

# ARUBA TODAY

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What time is it?  
**Coconut time!**

Page 8

Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?



Page 7

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
<b>MARRYBELL MADURO</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>ANGELA FLORES</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>JEAN PAUL</b> SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>EDDIE KROON</b> SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm <b>MAILLEYN ALVARADO</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm KARAOKE 9:00 - 11:00pm	<b>MARRYBELL MADURO</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>RICKY THOMAS</b> GUITARIST 7:00 - 9:00pm	<b>EDDIE KROON</b> SINGER 4:00 - 6:00pm <b>ANGELA FLORES</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

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# Eyeing China threat, Trump announces Boeing wins contract for secretive future fighter jet

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump announced Friday that Boeing will build the Air Force's future fighter jet, which the Pentagon says will have stealth and penetration capabilities that far exceed those of its current fleet and is essential in a potential conflict with China.

Known as Next Generation Air Dominance, or NGAD, the manned jet will serve as quarterback to a fleet of future drone aircraft designed to be able to penetrate the air defenses of China and any other potential foes. The initial contract to proceed with production on a version for the Air Force is worth an estimated \$20 billion.

The 47th president, who announced the award at the White House with Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Air Force leadership, said with a grin that the new fighter would be named the F-47.

Gen. David Allvin, chief of staff of the Air Force, said, "We're going to write the next generation of modern aerial warfare with this." And Hegseth said the future fleet "sends a very clear, direct message to our allies that we're not going anywhere."



**This graphical rendering provided by the U.S. Air Force shows the Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) Platform, the F-47. On Friday, March 21, 2025, President Donald Trump announced that the Air Force had selected Boeing to produce the next generation fighter jet.**

Critics have questioned the cost and the necessity of the program as the Pentagon is still struggling to fully produce its current most advanced jet, the F-35, which is expected to cost taxpayers more than \$1.7 trillion over its lifespan. In addition, the Pentagon's future stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider, will have many of the same cutting edge technologies in advanced materials, AI, propulsion and stealth.

More than 1,100 F-35s have already been built for the U.S. and multiple international partners.

A fleet of about 100 future B-21 stealth bombers at

an estimated total cost of at least \$130 billion is also planned. The first B-21 aircraft are now in test flights. With evolving drone and space warfare likely to be the center of any fight with China, Dan Grazier, a military procurement analyst, questions whether "another exquisite manned fighter jet really is the right platform going forward." Grazier, director of the national security reform program at the Stimson Center, said \$20 billion is "just seed money. The total costs coming down the road will be hundreds of billions of dollars." Few details of what the new NGAD fighter would

look like have been public, although Trump said early versions have been conducting test flights for the last five years. Renderings by both Lockheed Martin and Boeing have highlighted a flat, tail-less aircraft with a sharp nose.

The selection of Boeing, which has faced intense pressure from Trump over cost overruns and program delays on Air Force One, came after an independent analysis by the Air Force, an official said on the condition of anonymity to provide additional details on the selection. The Boeing offer was still determined to be the "best

overall value to the government," the official said.

The Air Force has not specified how many aircraft will be produced. In a statement, however, Allvin said there would be more F-47s produced than F-22s, the advanced fighter jet it's replacing. There are now about 180 F-22 fighter jets in service.

A separate Navy contract for its version of the NGAD fighter is still under competition between Northrop Grumman and Boeing.

Last year, the Biden administration's Air Force secretary, Frank Kendall, ordered a pause on the NGAD program to review if the aircraft was still needed or if the program, which was first designed in 2018, needed to be modified to reflect the past few years of warfighting advances.

That review by think tanks and academia examined what conflict with China would look like with NGAD and then without it and determined that NGAD was still needed.

Kendall then left the decision on which firm would build the fighter jet to the incoming Trump administration, a defense official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to provide details on the decision-making. □

Associated Press

## Trump acknowledges concerns over Musk's business interests and says he shouldn't get war plans



**Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk listens as Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign event at the Butler Farm Show, Oct. 5, 2024, in Butler, Pa.**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Donald Trump said Friday that war plans should not be shared with his adviser Elon Musk because of his business interests, a rare suggestion that the billionaire entrepreneur's expansive role in the administration will face limits. Trump made the comments during an Oval Office meeting on developing a new fighter jet, and he rejected reports that Musk would be briefed on how the United States would fight a hypothetical war with China.

"Elon has businesses in China," the Republican president said. "And he would be susceptible, perhaps, to that."

Trump praised Musk as a patriot. However, the reference to his businesses — which include Tesla, an electric vehicle manufacturer trying to expand sales and production in China — is an unusual acknowledgement of concerns about Musk balancing his corporate and government responsibilities.

Trump had previously brushed off questions about Musk's potential conflicts of interest, simply saying that he would steer clear when necessary.

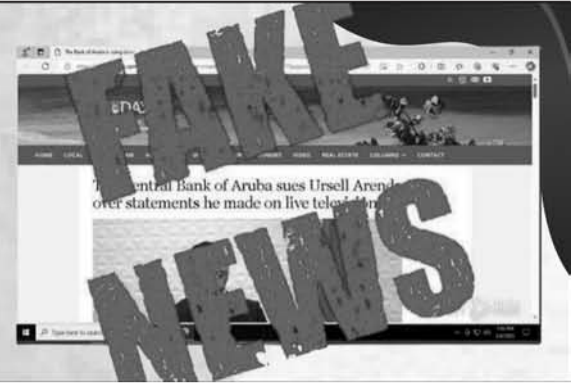
The president said that Musk visited the Pentagon on Friday morning to discuss reducing costs, which he's been working on through the Department of Government Efficiency.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Musk was there "to talk about efficiencies, to talk about innovations." □

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# Musk group offers \$100 to Wisconsin voters ahead of pivotal state Supreme Court election

By SCOTT BAUER  
Associated Press

**MADISON, Wis. (AP)** — A group funded by billionaire Elon Musk is offering Wisconsin voters \$100 to sign a petition in opposition to “activist judges,” a move that comes two weeks before the state’s Supreme Court election and after the political action committee made a similar proposal last year in battleground states.

Musk’s political action committee America PAC announced the petition in a post on X on Thursday night. It promises \$100 for each Wisconsin voter who signs the petition and another \$100 for each signer they refer.

The campaign for Susan Crawford, the Democratic-backed candidate for Wisconsin Supreme Court, said Musk was trying to buy votes ahead of the



Former Wisconsin Attorney General and state Supreme Court candidate Brad Schimel, middle, greets Donald Trump Jr., as Charlie Kirk looks on during a town hall Monday, March 17, 2025, in Oconomowoc, Wis.

Associated Press

April 1 election. The offer was made two days after early voting started in the

hotly contested race between Crawford and Brad Schimel, the preferred can-

didate of Musk and Republicans.

The winner of the election

will determine whether the court remains under liberal control or flips to a conservative majority.

Musk’s PAC used a nearly identical tactic ahead of the November presidential election, offering to pay \$1 million a day to voters in Wisconsin and six other battleground states who signed a petition supporting the First and Second Amendments. Philadelphia’s district attorney sued in an attempt to stop the payments under Pennsylvania law. But a judge said that prosecutors failed to show that the effort was an illegal lottery and it was allowed to continue through Election Day. America PAC and Building for America’s Future, two groups Musk funds, have spent more than \$13 million trying to help elect Schimel, according to a tally by the Brennan Center for Justice.

□

# Trump administration debates invoking ‘state secrets privilege’ around deportation flights

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Top leaders of President Donald Trump’s administration are debating whether to invoke a “state secrets privilege” in response to a judge’s questions about deportation flights carrying Venezuelan immigrants to El Salvador, a Justice Department official informed the judge on Friday ahead of a hearing.

Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche said in a court filing that there are “ongoing Cabinet-level discussions” about Chief Judge James Boasberg’s demand for more information. The district judge

ordered the Trump administration to either provide more details about the flights or assert a claim that disclosing the information would harm “state secrets.” The Republican administration has largely resisted the judge’s request, calling it an “unnecessary judicial fishing” expedition. Boasberg dismissed its response as “woefully insufficient,” increasing the possibility that he may hold administration officials in contempt of court.

Government lawyers filed Blanche’s sworn statement hours before the judge was scheduled to hold a hearing for the case on Friday in Washington.

The Trump administration has transferred hundreds of Venezuelan immigrants to El Salvador under an 18th century wartime law. Flights were in the air on March 15 when Boasberg issued an order temporarily barring the deportations and ordered planes to return to the U.S. The Justice Department has said that the judge’s oral directions did not count, that only his written order needed to be followed and that it couldn’t apply to flights that had already left the U.S.

Trump and many Republican allies have called for impeaching Boasberg, who was nominated by President Barack Obama,

a Democrat. In a rare statement earlier this week, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts said “im-

peachment is not an appropriate response to disagreement concerning a judicial decision.” □



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump speaks along the southern border with Mexico, on Aug. 22, 2024, in Sierra Vista, Ariz.

Associated Press

# NYC will eventually have to abandon part of its water supply if it keeps getting saltier

By **MICHAEL HILL**  
Associated Press

The suburban reservoirs that supply 10% of New York City's vaunted drinking water are getting saltier due to decades of road salt being spread near the system and they will eventually have to be abandoned if nothing is done to reverse the trend, city officials warn.

The plug wouldn't have to be pulled until early next century, according to a new study. But the soaring saltiness could eventually affect the famous taste of the Big Apple's water, which is sometimes called the champagne of tap water, and poses a challenge to managers of a system that serves more than 9 million people.

"The conclusion of this study is that if we don't change our ways, in 2100 the Croton Water System becomes a nice recreational facility, but it ceases to be a water supply," Rohit Aggarwala, the city's environmental protection commissioner, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And that will directly impact everybody who drinks New York City water."

The Croton system dates back to 1842 when the first



The New Croton Dam and the New Croton Reservoir that supplies part of New York City's drinking water is seen in Cortlandt, N.Y., on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Croton Aqueduct began delivering water to a reservoir in what is now Manhattan's Central Park and is now comprised of 12 reservoirs and three controlled lakes north of the city.

The report found the concentration of chlorides an indicator of salinization tripled from 1987 to 2019 in the system's main reservoir, which is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of the city line. Concentrations are on

track to exceed the state's maximum contaminant level for chloride by 2108.

The report found salinity increases across the sprawling system of city reservoirs in upstate New York. However, the problem is far less of an issue in the Delaware and Catskill watersheds west of the Hudson River, which supply about 90% of the city's water. That's likely because there's far less development in those water-

sheds.

Road salt is considered a main driver of the increase, along with sewage treatment plant discharges and water softeners. Millions of tons of rock salt is spread on U.S. roads each winter as a cheap and effective way to reduce accidents.

"It's really a problem across the country in areas with a lot of snow," said Shannon Roback, science director for the environmental

group Riverkeeper. "We've seen rising levels of salt in water in the Northeast, in the Midwest and in most places that use road salt." Roback noted that high salt levels in drinking water pose a host of environmental concerns and can be harmful to people on low-sodium diets.

Aggarwala said the city has a few options.

Salt can be removed from water supplies through reverse osmosis systems, though the technology is expensive and requires a lot of energy. The city also could mix Croton water with less salty water from its other two watersheds. But the commissioner said that would not be a solution for the more than a dozen municipalities north of New York City that draw water from the Croton system.

City officials believe reducing the use of road salt locally is the most sensible option. That could involve persuading state and local road crews to use alternatives to salt, or sensors on plows to gauge road surface temperatures, or shutting off the applicators when plows make U-turns or K turns. □

Associated Press



Abou Sow hands out cartons of eggs to people waiting in line to receive free eggs from FarmerJawn Agriculture, Friday, March 21, 2025, in the Harlem neighborhood of New York.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hundreds of people lined up Friday morning at three sites in New York City, some arriving more than an hour early, for the opportunity to snag one of the nation's

hottest commodities: a dozen free eggs. People were bundled up against the windy cold as they stood outside a Harlem restaurant, patiently waiting to be handed a

## New Yorkers scramble for free eggs

carton. Less than 10 minutes later, the 100 cartons were gone, leaving many empty-handed.

"I heard from the news that they will be giving around, like, 1,500 eggs, or something like that. OK? And I just came because I needed some eggs, and then I'm waiting here in the line, and I don't see anything," said Jackeline Tejava, who was in a line that stretched around the block. "They say that the eggs are gone, but it hasn't been not even more than 20 people, so I don't know what happened."

Egg prices hit a record high last month as the U.S. contends with a bird flu out-

break, which has forced poultry farms to slaughter more than 168 million birds since 2022.

Trying to find eggs on grocery store shelves in New York City can be hit or miss. When they are in stock, they can be pricey.

Friday's giveaway was organized by FarmerJawn, a 128-acre (52-hectare) Pennsylvania farm that's focused on providing organic food to underserved communities.

FarmerJawn held other egg giveaways Friday in Brooklyn and Queens. The group also handed out free cartons in New York last month.

"We're doing this egg give-

away because, as food producers, we believe it's our responsibility to support the communities that support us," the group said in a written statement. It partnered with a local butchery and a upstate New York farm to organize Friday's events.

"Food is medicine, and everyone - especially the often-forgotten middle class - deserves access to it," Farmerjawn said.

Other organizations, including churches, have recently held egg giveaways in New York and elsewhere around the country, including Las Vegas, Chicago, Philadelphia and Richland County, South Carolina. □

## Russian drones strike Ukrainian city of Odesa, underlining challenges for even limited truce

By ILLIA NOVIKOV

Associated Press

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)** — Russian drones pummeled the Ukrainian Black Sea port city of Odesa, injuring three people and sparking massive fires, officials said Friday, an attack that underlined Moscow's intention to pursue aerial strikes even as it agreed to temporarily halt strikes on energy facilities.

The head of the Odesa region, Oleh Kiper, said the city suffered "local emergency power outages" in three of its districts, an indication that the energy infrastructure of the city could have been damaged.

Reacting to the attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that "joint pressure on Russia, strengthening sanctions and defense support for our state ... is the way to stop such terror and Russia's prolongation of the war."

"We expect real pressure on Russia from the U.S., Europe and all our partners," Zelenskyy said in a statement on Telegram. "This is what will allow diplomacy to work."

Russia, meanwhile, accused Ukraine of blowing up a gas facility in the Kursk region, where Ukrainian forces have launched an incursion, in violation of the ceasefire deal. Ukraine denies the accusations.

Russian drone attack sparks



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Emergency Service, firefighters put out the fire at a storehouse following a Russian attack in Odesa, Ukraine, Friday, March 21, 2025.

Associated Press

massive blazes in Odesa. The strike came shortly before Czech Republic President Petr Pavel visited Odesa on Friday morning, meeting with the city's leaders and officials from other southern regions.

"This is another reminder to the whole world: the war continues and Ukraine continues to fight," Kiper said in a statement. He said there were blazes at at least three locations after the attack late Thursday.

"Civilian infrastructure, commercial facilities are on fire, cars damaged," Kiper said. Over 70 people and 20 fire engines were involved in extinguishing what the emergency ser-

vices called "massive fires." Russia accuses Ukraine of blowing up natural gas facility in the Kursk region. Russia's Defense Ministry accused Ukrainian forces of blowing up a gas metering station near the town of Sudzha in Russia's Kursk region, in what it described as a "deliberate provocation by the Kyiv regime, which is part of a series of recent strikes on Russia's energy infrastructure in order to discredit the U.S. president's peaceful initiatives."

Ukraine's military General Staff rejected Moscow's accusations and blamed the Russian military for shelling the Sudzha gas metering station as part of Rus-

sia's "discrediting campaign."

The gas metering station serves a major pipeline that had pumped Russia's natural gas to Europe until supplies were halted last year. Views differ on what is covered by the truce.

Ukraine and Russia agreed in principle Wednesday to a limited ceasefire after U.S. President Donald Trump spoke with the countries' leaders this week, though it remained to be seen what possible targets would be off limits to attack. The three sides appeared to hold starkly different views about what the deal covered. While the White House said "energy and

infrastructure" would be covered, the Kremlin declared that the agreement referred more narrowly to "energy infrastructure." Zelenskyy said he would also like railways and ports to be protected.

Zelenskyy told reporters after Wednesday's call with Trump that "technical" talks in Saudi Arabia this weekend would seek to resolve what types of infrastructure would be protected from attack under the agreement.

Zelenskyy said Ukraine and U.S. negotiators will discuss technical details related to the partial ceasefire during a meeting in Saudi Arabia on Monday. Russian negotiators are set to hold separate talks with U.S. officials there. I can't tell you how the meeting will end," Zelenskyy said, speaking talking with the Czech leader. "It will be good if the meeting ends with a result that brings us closer to a full ceasefire"

Zelenskyy emphasized that Ukraine is open to a full, 30-day ceasefire that Trump has proposed, saying "we will not be against any format, any steps toward unconditional ceasefire."

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made a complete ceasefire conditional on a halt of arms supplies to Kyiv and a suspension of Ukraine's military mobilization demands rejected by Ukraine and its Western allies. □

## Nearly 9,000 migrant deaths recorded last year by UN migration agency, real death toll likely higher

**GENEVA (AP)** — Nearly 9,000 people have died last year attempting to cross borders, the UN agency for migration said Friday.

The death toll set a new record for the fifth year in a row.

The International Organization for Migration recorded at least 8,938 migrant deaths in 2024. However, the real death toll is likely much higher given that many deaths go unreported or undocumented IOM

said in a statement.

"The rise of deaths is terrible in and of itself, but the fact that thousands remained unidentified each year is even more tragic," Julia Black, coordinator of IOM's Missing Migrants Projects said in the statement.

Asia was the region with the most reported fatalities with 2,788 migrant deaths, followed by the Mediterranean Sea with 2,452 and Africa with 2,242. IOM said there were also an "un-

precedented 341 lives lost in the Caribbean," 233 in Europe and 174 in the Darién crossing between Colombia and Panama, a new record.

News of the record death toll comes only days after the agency announced it was suspending many "life-saving" programs around the world and firing hundreds of employees due to U.S.-led aid cuts impacting millions of vulnerable migrants worldwide. □



An official from the International Organization for Migration, IOM, talks to Nigerian migrants before being deported from Tripoli, Libya, Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Associated Press

# Thousands rally in Istanbul as Erdogan issues warning against protests over mayor's arrest

**ISTANBUL (AP)** — Tens of thousands of people rallied at Istanbul's city hall for a third day Friday to protest the arrest of Istanbul's mayor and top rival to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, despite the Turkish leader's stern warning that street protests would not be tolerated.

The rally remained peaceful. However, some 500 meters (yards) away, police used pepper spray and tear gas to push back hundreds of protesters who tried to break through a barricade in front of the city's historic aqueduct and threw flares and other objects at them. Water cannons were used to break up demonstrations in Ankara, the capital, as well as in the Aegean coastal city of Izmir.

Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu was arrested in a dawn raid on his residence on Wednesday over alleged corruption and terror links, escalating a crackdown on opposition figures and dissenting voices. Several other prominent figures, including two district mayors, were also detained.

Many view the arrest as a politically driven attempt



People shout slogans as they march to protest against the arrest of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu, in Istanbul, Turkey, Thursday, March 20, 2025.

to remove a popular opposition figure and key challenger to Erdogan in the next presidential race, currently scheduled for 2028. Government officials reject accusations that legal actions against opposition figures are politically motivated and insist that Turkey's courts operate independently.

Imamoglu was questioned

by police for four hours over corruption accusations, during which he denied all the charges, the Cumhuriyet newspaper and other media reported. He was expected to be transferred to a courthouse Saturday evening for questioning by prosecutors.

His arrest has sparked the largest protests since 2013, when Turkey was rocked

by mass anti-government demonstrations that left eight people dead.

On Friday, the leader of Turkey's main opposition party, Ozgur Ozel, renewed a call on supporters to take to the streets for peaceful demonstrations, while authorities widened a ban on protests and criticized the appeal as irresponsible.

"I invite tens of thousands,

hundreds of thousands, and millions, to peacefully demonstrate, express our democratic reaction, and exercise our constitutional rights," he said.

Addressing the rally, Ozel accused Erdogan of using the judiciary as tool after failing to defeat the mayor "in a fair way."

Erdogan, increasingly authoritarian after more than two decades in office, said the government would not tolerate street protests and accused the opposition party of links to corruption and terror organizations.

"An anti-corruption operation in Istanbul is being used as an excuse to stir unrest in our streets. I want it to be known that we will not allow a handful of opportunists to bring unrest to Turkey just to protect their plundering schemes," Erdogan said.

"Pointing to the streets instead of courtrooms to defend theft, plunder, lawlessness and fraud is a grave irresponsibility," Erdogan said. "Just as we have not surrendered to street terrorism until now, we will not bow to vandalism in the future either." □

Associated Press

## Italy's Constitutional Court allows singles to adopt foreign minors, ending a 40-year ban

By **GIADA ZAMPANO**  
Associated Press

**ROME (AP)** — Italy's Constitutional Court ruled Friday that unmarried people can adopt foreign minors, ending a 40-year-ban on the practice and setting a precedent that could pave the way to allowing Italian singles to adopt from within the country.

Friday's court ruling declared unconstitutional the exclusion of singles from international adoptions under a 1983 Italian law, which allowed only married couples to pursue international adoptions.

According to Italy's top court, the exclusion of single people risked undermining "the effectiveness of the child's right to grow

up in a stable and harmonious family environment." The court decision also reflects concerns among adoption advocates over

a downward trend in Italy's international adoption over the past few years, due to increasing difficulties for couples in complet-

ing adoptions abroad and the high costs related to the lengthy process.

According to Italy's international adoption commission, in the first semester of 2024 international adoption in the country fell by 5.6% from the same period a year before and by 14.3% from the first semester of 2022.

Italy's right-wing government headed by Premier Giorgia Meloni has opposed singles' adoptions in court, but the country's center-left opposition hailed Friday's ruling as a "historic turning point."

"It puts the rights of minors and the freedom of self-determination of every individual first," said Democratic Party's lawmaker

Alessandro Zan, who has promoted battles for the parenting rights of singles and gay couples.

"Now the Italian parliament must intervene, adapt the current legislation and remove every ideological obstacle," Zan added. "And let's go further: This right must also be extended to gay couples." The ruling takes effect immediately.

In October, the Meloni government approved new legislation that criminalizes Italian citizens who go abroad to have children through surrogacy, a measure slammed by opponents as "medieval" and discriminatory to same-sex couples. □



Sculptures are seen atop the Constitutional Court building near the Quirinale presidential palace in Rome, on Saturday, April 27, 2013.

Associated Press

## How Aruban beaches came to be!



(Oranjestad)—We've talked about the best beaches to visit on the island before, but have you ever wondered how Aruba got its white, sandy beaches, and why there's a clear difference between the northern and southern shores? Here are some fun facts about the development of Aruban beaches.

**How did Aruba get its white, sandy beaches?**  
Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line

(which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also contribute to this, one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between the northern and southern coast of the island.



The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

**Why north deep, but south shallow?**  
*Ah! Good question...and interesting phrasing.*

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South America, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom. □

**Source:** archival document provided by the National Archive of Aruba (ANA).

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

ORANJESTAD - Aruba's City Center Street Car - or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" - is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42

seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main

street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other;



all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's

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

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- Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
- Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

**A guide for the perfect picture**

**Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad**

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're taking a stroll in the city center, and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Oranjestad is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Oranjestad.

**"I LOVE ARUBA"**

Right on Paardenbaai Plaza, near the harbor entrance, you will spot a giant sign that reads "I LOVE ARUBA". A great first stop for a quick shot with the family, this spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read



"Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park, in front of Talk of the Town Hotel. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other

spots along the way!

**The sitting bull**

Yes, you read that right; right in the heart of the city center, in front of the Crystal Casino in the Renaissance Mall, there is a black bull sitting on a bench, waiting for you to take a picture with it. Ok, so it's not a real bull, but "I took a picture with a sitting bull" sounds like a great conversation opener.

See if you can also spot the cow on the roof!

**Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo**

While you're in front of the Renaissance Mall, check out the wooden swing on the other side of the mall on Plaza Daniel Leo. Another favorite among visitors wanting a cute

snapshot for Instagram. Just pass through the Renaissance Mall and find this gem in front of the back entrance!

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

**Renaissance Dock**

Last but certainly not least, the Renaissance Dock is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Renaissance Market Place, and runs from the Renaissance Marina up to Renaissance Beach and Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas! ☐

**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)



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 Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard  
 Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts  
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## Aruba to me

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments

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## Finding Your Dream Home in Aruba, More Than Just Real Estate

Aruba is more than a paradise of white sandy beaches and turquoise waters, it's a place where dreams take shape, and for many, that dream includes finding the perfect home. Whether you're a first-time buyer, an investor, or a family looking to settle down, Kermit Real Estate is redefining the way people experience home buying on the island.

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At Kermit Real Estate, we don't just sell houses, we craft lifestyles. Our team, made up of creative professionals from the world of fashion and design, approaches real estate with an eye for style, elegance, and personality. Whether it's a chic beachfront villa, a cozy island retreat, or a modern investment property, we believe a home should reflect the unique essence of its owner.

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 The process is the same for locals and foreigners—simple and straightforward. There are no restrictions on foreign ownership. Once you find a property, you sign a purchase agreement with a deposit (usually 10%). A notary handles legal checks and the title transfer. Most foreign buyers pay in cash, but local financing may be available. With Aruba's secure legal system, owning property here is a smooth and reliable investment.

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**Personalized Service:** We go beyond transactions, building relationships and ensuring each client finds a space they truly love.

**Local Expertise:** We know Aruba inside and out, from hidden gem neighborhoods to the best investment opportunities.

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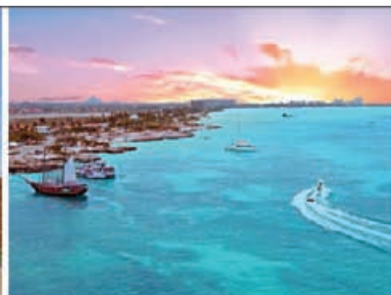
Thinking About Buying a Home in Aruba?

Sipping coffee, enjoying the sun... and suddenly, you start picturing yourself living here.

But where do you start?

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*Your dream home in Aruba starts with a conversation!*

# Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

## Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

## Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

## Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of

fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

## Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

## Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

## Comcomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

## Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

## Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

## Pampuna



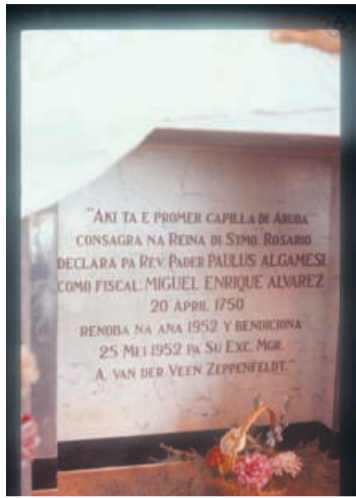
In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

## 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 Algemesi 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 lo-

icals 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. □

## The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

**(Oranjestad)—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?**

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha"

(axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

### ***The legend of the Kibrahacha*** **Written by Hubert (Lio Boo)**

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days,

asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawecha, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aterima's fa-

ther back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers. Kudawecha, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.



Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □



**CROSSWORD**

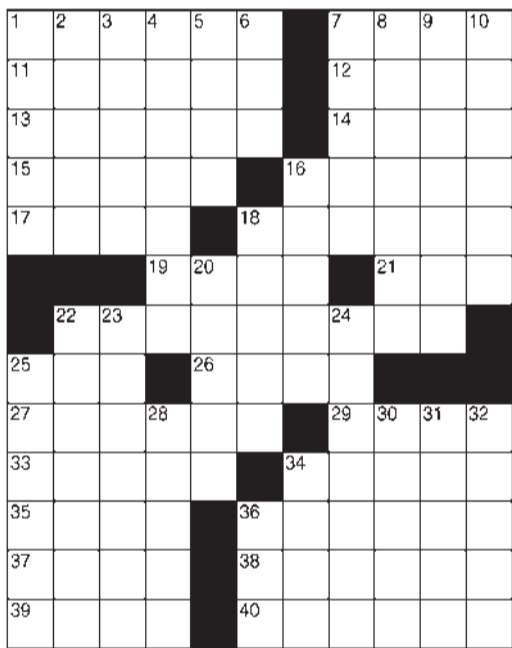
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 NASA
  - 1 Reef vehicle materials
  - 37 Canyon
  - 7 Bloke sound
  - 11 Portugal's place
  - 38 Salad base
  - 12 Road division
  - 39 Shortly
  - 40 Make numb
  - 13 Egotist's offense
  - 14 Price to play
  - 15 Mirror sight
  - 16 Cap feature
  - 17 Refrain bit
  - 18 Surname in punk rock
  - 19 Swamp croaker
  - 21 Top
  - 22 Sudden surprise, informally
  - 25 Even score
  - 26 Valiant one
  - 27 Gives an address
  - 29 Walrus feature
  - 33 Fido's pal
  - 34 Coup group
  - 35 "Law & Order: SVU" co-star



**DOWN**

- 1 Polite
- 2 44th president
- 3 Of the kidneys
- 4 Japanese "thanks"
- 5 Lo-cal
- 6 Utter
- 7 Assert
- 8 Role for Ford
- 9 Shake-speare's merchant
- 25 Sunak's group
- 28 Wyoming's Range
- 10 Gazed
- 16 Darth —
- 18 Yard tools
- 30 Loosened
- 20 Earthy shade
- 31 Carell of movies
- 22 Mediterranean wind
- 32 Writer Blixen
- 23 Forcible ejection
- 34 Tarzan's love
- 24 Capitol feature
- 36 Went ahead



3-23

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.

3-23

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

F Z N O M R T M U K W N V I  
B T W G I T N , U W S W E T W P A  
U T N T P T M P F P T I F Z N .

— NWOQI BWOAF TKTNUPP  
Cryptoquote: I HAVE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS THAT WHEN ONE'S MIND IS MADE UP, THIS DIMINISHES FEAR. — ROSA PARKS

**Cruise ship Schedule: March 24 - 30 2025**

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	18.00	C	1
TUE	25	MARELLA DISCOVERY	08.00	20.00	C	1
WED	26	AMERA	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	21.00	I	1
FRI	28	REGAL PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
SAT	29	STAR CLIPPER	10.00	19.00	C	1
SUN	30	OCEANIA VISTA	10.00	20.00	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 basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Supermarket hours**



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

**Electrical power**



**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.

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

**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.

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# NYC will eventually have to abandon part of its water supply if it keeps getting saltier



The New Croton Dam and the New Croton Reservoir that supplies part of New York City's drinking water is seen in Cortlandt, N.Y., on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

Associated Press.

By **MICHAEL HILL**  
Associated Press

The suburban reservoirs that supply 10% of New York City's vaunted drinking water are getting saltier due to decades of road salt being spread near the system — and they will eventually have to be abandoned if nothing is done to reverse the trend, city officials warn. The plug wouldn't have to be pulled until early next century, according to a new study. But the soaring saltiness could eventually affect the famous taste of the Big Apple's water, which is sometimes called the champagne of tap water, and poses a challenge to managers of a system that serves more than 9 million people. "The conclusion of this study

is that if we don't change our ways, in 2100 the Croton Water System becomes a nice recreational facility, but it ceases to be a water supply," Rohit Aggarwala, the city's environmental protection commissioner, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "And that will directly impact everybody who drinks New York City water." The Croton system dates back to 1842 — when the first Croton Aqueduct began delivering water to a reservoir in what is now Manhattan's Central Park — and is now comprised of 12 reservoirs and three controlled lakes north of the city. The report found the concentration of chlorides — an indicator of salinization — tripled from 1987 to 2019

in the system's main reservoir, which is about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of the city line. Concentrations are on track to exceed the state's maximum contaminant level for chloride by 2108.

The report found salinity increases across the sprawling system of city reservoirs in upstate New York. However, the problem is far less of an issue in the Delaware and Catskill watersheds west of the Hudson River, which supply about 90% of the city's water. That's likely because there's far less development in those watersheds.

Road salt is considered a main driver of the increase, along with sewage treatment plant discharges and water softeners. Millions of tons of rock salt is spread on U.S. roads each winter as a cheap and effective way to reduce accidents. "It's really a problem across the country in areas with a lot of snow," said Shannon

Roback, science director for the environmental group Riverkeeper. "We've seen rising levels of salt in water in the Northeast, in the Midwest and in most places that use road salt." Roback noted that high salt levels in drinking water pose a host of environmental concerns and can be harmful to people on low-sodium diets.

Aggarwala said the city has a few options. □

**HEALTH**

**DOCTOR ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad**  
Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

**San Nicolas**  
Imsan 24 hours  
Tel.524 8833

**PHARMACY ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad:**  
Eagle: Tel.587 9011  
**San Nicolas:**  
Centro Medico:Tel.584 5794

**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  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

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# Movie Review: Jonathan Majors plays a man on the edge in the dark drama 'Magazine Dreams'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

There's rage simmering inside Killian Maddox, the amateur bodybuilder portrayed by Jonathan Majors at the heart of the dark and stylized film "Magazine Dreams."

It's a kind of "Taxi Driver" for the incel age, a harrowing portrait of untreated mental illness, violence, false idols, steroids and male loneliness. There was, from the beginning, lots to discuss and debate in the fabric of "Magazine Dreams." But in the two years since it debuted at the Sundance Film Festival, it was also eclipsed by the very real-life travails of its star, who was convicted of assaulting his former girlfriend.

In January 2023, "Magazine Dreams" had an exciting future with Oscar hopes for Majors. Searchlight Pictures won the distribution rights, reportedly over the likes of Neon and Sony Pictures Classics. And Majors was skyrocketing to the top, with big roles in "Creed III" and as Marvel's new



This image released by Briarcliff Entertainment shows Jonathan Majors in a scene from "Magazine Dreams."

main villain, Kang. But two months later, he was arrested. By that December, Majors was found guilty of one misdemeanor assault charge and one harassment violation and fired by Marvel. A month later, "Magazine Dreams" was without distribution. Majors

has, throughout it all, maintained his innocence. The film was eventually picked up by Briarcliff Entertainment, the same distributor who jumped in to release the young Donald Trump movie "The Apprentice" after the rest of the entertainment business

shied away from it. "The Apprentice" went on to get Oscar nominations for its two stars.

But there's a different kind of stigma around "Magazine Dreams," which is why this review has also been a bit eclipsed by what's happened in Majors' life. It's a

film about a man teetering on the edge of violence, about the relentless pursuit of greatness and it is deeply uncomfortable watching his descent.

His simplistic devotion to one wild goal may be his undoing in a world that just doesn't care about him. This is not the movie that any public relations professional would choose as a "comeback role." Yet it's impossible to deny the monumental ferocity of Majors' performance, from his full transformation to his unsettling ability to show the pain behind (most of) the psychotic actions.

Killian's life is nothing glamorous: He works in a grocery store and at home cares for his aging grandfather. But he has an intense, maniacal need to be seen and to be remembered. And the only way he's figured out how to achieve that is through physical perfection or at least his very narrow idea. Success is a magazine cover, which he naively conflates with immortality. □

Associated Press

# Mariah Carey didn't steal 'All I Want For Christmas Is You' from other writers, a judge says

By **ANDREW DALTON**  
AP Entertainment Writer

A federal judge in Los Angeles has ruled that Mariah Carey did not steal her perennial megahit "All I Want for Christmas Is You" from other songwriters.

Judge Mónica Ramírez Almadani granted Carey's request for summary judgment on Wednesday, giving her and co-writer and co-defendant Walter Afanasieff a victory without going to trial.

In 2023, songwriters Andy Stone of Louisiana who goes by the stage name Vince Vance and Troy Powers of Tennessee filed the \$20 million lawsuit alleging that Carey's 1994 song, which has since become a holiday standard and annual streaming sensation, infringed the copyright of their country 1989 song with

the same title. Their lawyer Gerard P. Fox said he's "disappointed" in an email to The Associated Press.

Fox said it is his experience that judges at this level "nearly always now dismiss a music copyright case

and that one must appeal to reverse and get the case to the jury. My client will make a decision shortly on whether to appeal. We filed based on the opinions of two esteemed musicologists who teach at great colleges."

Stone and Powers' suit said their "'All I Want For Christmas Is You' contains a unique linguistic structure where a person, disillusioned with expensive gifts and seasonal comforts, wants to be with their loved one, and accordingly writes a letter to Santa Claus."

They said there was an "overwhelming likelihood" Carey and Afanasieff had heard their song which at one point reached No. 31 on Billboard's Hot Country chart and infringed their copyright by taking significant elements from it.

After hearing from two experts for each side, Ramírez Almadani agreed with those from the defense, who said the writers employed common Christmas clichés that existed prior to both songs, and that Car-

ey's song used them differently.

She said the plaintiffs had not met the burden of showing that the songs are substantially similar.

Ramírez Almadani also ordered sanctions against the plaintiffs and their lawyers, saying their suit and subsequent filings were frivolous and that the plaintiffs' attorneys "made no reasonable effort to ensure that the factual contentions asserted have evidentiary support."

She said they must pay at least part of the defendants' attorney fees.

Defense attorneys and publicists for Carey did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Carey's Christmas colossus has become an even bigger hit in recent years than it was in the 1990s. □



Mariah Carey performs during a concert celebrating Dubai Expo 2020 One Year to Go in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Oct. 20, 2019.

Associated Press

# Panama stuns U.S. 1-0 on Waterman's late goal, eliminating Americans from CONCACAF Nations League

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Cecilio Waterman scored a stunning goal in the fourth minute of second-half injury time, and Panama beat the three-time defending champion United States 1-0 on Thursday night to reach the CONCACAF Nations League final.

Waterman took a pass down the right side from Adalberto Carrasquilla in front of a packed-in U.S. defense and fired a perfect right-footed diagonal shot past Matt Turner into the far left corner. Waterman's 11th international goal, on Panama's only shot on target on the night, advanced the Panamanians to a final Sunday against Mexico.

"Many good things have happened to me in my career, but this one is different," Waterman said. "This one was incredible."

Waterman, a 33-year-old striker who plays professionally in Chile, ripped off his jersey and hurdled the advertising end boards



Panama's Cecilio Waterman Ruiz scores against the United States during the second half of a CONCACAF Nations League semifinal soccer match Thursday, March 20, 2025, in Inglewood, Calif.

before climbing up onto a broadcast stage to celebrate with Thierry Henry, who looked just as stunned as the rest of the crowd at SoFi Stadium.

"You are my idol!" Waterman repeatedly shouted in Spanish before hugging Henry, an Arsenal great.

Waterman took his own step toward idol status as Panama beat the U.S. for the third straight time in competitive matches, following wins in a 2023 CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal and the group stage of last year's Copa America. Coach Thomas Christian-

sen's club has repeatedly exceeded expectations during his tenure, and this victory was only the latest remarkable achievement for Los Canaleros, who beat Costa Rica on the road last November in the Nations League quarterfinals. "This is the third time we

Associated Press

have been in this position," Waterman said.

"This time, we want to give that gift to Panama. We want to achieve something for them, for Central America."

The loss at a half-empty SoFi Stadium was a big stumble for U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino, who replaced Gregg Berhalter six months ago after the Americans' first-round exit at the Copa America.

After Sunday's third-place match against Canada, Pochettino will have his full player pool for just five training camps before the team gathers ahead of the World Cup.

"I'm very disappointed, because I don't think the way we approached the game was the right way," Pochettino said.

"The first half, I think we played too slow. We didn't show aggression with the ball, and the consequence not to show aggression with the ball, we also didn't show aggression in a defensive way." □

# Pitcher Julio Urías suspended through the All-Star break by MLB under domestic violence policy

NEW YORK (AP) — Former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Julio Urías was suspended through the All-Star break by Major League Baseball on Friday under its domestic violence policy with the players' association.

Urías had pleaded no contest last May to one count of misdemeanor domestic battery. The penalty was the second for Urías under the policy following a 20-game suspension in 2019. MLB said he will be reinstated from the restricted list on July 17.

A 28-year-old left-hander, Urías has not pitched since Sept. 1, 2023. He was arrested two days later outside BMO Stadium in Los Angeles, where he had attended a Major League Soccer game on Sept. 3 involving Inter Miami and Lionel Messi. The Depart-

ment of Public Safety said it was contacted by someone, whose name was not publicly identified, regarding a physical altercation between a man and a woman.

Urías initially was given a felony charge of corporal injury on a spouse or cohabitant, and he was placed on administrative leave by MLB that Sept. 6. Urías pleaded no contest to one count of misdemeanor domestic battery the following May 1 as four other misdemeanor charges were dropped. Los Angeles City Attorney's office spokesman Ivor Pine said Urías was placed on 36 months of summary probation and ordered to complete 30 days of community labor. Urías must also complete a 52-week domestic violence counseling course, pay a domestic

violence fund fee, not possess any weapons, not use any force or violence, pay restitution to the victim and abide by a protective order.

"Having reviewed all of the available evidence, I have concluded that Mr. Urías violated our policy and that discipline is appropriate," baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred said in a statement Friday.

MLB said Urías agreed to be evaluated by the joint policy board established by MLB and the players' association and to comply with any of its recommendations.

Urías' agent, Scott Boras, said the pitcher was not making any statement. Urías became a free agent after the 2023 World Series when his \$4.7 million, one-year contract expired. Urías was also arrested in

May 2019 on suspicion of domestic battery. While he was suspended by MLB, he wasn't prosecuted by the LA city attorney on the condition he complete a 52-week domestic violence counseling program.

Over eight major league seasons, all with the Dodg-

ers, Urías is 60-25 with a 3.11 ERA. He led the National League with a 2.16 ERA in 2022 and was a member of the team that won the 2020 World Series, going 4-0 with a save and a 1.17 ERA in six postseason appearances. □



Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Julio Urías throws to the plate during the first inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

# Aaron Rodgers meets with the Pittsburgh Steelers, AP source says

By **WILL GRAVES**  
AP Sports Writer

Aaron Rodgers might still want to play football. He might even do it in Pittsburgh.

The four-time NFL MVP met with the Steelers on Friday, a person with knowledge of the visit told The Associated Press. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the meeting was not made public.

Pittsburgh currently has an opening at quarterback. Justin Fields, who along with Russell Wilson led the Steelers to a 10-7 record and a playoff berth last season, signed with the Jets last week. Wilson is a free agent but does not appear to be part of Pittsburgh's plans for 2025. The Steelers signed veteran backup Mason Rudolph to a two-year deal earlier this week but still have plenty of room on the roster for another arm or two.

The 41-year-old Rodgers appears to be in no rush to make a decision. He's spent time in California recently trying to figure out if he wanted to come back for a 21st season.

Rodgers' methodical approach didn't sit well with longtime Steelers defensive captain Cam Heyward. The four-time All-Pro expressed



**New York Jets quarterback Aaron Rodgers (8) looks out over the line of scrimmage during an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, Oct. 6, 2024 in London.**

Associated Press

frustration on his podcast earlier this week.

"Either you want to be a Pittsburgh Steeler or you don't, it's that simple," Heyward said. "That's the pitch. If you want me to recruit, that's the recruiting pitch. Pittsburgh Steelers. If you want to be part of it, so be it. If you don't, no skin off my back."

Rodgers could be looking to end his career on a more upbeat note following two turbulent seasons in New York.

A torn left Achilles tendon a handful of snaps into his first game with the Jets in 2023 ended his season. He returned last fall at 40 and threw 28 touchdown passes and 11 interceptions but also courted off-the-field drama regularly as the Jets went 5-12. Pittsburgh coach Mike Tomlin has long admired Rodgers, who led the Green Bay Packers to a victory over Tomlin and the Steelers in the Super Bowl following the 2010 season. The two have had

a handful of memorable in-game interactions since, including last fall when they tipped their metaphorical caps to each other when Tomlin managed to call timeout before Rodgers could catch Pittsburgh with 12 men on the field during a Steelers blowout of the Jets.

Pittsburgh is trying to emerge from a decade of being pretty good, but never great while stringing together winning season fol-

lowed by quick playoff exits.

The Steelers' quarterback room has had a revolving door since Ben Roethlisberger retired after the 2021 season. Whoever gets the start in Week 1 in September will be the team's fifth starting quarterback in an opener in as many years, following Roethlisberger, Mitch Trubisky, Kenny Pickett and Fields.

A year after the Steelers signed Wilson on the cheap after his unceremonious exit from Denver, they could be taking another flyer on a player with a Hall of Fame resume but plenty of baggage.

Rodgers was traded to the Jets in April 2023 after 18 seasons with the Packers looking to help the franchise end a Super Bowl drought that dates to the glory days of Joe Namath and the 1968 season.

Rodgers finished his Jets tenure with six wins including the victory during which he was injured in 18 starts. His 28 touchdown passes and 3,897 yards passing last year both rank third for a single season in franchise history. But he lacked some mobility early in his return and then dealt with a few additional leg injuries, including a hamstring ailment that hobbled him. □

## Fewer than 1% of March Madness brackets remain perfect after first day of games



**Clemson guard Jaeden Zackery, left, react after a loss to McNeese State in the first round of the NCAA college basketball tournament, Thursday, March 20, 2025, in Providence, R.I.**

Associated Press

By The Associated Press

Fewer than 1% of NCAA Tournament brackets were still perfect after Thursday's 16-game slate, according to several services where fans attempt the all-but impossible task of predicting every March Madness game correctly or, barring that, win their office pools.

ESPN's tracker listed 25,802 perfect brackets remaining out of more than 24 million filled out on its site following the final game of the day, Texas Tech's win over UNC-Wilmington.

The NCAA said 0.0938% of more than 34 million brackets were still perfect.

The numbers were similar at CBS Sports, where 0.09% of brackets were unblemished following the first day of action.

Yahoo Sports said 99.9% of its brackets had fallen short of perfection after 11th-seeded Drake beat No. 6 seed Missouri.

Earlier Thursday, about 6.6 million brackets were busted on ESPN when No. 12 seed McNeese beat No. 5 seed Clemson 69-67.

Creighton which saw a boost in this category because it played the first game of the day was listed as ESPN's top bracket buster after its 89-75 win over Louisville. There were 13,339,089 ESPN brackets busted by that game.

On the other end of the spectrum, ESPN reported that every pick was wrong on 30 of its brackets a nearly impossible feat in its own right even if a contestant were trying to pick all losers. □