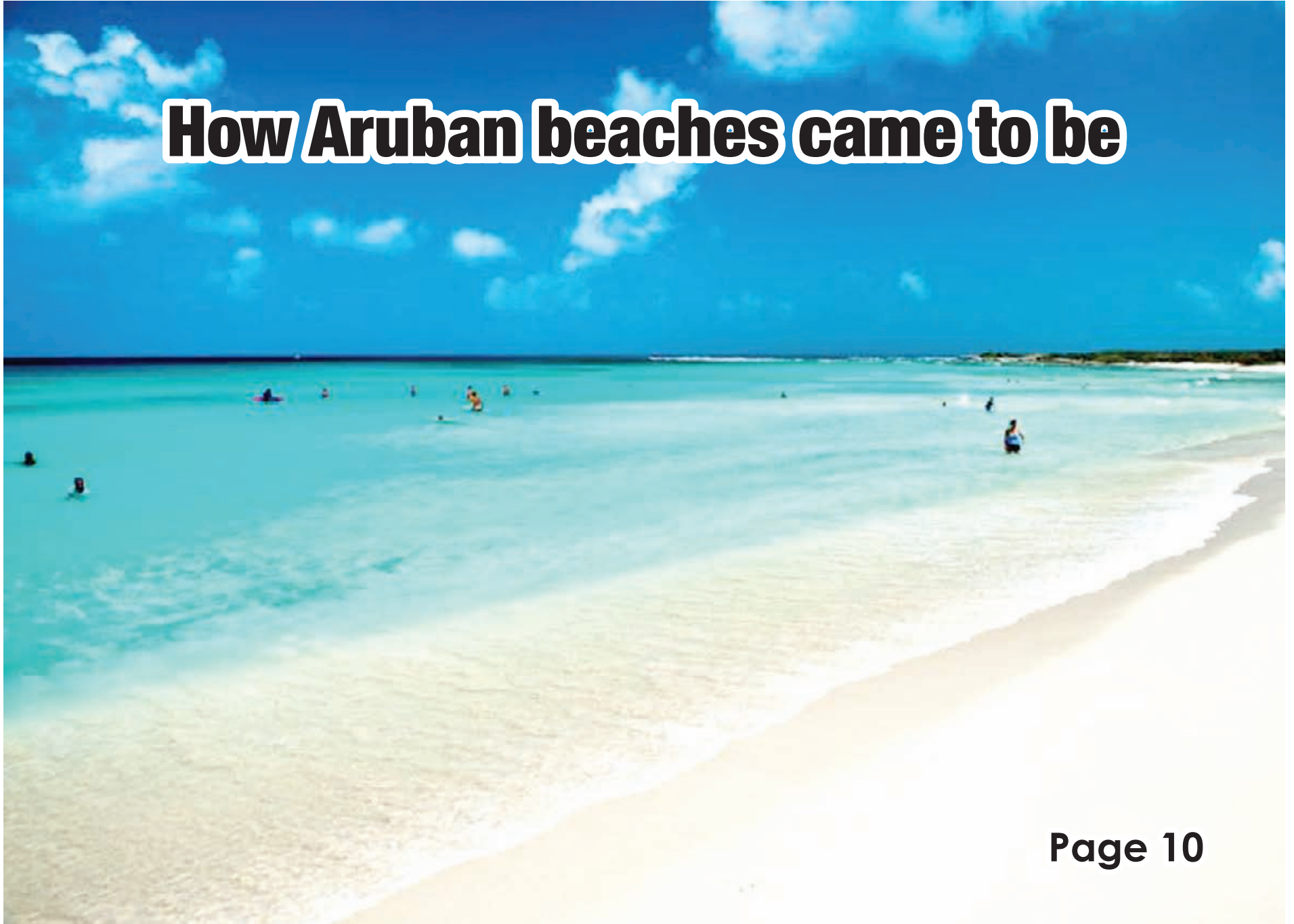




How Aruban beaches came to be



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Left and right are joining forces to ban lawmakers from trading stock

By **LEAH ASKARINAM** and **KEVIN FREKING**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An unusual alliance emerged in the House on Wednesday as lawmakers, who agree on little else, rallied support for a bill that would prohibit members of Congress and their families from owning and trading individual stocks.

The group included darlings of the far right, the left, moderates and many in between. They gathered to promote a ban that polls well with voters and appears to be finding new momentum after stalling out in previous sessions of Congress.

"It's not every day you see this cast of characters up here," said Brian Fitzpatrick, a moderate Republican who represents a perennial swing district in Pennsylvania. "You're all smirking out there. That's a good thing. It speaks to the power of this cause."

Congress has discussed proposals for years to keep lawmakers from engaging in trading individual stocks, nodding to the idea that there's a potential conflict of interest when they are often privy to information and decisions that can dramatically move markets.



The Capitol is seen in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, as Congress is scheduled to return from their August break Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, after Labor Day.

Associated Press

A Senate committee has approved legislation from GOP Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri that would also extend the prohibition on stock trading to future presidents and vice presidents — while notably exempting Republican President Donald Trump. The House bill unveiled this week is limited to Congress, but the sponsors said they were open to extending it to the executive branch if enough support emerged.

Under current law, federal lawmakers are required to disclose their stock sales and purchases. The bill requiring disclosure, The Stock Act, was signed into law in 2012. At the time, lawmakers and government watchdogs predicted that public disclosure would shame lawmakers out of actively buying and selling stock. That hasn't happened.

The sponsors said they merged their own, individual

bills on banning stocks and came together with a single bipartisan effort. Rep. Chip Roy of Texas, the bill's lead sponsor, said that the group had been meeting for the last several months, and some sponsors had actually been working on this for years. About a dozen lawmakers from both parties joined Roy on stage. It was an unusually festive moment as the partisan lines in Congress have rarely been sharper.

"I don't agree with some of these people on anything," said Rep. Tim Burchett, a Tennessee Republican often aligned with the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus.

Progressive Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., followed Burchett to the podium and fist-bumped him when doing so. She said she felt like the coalition showed how Congress should actually work. "It feels foreign and it feels alien and it's like, what's going on here?" she said.

While the legislation would not allow lawmakers to own individual stocks and bonds, they would be allowed to own diversified mutual funds and ETFs and certain commodities. Lawmakers who currently own individual stocks and bonds would have 180 days to divest. New members would have 90 days to divest upon taking office.

The mood was celebratory at Wednesday's unveiling, but even if the bill were to pass the House, it would face a more difficult climb in the Senate. At least 60 votes would be needed to advance the legislation in that chamber and some senators have expressed concerns about the concept. □

Trump administration agrees to restore health websites and data

By **MIKE STOBBE**
AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Federal officials have agreed to restore health- and science-

related webpages and data under to a lawsuit settlement with doctors groups and other organizations who sued.



President Donald Trump, left, speaks as Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. listens during a Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) Commission Event in the East Room of the White House, Thursday, May 22, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

The settlement was announced this week by the lead plaintiffs in the case, the Washington State Medical Association.

Soon after President Donald Trump's inauguration, federal health officials deleted or removed information on a range of topics including pregnancy risks, opioid-use disorder and the AIDS epidemic. The move was made in reaction to a Trump executive order that told agencies to stop using the term "gender" in federal policies and documents. The administration saw it as a move to end the promotion of "gender ideology." Doctors, scientists and public health advocates saw it as an "egregious example

of government overreach," says Dr. John Bramhall, the organization's president, said in a statement.

"This was trusted health information that vanished in a blink of an eye resources that, among other things, physicians rely on to manage patients' health conditions and overall care," Bramhall said. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has agreed to restore more than 100 websites and resources to the state they were in, said Graham Short, a spokesperson for the Washington State doctors' group. "We expect the sites will be restored in the coming weeks," Short said in an email. The case was filed in

federal court in Seattle. The plaintiffs include, among others, the Vermont Medical Society, the Washington State Nurses Association and the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care. The defendants included U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and federal health agencies and officials who work under him. Federal officials responded to questions about the settlement with this statement: "HHS remains committed to its mission of removing radical gender and DEI ideology from federal programs, subject to applicable law, to ensure taxpayer dollars deliver meaningful results for the American people." □

Washington, Oregon and California governors form a health alliance in rebuke of Trump administration

By MARTHA BELLISLE
Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — The Democratic governors of Washington, Oregon and California announced Wednesday that they have created an alliance to establish their own recommendations for who should receive vaccines because they believe the Trump administration is putting Americans' health at risk by politicizing the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The announcement came the same day that Florida said it will phase out all childhood vaccine mandates. Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis plans to curb vaccine requirements and other health mandates that evolved during the COVID-19 pandemic in his state. The differing responses come as COVID-19 cases rise and as Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has restructured and downsized the CDC and attempted to advance anti-vaccine policies that are contradicted by decades of scientific research. Concerns about staffing and budget cuts were heightened after the White House sought to oust



This photo combination shows, from left, Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek, Jan. 31, 2024, in Salem, Ore., Washington Gov. Bob Ferguson, Jan. 27, 2025, in Seattle and California Gov. Gavin Newsom, Aug. 21, 2025, in Sacramento, Calif.

the agency's director and some top CDC leaders resigned in protest.

"The CDC has become a political tool that increasingly peddles ideology instead of science, ideology that will lead to severe health consequences," the governors said in a joint statement.

"The dismantling of public health and dismissal of experienced and respected health leaders and advisers, along with the lack of using science, data, and

evidence to improve our nation's health are placing lives at risk," California State Health Officer Erica Pan said in the news release. Washington state Health Secretary Dennis Worsham said public health is about prevention "preventing illness, preventing the spread of disease, and preventing early, avoidable deaths."

"Vaccines are among the most powerful tools in modern medicine; they have indisputably saved millions of lives," Oregon Health Di-

rector Sejal Hathi said. "But when guidance about their use becomes inconsistent or politicized, it undermines public trust at precisely the moment we need it most."

Partnership seeks expert medical advice

The three states plan to coordinate their vaccine recommendations and immunization plans based on science-based evidence from respected national medical organizations, said a joint statement from Gov. Bob Ferguson of Washing-

ton, Gov. Tina Kotek of Oregon and Gov. Gavin Newsom of California.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Andrew G. Nixon shot back in a statement Wednesday that "Democrat-run states that pushed unscientific school lockdowns, toddler mask mandates, and draconian vaccine passports during the COVID era completely eroded the American people's trust in public health agencies."

He said the administration's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices "remains the scientific body guiding immunization recommendations in this country, and HHS will ensure policy is based on rigorous evidence and Gold Standard Science, not the failed politics of the pandemic."

Public health agencies across nation start vaccine efforts Meanwhile, public health agencies across the country have started taking steps to ensure their states have access to vaccines after U.S. regulators came out with new policies that limited access to COVID-19 shots. □

Associated Press

U.S. appeals court reverses lower court, approves Illinois ban on carrying firearms on public transit

By JOHN O'CONNOR
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A federal appeals court has approved Illinois' ban on carrying firearms on public transit, reversing a lower court decision that found the prohibition violated the Second Amendment. The 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals delivered its opinion on Tuesday. Judge Joshua Kolar wrote in the majority opinion for a three-judge panel that the Illinois restriction "is comfortably situated in a centuries-old practice of limiting firearms in sensitive and crowded, confined places."

In August 2024, the Rockford-based U.S. District

Court for the Northern District of Illinois ruled in favor of four plaintiffs who argued that prohibiting guns on public buses and trains was unconstitutional. It relied on a pivotal 2022 U.S. Supreme Court ruling known as Bruen that decreed that restrictions on carrying guns in public must be "relevantly similar," or consistent, with conditions that existed in the late 18th century when the Bill of Rights was composed. It said there were no analogous conditions that justified the transit ban.

The appeals court found the ban appropriate.

"We are asked whether the state may temporarily

disarm its citizens as they travel in crowded and confined metal tubes unlike anything the founders envisioned," Kolar wrote. "We draw from the lessons of our nation's historical regulatory traditions and find no Second Amendment violation in such a regulation."

The public transit ban was imposed in 2013 when Illinois became the last state in the nation to OK carrying concealed weapons in public. In addition to buses and trains, it nixed gun possession in places such as public arenas and hospitals.

Joining in the majority opinion with Kolar, who was named to the court

by President Joe Biden in 2024, was Judge Kenneth Ripple, appointed in 1985 by President Ronald Reagan. Writing a sepa-

rate concurring opinion was Judge Amy St. Eve, tabbed for the court in 2018 by President Donald Trump. □



A Chicago Transit Authority train pulls into the Damen Ave. station on Aug. 12, 2024, in Chicago.

Associated Press

Florida plans to become first state to eliminate all childhood vaccine mandates

By **CURT ANDERSON**

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)

— Florida plans to become the first state to eliminate vaccine mandates that have been a cornerstone of public health policy for decades in keeping schoolchildren and adults safe from infectious diseases.

State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo, who announced the decision Wednesday, cast current requirements in schools and elsewhere as “immoral” intrusions on people’s rights that hamper parents’ ability to make health decisions for their children.

“People have a right to make their own decisions, informed decisions,” Ladapo, who has frequently clashed with the medical establishment, said at a news conference in Valrico. “They don’t have the right to tell you what to put in your body. Take it away from them.”

Physician groups and other health organizations have long considered vaccines to be safe and the most effective way to stop the spread of communicable diseases, especially among schoolchildren.

Dr. Rana Alissa, chair of



Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo gestures as speaks to supporters and members of the media before a bill signing by Gov. Ron DeSantis, Nov. 18, 2021, in Brandon, Fla.

Associated Press

the Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, said removing vaccines puts students and school staff at greater risk.

“When everyone in a school is vaccinated, it is harder for diseases to spread and easier for everyone to continue learning and having fun,” Alissa said in an email. “When children are sick and miss school, caregivers also miss work, which not only impacts those families

but also the local economy.”

Democratic state Rep. Anna Eskamani, who is running for Orlando mayor, said in a social media post that scrapping vaccines “is reckless and dangerous” and could cause outbreaks of preventable disease.

“This is a public health disaster in the making for the Sunshine State,” Eskamani said on the social platform X.

The move comes as the Trump administration works to restructure the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and reshape the nation’s vaccine policies.

The Democratic governors of Washington, Oregon and California announced Wednesday that they created an alliance to safeguard health policies, contending that the administration is politicizing public

health decisions.

The partnership plans to coordinate health guidelines by aligning immunization plans based on recommendations from respected national medical organizations, according to a joint statement from Gov. Bob Ferguson of Washington, Gov. Tina Kotek of Oregon and Gov. Gavin Newsom of California.

Vaccines have saved at least 154 million lives globally over the past 50 years, the World Health Organization reported in 2024. The majority of those were infants and children.

“Vaccines are among the most powerful inventions in history, making once-feared diseases preventable,” said Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO director-general.

In Florida, vaccine mandates for child day care facilities and public schools include shots for measles, chickenpox, hepatitis B, diphtheria-tetanus-acellular pertussis, polio and other diseases, according to the state Health Department’s website. The department, Ladapo said, can scrap its own rules for some vaccine mandates but others would require action by the Florida Legislature. □

South Carolina’s top lawyers say paid family leave should include stillbirths too

By **JEFFREY COLLINS**

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)

— South Carolina’s law allowing for family leave after the birth of a child should also provide at least six weeks of paid time off when a baby is stillborn, according to an opinion from the state’s top lawyers.

After lawmakers approved the paid leave for teachers and other school district workers as well as other state employees in 2023, lead sponsor Republican Rep. Neal Collins said he heard of at least three school districts that refused to let teachers have paid time off after their baby died during childbirth.

“Even though their child was stillborn, these parents went through the birthing process, a major medi-

cal event. They need their promised paid parental leave benefits to best recover from their tragic loss

and suffering,” Collins wrote in a letter requesting the opinion of the South Carolina Attorney General’s Office. The office agreed, noting that the law only references a “birth” and not a “live birth,” and that in other places in state law, such as abortion and wrongful death, a fetus that would be viable outside of the womb is considered a person.

“Giving birth to a stillborn child is physiologically identical to giving birth to a living child, although far more traumatic. Parents in this circumstance deserve the time, support, and benefits guaranteed under law to recover from their trag-

ic loss,” Solicitor General Emeritus Bob Cook wrote in the opinion.

But the opinion is not legally binding. Instead, it is the Attorney General Office’s best guess, based on the law, about how a judge might rule.

So Cook suggested that Collins and other lawmakers pass a bill in 2026 specifying that stillbirth is included in family leave.

Collins said he plans to do just that, and has plenty of support in the general assembly. Collins did not identify the districts that did not offer leave, saying he did not want to risk identifying the parents suffering from the loss of their child. □



South Carolina Rep. Neal Collins, R-Easley, speaks against an education voucher bill on April 26, 2023, in Columbia, S.C.

Associated Press

Rubio says U.S. and Mexico will strengthen security collaboration

By **MATTHEW LEE**

AP Diplomatic Writer

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico and the United States on Wednesday agreed during U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to keep collaborating on cross-border security, including the trafficking of drugs, guns and fuel, but made clear it would be done from their respective sides of the border, respecting each other's sovereignty.

What had initially been advertised as the signing of a broad security agreement evolved into the possibility of a memorandum of understanding, but in the end was a reaffirmation of the collaboration Mexico and the U.S. have said they've been doing all along.

The priorities remain stopping fentanyl and other drugs from flowing into the U.S., and the high-powered guns bought in U.S. gun shops from being smuggled into Mexico, while continuing to control migration, which has fallen dramatically. The new development is the establishment of a "high-level implementation group" that would be the mechanism for that continued collaboration.

"This is a high-level group



Secretary of State Marco Rubio, left, meets with Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum, right, at the Palacio Nacional in Mexico City, Wednesday, September 3, 2025.

that will meet and coordinate on a regular basis to make sure that all the things we are working on, all the things we have agreed to work on, are being implemented," Rubio said.

"It's the closest cooperation we've ever had, maybe between any country, but definitely between the U.S. and Mexico," Rubio said.

Rubio spoke after meet-

ing with Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Wednesday to stress the importance the U.S. places on cooperating with Washington on Western Hemisphere security, trade and migration. Rubio will visit Ecuador on Thursday on his third trip to Latin America since taking office. Sheinbaum has voiced fears of the U.S. encroaching on Mexican sovereignty.

The meeting came a

day after President Donald Trump dramatically stepped up his administration's military role in the Caribbean with what he called a deadly strike on a Venezuelan drug cartel.

Trump has alienated many in the region with persistent demands and threats of sweeping tariffs and massive sanctions for refusing to follow his lead, particularly on migration and the fight against drug cartels. Likely

to heighten those concerns is the U.S. having deployed warships to the Caribbean and elsewhere off Latin America and announcing a lethal strike on an alleged Tren de Aragua gang vessel carrying narcotics.

Mexico's president pushes back on Trump saying she's not ready to target cartels Trump has demanded, and so far won, some concessions from Sheinbaum's government, which is eager to defuse his tariff threats, although she has fiercely defended Mexico's sovereignty.

Sheinbaum again rejected Trump's suggestion that she is afraid of confronting Mexico's cartels because they have so much power. "We respect a lot the Mexico-United States relationship, President Trump, and no, it's not true this affirmation that he makes," she said.

Speaking to reporters Wednesday before meeting with Rubio, she said that what her administration planned to agree to with the United States is a "co-operation program about border security and the application of the law within the framework of our (respective) sovereignties." □

Associated Press

The derailing of a streetcar in Lisbon causes deaths and injuries, Portuguese president says

By **BARRY HATTON**

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — An electric streetcar that is one of Lisbon's landmarks and a big draw for tourists derailed Wednesday, killing and injuring an unspecified number of people, the Portuguese president's office said.

The statement on the presidential website did not say how many casualties there were. President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa offered his condolence to families affected by what had happened.

An anonymous police source told TV channel CNN Portugal that three people were killed and at least 20 injured, some of them critically. Officials

did not publicly confirm the reports. The yellow-and-white streetcar, which goes up and down a steep downtown hill in tandem with one going the opposite way, was lying on its side on the narrow road that it travels along, Portuguese television channels showed.

Its sides and top were partially crumpled, and it appeared to have crashed into a building where the road bends. Several dozen emergency workers were at the scene but most stood down after about two hours.

Lisbon Mayor Carlos Moedas said he couldn't confirm the number of casualties. "Lisbon is in mourning," Moedas told report-

ers at the scene. "This was a tragic accident ... It's a tragedy of the like we've never seen."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also sent her condolences. "It is with sadness that I learned of the derailment of the famous Elevador da Gloria," she wrote in Portuguese on X.

The cause of the accident was not immediately known. It reportedly occurred at the start of the evening rush hour, around 6 p.m.

An investigation into the causes will begin once the rescue operation is over, the Portuguese government said in a statement. The streetcar, known as Gloria, can carry more

than 40 people, seated and standing. It is commonly used by Lisbon residents. The streetcar, technically called a funicular, is known as Elevador da Glo-

ria. Two streetcars run parallel to each other as they shuttle up and down the hill on a curved, traffic-free road for a few hundred meters (yards). □



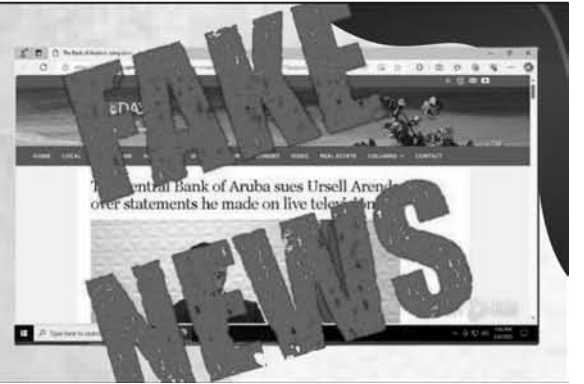
Emergency teams work at the site of a derailed electric streetcar in Lisbon, Portugal, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

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Israel criticized for dropping grenades near U.N. peacekeepers in Lebanon

By **BASSEM MROUE**

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Israeli drones dropped four grenades close to U.N. peacekeepers in southern Lebanon near the border with Israel as they were working to clear roadblocks, the force said Wednesday. No one was hurt in the attack.

The peacekeeping force, the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon, described the Tuesday morning incident as "one of the most serious attacks on UNIFIL personnel and assets" since the cessation of hostilities in November that ended the 14-month Israel-Hezbollah war.

The Israeli military said later Wednesday that it didn't intentionally target the peacekeepers, but dropped several sonic bombs near a suspect in a border area.

It added that contact was made with the peacekeeping force and ex-



French U.N. peacekeepers deploy at the Suluki Valley, south Lebanon, Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025.
Associated Press

plained the details of what happened.

UNIFIL said one grenade hit within 20 meters (65 feet) and three others within approximately 100 meters (330 feet) of U.N. personnel

and vehicles, adding that the drones were observed returning toward Israel.

UNIFIL said the Israeli military had been informed in advance of the peacekeeping force's road clearance

work in the area, southeast of the village of Marwahin and less than a kilometer (about a half-mile) from the border line.

"Out of concern for the safety of peacekeepers

following the incident, yesterday's work was suspended," UNIFIL said.

France, which has a large force within UNIFIL, condemned the attack, saying that the "respect of its members applies to all parties without exception." Qatar called it a "grave violation of international humanitarian law," and the U.N. Security Council resolution that ended the Israel-Hezbollah war.

The attack came after the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously last week to terminate the U.N. peacekeeping force in southern Lebanon at the end of next year after nearly five decades, bowing to demands from the United States and Israel.

The multinational peacekeeping force has played a significant role in monitoring the security situation in southern Lebanon for decades, including during the Israel-Hezbollah conflict. □

About 100 bodies recovered from landslide-hit village in Darfur as pope urges help

By **SAMY MAGDY**

Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Search teams recovered around 100 bodies from a remote village that is feared to have been wiped out by a devastating landslide over the weekend in Sudan's western region of Darfur, a rebel group said Wednesday.

Mohamed Abdel-Rahman al-Nair, a spokesman for the Sudan Liberation Movement-Army, told The Associated Press the recovery operation took place on Tuesday and that search efforts were underway despite a lack of resources and equipment. He also

said the death toll from the Aug. 31 landslide in Tarasin, in the Marrah Mountains, could be as high as 1,000.



In this Monday, Sept. 1, 2025, photo provided by the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army, people gather at the site of a landslide from Aug. 31, that wiped out the village of Tarasin in the Marrah Mountains of Central Darfur, Sudan.

Associated Press

The United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, said that the death toll and the full scale of the tragedy have yet to be confirmed as the area hit was "extremely hard to reach."

The U.N. has said that "between 300-1,000 people may have lost their lives" in the landslide and that efforts were mobilized to support the impacted area, located more than 900 kilometers (560 miles) west of the capital, Khartoum.

Pope Leo XIV spoke of the tragedy during his weekly address on Wednesday, saying it has left "behind pain and despair."

He called for "a coordinated response to stop this humanitarian catastrophe," and initiate a "serious, sincere, and inclusive dialogue between the parties to end the conflict and restore hope, dignity, and peace to the people of Sudan."

Arjimand Hussain, Regional Response Manager with Plan International, one of the few NGOs operating in Darfur, said the group, along with the U.N., plans to send teams to Tarasin in the coming days, but deployment is difficult with the heavy rains making roads inaccessible. □

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

(Oranjestad)—In Yesterday's issue, we've provided some basic rules when driving on the four-lane highways and roundabouts on the island. Today, we want to offer you more tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders

on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out. Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for

example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the

other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com



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Nestled in the heart of Palm Beach, Aruba, L'Avenue brings a fresh breeze of Belgian charm to the Caribbean. Just over a year since its grand opening, this intimate bistro has quickly made its mark with its warm hospitality, authentic cuisine, and elegant yet approachable ambiance.

Whether you're strolling through Palm Beach after a morning at the beach or looking for a special dinner spot, L'Avenue welcomes you with an inviting terrace, stylish décor, and the comforting aroma of Belgian classics crafted to perfection. It's a place where locals, travelers, food lovers, and beer connoisseurs come together — united by a love for great food, heartfelt service, and that unmistakable European flair.

At L'Avenue, every dish tells a story — one of tradition, seasonality, and bold yet balanced flavors. From crispy croquettes and perfectly poured Belgian beers



to steaming pots of fresh mussels flown in weekly, the menu offers something both comforting and surprising. Lunch includes a variety of sandwiches—with a healthy selection of bread options—if you're going for a light meal, but just like their dinner selection, also includes steak, chicken, fish, and even rabbit if you're craving a bit more of L'Avenue's exquisite menu. And let's not forget their wide selection of Belgian beer and European wine to complete the tasty experience! But that's not all! L'Avenue is offering their guests their Early Bird Special, available every day from 4pm to 7pm. Enjoy this affordable and delectable 3-course meal special at a comfortable price of \$29.50 per guest, which includes a selection of their fine in-house wine.

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tion of premium Belgian beers, and an atmosphere that balances European elegance with island ease make it one of the most talked-about dining spots in Aruba.

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Aruba to me: Martin Reinstein

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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 Martin Reinstein from New York City.

He wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is friendly happy people, like this man selling cold coconut water on a hot day."

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

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Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

Trupial



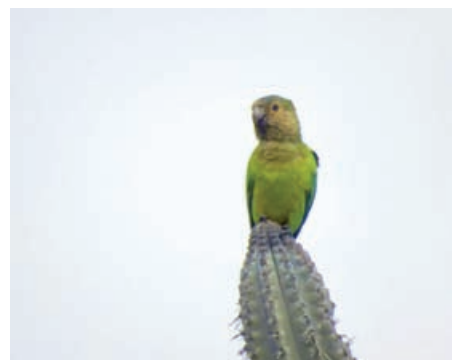
Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Trou-pial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be

spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Prikichi (parakeet)

The Brown-throated Prikichi (*Aratinga pertinax*) became the national

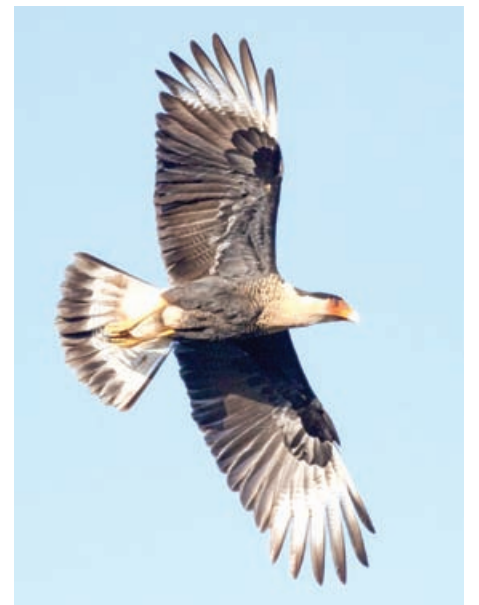


bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing



its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature.

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation

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.

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 con-



tinue 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).

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)—Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Pineapple

Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

When the fruit is unripe and green, this can be used to stimulate menstruation flow in women. This also stimulates the passing kidney stones. When ripe, the fruit can be used for poisoning in the gut and can help

treat rheumatic diseases, like arthritis.

However, breastfeeding women who cannot produce much milk are advised not to consume too pineapple, and people with acid reflux are recommended to not consume any pineapple at all.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a "shalup" (porridge) for stomach pain or when you're feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw

arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen.□



Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

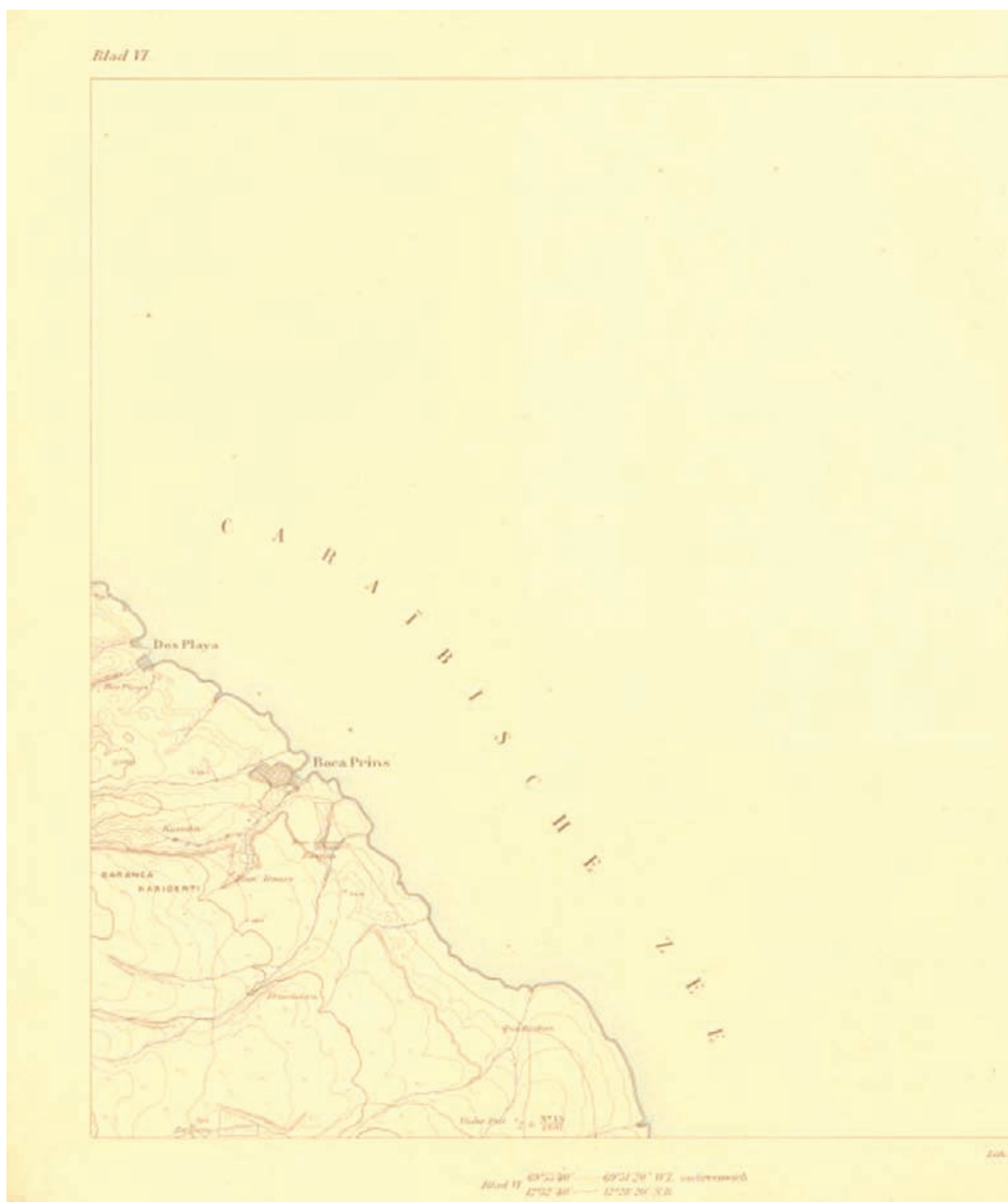
On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: “Corobori,” Arua said. “Don’t come back without news. It’s in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you.”

“Don’t worry,” Corobori replied. “As soon as we have any information, we will let you know.” Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: “Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that’s not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt.”

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son’s findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked



along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: “My children, many years have passed, and I’ve asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave

my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation.”

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock

CROSSWORD

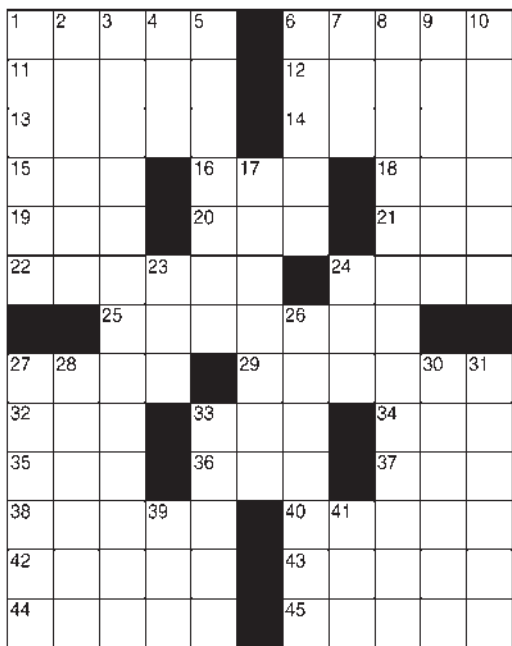
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

- 43** Indy entrant
6 Stares stupidly
11 Bothered
12 Seize by force
13 Home style
14 Fall sign
15 Lobed organ
16 Strike caller
18 Bar concern
19 Employ
20 "— Boot"
21 Road-house
22 Long-winged seabird
24 Play parts
25 Ottoman rulers
27 Bearing
29 Comes in
32 Hockey's Bobby
33 Braying beast
34 Scoundrel
35 Fall mo.
36 Detective Archer
37 Compete
38 Cartoon genre
40 Hirsch of "Milk"
42 Kitchen gadget

DOWN

- 1** Invented
2 Relaxed
3 Presidential protectors
4 Eastern "way"
5 Fruit-filled pastry
6 Swallows
7 "Do — say!"
8 Point of some commercials
9 Wandering
10 Gives rise to
17 Blue-gray cat
23 Use the track
24 Hill insect
26 Replies
27 Elementary substances
28 Sly, in a way
30 Complained bitterly
31 Takes the wheel
33 Like sentries
39 Chess pieces
41 West of films



9-8

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.

9-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

OKLFL NR T ONWL UQF

WTDNEC RHLLMKLR, TEY T

ONWL UQF CQNEC OQ ZLY.

— KQWLF, "QYXRRLX"

Cryptoquote: DO NOT LET WHAT YOU CANNOT DO INTERFERE WITH WHAT YOU CAN DO. — JOHN WOODEN

Cruise ship Schedule: Sep 02 - 18 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
TUE	02	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	10	CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00	16.00	C	1
		RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	B	1
THU	11	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	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.



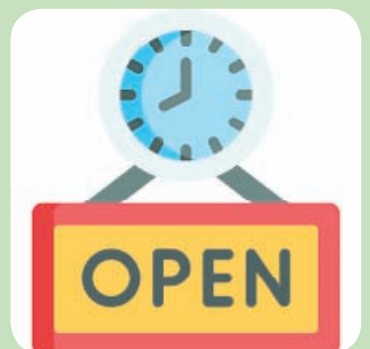
Drinking water

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



Safety

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



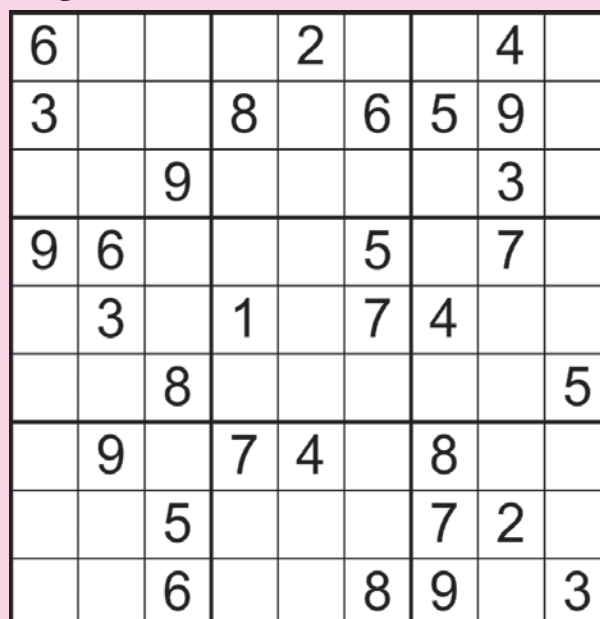
Supermarket hours

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

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★

9/4

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/3



Chairman of European Parliament's Committee on International Trade (INTA) Bernd Lange attends a news conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, April 16, 2025.

Associated Press

Head of EU parliament trade committee has 'doubts' about deal with US, says it could be amended

By DAVID McHUGH
AP Business Writer
FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)

— The head of the European Parliament's trade committee said Wednesday he has "doubts" about aspects of the EU's trade deal with the Trump administration and predicted the deal could be amended during the legislative approval process.

"A lot of questions are there, and I guess there will be some amendments," said committee chairman Bernd Lange, adding that "myself and also some colleagues of mine have doubts about the deal."

Lange stopped short of outright opposing the agreement struck July 27 between the head of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and U.S. President Donald Trump. The deal imposes a 15% tariff on European goods while lowering EU tariffs on U.S. cars and industrial goods to zero; some EU goods including aircraft, cork and generic

pharmaceuticals, were exempted from the 15% rates. The deal has had a mixed reception in Europe, with business associations saying it imposes high costs that will impede exports to the U.S. Von der Leyen says that it will lower a painful 27.5% tariff on autos and bring stability and predictability for businesses.

Lange however said "there is no security or predictability," citing a U.S. decision two weeks after the deal was struck to include some 400 different goods containing steel such as pumps and motorcycle under a 50% steel and aluminum tariff instead of the 15% tariff. □

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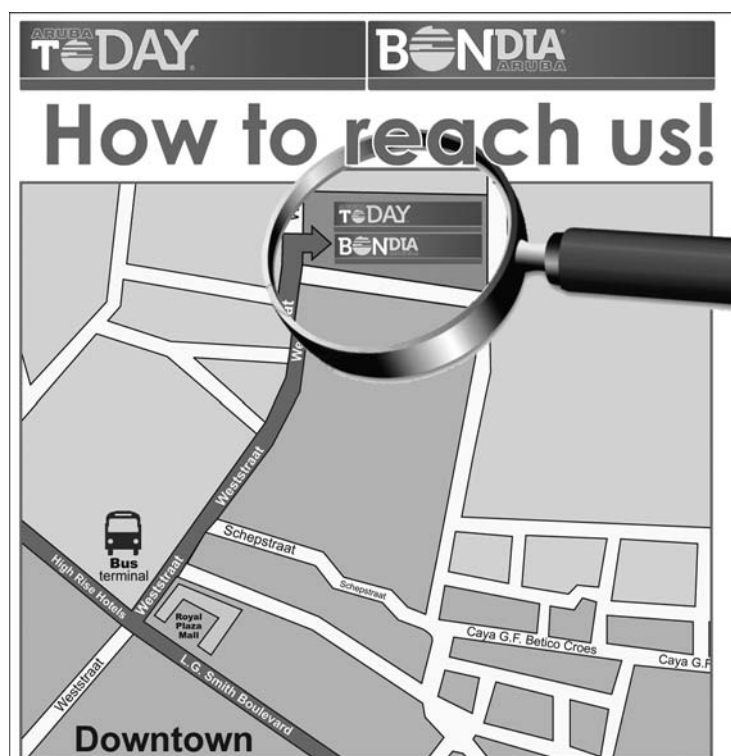
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Subdued decision in Google antitrust trial may help keep a monopoly in power

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
AP Technology Writer

After a five-year legal showdown pitting the U.S. Department of Justice against Google, a federal judge concluded that the disruptive forces of artificial intelligence technology will have a better chance of hobbling an illegal monopoly than any restraints imposed by a court order. That was one of the underlying themes of a highly-anticipated ruling issued late Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta. After ruling that Google's dominant search engine had turned into an illegal monopoly back in August 2024, the judge spent the next 13 months mulling the best way to rein in the technology powerhouse's bad behavior.

At the same time, the technology landscape had been thrust into the throes of a tectonic shift that couldn't have been anticipated in October 2020 when the Justice Department filed its landmark antitrust case against Google. At that time, few people had even heard of OpenAI, let alone its chatbot ChatGPT, which wasn't released until late 2022.

Artificial intelligence rarely came up during the 2024 trial that culminated in Google being declared a monopoly, but the technology's role became a focal point in the remedy hearings earlier this spring especially AI's role in spawning



A sign is displayed on a Google building at their campus in Mountain View, Calif., Sept. 24, 2019. Associated Press

conversational "answer engines" from ChatGPT and Perplexity. Those advances made the judge reluctant to use his legal power to override what may already be happening through technological evolution.

Mehta ended up crafting a subdued ruling that rejected the Justice Department's push to have Google sell its popular Chrome web browser and block the company from paying more than \$20 billion annually to make its search engine the default on popular devices and web browsers.

Instead of embracing those drastic measures, Mehta chose to prescribe what most analysts and antitrust experts viewed as a light-handed punishment, which

propelled the stock price of Google's parent Alphabet Inc. to a new high of \$230.86 during Wednesday's trading.

But the judge is still shaking things up by requiring Google to share some of the secret sauce in its recipe for success the massive trove of search data that it has accumulated from billions of users since the company's 1998 inception in a Silicon Valley garage. Parts of those databases will be opened up to rival search engines such as DuckDuckGo and other "qualified competitors."

Mehta's ruling is being viewed widely as little more than a slap on the wrist, prompting reactions of disappointment and disdain. "It is a historic misfire that

fails to meet the enormity of the finding that Google is a monopolist in online search," said Christo Wilson, a Northeastern University computer sciences professor, who has studied Google's operations.

Investors are clearly betting that it will remain mostly business as usual at Google, which is expected to generate nearly \$400 billion in revenue this year. As of early Wednesday afternoon, Alphabet's stock price had surged by 9%, creating an additional \$230 billion in shareholder wealth.

The Trump Administration still finds reason to celebrate. Even though the judge rebuffed most of the Justice Department's proposed remedies, the agen-

cy maintained the case would foster more competition in the online search market.

"This decision marks an important step forward in the Department of Justice's ongoing fight to protect American consumers," U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi said in a statement. The case is uniquely tied to President Donald Trump, given that it began during his first term in office and is wrapping up during the early stages of his second stint in the White House.

But outsiders don't see much for the Justice Department to crow about in Mehta's ruling, especially since it explicitly cited the attempt to force a breakup of Google as a bridge too far. The decision "may prove to be at best a pyrrhic victory," predicted Joseph V. Coniglio, director of antitrust and innovation policy at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, a Washington think tank that gets some of its funding from Alphabet and other technology companies. "After making the legally sound and morally courageous decision to find Google liable for illegal monopolistic practices, Judge Mehta apparently decided that actually enforcing the law was more than he could stomach," lamented Barry Lynn, executive director for the Open Markets Institute, a group focused on minimizing corporate power. □



This Feb. 19, 2014, file photo, shows WhatsApp app icon on a smartphone in New York.

Associated Press

WhatsApp patches exploit allowing hackers to target Apple users

NEW YORK (AP) — WhatsApp has patched a security vulnerability that allowed sophisticated attacks against the Apple devices of "specific targeted users."

The messaging app, owned by Meta Platforms, said in a blog post that its vulnerability, chained with a bug found in iOS and iPadOS, allowed hackers to exploit and steal information from Apple devices.

In a post on X, Amnesty's Security Lab researcher Donncha Ó Cearbhaill said the malicious campaign lasted about 90 days. He said other apps beyond WhatsApp may also have been affected.

WhatsApp said in a statement that less than 200 users were targeted and that the company had notified those affected. All users have been encouraged to update their app to the latest version to fix the issue.

It's not immediately clear who, or which spyware vendor, is behind the attacks. Apple also acknowledged the vulnerability in its systems and issued patches to fix the flaws. □

Can the NFL crown a first-time Super Bowl champion this season?

By **JOSH DUBOW**
AP Pro Football Writer

Long-suffering fans in cities like Buffalo, Detroit and Cincinnati hope this is the year when the NFL once again crowns a first-time Super Bowl champion.

The league hasn't had a team win its first Super Bowl since the 2017 season when Philadelphia beat New England to give the Eagles their first Lombardi Trophy. The seven straight seasons without a first-time champion is the second longest in NFL history, trailing only the 10 straight seasons between when the New York Giants won their first Super Bowl in the 1986 season and the Denver Broncos won their first in the 1997 season.

It would be far from a long shot this year as the Bills enter the season as one of the favorites to win it all, according to BetMGM, with 7-1 odds, along with the Baltimore Ravens and defending champion Eagles. The Bills famously lost four straight Super Bowls in the 1990s and have won playoff games in each of the last five seasons. Buffalo is the first team ever to go five straight seasons with a playoff win and no Super Bowl appearance.

Four other teams that haven't won a Super Bowl title are in the top 13 when it comes to odds to win it all



Detroit Lions coach Dan Campbell answers a question during a news conference after a pre-season NFL football game against the Houston Texans Saturday, Aug. 23, 2025, in Detroit.

this season. The Detroit Lions, who have never been to a Super Bowl, have the fifth-best odds at 10-1, Cincinnati is tied for seventh at 20-1, Minnesota is tied for 11th at 25-1 and the Los Angeles Chargers are 13th at 30-1.

The only other franchises without a Super Bowl win are Arizona, Atlanta, Carolina, Cleveland, Houston, Jacksonville and Tennessee.

The other biggest North American pro sports leagues have all crowned first-time champions in the past three seasons with the Texas Rangers winning their

first World Series in 2023, the Denver Nuggets winning their first NBA title in 2023 and the Florida Panthers winning their first of back-to-back Stanley Cups in 2024. The Oklahoma City Thunder also won their first NBA title in June but the franchise had previously won it all in 1979 when it was located in Seattle.

Rodgers and Fields flip uniforms

The opener between the Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Jets will feature familiar faces in unfamiliar uniforms.

Aaron Rodgers will make his Pittsburgh debut after

starting Week 1 at quarterback for New York last season, while Justin Fields has taken the opposite journey going from the Steelers to the Jets.

This marks the first time two starting QBs faced off in Week 1 after starting the opener the previous season for the opponent. There have been six other QBs who started an opener against the team they played for in Week 1 the previous season, according to Sportradar. Russell Wilson faced Seattle and Baker Mayfield played Cleveland in 2022; Sam Darnold took on the Jets in 2021 and

Chad Pennington did it in 2008; Kurt Warner faced the Giants in 2005 and Jack Kemp played the Chargers in 1963.

Rodgers will be making his 18th straight start in a season opener, tying Brett Favre for the second longest streak by a quarterback. Drew Brees started in 19 straight openers.

Rodgers will also join Wilson (Broncos) as the only QBs to start a game for a team they had previously beaten in a Super Bowl. Rodgers won MVP in his only Super Bowl appearance following the 2010 season when Green Bay beat Pittsburgh.

Flacco's journey

The 41-year-old Rodgers isn't the only QB in his 40s getting a Week 1 nod. Joe Flacco, 40, will get the start for Cleveland against Cincinnati, marking the third time two QBs 40 or older started a season opener in the same season. Tom Brady and Brees did it in 2019 and '20.

Flacco will be starting an opener for a fourth franchise after previously doing it for Baltimore, Denver and the New York Jets. He will be the 12th QB to start an opener for at least four teams. The only QBs to start openers for more teams are Ryan Fitzpatrick (six), Vinny Testaverde (five), Kerry Collins (five) and Josh McCown (five). □

Roy Jones Jr. given the 1988 Olympic gold medal by the boxer who got the controversial win over him

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
AP Sports Writer

Roy Jones Jr. has the gold medal from the 1988 Olympics — thanks to a gift from the South Korean fighter who defeated him in the controversial boxing match.

Park Si-hun traveled to Jones' ranch in Pensacola, Florida, two years ago and gave the Hall of Famer the medal that Jones seemed to have earned in a bout most observers outside of the judges believed he dominated. The news was revealed Wednesday in a video posted on Jones' YouTube page.

Jones went to his gym on May 30, 2023, believing it was for an on-camera interview. Instead, he found Park in the ring and both fighters' families there.

"I had the gold medal, but I wanted to

give it back to you. It belongs to you," Park said through his son, who translated. Park was awarded a 3-2 decision in the light middleweight title bout in Seoul, South Korea, lifting the stunned Jones into the air in the ring after the result was announced.

He has said the criticism he received and the depression he felt sometimes led to suicidal urges.

The International Olympic Committee in 1997 concluded it had found no evidence to support bribery allegations against the judges who voted in favor of Park. The U.S. Olympic Committee had called for an investigation in 1996 after documents belonging to East Germany's Stasi secret police revealed reports of judges being paid to vote for South Korean boxers. □



In this Oct. 2, 1988, file photo, South Korea's Park Si-hun, left, delivers a left jab to Roy Jones Jr. of the United States, during the summer Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Associated Press

Spanish Vuelta stage cut short because of disruption by pro-Palestinian protesters near finish line

BILBAO, Spain (AP) — The 11th stage of the Spanish Vuelta was cut short and finished without a winner because of a disruption by pro-Palestinian protesters near the finish line in the Basque Country city of Bilbao on Wednesday. The protesters appeared to be targeting riders from the Israel Premier Tech team. Some attempted to invade the road when the riders of the Israeli team crossed in front of them, prompting organizers and security staff to rush in to try to contain them behind the security fences. Police were called in to contain the protesters, many of whom carried Palestine flags and pro-Palestine signs.



People hold Palestinian flags as they try to disrupt the eleventh stage of the Spanish Vuelta cycling race, from Bilbao to Bilbao, Spain, Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2025.

Associated Press

Race officials made an announcement to the teams as the riders had about 10 kilometers (6.2 miles) to go in the 157.4-kilometer (98-mile) stage that also started in Bilbao.

"Due to some incidents at the finish line, we have decided to take the time at 3 kilometers before the line. We won't have a stage winner. We will give the points for the mountain classification and the intermediate sprint, but not on the finish line," they said.

The start of the stage also had been disrupted by protesters who forced race officials to pause the peloton for a few minutes.

The police appeared to have the crowd under control by the finish, forming a line to keep the protesters from going over the security fences, but officials decided it was safer to keep riders from reaching that point.

At the Tour de France in July, a man protesting the participation of Israel Premier Tech ran onto the course as the leaders raced for the finish line. A security guard ran out and apprehended the man. The team had previously faced protests because of its association with Israel, which has killed 63,633 Palestinians since the start of the Israel-Hamas war, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. The war was sparked by the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel that killed some 1,200 people on Oct. 7, 2023.

Risk of more protests
Race technical director Kiko Garcia told radio station SER that teams thanked organizers for the decision to cut the race short to preserve the riders' safety. He said there was a risk of more protests if the Israeli team remained in the race. "Everyone needs to try to find a solution," Garcia said, "which for me right now is that the Israeli team realizes that by being here it doesn't help the safety of everyone else."

But we can't make that decision, the team has to do it." □



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