday, Congo and M23 both accused each other of violating the agreement by attacking the others forces. □



Miners work at the D4 Gakombe coltan mining quarry in Rubaya, Democratic Republic of Congo, on Friday, May 9, 2025.

Associated Press

Philippines blames China for ship collision in disputed South China Sea

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— The Philippine military on Tuesday blamed China for the collision of two Chinese navy and coast guard ships while trying to drive the Philippine coast guard and fishermen from a disputed shoal in the South China Sea. It said it would assess how to respond to Beijing's use of military force against civilians.

Philippine authorities said Monday's accidental collision resulted in visibly heavy damages to the Chinese coast guard and navy ships and possible injuries.

The confrontation near the Scarborough Shoal was the latest flare-up of the long-simmering territorial stand-off in the contested waters, a long-feared flashpoint in Asia.

The United States, a longtime treaty ally of the Philippines, on Tuesday condemned the "latest reckless action by China directed against a Philippine vessel."

The Chinese coast guard on Monday blamed Philippine vessels for the confrontation and said it was forced to expel the vessels after they in-



In this photo, taken from video and provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a damaged Chinese Coast Guard ship, right, is seen beside a Chinese Navy vessel, left, after they accidentally collided while chasing a Philippine fisheries boat near Scarborough Shoal in the disputed South China Sea on Monday Aug. 11, 2025.

truded into "China's inherent territory," despite warnings. It did not mention the collision or possible casualties. Video footage made public by the Philippine coast guard shows a Chinese navy ship with the bow number 164 slamming into the bow of a Chinese coast guard ship while both try to block and force a Philippine patrol ship, the BRP Suluan, away from Scarborough. The Chinese

coast guard ship can be seen using its water cannon. The video shows the heavily shattered bow of the Chinese coast guard ship, where at least two Chinese personnel were seen standing shortly before the crash. The Chinese navy ship sustained deep dents and what appeared to be linear cuts on its hull.

BRP Suluan offered medical help by two-way radio to the

Chinese coast guard, fearing the collision may have caused injuries to its personnel, but the Philippine coast guard said it received no response.

Gan Yu, a spokesperson for the Chinese coast guard in Beijing, said Monday that the Philippine vessels intruded into Chinese territorial waters off the shoal, prompting its forces to take "necessary measures, including moni-

toring, forcing, intercepting and controlling the Philippine vessels to expel them." The chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr., told reporters in Manila that the video footage clearly showed that the Chinese navy ship maneuvered to ram the BRP Suluan, which had to move to avoid being hit.

As a result, the Chinese navy ship instead hit the Chinese coast guard ship, which was also closely chasing the Philippine vessel, Brawner said. "China's aggressive actions were very clear in this incident," Brawner said. "They were at fault because of their aggressive maneuvers.

We were there to protect Filipino fishermen in the Scarborough Shoal.

That was our only objective because that's our traditional fishing ground."

Asked if China's deployment of military force against civilians was a change in tactic, Brawner said it was. He said the Philippine military would assess how to respond in consultation with the coast guard and would seek guidance from President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. □

Associated Press

Pakistan launches a new security operation against militants near Afghan border

By ANWARULLAH KHAN

Associated Press

KHAR, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistani security forces have launched a "targeted operation" against militants in a restive northwestern district bordering Afghanistan, displacing tens of thousands of residents who fled to safer areas, officials said Tuesday.

There was no formal announcement of the launch of the offensive in Bajaur, a former stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, but a government administrator, Saeed Ullah, said it was not a large-scale operation and only insurgent hideouts were being hit to avoid civilian casualties.

Another government administrator, Shahhid Ali, said the number of displaced

people had rapidly increased to nearly 100,000. On Tuesday, the provincial government in the northwest said it will give 50,000 rupees (\$175) in compen-

sation to each displaced family in Bajaur, where volunteers from the Al-Khidmat Foundation, a charity, were also seen distributing food among displaced families.



Internally Displaced People, who fled from their homes due to security forces launched a targeted operation against militants, walk at a camp set up in a sports complex in Khar, the main town of Bajaur, a northwestern Pakistani district bordering Afghanistan, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

Among those displaced is Gul Wali, 50, who said it was the second time that he had been forced to flee his home, as he sat in a government shelter, "although we have been told we will return to our village soon." Wali said most homes in his village in the Mamund district were destroyed during the previous military offensive in 2009. "We do not know what will happen to our homes this time," he said.

Residents reported that security forces, backed by helicopters, struck militant hideouts in the mountainous areas along the Afghan border. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police chief Zulfiqar Haameed said the operation was ongoing.

However, no information was available about any

casualties among troops or insurgents.

The Pakistani Taliban, known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan or TTP, are a separate group but a close ally of the Afghan Taliban, who seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, as U.S. and NATO troops were in the final stages of their pullout from the country after 20 years of war.

Many TTP leaders and fighters have found sanctuary in Afghanistan and have been living there openly since the Taliban takeover, and some have crossed the border back into Bajaur and carried out attacks.

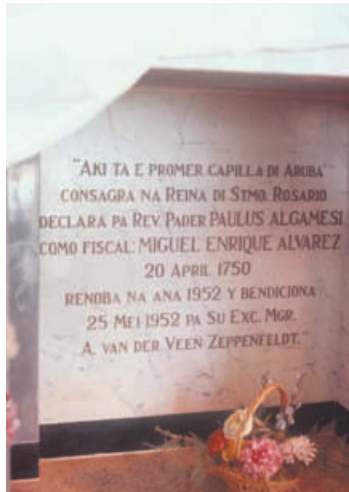
Pakistan also carried out a major operation in Bajaur against Pakistani and foreign militants in 2009, displacing hundreds of thousands of people. □

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algamesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, *The History of Alto Vista* by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known



when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteenth century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed

that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses



remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals

call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

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)



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 thrown 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 Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.



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Discover Sero Colorado, the stunning Eastern Cape of Aruba as we hike along beautiful bay beaches including Bachelors Beach and enjoy incredible views of the Sawah Banks along the coast.

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 Meeting point: Parking lot Baby Beach

Bring water, comfortable walking shoes, a small flashlight and your passion for nature. Register now as spots are limited: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/LX5Zdi48bX>

Let's connect with Aruba's wild beauty together, mindfully, and respectfully.□



Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make “funchi hasa”

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is “funchi hasa” (fried polenta sticks). A super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

So what is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for

a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour*
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.



When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN.

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.□





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Rum, Respect, and the Rhythm of the Sea: Reverend Bosch on Aruba

Episode CCCXVI - 316

The narrative of Etnia Nativa—which means ‘Native Ethnicity’—emphasizes the importance of reclaiming Aruba’s cultural identity and heritage. Through this platform, it offers an authentic indigenous perspective, educates the public, and inspires readers to embrace the mindset of an ‘island caretaker.’

In this new episode, we share anecdotes from island life in 1825, seen through the eyes of Reverend Gerardus Balthazar Bosch, the first regular minister from Curaçao to visit Aruba. He is the author of *Journey through the West Indies and through Part of South and North America*, a book filled with vivid and charming accounts of our island and the events he personally experienced.

In his book, Reverend Bosch emphasizes that the Arubans were simple, helpful, and remarkably honest. According to him, every business commitment—even those agreed upon only verbally—was fulfilled with utmost loyalty. Although occasional quarrels occurred, these were to be expected, given the two main sources of friction on the island: the small size of the elite social circle and the dense web of family ties. Due to frequent intermarriage, Bosch notes, most prominent residents were related—often as cousins or brothers-in-law.

He describes the lifestyle as ‘most monotonous,’ a monotony heightened by the island’s uniform climate, broken only by the occasional downpour. Bosch also observes that, with few exceptions, reading was not a common pastime. He attributes this to a misinterpretation of an old maxim, passed down by ancestors

who believed that reading could drive a man mad.

In his writings, he notes that a ship arriving from the opposite coast would occasionally break the monotony of island life, prompting an exchange of questions and news. However, a ship from Curaçao brought far greater excitement—not only offering oral accounts but also delivering letters and the much-anticipated Curaçao newspaper.

If any of the island’s inhabitants had visited Curaçao, their return was often marked by vivid storytelling. They spoke of the grand buildings, the many carriages, the splendor of the clothing and furnishings. They never failed to mention paying their respects to the governor—and especially the warm reception from the secretary.

Surely, such an enviable experience would have inspired more frequent travel to Curaçao—were it not for the treacherous journey. Battling wind and current in small boats made many islanders wary of the sea.

From time immemorial, the commandant had served as the island’s oracle, wielding absolute power and authority. In addition to the two soldiers stationed at the fort, he often relied on the so-called ‘captain of the Indi-

ans’—a white native who carried out his orders. The commandant resolved all disputes, even those arising within families.

Reverend Bosch wrote that during his early visits to Aruba, he attended several sessions of the local tribunal. The proceedings amused him so much that he reportedly laughed out loud. The cases brought before the court, he observed, reflected the simplicity of the island’s lower classes.

In one instance, a woman filed a complaint with the commandant against her neighbors, who had thrown stones at her cabin. To support her claim, she brought what she called the ‘corruption’—a basket overflowing with large stones she had collected from around the bay.

On another occasion, Bosch recalled hearing the commandant reprimand a man by quoting the commandment that a son must honor his father and mother. At first, Bosch assumed the man being scolded was the father, since he appeared to be over fifty. But to his surprise, another man—seventy years old, yet more agile and vigorous—was brought in. This man was, in fact, the father. He had reported his fifty-two- or fifty-three-year-old son, a ship’s captain, for insulting him.

After hearing both the plaintiff and the accused, the commandant dismissed them with a reprimand. It turned out the father was not entirely innocent: during the dispute, he had been drunk—a condition that, according to Bosch, was not unusual, as the old man’s craving for rum seemed only to grow with age.

If you’ve enjoyed learning a bit about our ancestral stories and want to explore the true identity of the Aruban people, we invite you to visit Etnia Nativa—the only “living museum” of its kind in the Caribbean, celebrating the island’s rich mestizaje (cultural blending). □

Photo from 1885 – Etnia Nativa Library Collection

Fort Zoutman (built in 1796) and the Willem III Tower (constructed in 1897). Where houses now stand, a barren, rocky plain stretched out. The old house seen in the image still stands today.



Founded in 1994, Etnia Nativa has been a cultural pioneer, helping to establish key institutions such as Aruba’s National Park, the Archaeological Museum, various artisan foundations, and other community-driven initiatives. Connect with the spirit and soul of Aruba’s ancient heritage through a one-of-a-kind experience. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianativa03@gmail.com



For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the casca-

bel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cucularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the Shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color. The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and

Unique fauna of Aruba

lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Conew (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Conew, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Conew can live in

a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Conew has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Conew is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Conew is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Conew can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. Sadly, the Boas are back on the rise again with the truly wet rainy seasons we have recently experienced. This could cause a new decline in the Conew population that was just starting to recover.

These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. For more information, visit <https://www.arubanationalpark.org/main/flora-fauna/> □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Like Loki

1 Grassy 41 Some
expanse coasters

6 Repair bill 42 Miser's
line problem

11 Directional
sign

12 Wed in 1 African
haste expanse

13 Alpine 2 Gains by 9 First 26 Recorded
heroine force game 27 Stringent

14 Of yore 3 Comes 10 Tears 28 Not

15 Concur 4 Went 16 Canadian nervous

17 Finish 5 Approach- 20 Taking in 29 Cautioned
ing zero 30 Ship staffs

18 Numbered 6 Summer 24 Hamm of 36 Young
rd. sign soccer fellow

19 Rx 7 Totality 25 Wolf's 37 Snaky
amounts store cousin shape

22 Cart puller 8 Grocery

23 Un- ambitious goal

24 Short skirts

25 Take part

27 Shop tool

30 Ran

31 Greek vowel

32 Play division

33 Drool

35 Use the rink

38 Clarifying words

39 Spanish snacks

DOWN

1 African
expanse

2 Gains by
force

3 Comes
up

4 Went
cycling

5 Approach-
ing zero

6 Summer
sign

7 Totality

8 Grocery
store

9 First
game

10 Tears

11 Directional
sign

12 Wed in
haste

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heroine

14 Of yore

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16 Canadian
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17 Finish
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snaky

20 Taking in
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21 Crunch
targets

22 Cart puller
fellow

23 Un-ambitious
goal

24 Hamm of
young

25 Wolf's
cousin

26 Recorded
stringent

27 Stringent
not

28 Not

29 Cautioned

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

26 Recorded
27 Stringent
28 Not
29 Cautioned
30 Ship staffs
31 Snaky
32 Play
33 Drool
34 Clarifying
35 Use the
36 Young
37 Snaky
38 Clarifying
39 Spanish
40 Like Loki
41 Some
42 Miser's

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
15					16			17	
18				19		20	21		
22				23					
			24						
	25	26					27	28	29
30								31	
32					33		34		
35			36	37		38			
39						40			
41						42			

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.

8-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

XEV GLY OEVQ AICDIH MGI

GQILA EY QIPVCLQ MGI

GQILA. MD'Z CMTI L ZLVGI!

— GJQMZ OQLDD

Cryptoquote: TEACHERS OPEN THE DOOR, BUT YOU MUST ENTER BY YOURSELF. — CHINESE PROVERB

Cruise ship Schedule: Aug 14 - 31 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	14	ENCHANTED PRINCESS CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00 08.00	18.00 17.00	C I	1 1
SUN	17	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	19	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	20	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	24	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
WED	27	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
SUN	31	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	04.00	E	-

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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



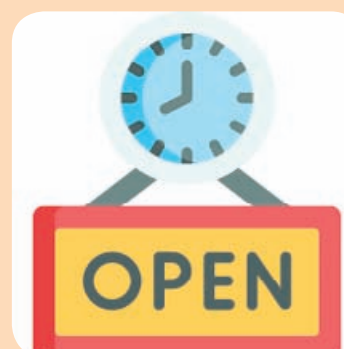
Drinking water

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



Safety

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



Supermarket hours

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

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/13

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

8/12



A canoe, bottom right, glides on Mendenhall Lake, in front of the Mendenhall Glacier, on Sunday, May 18, 2025, in Juneau, Alaska.

Associated Press

Some Juneau residents urged to evacuate as Alaska's Mendenhall Glacier releases floodwater

By CEDAR ATTANASIO
Associated Press

Officials on Tuesday urged residents in some parts of Juneau to evacuate ahead of what could be a record surge of floodwater after a huge upstream basin of rainwater and snowmelt dammed by Alaska's Mendenhall Glacier started to release.

Officials in recent days have been warning people in the flood zone to be ready to evacuate. On Tuesday morning they confirmed water had started escaping the ice dam and flowing downstream, with flooding expected late Tuesday and on Wednesday. They advised people in the city's flood zone to leave while saying there was no need to rush. □

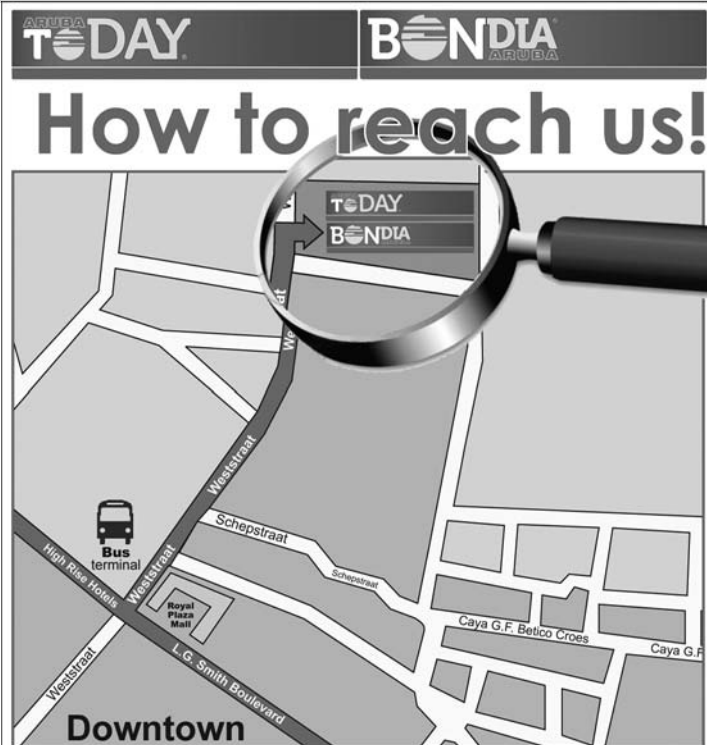
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2 Bed WK 7 Oceanside: \$62,000
Ask about weeks 51, 52 & 14

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Oceanside: \$15,500
2 Bed Ocean View: \$14,500
2 Bed Garden View: \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean View: \$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM SEASON

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1 Bed Ocean View: \$17,500

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Imsan 24 hours
Tel.524 8833

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San Nicolas:
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
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EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

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Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Delivery drones may soon take off in the U.S.. Here's why

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

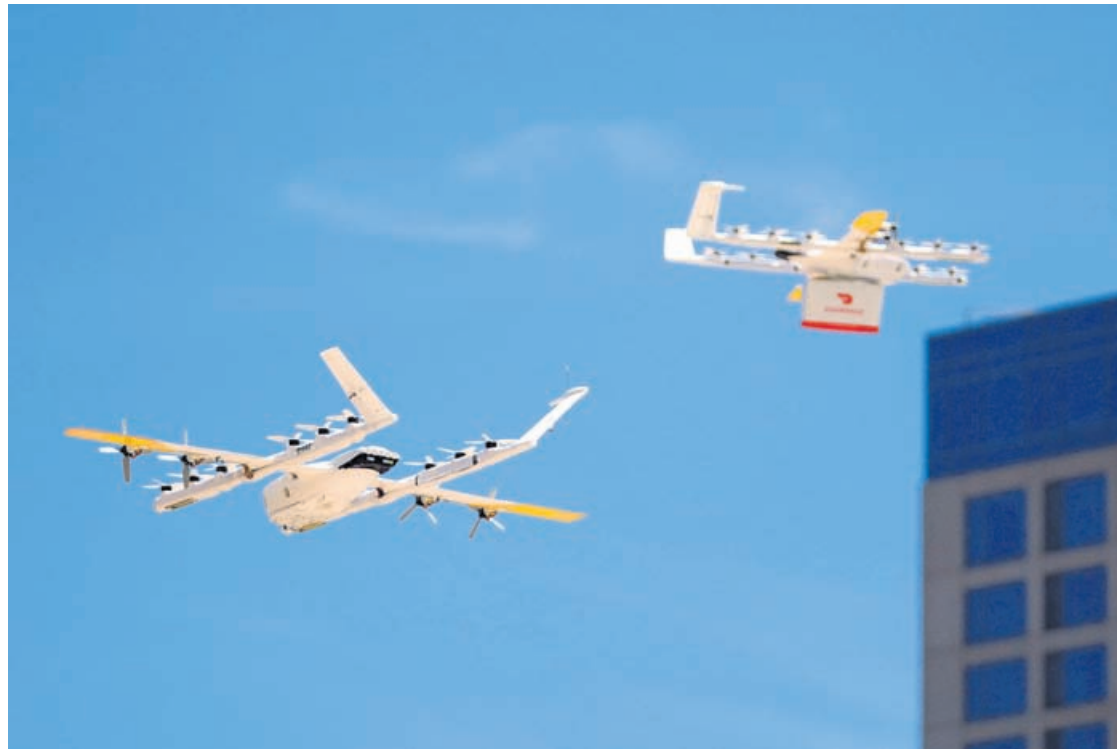
Delivery drones are so fast they can zip a pint of ice cream to a customer's driveway before it melts. Yet the long-promised technology has been slow to take off in the United States. More than six years after the Federal Aviation Administration approved commercial home deliveries with drones, the service mostly has been confined to a few suburbs and rural areas.

That could soon change. The FAA proposed a new rule last week that would make it easier for companies to fly drones outside of an operator's line of sight and therefore over longer distances. A handful of companies do that now, but they had to obtain waivers and certification as an air carrier to deliver packages.

While the rule is intended to streamline the process, authorized retailers and drone companies that have tested fulfilling orders from the sky say they plan to make drone-based deliveries available to millions more U.S. households.

Walmart's multistate expansion

Walmart and Wing, a drone company owned by Google parent Alphabet, currently provide deliveries from 18 Walmart stores in the Dallas area. By next summer, they expect to expand to 100 Walmart stores in Atlanta; Charlotte, North Carolina; Houston; and Orlando and Tampa, Florida. After launching its Prime Air delivery service in College Station, Texas, in late 2022, Amazon received FAA permission last year to operate autonomous drones that fly beyond a pilot's line of sight. The e-commerce company has since expanded its drone delivery program to suburban Phoenix and has plans to offer the service in Dallas, San Antonio, Texas, and Kansas City. The concept of drone delivery has been around for well over a decade. Drone maker Zipline, which works with Walmart in Arkansas and the Dallas-Fort Worth



A drone, left, lands at a helipad as another lifts off with a DoorDash order, Thursday, July 31, 2025, in Frisco, Texas.

area, began making deliveries to hospitals in Rwanda in 2016. Israel-based Flytrex, one of the drone companies DoorDash works with to carry out orders, launched drone delivery to households in Iceland in 2017.

But Wing CEO Adam Woodworth said drone delivery has been in "treading water mode" in the U.S. for years, with service providers afraid to scale up because the regulatory framework wasn't in place.

"You want to be at the right moment where there's an overlap between the customer demand, the partner demand, the technical readiness and the regulatory readiness," Woodworth said. "I think that we're reaching that planetary alignment right now."

Flying ice cream and eggs

DoorDash, which works with both Wing and Flytrex, tested drone drop-offs in rural Virginia and greater Dallas before announcing an expansion into Charlotte. Getting takeout food this way may sound futuristic, but it's starting to feel normal in suburban Brisbane, Australia, where DoorDash has employed delivery drones for several years, said Harrison Shih, who leads the company's drone program.

"It comes so fast and it's something flying into your neighborhood, but it really

does seem like part of everyday life," Shih said.

Even though delivery drones are still considered novel, the cargo they carry can be pretty mundane. Walmart said the top items from the more than 150,000 drone deliveries the nation's largest retailer has completed since 2021 include ice cream, eggs and Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

Unlike traditional delivery, where one driver may have a truck full of packages, drones generally deliver one small order at a time. Wing's drones can carry packages weighing up to 2.5 pounds. They can travel up to 12 miles round trip. One pilot can oversee up to 32 drones.

Zipline has a drone that can carry up to 4 pounds and fly 120 miles round trip. Some drones, like Amazon's, can carry heavier packages.

Once an order is placed, it's packaged for flight and attached to a drone at a launch site. The drone automatically finds a route that avoids obstacles. A pilot observes as the aircraft flies to its destinations and lowers its cargo to the ground with retractable cords.

Risks and rewards of commercial drones

Shakiba Enayati, an assistant professor of supply chain and analytics at the

University of Missouri, St. Louis, researches ways that drones could speed the delivery of critical health supplies like donated organs and blood samples. The unmanned aircraft offer some advantages as a transport method, such as reduced emissions and improved access to goods for rural residents, Enayati said. But she also sees plenty of obstacles. Right now, it costs around \$13.50 per delivery to carry a package by drone versus \$2 for a traditional vehicle, Enayati said. Drones need well-trained employees to oversee them and can have a hard time in certain weather.

Drones also can have mid-air collisions or tumble from the sky. But people have accepted the risk of road accidents because they know the advantages of driving, Enayati said. She thinks the same thing could happen with drones, especially as improved technology reduces the chance for errors.

Woodworth added that U.S. airspace is tightly controlled, and companies need to demonstrate to the FAA that their drones are safe and reliable before they are cleared to fly. Even under the proposed new rules, the FAA would set detailed requirements for drone operators.

"That's why it takes so long to build a business in the space. But I think it leads to everybody fundamentally building higher quality things," Woodworth said.

Others worry that drones may potentially replace human delivery drivers. Shih thinks that's unlikely. One of DoorDash's most popular items is 24-packs of water, Shih said, which aren't realistic for existing drones to ferry.

"I believe that drone delivery can be fairly ubiquitous and can cover a lot of things. We just don't think it's probable today that it'll carry a 40-pound bag of dog food to you," Shih said.

The view from the ground in Texas

DoorDash said that in the areas where it offers drone deliveries, orders requiring the services of human delivery drivers also increase. That's been the experience of John Kim, the owner of PurePoke restaurant in Frisco, Texas. Kim signed on to offer drone deliveries through DoorDash last year. He doesn't know what percentage of his DoorDash customers are choosing the service instead of regular delivery, but his overall DoorDash orders are up 15% this year.

Kim said he's heard no complaints from drone delivery customers.

"It's very stable, maybe even better than some of the drivers that toss it in the back with all the other orders," Kim said.

For some, drones can simply be a nuisance. When the FAA asked for public comments on Amazon's request to expand deliveries in College Station, numerous residents expressed concern that drones with cameras violated their privacy.

Amazon says its drones use cameras and sensors to navigate and avoid obstacles but may record overhead videos of people while completing a delivery.

Other residents complained about noise. "It sounds like a giant nagging mosquito," one respondent wrote. □

Golf is not like team sports. It was never meant to have a finish line to the season

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

OWINGS MILLS, Md. (AP)

Instead of outrage and grave concern that Rory McIlroy chose to sit out the first FedEx Cup playoff event without dropping a single spot in the rankings let it be a reminder that golf is not like other sports.

These are not the “play-offs.” That’s for team sports. This is golf, which has never had a defining finish to its year and never will.

The FedEx Cup attempted to create a finish line until the tour tried to promote it as so much more. What it did was create an incentive for the best players to compete after the majors were over. That part has worked beautifully, and it still does, with or without McIlroy.

Perhaps one reason McIlroy’s absence got so much attention was no one had skipped a postseason event (barring injury) since Webb Simpson five years ago. Simpson pulled out of the BMW Championship at No. 3 in the FedEx Cup, saying he wanted to be fresh for the FedEx Cup finale at East Lake.

McIlroy had said in June he has earned the right to do whatever he wants, and that includes skipping a \$20 million tournament (for the third time this year), and sitting out the first round of what the PGA Tour calls its “playoffs.” He remains at No. 2.

But he certainly wasn’t the



Justin Rose, of England, holds the trophy after winning the St. Jude Championship golf tournament Sunday, Aug. 10, 2025, in Memphis, Tenn.

first to do that. Tiger Woods was a no-show for the first playoff event in 2007, and he still went on to win the FedEx Cup. Phil Mickelson skipped the BMW Championship that year when it was the third of four postseason events.

Sergio Garcia? He missed seven postseason events when he was eligible (and presumably healthy), one year taking time off in Switzerland and Spain because he wanted a break.

McIlroy finished up nine holes of practice at Caves Valley on Monday afternoon as some of the players who advanced to the second stage were still on their way to the BMW Championship after a

steamy week in Memphis, Tennessee. Given the heat, he’s probably fresher than most.

He first raised the question last year when he was No. 3 in the FedEx Cup, finished next-to-last in Memphis and wondered what he was doing there. He only dropped to No. 5. It changed nothing. So it was no surprise McIlroy sat this one out.

Scottie Scheffler could have easily done the same. The TPC Southwind is where he last missed a cut (in 2022, when the postseason opener had 125-man field and a 36-hole cut). The FedEx St. Jude Classic also gave him a sponsor exemption when he was 17, and he has never missed it

as a PGA Tour member. His choice.

But playoffs?

Jim Mora and his infamous “Playoffs?” interview comes to mind this time of the year.

The FedEx Cup might be a lot easier to understand and appreciate if the PGA Tour had just stuck to the right language when this season-ending bonanza first was unveiled.

It was at East Lake in 2006 during the Tour Championship remember, that was the year Woods and Mickelson both decided to skip the PGA Tour’s finale when former Commissioner Tim Finchem laid out the details of the FedEx Cup.

He said golf was the only

major sport where the regular season was more compelling than the finish (he apparently didn’t think much of tennis). And so Finchem introduced a concept referred to as a championship series of four tournaments.

He used that phrase “championship series” 20 times in a lengthy news conference. The eight times he mentioned “play-offs” was comparison with other sports, and how the championship series would be “our version of the play-off system.”

And then some marketing genius leaned on “play-offs,” the word was painted onto a grassy hill at Westchester Country Club, the term stuck and it still doesn’t make sense.

That especially was the case when it began with 144 players, leading Jim Furyk to do the math.

“In football, there’s 32 teams in the NFL and if I’m correct, 12 teams go to the playoffs,” he said in 2007. “This year, 125 guys also keep their tour card and 144 people are going to the Playoffs. So that’s roughly 110% of the league.”

Golf is not like other sports. The concept is fine. The PGA Tour’s version of the playoffs is working because it provides three weeks of its best players competing for a trophy that is slowly gaining in stature. It’s not one of the four majors. It’s probably still a notch below The Players Championship. □

Associated Press

Mondo Duplantis raises his pole vault world record to 6.29 meters in Budapest

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Mondo Duplantis raised his pole vault world record to 6.29 meters at the Istvan Gyulai Memorial meet in Budapest on Tuesday.

The Olympic and world champion added a centimeter at his second attempt to the previous record mark which he set in June at a Diamond League meet in front of home fans in Stockholm.

It was the 13th pole vault world record for the 25-year-old Swede and the third this year.

The Louisiana-born Duplantis competes

for his mother’s native Sweden.

It was another statement win in Budapest for Duplantis, who retained his world title in the Hungarian capital in 2023 by clearing 6.10.

“I love the crowd, I want to come back,” he said. “Thank you.”

At the World Athletics Continental Tour Gold meeting on Tuesday, Duplantis cleared 6.11 at his second attempt and then successfully targeted the world record also with his second try. □



Armand Duplantis, of Sweden, competes in the final of the men’s pole vault at the 15th Gyulai Istvan Memorial Track and Field Hungarian Grand Prix in the National Athletics Center in Budapest, Hungary, Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025.

Associated Press

From NFL stars to HBCU head coaches: Vick and Jackson on same path as they briefly reunite in Philly

By **DAN GELSTON**
AP Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Michael Vick tossed the ball to DeSean Jackson at much shorter distances than, say, the time the former Eagles connected on an 88-yard touchdown pass in 2010.

Wearing a green polo shirt and cap, Vick still had some zip on the left arm. Jackson laughed as he made a few short runs before he had to change out of a white T-shirt and into a sports coat.

The kind of outfit needed at a news conference for a head coach.

Vick and Jackson haven't played for the Eagles in



Former Philadelphia Eagles stars Michael Vick, right, and DeSean Jackson greet each other at the Eagles' NFL football training camp Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2025, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

latest former NFL stars who had not coached before taking the helm at an HBCU program, a club that includes Deion Sanders and Eddie George.

Norfolk State has made only one playoff appearance since moving to FCS in 1997. The last five Spartan head coaches have had losing records, including Dawson Odoms, who was fired in November after going 15-30 in four seasons.

Jackson replaced Lee Hull after the Hornets went 1-11 last season.

Sanders eventually jumped from an HBCU program to a Big 12 team in Colorado. He led Colorado to a 9-4 record last season and earned a spot in the Alamo Bowl.

"Without Deion's success, our success would never be presented to us," Jackson said. "When I had an opportunity to be in this role, in this seat, I reached out to him. I never thought I would be a coach. I'm just going to be real. All those years I played, I seen how much time the coaches spent in the building. After practice, meetings."

Vick actually approached Jackson about joining his coaching staff at Norfolk State. Jackson considered the opportunity but jumped at his own chance to run a program.

"The kids and the youth are something that we really pour into," Jackson said. "To have all the information and the knowledge we have, it would be selfish for us not to give back to these young men that are trying to get somewhere in life." Vick said he always wanted to coach and spent most of the last few years coaching his daughter's flag football team. Vick, who earned a second chance in Philadelphia after his NFL career with Atlanta was derailed by his conviction in 2007 for his involvement in a dog-fighting ring, had run football camps since he was a rookie with the Falcons.

more than a decade but the two franchise greats felt every bit at home Tuesday at their old stomping ground at the team's complex. The duo have now graduated into becoming rookie head coaches at HBCU schools; Vick at Norfolk State and Jackson at Delaware State out of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference. They are the kind of football programs and a conference that would never have such a major platform in the regular season as the one they will boast when Vick and Jackson go head-to-head (well, the teams will) on Oct. 30 at Lincoln Financial Field the home of the Super Bowl champs.

"The Linc gets crazy already," Jackson said. "Now you've got two legends. It's going to be hype." Vick, who played quarterback, and Jackson, who was a receiver, each hope to add one more signature moment as coaches in Philadelphia after a career full of them during successful tenures with the Eagles (as well as other stops in the NFL). "There are a lot of things we could be doing," Vick said. "But we chose to go down this route."

Neither Vick nor Jackson have coaching experience but they are just the

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