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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK
PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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Trump slams pardoned Democratic congressman as 'disloyal' for not switching parties

By BILL BARROW
Associated Press

Donald Trump is angry that Rep. Henry Cuellar is running again as a Democrat rather than switch parties after the president pardoned the Texas congressman and his wife in a federal bribery and conspiracy case.

Trump blasted Cuellar for "Such a lack of LOYALTY," suggesting the Republican president might have expected the clemency to bolster the GOP's narrow House majority heading into the 2026 midterm elections. Cuellar, in a television interview Sunday after Trump's social media post, said he was a conservative Democrat willing to work with the administration "to see where we can find common ground." The congressman said he had prayed for the president and the presidency at church that morning "because if the president succeeds, the country succeeds."



Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, speaks during a hearing of the Homeland Security Subcommittee of the House Committee on Appropriations on Capitol Hill, April 10, 2024, in Washington.
Associated Press

Citing a fellow Texas politician, the late President Lyndon Johnson, Cuellar said he was an American, Texan and Democrat, in that order.

"I think anybody that puts party before their country is doing a disservice to their country," he told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures."

Trump noted on his Truth Social platform that the Democratic President Joe Biden's administration had brought the charges against Cuellar and that the congressman, by running once more as a Democrat, was continuing to work with "the same RADICAL LEFT" that wanted him and his wife in prison — "And probably still do!"

"Such a lack of LOYALTY, something that Texas Voters, and Henry's daughters, will not like. Oh' well, next time, no more Mr. Nice guy!" Trump said. Cuellar's two daughters, Christina and Catherine, had sent Trump a letter in November asking that he pardon their parents.

Trump explained his pardon he announced Wednesday as a matter of stopping a "weaponized" prosecution. Cuellar was an outspoken critic of Biden's immigration policy, a position that Trump saw as a key alignment with the lawmaker.

Cuellar said he has good relationships within his party. "I think the general Democrat Caucus and I, we get along. But they know that I'm an independent voice," he said.

A party switch would have been an unexpected bonus for Republicans after the GOP-run Legislature redrew the state's congressional districts this year at Trump's behest. The Texas maneuver started a mid-decade gerrymandering scramble playing out across multiple states. Trump is trying to defend Republicans' House majority and avoid a repeat of his first term, when Democrats dominated the House midterms and used a new majority to stymie the administration, launch investigations and twice impeach Trump.❑



Government waives part of a Biden-era fine against Southwest Airlines

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

The U.S. Department of Transportation is waiving part of a fine assessed against Southwest Airlines after the company canceled thousands of flights during a winter storm in 2022.

Under a 2023 settlement reached by the Biden administration, Southwest agreed to a $140 million civil penalty. The government said at the time that the penalty was the largest it had ever imposed on an airline for violating consumer protection laws.

Most of the money went toward compensation for travelers. But Southwest agreed to pay $35 million to the U.S. Treasury. Southwest made a $12 million payment in 2024 and a second $12 million payment earlier this year. But the Transportation Department issued an order Friday waiving the final $11 million payment, which was due Jan. 31, 2026.

The department said Southwest should get credit for significantly improving its on-time performance and investing in network operations.

"DOT believes that this approach is in the public interest as it incentivizes airlines to invest in improving their operations and resiliency, which benefits consumers directly," the department said in a statement. "This credit structure allows for the benefits of the airline's investment to be realized by the public, rather than resulting in a government monetary penalty."

The fine stemmed from a winter storm in December 2022 that paralyzed Southwest's operations in Denver and Chicago and then snowballed when a crew-rescheduling system couldn't keep up with the chaos. Ultimately the airline canceled 17,000 flights and stranded more than 2 million travelers. ❑



Key GOP senator says he has no objection to releasing video of strike that killed two survivors

By BILL BARROW
Associated Press

A video of a U.S. military strike on an alleged drug boat in the Caribbean that killed two survivors of the initial attack shows "nothing remarkable," the Republican who leads the Senate Intelligence Committee said Sunday, and he would not oppose its public release if the Pentagon were to declassify it.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton, who backs President Donald Trump's campaign against suspected drug smugglers, is partially aligning himself with Trump and top Democrats in favor of releasing the video of the Sept. 2 attack. It was the first in what has become a monthslong series of American strikes on vessels near Venezuela that the administration says were ferrying drugs. At least 87 people have been killed in 22 known strikes.

But Cotton, among the top lawmakers on national security committees who were briefed Thursday by the Navy admiral commanding those strikes, is splitting with Democrats over whether military personnel acted lawfully in carrying out a second strike to kill the two survivors. The nine others aboard the boat also were killed.

"I think it's really important that this video be made public. It's not lost on anyone, of course, that the interpretation of the video ... broke down precisely on party lines," said Connecticut Rep. Jim Himes, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee. He said he has spent "years looking at videos of lethal action taken, often in the terrorism context, and this video was profoundly



Tom Cotton, R-Ark., speaks to reporters following a classified briefing for top congressional lawmakers overseeing national security as they investigate how Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth handled a military strike on a suspected drug smuggling boat and its crew in the Caribbean near Venezuela Sept. 2, at the Capitol in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

shaking." When Trump was asked Wednesday whether he would release the video of that follow-on strike, he told reporters, "I don't know what they have, but whatever they have we'd certainly release. No problem."

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a Fox News interview Saturday at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California that officials were reviewing the video. "Whatever we were to decide to release, we'd have to be very responsible" about it.

"That boat was still a valid target," Cotton said, arguing that releasing the video would prove that the two survivors of the initial strike remained a threat.

"It's not gruesome. I didn't find it distressing or disturbing," he said, explaining why he does not have a problem with releasing all the footage. "It looks like any number of dozens of strikes we've seen on jeeps and pickup trucks in the Middle East over the years."

He added that "there's nothing remarkable on that video, in my opinion."

The classified sessions on Capitol Hill came after The Washington Post reported that Adm. Frank "Mitch" Bradley had ordered a follow-on attack that killed those survivors, to comply with Hegseth's demands. Bradley told lawmakers there was no "kill them all" order from Hegseth, but a video of the entire series of attacks left some lawmakers with serious questions. Legal experts have said killing survivors of a strike at sea could be a violation of the laws of military warfare.

Rep. Adam Smith of Washington, the top Democrat on the House Armed Services Committee, and Himes are among those who have seen the video and they disputed Cotton's characterization.

"I have no doubt that these guys were involved in the running of drugs. ... But in that instance, these guys were about to die," Himes said. Smith added: "It did not appear that these two survivors were in any position to continue the fight."

Himes said lawmakers are aware of the partisan divide.

Some legal experts have disputed that the United States is in an official armed conflict with Venezuela, raising questions about the legalities of using American military personnel for what would amount to law enforcement activities that require due process.

Other experts have said that, regardless of the terms of engagement, international law does not allow further attacks on defenseless survivors of a previous attack. Specifically, Pentagon protocols say that firing upon the shipwrecked is illegal.

There have been questions and criticism of the mission raised by lawmakers from both parties on Capitol Hill, with inquiries ongoing.

Bradley told lawmakers in a closed session that he ordered the second attack on the wreckage of a boat that was carrying cocaine because it was believed that bales of the drug were still in the hull of the boat.❑

Judge rejects Trump administration's bid to toss lawsuit challenging Guantánamo migrant detentions

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has rejected a request from the Trump administration to toss a lawsuit challenging the detention of migrants at the U.S. Navy base at Guantanamo Bay.

In a ruling Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Sparkle L. Sooknanan denied the federal government's motion to dismiss the case and has set a hearing for next week for the parties to discuss next steps in this case.

President Donald Trump in January announced his administration would use a detention center at Guantanamo to hold tens of thousands of the "worst criminal aliens," as part of his wider immigration crackdown.

Between February and June, the federal government held around 500 immigrants at Guantanamo, according to Sooknanan, as authorities used the base as a way station for immigrants with final removal orders.

American Civil Liberties Union attorney Lee Gelernt, who argued the case, said in a statement Saturday that he hopes the ruling "will put an end to the Trump administration's unlawful policy of sending immigrants to military bases in the middle of nowhere solely for the theatric value."

The ACLU and other advocacy groups have argued that transporting immigrants to Guantanamo is unlawful. The Trump administration has said it has broad authority to hold immigrants with final deportation orders at the facility.

In a statement, Tricia McLaughlin, an assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security, said, "We look forward to a higher court's vindication of our use of this facility to keep criminals off American streets."❑

National Park Service drops free admission on MLK Day, Juneteenth while adding Trump's birthday

By DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Park Service will offer free admission to U.S. residents on President Donald Trump's birthday next year — which also happens to be Flag Day — but is eliminating the benefit for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth.

The new list of free admission days for Americans is the latest example of the Trump administration downplaying America's civil rights history while also promoting the president's image, name and legacy.

Last year, the list of free days included Martin Luther King Jr Day and Juneteenth — which is June 19 — but not June 14, Trump's birthday.

The new free-admission policy takes effect Jan. 1 and was one of several changes announced by the Park Service late last month, including higher admission fees for international visitors.

The other days of free park admission in 2026 are Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Constitution Day, Veterans Day, President Theodore Roosevelt's birthday (Oct. 27) and the anniversary of the creation of the Park Service (Aug. 25).



Tourists flock to Mather Point at Grand Canyon National Park, Oct. 1, 2025, in Grand Canyon, Ariz.
Associated Press

Eliminating Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Juneteenth, which commemorates the day in 1865 when the last enslaved Americans were emancipated, removes two of the nation's most prominent civil rights holidays.

Some civil rights leaders voiced opposition to the change after news about it began spreading over the weekend.

"The raw & rank racism here stinks to high heaven," Harvard Kennedy School professor Cornell William Brooks, a former president of the NAACP, wrote on social media about the new policy.

Kristen Brengel, a spokesperson for the National Parks Conservation Association, said that while presidential administrations have tweaked the free days in the past, the elimination of Martin Luther King Jr. Day is particularly concerning. For one, the day has become a popular day of service for community groups that use the free day to perform volunteer projects at parks.

That will now be much more expensive, said Brengel, whose organization is a nonprofit that advocates for the park system.

"Not only does it recognize an American hero, it's also a day when people go into parks to clean them up," Brengel said. "Martin Luther King Jr. deserves a day of recognition … For some reason, Black history has repeatedly been targeted by this administration, and it shouldn't be."

Some Democratic lawmakers also weighed in to object to the new policy.

"The President didn't just add his own birthday to the list, he removed both of these holidays that mark Black Americans' struggle for civil rights and freedom," said Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada. "Our country deserves better."

A spokesperson for the National Park Service did not immediately respond to questions on Saturday seeking information.❑

San Diego considers $30 million settlement in police-involved shooting death of Black teen

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The San Diego city attorney's office has agreed to pay $30 million to the family of a 16-year-old youth who was fatally shot by police last January in what would be one of the largest settlements of a police-involved killing case in U.S. history.

A resolution authorizing the proposed settlement with the family of Konoa Wilson has been added to the city council's agenda for Tuesday morning.

"What happened to Konoa was a catastrophic failure of policing," family attorney Nick Rowley said in a statement e-mailed to The Associated Press on Saturday. "A 16-year-old boy was running for his life. He was not a threat and not a suspect, yet he was shot in the back by a police officer who only saw him for one second before deciding to pull the trigger."



This photo, taken from a body-worn camera video, shows the moment before a San Diego Police Officer fatally shot 16-year-old Konoa Wilson as he ran away from gunfire on Jan. 28, 2025.
Associated Press

If approved, the settlement would exceed the $27 million the city of Minneapolis agreed to pay the family of George Floyd, whose May 2020 murder by a police officer who knelt on his neck sparked a nationwide racial reckoning.

Surveillance and body-worn camera footage from Jan. 28 showed Wilson running away from someone who pulled a gun and fired at him in a downtown train station. As he exited the station, Wilson encountered San Diego Police Officer Daniel Gold.

In a lawsuit against the city and Gold, the family alleged the officer "instantly, without any warning," fired two shots at Wilson as he ran by, striking him in the upper body. The lawsuit identified Wilson as Black.

"Only after shooting DECEDENT and watching him fall to the ground did Defendant GOLD finally announce 'San Diego Police,' " said the lawsuit, which was filed in June. "Defendants committed acts of racial violence against DECEDENT, a teenager, by shooting him in his back as he ran past Defendant GOLD, in an attempt to get to a place of safety."

Wilson was pronounced dead at UC San Diego Health Medical Center less than an hour later.

An agenda item posted Friday said the settlement would be paid from the Public Liability Fund.

Lt. Chris Tivanian, a spokesman for the San Diego Police Department, told The New York Times that Gold remained on an administrative assignment pending the results of a case review by the city attorney.

"He was a rookie, and he shot before he even announced who he was," Rowley said of Gold during a Zoom call with reporters. "I don't think he's a bad man. But he did a very, very bad, reckless thing."❑

Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado march in cities worldwide

By REGINA GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

CARACAS (AP) — Supporters of Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado demonstrated Saturday in several cities worldwide to commemorate her Nobel Peace Prize win ahead of the prestigious award ceremony next week.

Thousands of people marched through Madrid, Utrecht, Buenos Aires, Lima and other cities in support of Machado, whose organization wants to use the attention gained by the award to highlight Venezuela 's democratic aspirations. The organization expected demonstrations in more than 80 cities around the world on Saturday.

The crowd in Lima carried portraits of Machado and demanded a "Free Venezuela." With the country's yellow, blue and red flag draped over their backs or emblazoned on their caps, demonstrators clutched posters that read, "The Nobel Prize is from Venezuela." Verónica Durán, a 41-year-old Venezuelan who has lived in Lima for eight years, said Machado's Nobel Peace Prize is celebrated because "it represents all Venezuelans, the fallen and the political prisoners in their fight to recover democracy."



Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado addresses supporters at a protest against President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, the day before his inauguration for a third term, Jan. 9, 2025.

Associated Press

In neighboring Colombia, a group of Venezuelans gathered in Bogotá, the capital. They donned white T-shirts and carried balloons as part of a religious ceremony in which supporters asked that the Nobel Peace Prize "be a symbol of hope" for the Venezuelan people.

Meanwhile, in Argentina's capital of Buenos Aires, some 500 people gathered on the steps of the law school at the country's largest university, improvising a torchlit march with their cell phones.

"We Venezuelans in the world have a smile today, because we celebrate the Nobel Prize of María Corina and of the entire Venezuelan diaspora and of all the brave people within Venezuela, who have sacrificed themselves...we have so many martyrs, heroes of the resistance," said Nancy Hoyer, a 60-year-old supporter.

The woman considered U.S. intervention in Venezuela "necessary."

The gatherings come at a critical point in the country's protracted crisis as the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump builds up a massive military deployment in the Caribbean, threatening repeatedly to strike Venezuelan soil. Venezuela's President Nicolás Maduro is among those who see the operation as an effort to end his hold on power, and the opposition has only added to this perception by reigniting its promise to soon govern the country.

"We are living through times where our composure, our conviction, and our organization are being tested," Machado said in a video message shared Tuesday on social media. "Times when our country needs even more dedication because now all these years of struggle, the dignity of the Venezuelan people, have been recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize."

Machado won the award Oct. 10 for her struggle to achieve a democratic transition in the South American nation, winning recognition as a woman "who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."

Machado, 58, won the opposition's primary election and intended to run against Maduro in last year's presidential election, but the government barred her from running for office. Retired diplomat Edmundo González, who had never run for office before, took her place.

The lead-up to the July 28, 2024, election saw widespread repression, including disqualifications, arrests and human rights violations. It all increased after the country's National Electoral Council, which is stacked with Maduro loyalists, declared him the winner despite credible evidence to the contrary.❑

Benin's interior minister says a coup announced earlier has been foiled

By VIRGILE AHISSOU and OPE ADETAYO
Associated Press

COTONOU, Benin (AP) — A coup that was announced in Benin has been "foiled," the interior minister said Sunday in a video on Facebook, but there was no word from the president and sporadic gunshots were heard in parts of the administrative capital, Cotonou.

"In the early morning of Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, a small group of soldiers launched a mutiny with the aim of destabilizing the state and its institutions," Alassane Seidou said. "Faced with this situation, the Beninese Armed Forces and their leadership, true to their oath, remained committed to the republic."

Local media reported the arrest of 13 soldiers who took part in the coup earlier on Sunday, citing sources close to the presidency. It remains unclear if Lt. Col. Pascal Tigri, the coup leader, has been apprehended. Gunfire was heard and soldiers were seen patrolling around some locations in Cotonou, but the city has been relatively calm since the coup attempt was announced.

Earlier on Sunday, a group of soldiers appeared on Benin 's state TV to announce the dissolution of the government in an apparent coup, the latest of many in West Africa.

The group, which called itself the Military Committee for Refoundation, announced the removal of the president and all state institutions. Tigri was appointed president of the military committee, the soldiers said. Following its independence from France in 1960, the West African nation witnessed multiple coups, especially in the decades following its independence. Since 1991, the country has been politically stable following the two-decade rule of Marxist-Leninist Mathieu Kérékou. ❑



Benin's President Patrice Talon attends a meeting with Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva at Planalto presidential palace in Brasilia, Brazil, on May 23, 2024.

Associated Press

Japan and Australia urge calm after Chinese radar locks on Japanese jets

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan and Australia urged calm on Sunday after Chinese military aircraft locked radar on Japanese fighter jets, a month after the Japanese leader's recent remarks on Taiwan that stirred tensions between Tokyo and Beijing.

Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said Japan formally protested the incident, calling it "an extremely regrettable" act and "a dangerous" one that "exceeded the scope necessary for safe aircraft operations."

"We have lodged a strong protest with the Chinese side and demanded strict preventive measures," Koizumi said.

Japan's Defense Ministry said China's military aircraft J-15 took off from the Chinese carrier Liaoning near the southern island of Okinawa on Saturday and "intermittently" latched its radar on Japanese F-15 fighter jets on two occasions Saturday, for about three minutes in the late afternoon and for about 30 minutes in the evening. It was not made clear whether the radar lock incident involved the same Chinese J-15 both times.



Japanese Minister of Defense Shinjiro Koizumi, left, and Australian counterpart Richard Marles, right, review an honor guard ahead of a bilateral meeting at the defense ministry Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

Japanese fighter jets had been scrambled to pursue Chinese ones that were conducting aircraft take-off and landing exercises in the Pacific. They were pursuing the Chinese aircraft at a safe distance and did not take actions that could be interpreted as provocation, Kyodo News agency said, quoting defense officials, when the radar lock happened. There was no breach of Japanese airspace, and no injury or damage was reported from the incident.

Senior Colonel Wang Xuemeng, spokesperson for the Chinese navy, defended China's flight training near the island of Miyako Saturday, saying Beijing announced the exercises beforehand and accused Japanese aircraft of "harassment."

"We solemnly asked the Japanese side to immediately stop slandering and smearing, and strictly restrain its frontline actions. The Chinese Navy will take necessary measures in accordance with the law to resolutely safeguard its own security and legitimate rights and interests," Wang said in a statement posted Sunday on the Chinese Ministry of Defense website.

Relations between Japan and China have worsened after Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said in early November its military could get involved if China were to take action against Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing claims as its own.

Takaichi later Sunday called the radar lock-in "extremely disappointing."

"We will act calmly and resolutely," she said, vowing to do the utmost in carrying out surveillance operations around Japanese waters and airspace, while closely watching Chinese military activity around Japan.

Japan and Australia, whose defense ministers held their scheduled talks in Tokyo on Sunday, expressed worry over the development.

"We are deeply concerned by the actions of China in the last 24 hours," Australian Defense Minister Richard Marles told a joint news conference Sunday after holding talks with Koizumi. "We expect those interactions to be safe and professional."❑

Mass shooting at a South African bar leaves 12 dead, including 3 children



Forensic personnel is seen at a scene where bodies of the victims of a mass shooting where found at a bar near Pretoria, South Africa, Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025.

Associated Press

By GERALD IMRAY
Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — A mass shooting carried out Saturday by multiple suspects in an unlicensed bar near the South African capital left at least 12 people dead, police said. The victims included three children aged 3, 12 and 16.

Another 13 people were wounded and being treated in the hospital. Police didn't give details of the ages of those who were injured or their conditions.

Police adjusted the death toll after they said a 12th victim died in the hospital.

The shooting happened at a bar inside a hostel in the Saulsville township west of the administrative capital of Pretoria in the early hours of Saturday. Ten of the victims died at the scene and two others died at the hospital, police said.

The children killed were a 3-year-old boy, a 12-year-old boy and a 16-year-old girl. Police said they were searching for three male suspects.

"We are told that at least three unknown gunmen entered this hostel where a group of people were drinking and they started randomly shooting," police spokesperson Brig. Athlenda Mathe told national broadcaster SABC. She said the motive for the killings was not clear. The shootings happened at around 4.15 a.m., she said, but police were only alerted at 6 a.m.

South Africa has one of the highest homicide rates in the world and recorded more than 26,000 homicides in 2024 — an average of more than 70 a day. Firearms are by far the leading cause of death in homicides.

The country of 62 million people has relatively strict gun ownership laws, but many killings are committed with illegal guns, authorities say.

There have been several mass shootings at bars — sometimes called shebeens or taverns in South Africa — in recent years, including one that killed 16 people in the Johannesburg township of Soweto in 2022. On the same day, four people were killed in a mass shooting at a bar in another province.

Mathe said that mass shootings at unlicensed bars were becoming a serious problem and police had shut down more than 11,000 illegal taverns between April and September this year and arrested more than 18,000 people for involvement in illegal liquor sales.

Recent mass killings in South Africa have not been confined to bars, however. Police said 18 people were killed, 15 of them women, in mass shootings minutes apart at two houses on the same road in a rural part of Eastern Cape province in September last year.❑

Celebrate the start of the holiday season with festive markets at Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino

The fourth annual string of Holiday Markets will be making their seasonal debut at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, in the month of December 2025. This year's editions of the popular Holiday Markets with local artisans, will unfold in the resort's decorated main lobby on December 3rd, 10th, and 17th from 7pm to 9:30pm.

The lively markets are a delightful way for guests, non-guest and especially the local community to immerse themselves in the festive season on Aruba. With every week, the gatherings feature different selections of handmade crafts, unique gifts and live entertainment performing all the holiday music favorites.

Each week, a different group of artisans will showcase their creations, featuring sea glass art, jewelry crafted from lionfish fins, canvas paintings, organic candles, carved wood pieces, resin artwork, and many more, among other distinctive items.

Guests can also take advantage of the complimentary photo op and take home a memorable picture as a souvenir. The therapists of eforea spa will be on hand to offer chair massages and exclusive small gifts, the perfect stocking stuffers. The Aruba Animal Shelter will also be present, at all three weeks, to introduce guests to their important work. They will stock a variety of pet gifts and should guests wish to leave a donation, this is also possible.

Adding to the festive ambiance, Santa, and the elves are also present. Guests and locals of all ages are invited to interact with Santa, while shopping or just enjoying the Aruba Christmas spirit. community. Happy Holidays from the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino.

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Local rabbi, Alberto (Baruch) Zeilicovich, gives the Pope a square 50 cents Aruba coin

An international and interfaith gathering in Rome brought local rabbi, Alberto (Baruch) Zeilicovich, to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Declaration on the Relation of the Church with Non-Christian Religions, known as the Nostra aetate, latin for 'In our time'.

Sixty years ago the Nostra aetate declared that





is time to recognize there are positive elements in all faiths, and that religious stereotypes and prejudices can be overcome through interreligious dialogue. In 1965, the document came to officially end any Catholic position against the Jewish people, and that the Catholic Church "decries hatred, persecutions, displays of anti-Semitism, directed against Jews at any time and by anyone."

The anniversary this year was marked by interfaith dialogue and presentations, from a variety of Christian traditions, the Muslim faith, and Buddhist perspectives. Among the Jewish representatives was Rabbi Zeilicovich and his wife Graciela from Aruba's Beth Israel Synagogue in Oranjestad, Aruba.

Rabbi Zeilicovich gifted the Pope Leon XIV a 50 cent Aruba Florin coin as part of his presentation, remarking on the Aruban square coin that just because the coin is different from all the other coins, it does not diminish the value.

He stated "the same with people, many people are different: different color of skin, different religion, disabilities, and because they are different they don't have value? Every human being has value regardless the difference, like the 50 cts coin of Aruba. Please your Holiness, accept this coin as a symbol of the spirit of reconciliation, respect and peace of the Nostra Aestate ". ❑





"Aruba to me is the ideal destination"

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

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Kathleen Fleischer.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is the ideal destination to spend quality time with friends of over 40 years. We travelled from Rochester, NY for a trip together celebrating Birthdays and recent retirements. Aruba has pristine beaches, crystal clear waters, and sunshine that you can count on— much like old friends!"

*Pictured from left to right: Christine Martello, Jeanine Espenmiller, Lisa Borrino, Marcia Kolb, Marina Aleksandrowicz, Kathleen Fleischer.



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

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill

(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill.

Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled—it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day.





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Aruba's underwater wonderland

(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating under water spots you can explore. So take your snorkeling gear and visit some of these top places for underwater exploration.





Tres Trapi

'Tres Trapi' means three steps in Papiamento. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-western side of the island, an approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.



Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach is a lagoon with crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in the lagoon, you'll find a lot of people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go under water exploring—but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to reach the beach is through a small bridge that takes you through the mangrove trees. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, accompanied with wooden stairs built to allow easy access to the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you'll find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is snorkel heaven.

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!

(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building "Cocolishi", is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.



When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called "Willem III Toren". Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.





Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary.

The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm.

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theaters. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".



This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi.

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

The Aruban Cunukero: From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

- The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
- Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
- Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
- Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

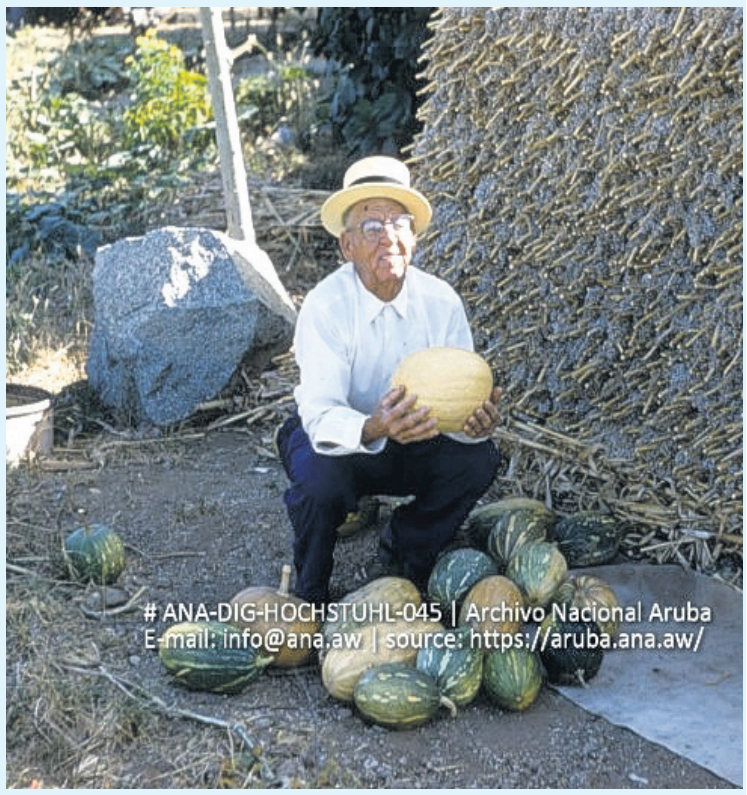


Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

n modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events.



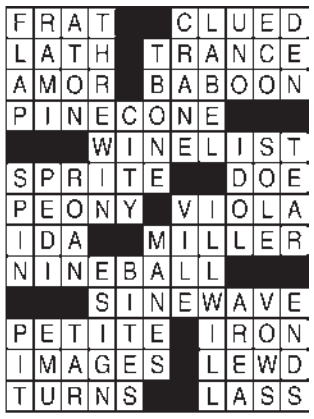


Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olie-industrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.

ARUBA TODAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

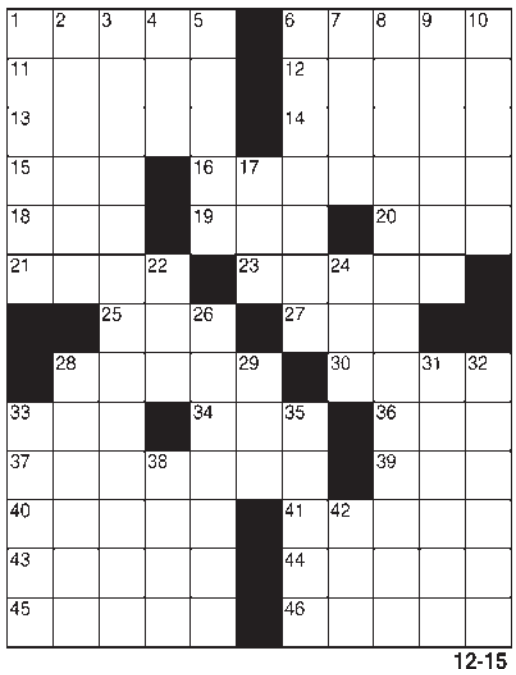


ACROSS

1 "Wheel of Fortune" name
6 Croc's cousin
11 Island ring
12 Skip a ceremony
13 Fashion
14 Drinks
15 Plop down
16 Planned
18 "The Name of the Rose" author
19 "Platoon" setting
20 Diet no-no
21 Postmark part
23 Accords
25 Laugh sound
27 "Well, that's obvious!"
28 First known asteroid
30 Porgy's love
33 Pussy foot
34 "— the season ..."
36 Misery
37 Pain reliever
39 World Cup cry
40 Get naked
41 Lyricist's concern
43 Puzzle out
44 Not rented out
45 At a close
46 Pascal of "The Last of Us"

DOWN

1 Got fresh with
2 Ancient Greek region
3 #1 song by Three Dog Night
4 Completely
5 Designer Calvin
6 Fumes
7 Loads
8 #1 song by the Carpenters
9 Verdi works
10 Stopwatch button
17 Afternoon break
22 Anvil's place
24 New reporter
26 Entered anew
28 Ohio city
29 Confession topic
31 Fuse together
32 Handles
33 Out of fashion
35 Assure
38 Seedy bar
42 Undivided



12-15

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.

12-15 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

DW'L KVH KU WTH ICHZWHLW IDUWL PKG XZV IDAH PKGCLHFU, WK UKCIDAH. UKCIDAH HAHCPEKBP. — SZPZ ZVIHFKG

Cryptoquote: CHRISTMAS IS MOST TRULY CHRISTMAS WHEN WE CELEBRATE IT BY GIVING THE LIGHT OF LOVE TO THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST. — RUTH CARTER STAPLETON

Cruise ship Schedule: Dec. 08 - 11 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	08	MS RENAISSANCE	08.00	18.00	B	1
		VALIANT LADY	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	09	SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
		NORWEGIAN STAR	11.00	20.00	I	1
WED	10	MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	18.00	B	1
		BRILLIANT LADY	10.00	22.00	C	1
		OCEANIA INSIGNIA	11.30	22.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	11	MSC DIVINA	08.00	18.00	B	1
		BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	C	1

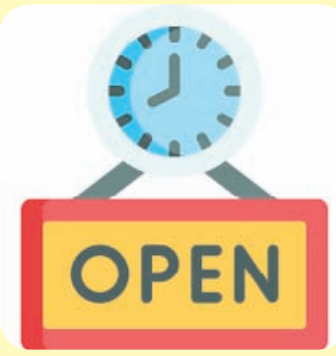
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(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.



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.



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.



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.

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

Difficulty: ★ 12/8

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 12/7

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Summer Olympians begin torch relay for Milan Cortina Winter Games on 2-month countdown



Italian swimmer Gregorio Paltrinieri lights the 2026 Milan Cortina Winter Olympics torch in Rome as it begins its journey through Italy, Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, a journey that will conclude in Milan in February 2026.

Associated Press

By ANDREW DAMPF
AP Sports Writer

ROME (AP) — Olympic swimming champion Gregorio Paltrinieri and fellow Summer athletes started the torch relay for the Milan Cortina Winter Games on Saturday — marking exactly two months before the Feb. 6 opening ceremony.

Paltrinieri carried the sleek torch around the track of the statue-lined Stadio dei Marmi at the Foro Italico to begin a trek covering 12,000 kilometers (nearly 7,500 miles) that will wind its way through all 110 Italian provinces before reaching Milan's San Siro Stadium for the opening ceremony.

"It's a pleasure to be part of the Olympic movement even if it's Winter Olympics," Paltrinieri said.

In all, there will be 10,001 torch bearers.

At the end of the opening day, police said they stopped two groups of pro-Palestinian activists from coming into contact with the relay route.

Giancarlo Peris, the final torch bearer from the 1960 Olympics in Rome, carried the Olympic flame in a lantern to get the proceedings going. The 84-year-old Peris was 18 when he lit the cauldron at the Stadio Olimpico — which is next to the Stadio dei Marmi — more than 65 years ago.

"I didn't think I would be here today," Peris said with a chuckle.

Paltrinieri won gold in the 1,500 meters at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games and has five Olympic medals in all. He and girlfriend Rossella Fiamingo, a fencer, carried Italy's flag at the closing ceremony for last year's Paris Games.

"I used to ski when I was a kid but then I stopped because it's a little bit dangerous for me," Paltrinieri said. "Skiing is my favorite (Winter Olympic sport). ... Alberto Tomba was one of my biggest idols."

Paltrinieri handed off to retired fencer Elisa Di Francisca, who won two golds at the 2012 London Games.

Next was Gianmarco Tamberi, the 2020 Olympic high jump champion.

Also carrying the torch around Rome on Saturday were tennis player Matteo Berrettini, retired NBA player Andrea Bargnani and former motorcycle racer Max Biaggi.

Actor Ricky Tognazzi carried the torch while riding a white Vespa in a scene reminiscent of the 1953 film "Roman Holiday" featuring Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck.

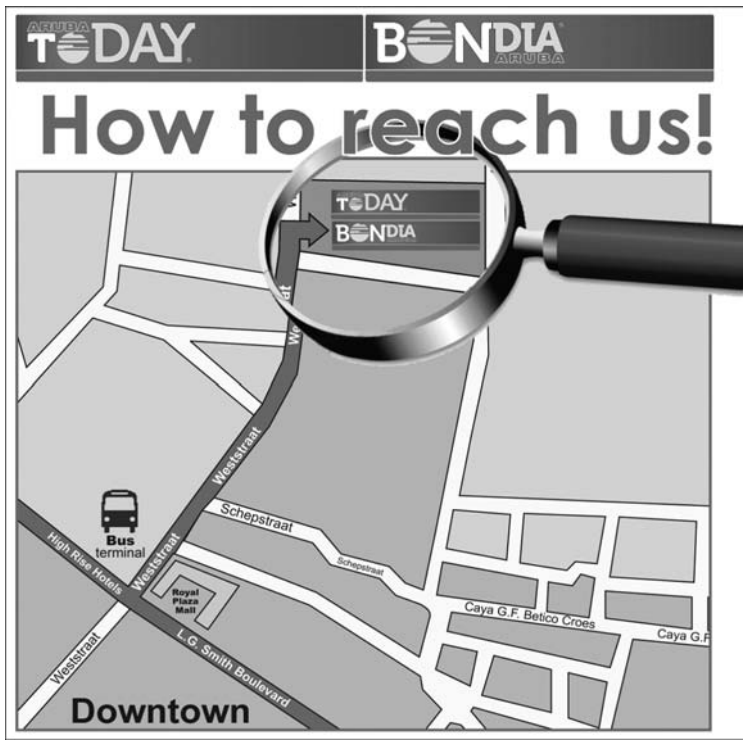
The torch relay, which includes 60 city celebrations, will be in Naples for Christmas and in Bari for New Year's Eve. It will reach 2006 Olympics host Turin on Jan 11.

The torch will arrive in Verona on Jan. 18 and pass through Cortina d'Ampezzo on Jan. 26 — on the 70th anniversary of the opening ceremony of the 1956 Winter Olympics held at the resort in the Dolomites.

There will also be a cauldron lit in Cortina on the night of the opening ceremony.

Local organizing committee president Giovanni Malagò noted the torch relay will pass by all of the country's UNESCO World Heritage sites, of which Italy has more than any other country with 61.

"It's like a giant two-month advertisement," Malagò said.❑



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San Nicolas
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Tel.524 8833

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Oranjestad:
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Aloe: Tel.584 4606

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic
+297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

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

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

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

ARUBA TODAY

Late reversal helps Steelers hold on for 27-22 win over Ravens and sole possession of division lead

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Aaron Rodgers threw for 284 yards and a touchdown and even ran for TD in perhaps his best game with the Steelers, and Pittsburgh took sole possession of first place in the AFC North, holding on for a 27-22 win over the Ravens on Sunday when a Baltimore touchdown with 2:43 remaining was overturned by a replay review.

Isaiah Likely secured a pass from Lamar Jackson with two hands in the end zone, and both his feet came down, but as he was about to complete another step with his right foot, Joey Porter Jr. of the Steelers knocked the ball free. It was initially called a touchdown but then changed to incomplete. The Ravens eventually turned the ball over on downs.

Baltimore (6-7) held defensively and then reached the Pittsburgh 30-yard line, but Jackson took a sack when the Ravens had no timeouts left, and the clock expired.

Rodgers didn't complete a pass longer than 31 yards in the whole month of November, but he had four of at least that distance Sunday, plus two more for more than 20. The first offensive play for Pittsburgh (7-6) was a 52-yard throw to DK Metcalf, which set up a 1-yard run by Rodgers that put the Steelers up 7-3.



Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) runs to the end zone for a touchdown during the first half of an NFL football game against the Baltimore Ravens, Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, in Baltimore. Associated Press

That was the 42-yard quarterback's first rushing touchdown since the 2022 season.

As they have for several weeks now, Jackson and the Ravens sputtered offensively through most of the first half, and although there were eventually some signs of life, Baltimore is now in another precarious spot.

The Ravens rebounded from a 1-5 start with five straight victories, only to lose back-to-back divisional games at home to Cincinnati and Pittsburgh.

The Steelers led 17-9 at halftime, and as he did in the first half, Rodgers connected for a big gain to Metcalf to start the third quarter. That 41-yard pickup led to a field goal, but Keaton Mitchell raced free for a 56-yard gain for the Ravens, who made it 20-16 on Jackson's 4-yard scoring pass to Likely.

Rodgers answered with a 31-yard pass to Calvin Austin III on third down, then Jaylen Warren took a short pass 38 yards to the end zone — also on third down — for a 27-16 lead.

The Ravens managed a couple of field goals, then a pass by Rodgers was batted into the air by C.J. Okoye before the ball disappeared into a mass of humanity, with Rodgers in the middle of it. The play was initially ruled an interception, but after a review, officials determined Rodgers caught his own pass and was down by contact. The Steelers still had to punt, but the reversal cost Baltimore quite a bit of field position.

Rodgers, who played the previous weekend against Buffalo with a brace on his broken left wrist, wasn't sacked a single time by the Ravens. This was his most yards passing since joining the Steelers before this season. Jackson was intercepted in the first half by his cousin, defensive back James Pierre. A penalty on a field-goal attempt gave Pittsburgh a new set of downs, and Kenneth Gainwell's 6-yard touchdown run made it 17-3.

Jackson scored on a 6-yard run just before halftime, but Tyler Loop missed the extra point.

Injuries

It was a bruising afternoon typical of this rivalry. Tight end Darnell Washington and linebacker Malik Harrison left with concussions for Pittsburgh, cornerback Brandin Echols was evaluated for one and guard Andrus Peat went into the protocol as well.

Mitchell left with a knee injury for Baltimore.

Up next

Steelers: Host Miami next Monday night.

Ravens: At Cincinnati on Sunday.❑

Brunson, Hart lead the Knicks to a 106-100 victory over the Magic



New York Knicks guard Josh Hart, front right, dribbles past Orlando Magic guard Tyus Jones, left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Dec. 7, 2025, in New York. Associated Press

By PAT PICKENS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jalen Brunson had 30 points and nine assists, Josh Hart added 17 points and 12 rebounds, and the New York Knicks beat the Orlando Magic 106-100 on Sunday.

OG Anunoby had 21 points and seven rebounds, and Mikal Bridges finished with 12 points, seven rebounds and six assists. The Knicks (16-7) improved to 13-1 at home, and defeated the Magic for the first time in three meetings, despite playing without center Karl-Anthony Towns (left calf tightness).

Desmond Bane had 16 points and six rebounds, and Anthony Black had 14 points and 11 rebounds for the Magic (14-10), who lost star forward Franz Wagner in the first quarter due to a lower left leg injury.

Wagner, who leads Orlando with 23.4 points per game, had seven points in seven minutes but landed awkwardly after going up for a dunk after being fouled by Knicks center Ariel Hukporti. Wagner immediately grabbed at the area below his knee and needed help getting to the locker room. The Magic announced he would be re-evaluated when they returned to Orlando ahead of their NBA Cup quarterfinal against Miami on Tuesday.

After the Magic led by one at halftime, the Knicks took control with a 13-0 run to open the third quarter. Brunson had six of his 10 third-quarter points in the run, and the Knicks outscored the Magic 28-18 in the period.

New York then opened the fourth quarter with a 7-0 run, building a 89-73 lead.

Bane rankled the Knicks in the fourth quarter when he threw the ball at Anunoby's back while the Knicks forward was out of bounds to preserve Orlando's possession. Bane received a technical foul.

Up next

Magic: Host Miami on Tuesday in the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

Knicks: Visit Toronto on Tuesday in the NBA Cup quarterfinals.❑

Bama and Miami are in the College Football Playoff but ND is out. Now, the second-guessing starts

By EDDIE PELLS
AP National Writer

Nobody paying attention over the past 24 months would be surprised to see Indiana – yes, Indiana – leading the way into this year's College Football Playoff.

But anyone paying attention over the last 24 hours knew the only sure thing beyond the Hoosiers was that the playoff selection committee was destined to get picked apart when it released the pairings for this season's 12-team bracket on Sunday.

Most of that second-guessing will be coming from Notre Dame, which was passed over for Alabama and Miami for two bubble spots. The Fighting Irish dropped two notches in the CFP rankings over the last two weeks, down to No. 11, despite a 10-game winning streak, winning their finale by 29 points and simply sitting on the couch Saturday.

No. 9 Alabama didn't move at all in the CFP rankings after a 28-7 loss to No. 3 Georgia that looked worse than that.

No. 10 Miami didn't play either, but the Hurricanes' 27-24 win over Notre Dame in Week 1 played a role in their move once the teams were grouped right next to each other after BYU lost its game on Saturday and dropped one spot.

"Everyone can spin the metrics in favor of the team or teams they support," committee chairman Hunter Yurachek explained. "You're always going to have controversy. That's why we debated for so long, 9, 10 and 11, into the early-moning hours, and woke up at sunrise to do the same thing — make sure we got it right."

The committee's other key decision was choosing James Madison over Duke for the final spot. The selection left the Atlantic Coast Conference champion out of the mix, but didn't fully exclude the ACC because Miami made it.

The rest of the field includes No. 2 Ohio State, No. 3 Georgia and No. 4 Texas Tech, which joined Indiana in getting first-round byes.

The Hoosiers moved to No. 1 with their 13-10 win over the Buckeyes on Saturday — their first Big Ten title since 1967 — and their 1-2 positioning sets up a possible rematch in the national title game Jan. 19.

Then it was No. 5 Oregon, followed by Ole Miss, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Alabama, Miami, American champion Tulane and James Madison of the Sun Belt.

The playoffs start Dec. 19 with No. 9 Alabama at No. 8 Oklahoma. On Dec. 20, it's No. 10 Miami at No. 7 Texas A&M, No. 11 Tulane at No. 6 Ole Miss and No. 12 James Madison at No. 5 Oregon.

Winners move to the quarterfinals, which will feature Ohio State in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Eve, then Texas Tech in the Orange Bowl, Indiana in the Rose Bowl and Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1.

A costly miss for Notre Dame

This is a particularly costly and painful snub for the Fighting Irish. They lost their first two games of the season – one to Miami, the other to Texas A&M -- by a combined four points.

They did not play a tough schedule the rest of the way; it was ranked 44th, compared to 6th for Alabama but 45th for Miami. But they won all those games easily.



Georgia running back Chauncey Bowens (33) runs against Alabama during the second half of a Southeastern Conference championship NCAA college football game, Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

It also hurts the pocketbook. Where conferences split $4 million for each team they place into the first round, Notre Dame – as an independent – would have banked the full amount for itself.❑





Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!

(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.



Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

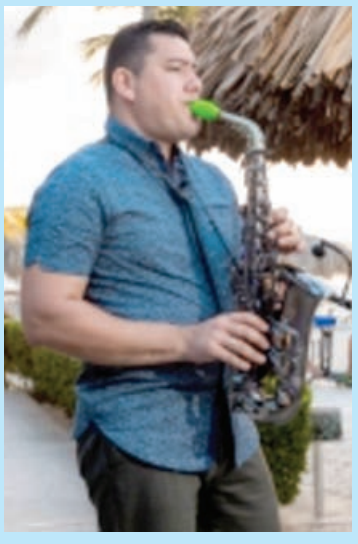


Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.



End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantimood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com