



Sun catchers: The Iguana



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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



Happy Hour
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10



Refugee groups worry about backlash after shooting of National Guard soldiers in DC

By MARTHA BELLISLE

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — People who work with refugees are worried that those who fled dangerous situations to start again in America will face backlash after authorities say an Afghan national shot two National Guard soldiers this week, killing one of them.

Many Afghans living in the U.S. are afraid to leave their houses, fearing they'll be swept up by immigration officials or attacked with hate speech, said Shawn VanDiver, president of the San Diego-based group #AfghanEvac, a group that helps resettle Afghans who assisted the U.S. during the two-decade war.

"They're terrified. It's insane," VanDiver told The Associated Press Thursday. "People are acting xenophobic because of one deranged man. He doesn't represent all Afghans. He represents himself."

Officials say Rahmanullah Lakanwal, 29, drove from his home in Bellingham, Washington, to the nation's capital where he shot



National Guard patrol along the National Mall in front of the Capitol, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press.

two West Virginia National Guard members deployed in Washington, D.C.

President Donald Trump announced on Thursday that Specialist Sarah Beckstrom, 20, had died from her injuries. Staff Sgt. Andrew Wolfe, 24, remained hospi-

talized in critical condition. Lakanwal had worked in a special CIA-backed Afghan Army unit before emigrating from Afghanistan, according to #AfghanEvac and two sources who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity due to

the sensitivity of the situation. He applied for asylum during the Biden administration and his asylum was approved this year after undergoing a thorough vetting, the group said. After the shooting, Trump said his administration

would review everyone who entered from the country under former President Joe Biden a measure his administration had been planning even before the shooting.

Refugee groups fear they'll now be considered guilty by association.

Ambassador Ashraf Haidari, founder and president of Displaced International, which provides resources, advocacy and support to displaced people worldwide, said there must be a thorough investigation and justice for those who were harmed, "but even as we pursue accountability, one individual's alleged actions cannot be allowed to define, burden, or endanger entire communities who had no part in this tragedy."

Matthew Soerens, a vice president with World Relief, a Christian humanitarian organization that helps settle refugees, including Afghan nationals in Whatcom County, Washington, said the person responsible for the shooting should face justice under the law. □



Ismael Cortes Estrada poses for a photo holding one of the signs advocates used in the campaign for updating the city's minimum wage law, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, on Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2025.

Associated Press.

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Santa Fe has long referred to itself as "The City Different" for its distinct atmosphere and a blending of cultures that stretches back centuries. Now, it's trying something different something officials hope will prevent a

cultural erosion as residents are priced out of their homes.

It's the first city in the United States to directly link wages to housing affordability, aiming to counter high rents by tying minimum wage increases to consumer prices as well as fair market rental prices.

Many see the new ordi-

Santa Fe tackles rental rates with first-in-US minimum wage approach

nance as a big step forward for workers, but Mayor Alan Webber also sees it as an important tool for addressing an affordability crisis that threatens the very fabric of Santa Fe.

"The purpose is to make a serious difference in assuring that people who work here can live here," he said. "Santa Fe's history and culture is really reflected in the diversity of our people. It's that diversity that we're trying to preserve."

Santa Fe is not alone. Rising rents and housing prices have squeezed households nationwide, leaving many with less income to pay for other necessities.

Experts say the financial pressure on renter households has increased compared to pre-pandemic conditions.

How the ordinance works Santa Fe's minimum wage will increase to \$17.50 starting in 2027. The annual increase historically has been tied to consumer prices, but going forward a new blended formula will be used to calculate the annual increase, with the Consumer Price Index making up one half and fair market rent data making up the other.

There's a 5% cap in case costs skyrocket, and if consumer prices or rents tank in any particular year, the minimum wage will not be reduced.

Santa Fe first adopted a living wage in 2002. The ordinance has been expanded over the years and the mission this time was to deal with median housing prices and rental costs that were

far above any other major market in New Mexico.

University of New Mexico finance professor Reilly White presented the city with 25 years of data that showed changes in fair market rents and consumer prices. He said people earning minimum wage were falling behind.

"It became clear that any index that was made had to be duly weighted in favor of some of this real estate side and some of the cost of living side," White said.

Crafting the ordinance was like threading a needle, the mayor said, explaining that the aim was to benefit workers while not overly burdening the mom-and-pop shops that are the backbone of Santa Fe's economy. □

US retailers watch Black Friday traffic for a hoped-for holiday halo effect

By **ANNE D'INNOENZIO**
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Black Friday no longer tempts people to leave Thanksgiving tables for midnight mall runs, but the annual sales event still brings more shoppers into stores than any day of the year and rules as the U.S. retail industry's unofficial start of the holiday shopping season.

This year's kickoff arrived as consumer confidence in the U.S. economy fell this month in the aftermath of the federal government shutdown, weak hiring and stubborn inflation, according to a report The Conference Board issued Tuesday.

Despite the economic uncertainty, shoppers went hunting Friday morning for the deals that retailers traditionally have reserved for the day after Thanksgiving. At Macy's Herald Square flagship store in New York City, customers who streamed in soon after the store opened at 6 a.m. found for deep discounts on clothes, shoes, linens and cosmetics. The footwear department had products selling for 40% to 50%. Nicholas Menasche, 19, from Queens, New York, shopped with his mother



Shoppers line up to get into Mall of America for Black Friday deals, Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, in Bloomington, Minn.

Associated Press.

for shoes and clothing, and planned to head next to Best Buy for video games. Menasche, an intern at a bank, said he expected to spend around \$1,200 this year on his holiday shopping, roughly the same amount as last year.

"It's a great tradition," he said. "The stores are open really early."

Veronica Nam, 68, headed to the shoe department to buy Nike sneakers for her husband after spending

\$256 on Lacoste bedding that she estimated cost half the regular price.

Nam said she thought Black Friday had the best holiday deals but that she would wait until after Christmas to finish buying gifts for other relatives. She said it was hard to know when to find the best prices given the unpredictability of President Donald Trump's wide-ranging tariffs on imported goods and several years of inflation.

"Food is very expensive," she said.

Many retail executives have reported customers becoming more discerning and increasingly focused on deals while at the same time remaining willing to splash out for important occasions like the start of the school year and the winter holidays, creating a halo effect. "Consumers have been saying the economy is terrible while continuing to spend for years now, so

the outlook is probably better than they are telling us," Bill Adams, the chief economist at Comerica Bank, said this week of shoppers' moods heading into Black Friday.

While planning for the holidays in the spring and summer, retail companies were wrestling with the Trump administration's volatile tariff policies. Many accelerated shipments of some merchandise before the tariffs took effect or decided to absorb some of the import tax costs instead of raising prices for customers. Market research firm Circana said that 40% of all general merchandise sold in September saw a price increase of at least 5% compared with the first four months of the year. Toys, baby products, housewares, and team sports equipment were among the hardest hit categories. Still, analysts and mall executives cited solid momentum heading into Black Friday week. At the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota, foot traffic in recent weeks surpassed the numbers from pre-pandemic 2019, said Jill Renslow, the mall's chief business development and marketing officer. □

Fleet of UPS planes grounded after deadly crash expected to miss peak delivery season

By **SARAH RAZA**
Associated Press

A fleet of planes that UPS grounded after a deadly crash isn't expected to be back in service during the peak holiday season due to inspections and possible repairs, the company said Wednesday in an internal memo.

The airline expects it will be several months before its McDonnell Douglas MD-11 fleet returns to service as it works to meet Federal Aviation Administration guidelines, said the memo from UPS Airlines president Bill Moore to employees. The process was originally estimated to take weeks but is now expected to take several months.

A fiery MD-11 plane crash on Nov. 4 in Louisville, Kentucky, killed 14 people and injured at least 23 when the left engine detached during takeoff. Cargo carriers grounded their McDonnell Douglas MD-11 fleets shortly after, ahead of a directive from the FAA. "Regarding the MD-11 fleet,

Boeing's ongoing evaluation shows that inspections and potential repairs will be more extensive than initially expected," Moore wrote in the memo.

A UPS spokesperson said in a statement that the company will rely on contingency plans to deliver for customers throughout the peak season, and it "will take the time needed to ensure that every aircraft is safe."

The 109 remaining MD-11 airliners, averaging more than 30 years old, are exclusively used to haul cargo for package delivery companies. MD-11s make up about 9% of the UPS airline fleet and 4% of the FedEx fleet.

Boeing, which took over as the manufacturer of MD-11s since merging with McDonnell Douglas in 1997, said in a statement that it is "working diligently to provide instructions and technical support to operators" so that they can meet the FAA's requirements. □



This combination photo provided by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) via UPS shows a sequence of framegrabs made from video where an engine is seen detaching from the plane's left wing upon takeoff at the Louisville International Airport in Louisville, Nov. 4, 2025.

Associated Press.

Be aware of scams on social media!

Don't click on sponsored ads that are using Aruba Today's likeness. Visit only our official Facebook Page, Aruba Today News or our website, www.arubatoday.com.

If you encounter any problems, we are here to help: news@arubatoday.com



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte addresses the troops during the 82nd anniversary celebration of the Armed Forces of the Philippines in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines on Dec. 20, 2017.

Associated Press.

ICC judges reject request to release Duterte from custody

By **MOLLY QUELL**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte will remain in detention at the International Criminal Court after appeals judges on Friday rejected a request to release him on health grounds.

The octogenarian is facing charges of crimes against humanity for his alleged involvement in dozens of killings as part of his so-called war on drugs when in office, first as the mayor of a southern city and later as president. Duterte's lawyers failed to show that an October decision by the lower chamber was unreasonable, Judge Luz del Carmen Ibáñez Carranza said, addressing the full courtroom in The Hague. The former president was not in court on Friday. The defense said it plans to "reintroduce its request to release" Duterte following the results of a medication examination expected next month, lawyer Nick Kaufman said in a statement.

Duterte's lawyers say he is "infirm and debilitated" and that it is cruel to keep him in custody during the trial. In September the court postponed a pretrial hearing until a full medical assessment could be made. According to defense filings, Duterte's cognitive faculties have declined to a level that he cannot assist his lawyers. Last month, judges decided to keep

Duterte in custody, finding that he was likely to refuse to return for trial and could use his freedom to intimidate witnesses. According to court filings, Duterte instructed and authorized "violent acts including murder to be committed against alleged criminals, including alleged drug dealers and users." The charges against him date from Nov. 1, 2011, when he was still mayor of the southern city of Davao, to March 16, 2019, when the country withdrew from the court.

Estimates of the death toll during Duterte's presidential term vary. National police put the figure at more than 6,000, while human rights groups claim up to 30,000. Families of victims hailed Duterte's arrest in March. The legal team requested that he be transferred to the custody of another member state while proceedings continue. However the appeals judges agreed with the lower chamber that the risk posed by his released "could not be mitigated" by the undisclosed country, Judge Ibáñez said.

ICC prosecutors announced in February 2018 that they would open a preliminary investigation into the violence that took place during Duterte's time in power. In a move that human rights activists say was aimed at escaping accountability, Duterte, who was still president, announced a month later that the Philippines would leave the court. □



Britain's Prime Minister Keir Starmer meets European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in Brussels, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 2024.

Associated Press.

Talks on UK access to an EU defense fund have broken down

By **JILL LAWLESS**
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Talks on the U.K. joining a major European Union defense fund have ended without agreement, the British government said Friday, in a blow to its post-Brexit reset with the 27-nation bloc.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer, elected last year, pledged to repair ties with the EU strained by Britain's acrimonious departure in 2020. In May, the U.K. and the EU announced new agreements on trade, travel and defense that Starmer hailed as a "win-win."

The plan was for the U.K. defense industry to access a 150 billion euro (\$170 billion) EU loan program, known as Security Action for Europe, or SAFE, set up to help Ukraine and the rest of Europe defend itself. That would allow British firms to secure cheap EU-backed loans to procure military equipment.

But negotiations foundered over money, with Europe demanding more for Britain's participation than the U.K. was willing to pay.

British EU Relations Minister Nick Thomas-Symonds said Friday that the "negotiations were carried out in good faith, but our position was always clear: we will only sign agreements that are in the national interest and provide value for money. "While it is disappointing that we have not been able to conclude discussions on U.K. participation in the first round of SAFE, the U.K. defense industry will still be able to participate in projects through SAFE on third country terms," he said.

Third countries can participate in SAFE projects up to a maximum of 35% of the value of a contract, but Britain had been trying to negotiate a higher threshold.

Thomas-Symonds said the two sides "continue to make strong progress" on other parts of the May agreement, including energy and trade in food and drink.

EU spokesperson Thomas Regnier said the bloc remains "fully committed to delivering our ambitious U.K.- EU security and defense partnership. □

One of world's longest serving democratic leaders loses election in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico

(AP) — St. Vincent and the Grenadines is preparing to welcome a new prime minister for the first time in 24 years after preliminary election results show that Godwin Friday of the New Democratic Party beat Ralph Gonsalves of the Unity Labor Party.

Gonsalves was first elected in March 2001, making him one of the world's longest serving democratic leaders in recent history.

He was a staunch supporter of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel.

Gonsalves' party posted a brief statement on Facebook following Thursday's election: "We love you, SVG, and we will keep working and advocating for you. This is not the end, it is the beginning."

Friday's moderate conservative party won 14 of the 15 constituencies in the eastern Caribbean archipelago, according to preliminary results.

Friday has promised to create more jobs, raise wages,



Saint Vincent and Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves talks to journalists during a news conference at the end of the third EU-CELAC summit in Brussels, Belgium, Tuesday, July 18, 2023.
Associated Press.

improve security and invest in key infrastructure in the island group of more than 100,000 people.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is heavily dependent on tourism, has an 18% unemployment rate, a 26% poverty rate and is still struggling to recover from the April 2021 eruption of La Soufrière volcano.

Friday's party has previously

advocated for a citizenship by investment program and for closer ties with China, while Gonsalves' party had long maintained strong relations with Taiwan.

Under Gonsalves, St. Vincent and the Grenadines signed a free movement deal last month that would make it easier for its citizens to move to certain countries in the Caribbean with-

out needing a visa or work permit.

Gonsalves also helped organize an emergency meeting between the leaders of Venezuela and Guyana, who arrived in St. Vincent in December 2023 to address a bitter border dispute.

Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness wrote Friday on social media that

Gonsalves has been a strong voice within Caricom, a regional trade bloc, "consistently advocating for deeper regional cooperation and a more integrated Caribbean community."

"His passion for regionalism and his unwavering belief in the value of collective action have helped to shape many important conversations across our Community," Holness wrote.

Holness also congratulated Friday and said he looked forward to working with him: "His election signifies a new chapter for the Vincentian people."

Friday previously ran against Gonsalves in the 2020 election and lost.

Hundreds of supporters clad in yellow and blue gathered Friday in the capital, Kingstown, to support the new prime minister. Some crowded over a coffin assembled from cardboard and covered in campaign posters from Gonsalves' party as they blew vuvuzelas over it.

The new prime minister was scheduled to be sworn in on Friday late afternoon. □

South African ex-leader's daughter quits Parliament over Russian mercenary allegations

By MICHELLE GUMEDE

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A

daughter of former South African President Jacob Zuma has resigned as a lawmaker, her party said Friday, after coming under police investigation for allegedly tricking 17 men into joining a Russian mercenary group fighting in the Ukraine war.

Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla had served as a lawmaker since June 2024 for the MK Party, an opposition party led by her father. Jacob Zuma created the party in 2023 following his expulsion from South Africa's then-ruling African National Congress.

Police say they are investigating any role Zuma-

Sambudla played in luring the South Africans to Russia after they ended up on the front lines of the conflict in Ukraine.

The South African government said early this month it had received distress calls from 17 South African men, aged 20 to 39, who said they were trapped in Ukraine's war-torn eastern Donbas region. When they left South Africa, they thought they were going to take up lucrative employment contracts, the government said.

According to police, an affidavit submitted by Zuma-Sambudla's half-sister, Nkosazana Bongani Zuma-Mncube, alleged that Zuma-Sambudla and two other people tricked the

South Africans into fighting in the war by promising to provide them with security training in Russia. The identities of the other two people were unclear.

The affidavit alleges the South Africans were handed over to a Russian mercenary group and forced to fight in the war. It also says that eight of the 17 men were members of Zuma-Sambudla's and Zuma-Mncube's extended family.

The South African foreign ministry and police are working with international law enforcement organizations to bring the men home, according to the parliamentary committee on foreign relations.

Nkosinathi Nhleko, the na-

tional chairman of the MK party, announced Zuma-Sambudla's resignation during a press briefing on Friday. He said that Zuma-Sambudla had provided

party officials with a report regarding the alleged involvement of young South Africans in military operations in Ukraine. □



Former South African President Jacob Zuma, speaks as his daughter Duduzile Zuma-Sambudla, right, listens, during a press conference in Soweto, South Africa, Dec. 16, 2023.

Associated Press.

Zelenskyy's chief of staff resigns after anti-corruption investigators search home

By ILLIA NOVIKOV and ISO-BEL KOSHIW

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Friday the resignation of his powerful chief of staff, Andrii Yermak, who was also the country's lead negotiator in talks with the U.S., after Yermak's residence was searched by anti-corruption investigators.

The unprecedented search at the heart of Ukraine's government was a blow for the Ukrainian leader that risked disrupting his negotiating strategy at a time when Kyiv is under intense U.S. pressure to sign a peace deal nearly four years after Russia's full-scale invasion.

Yermak has long been a trusted confidant of Zelenskyy, who has resisted persistent pressure to replace him.

In a nod to the controversy over Yermak's long stay at his side, Zelenskyy said Russia was waiting for Ukraine to make missteps and upset the delicate and tense peace negotiations.

"We don't have a right to retreat or argue between ourselves. If we lose unity, we risk losing everything ourselves, Ukraine, our future," Zelenskyy said. "We must unite, we must hold on. We have no other choice. We won't have another Ukraine."

"To preserve our internal strength, there must be no reasons to be distracted at anything else except for defense of Ukraine," he added.

"I don't want anybody to be questioning Ukraine, and that's why we have today's decisions."

In his nightly address, Zelenskyy announced that he was "resetting" the presidential office. He said Yermak had submitted his resignation and that he would begin consultations Saturday to appoint a new chief of staff.

Yermak's name did not appear on a list of officials that Zelenskyy said would make up the Ukrainian del-



Head of the Office of the President of Ukraine Andrii Yermak talks to the press at the U.S. Mission to International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025.

Associated Press.

egation for the next round of negotiations with the United States.

The delegation will now be jointly lead by Andrii Hnatchov, the head of Ukraine's armed forces; Andrii Sybicha, Ukraine's foreign minister; and Rustem Umerov, head of Ukraine's security council, Zelenskyy said. He said negotiations would happen "soon."

Two national agencies fighting corruption in Ukraine said their search targeted Yermak. Oleksii Tkachuk, a spokesperson for Yermak, said the anti-graft agencies had not served Yermak a notice of suspicion, meaning he was not a suspect in an investigation.

Yermak was not told what the searches related to, Tkachuk said.

Yermak confirmed the search of his apartment inside the presidential compound in downtown Kyiv, where checkpoints limit public access. Media reports said Yermak's office was also searched, but investigators declined to comment on that.

It was not clear where Zelenskyy or Yermak were at the time of the morning raid.

"The investigators are facing no obstacles," Yermak wrote on the messaging app Telegram. He said he was cooperating fully with them and that his lawyers were present.

Energy sector scandal

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and the Specialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office are leading a major investigation into a \$100 million energy sector scandal involving top Ukrainian officials that has dominated domestic headlines in recent weeks.

It was not clear if the searches were connected to the case, and a spokesperson for the NABU, Anton Tatarnikov, declined to comment, citing legal restrictions on revealing details on an ongoing probe. The head of Ukraine's parliamentary anti-corruption committee, Anastasiia Radina, said on social media that Yermak's resignation was "better late than never."

Mykyta Porturaev, a lawmaker with Zelenskyy's party who last week called for Yermak's resignation and for a cross-party government to be established, said the anti-corruption

raid deepened Ukraine's political crisis.

Yermak "definitely had political responsibility," Porturaev told The Associated Press. "Of course he had to go."

A spokesperson for the European Commission, Guillaume Mercier, told Ukrainian news outlet Radio Svoboda on Friday that they were following developments closely and that the searches showed that Ukraine's anti-corruption agencies were working. He said fighting corruption was central to the country's European Union accession. Investigators suspect that Tymur Mindich, a one-time business partner of Zelenskyy, was the plot's mastermind.

Mindich has fled the country, with any criminal proceedings against him likely to be carried out in absentia.

Two top government ministers have resigned in the scandal.

Two of Yermak's former deputies Oleh Tatarov and Rostyslav Shurma left the government in 2024 after watchdogs investigated them for financial wrongdoing.

A third deputy, Andrii

Smyrnov, was investigated for bribes and other wrongdoing but still works for Yermak.

Political turmoil for Zelenskyy

The scandal has heaped more problems on Zelenskyy as he seeks continued Western support for Ukraine's war effort and tries to ensure continued foreign funding. The European Union, which Ukraine wants to join, has told Zelenskyy he must crack down on graft.

Zelenskyy faced an unprecedented rebellion from his own lawmakers earlier this month after investigators published details of their energy sector investigation. Although Yermak was not accused of any wrongdoing, several senior lawmakers in Zelenskyy's party said Yermak should take responsibility for the debacle in order to restore public trust. Some said that if Zelenskyy didn't fire him, the party could split, threatening the president's parliamentary majority. But Zelenskyy defied them.

Zelenskyy urged Ukrainians to unite and "stop the political games" in light of the U.S. pressure to reach a settlement with Russia.

Yermak met Zelenskyy over 15 years ago when he was a lawyer venturing into the TV production business and Zelenskyy was a famous Ukrainian comedian and actor.

He oversaw foreign affairs as part of Zelenskyy's first presidential team and was promoted to chief of staff in February 2020.

Yermak has accompanied Zelenskyy on every trip abroad since Russia's invasion in February 2022, and the president's trust in him has made Yermak's power appear almost untouchable.

Domestically, officials describe Yermak as Zelenskyy's gatekeeper, and he is widely believed to have chosen all top government appointees, including prime ministers and ministers. □

Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

(Oranjestad)—The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1.545 m² plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim



and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on ground level but at approx-

imately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good

ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that re-

semble its beauty and transform into a history of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba. □

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 starts blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

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 a 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 Aretima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aretima 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 Aretima's father 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 Aretima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aretima, 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 Aretima 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 Aretima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.



Upon arriving back at the hut, Aretima'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 Aretima'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. □

1,200,000 Christmas Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

SUPER
BINGO
SATURDAY!
SUNDAY FUNDAY
BINGO

Super 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!
\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200
Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irawsquín Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



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



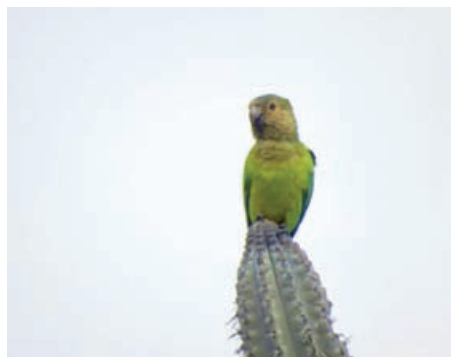
Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Trou-pial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be

spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved song-bird 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



Aruba to me

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

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

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

1,200,000 Christmas Point Giveaway Every Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra T-Shirt when you earn **250 Slot Points** on Sunday with your **Players' Club card!**

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Sun catchers: The Iguana

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. One example is our friendly iguanas, or 'yuwana'.

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana.

The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family.

As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones.

In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes



Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest points easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach
Speaking of the western

shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for

miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back.hue.□

a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system.

In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered.

However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!□

H&H

FINE WINES AND SPIRITS
PONTON 75A
ORANJESTAD, ARUBA

BLACKFriday

SALE

30%
OFF

40%
OFF

50%
OFF

60%
OFF

Friday, Nov 28th
Saturday, Nov 29th
10am - 6pm

- IN STORE ONLY -



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas

SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas – more than anywhere else on the island.



Flow of history

If you are looking for history San Nicolas has it.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn

about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

The Community Museum

holds a remarkable collection that spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A

collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub – varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. □

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.

Sweet potato

According to our elders,

sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.



Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very

easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



Snakes of Aruba

Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake *Crotalus unicolor*). This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzz-

ing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in

which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide

under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotch-

es which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. □

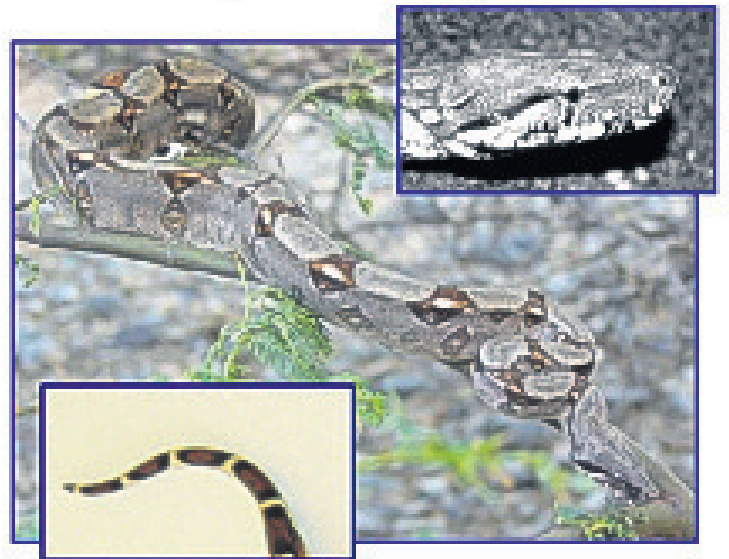
SANTANERO (*Leptodeira bakeri*)



CASCABEL (*Crotalus unicolor*)



BOA (*Boa constrictor*)



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 45 Tenant's fee

5 Hams' needs

11 Sound of agony

12 To-do list

13 Shed feathers

14 Struck out

15 "The Mikado," for one

17 Oxygen: Prefix

18 Chaser of Bugs

22 Patisserie array

24 Long attack

25 One — kind

26 Sinking signal

27 Corbin Bernsen series

30 Wild party

32 Vestige

33 Gun, as a motor

34 Neighbor-ing

38 Wee amount

41 Pine or palm

42 Depends

43 Balder's father

44 Finally

DOWN

1 Clip contents

2 Hen pen

3 National park in Hawaii

4 Menu choice

5 River floater

6 Some marbles

7 National park in Alaska

8 Tavern

9 Pindar poem

10 Blue

16 Hosp. parts

19 National park in Colorado

20 Big heads

21 Take a breather

22 Future stallion

23 Miles off

28 National park in Maine

29 Cheese buys

30 Lingerie item

31 Church reader

35 Witty remark

36 German denial

37 Circus sight

38 Mrs., in Madrid

39 Ran into

40 Suffering

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12					
13					14					
15				16						
		17				18		19	20	21
22	23					24				
25								26		
27			28	29		30	31			
32						33				
			34		35				36	37
38	39	40						41		
42								43		
44								45		

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

W NSZZNC AXMC GEB, W
NSZZNC AXMC NXTC, W
NSZZNC AXMC NSPUZ CTCMI
BSPUZ. ZUWZ'L ZUC YXI XG
UWBERRWU. — EBRBXFB

Cryptoquote: GRATITUDE MAKES
SENSE OF OUR PAST, BRINGS PEACE FOR TODAY,
AND CREATES A VISION FOR TOMORROW.
— MELODY BEATTIE

Cruise ship Schedule: Nov. 23 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	CALLS
SUN	23	MSC DIVINA FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	18.00 22.30	C E	1 -
TUE	25	WIND SPIRIT CARNIVAL HORIZON	06.00 09.00	15.00 23.00	B C	1 1
WED	26	SERENADE OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
THU	27	AIDABLU BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS	08.00 08.00	18.00 ****	B C	 1
FRI	28	SILVER SHADOW BRILLIANCE OF THE SEAS - Dept.	08.00 ****	**** 18.00	B C	1
SAT	29	SILVER SHADOW - Dept. SEVEN SEAS SPLENDOR	**** 14.00	13.00 23.59	B C	 1
SUN	30	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-

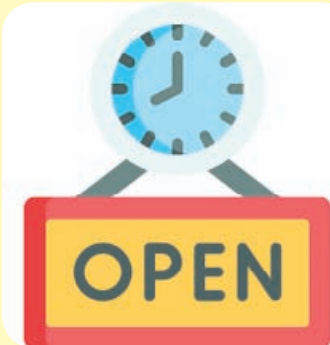
Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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



Safety

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



Supermarket hours

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



Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/29

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

11/28

Scientists capture the crackling sounds of what they believe is lightning on Mars

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — Scientists have detected what they believe to be lightning on Mars by eavesdropping on the whirling wind recorded by NASA's Perseverance rover.

The crackling of electrical discharges was captured by a microphone on the rover, a French-led team reported Wednesday.

The researchers documented 55 instances of what they call "mini lightning" over two Martian years, primarily during dust storms and dust devils. Almost all occurred on the windiest Martian sols, or days, during dust storms and dust devils.

Just inches (centimeters) in size, the electrical arcs occurred within 6 feet (2 meters) of the microphone perched atop the rover's tall mast, part of a system for examining Martian rocks via camera and lasers. Sparks from the electrical discharges akin to static electricity here on Earth are clearly audible amid the noisy wind gusts and dust particles smacking the microphone.

Scientists have been looking for electrical activity and lightning at Mars for half a century, said the study's lead author Baptiste Chide, of the Institute for Research in Astrophysics and Planetology in Toulouse.

"It opens a completely new field of investigation for Mars science," Chide said, citing the possible chemical effects from electrical discharges. "It's like finding a missing piece of the puzzle."

The evidence is strong and persuasive, but it's based on a single instrument that was meant to record the rover zapping rocks with lasers, not lightning blasts, said Cardiff University's Daniel Mitchard, who was not involved in the study. What's more, he noted in an article accompanying the study in the journal Nature, the electrical discharges were heard not



This image provided by NASA, shows a selfie of their Perseverance Mars rover, on July 23, 2024. The image is made up of 62 individual images that were stitched together.

Associated Press.

seen. "It really is a chance discovery to hear something else going on nearby, and everything points to this being Martian lightning," Mitchard said in an email. But until new instruments are sent to verify the findings, "I think there will still be a debate from some scientists as to whether this really was lightning."

Lightning has already been confirmed on Jupiter and Saturn, and Mars has long been suspected of having it too.

To find it, Chide and his team analyzed 28 hours of Perseverance recordings, documenting episodes of

"mini lightning" based on acoustic and electric signals.

Electrical discharges generated by the fast-moving dust devils lasted just a few seconds, while those spawned by dust storms lingered as long as 30 minutes.

"It's like a thunderstorm on Earth, but barely visible with a naked eye and with plenty of faint zaps," Chide said in an email. He noted that the thin, carbon dioxide-rich Martian atmosphere absorbs much of the sound, making some of the zaps barely perceptible.

Mars' atmosphere is more prone than Earth's to electrical discharging and sparking through contact among grains of dust and sand, according to Chide. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

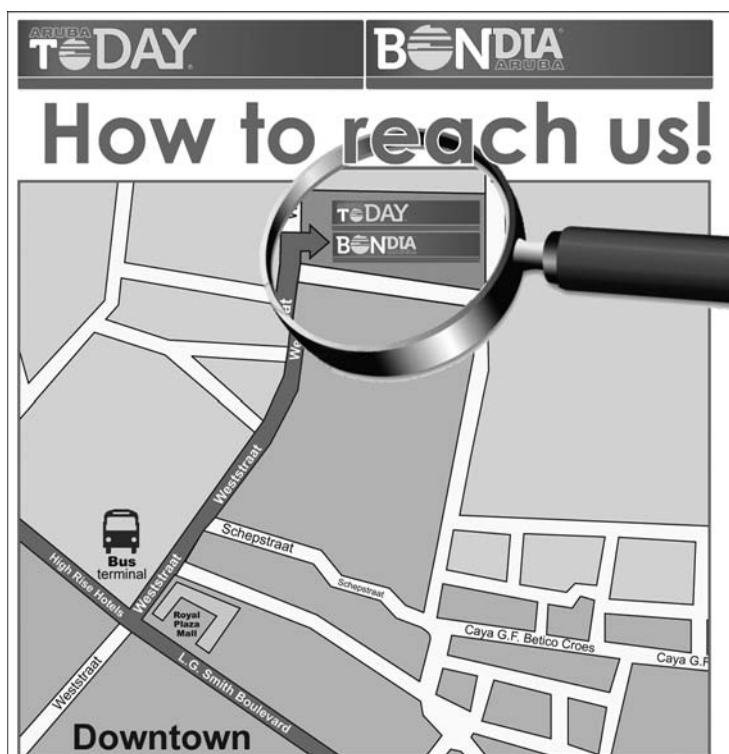
Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @ArubaTodayNews



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

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

General Info

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS



The Winter Egg by Fabergé is displayed at Christie's auction rooms in London, Thursday, Nov. 27, 2025, it is expected to sell for in excess of 20 million UK Pounds when it is auctioned on Dec. 2. Associated Press.

A crystal Fabergé egg crafted for Russian royalty is expected to sell for more than \$26 million

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A rare crystal and diamond Fabergé egg crafted for Russia's ruling family before it was toppled by revolution is going up for auction, valued at more than 20 million pounds (\$26.4 million). Christie's auction house says the Winter Egg is just one of seven of the opulent ovoids remaining in private hands.

It will be offered for sale at Christie's London headquarters on Tuesday. The 4-inch (10-centimeter) tall egg is made from finely carved rock crystal, covered in a delicate snowflake motif wrought in platinum and 4,500 tiny diamonds. It opens to reveal a removable tiny basket of bejewelled quartz flowers symbolizing spring. Margo Oganessian, the head of Christie's Russian

art department, likened it to a luxurious Kinder Surprise chocolate. The Winter Egg is a superb example of craft and design, "the 'Mona Lisa' for decorative arts," Oganessian said. One of just two created by female designer Alma Pihl, the egg was commissioned by Czar Nicholas II for his mother Dowager Empress Maria Feodorovna as an Easter present in 1913. □

Armani fashion group appoints new board to guide company after designer's death

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italy's fashion house Armani said on Friday that it has appointed a new board whose role will be to guide the company at a time of transi-

tion following the death of its founder Giorgio Armani earlier this year. The new board consists of eight members selected by the Armani Foundation and the designer's heirs, in-

cluding former Armani top executive John Hooks and former Gucci CEO Marco Bizzarri. The other board members are Chairman Leo Dell'Orco; CEO and managing director Giuseppe Marsocci; Armani's niece Silvana and his nephew Andrea Camerana; Yoox founder Federico Marchetti and businessman Angelo Moratti. Following Armani's death at 91 in September, the group appointed long-time manager Marsocci as the new CEO. Marsocci and the new board take the lead at a crucial time for the fashion empire, one of the most valuable and best-known companies in the country. □



Armani Chairman Pantaleo Dell'Orco, left, and Giorgio Armani's niece Silvana Armani acknowledge the applause at the end of the Giorgio Armani Spring/Summer 2026 collection show in Milan, Italy, Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025. Associated Press.

Paris prosecutor says arrested man is thought to be 4th member of Louvre heist gang



Soldiers patrol as people queue to try to enter the Louvre museum, although it remains closed for the day after Sunday's jewels robbery, Monday, Oct. 20, 2025 in Paris. Associated Press.

By JOHN LEICESTER
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A man arrested by French police earlier this week is thought to be the fourth member of the team that stole France's crown jewels in a brazen heist from the Louvre Museum, the Paris prosecutor said Friday, meaning that the entire gang is now believed to be in custody.

Prosecutor Laure Beccuau, whose office is heading the investigation, said the 39-year-old man has a criminal record, with six previous convictions. He has now been handed preliminary charges of robbery by an organized gang, punishable by 15 years imprisonment, and criminal conspiracy, which can carry a 10-year sentence if he is convicted for his suspected role in the stunning Oct. 19 theft at the world's most-visited museum. The robbery gang's haul of loot was worth an estimated 88 million euros (\$102 million) — a monetary value that didn't include their huge historical value to France.

The prosecutor's statement didn't say what role, exactly, the man is thought to have played in the daylight heist, carried out with angle grinders, a freight lift and subterfuge, with robbers dressed as workers in bright vests.

The robbery is believed to have been the work of a four-person team with two people breaking into the museum's Apollo Gallery where the jewels were displayed and then being whisked away on motorbikes by two associates who waited outside.

The haul hasn't been recovered. It includes a diamond-and-emerald necklace Napoleon gave to Empress Marie-Louise, jewels tied to 19th-century Queens Marie-Amélie and Hortense, and Empress Eugénie's pearl-and-diamond tiara.

The robbery has focused attention on security at the Louvre, the world's most-visited museum.

The thieves took less than eight minutes to force their way into the museum and leave, using a freight lift to reach the building's window. Footage from museum cameras showed that the two who broke into the ornate Apollo Gallery used grinders to cut into jewelry display cases.

The emerald-set imperial crown of Napoleon III's wife, Empress Eugénie, containing more than 1,300 diamonds, was later found outside the museum. □

Iran boycotting World Cup draw citing visa restrictions for soccer officials

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran has decided to boycott the 2026 World Cup draw in Washington next week because the U.S. denied visas to members of its delegation, the state-run IRNA news agency reported on Friday. The agency quoted Iranian soccer federation spokesman Amir-Mahdi Alavi as saying that officials faced visa obstacles that go beyond sports considerations. There was no immediate comment from the White House.

Alavi said the federation had reached out to FIFA and hoped it could help resolve the issue. Soccer's ruling body didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

President Donald Trump's administration announced in June a travel ban on citizens from 12 countries



Trionda, a giant replica of the official ball for the FIFA World Cup 2026 is displayed in Zurich, Switzerland, Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025.

Associated Press.

including Iran. The list also included Haiti, which last week qualified for the World Cup.

Exemptions, however, were promised for "any athlete or member of an athletic team, including coaches,

persons performing a necessary support role, and immediate relatives, traveling for the World Cup, Olym-

pics, or other major sporting event as determined by the secretary of state."

It is unclear whether the exemptions also apply to the World Cup draw, which takes place on Dec. 5 at the Kennedy Center.

The Iranian delegation would have been expected to be led by its soccer federation president Mehdi Taj, one of the most senior officials in Asian soccer and a member of two FIFA committees that have oversight of the World Cup.

He is one of the vice presidents of the Asian Football Confederation and a member of FIFA panels with responsibility for the ruling body's competitions, plus men's national team soccer in general.

A record 48 teams will participate in the June 11-July 19 World Cup co-hosted by the U.S., Canada and Mexico. □

Vanderbilt extends coach Clark Lea's contract after historic season

By TERESA M. WALKER

AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)

— Vanderbilt has given coach Clark Lea a contract extension after he led the Commodores to their best regular season since 1915 and put the program that began in 1890 within one victory of its first 10-win season.

Athletic director Candice Storey Lee announced the extension Friday for Lea,

the 2024 Southeastern Conference coach of the year. The private university did not announce the length or money involved, but the extension reportedly is for six years.

"Clark Lea embodies what is possible at Vanderbilt, and I am proud to continue this journey with him leading our football program," Lee said in a statement.

Lea has 16 wins in his last two seasons for the pro-

gram's best two-year stretch in nearly a century. Vanderbilt (9-2) is ranked 12th in The Associated Press rankings and 14th in the College Football Playoff chase with three wins against Top 15 opponents going into Saturday's regular-season finale at No. 18 Tennessee. With Lea, the Commodores have been ranked as high as No. 9 for their highest ranking since 1937. He led Vanderbilt to a 7-6 record last season with its first bowl victory since 2013. With Vanderbilt finishing its first major renovation of FirstBank Stadium since 1981, the Commodores have sold out 11 home games since the start of the 2024 season.

Lea said he's excited to continue the work his alma mater hired him to start in December 2020. He thanked Chancellor Daniel Diermeier and Lee for their leadership as the Commodores build a program that can chase championships. □



Vanderbilt head coach Clark Lea, center, celebrates the team's win with players after an NCAA college football game against Kentucky, Saturday, Nov. 22, 2025, in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press.

France superstar Antoine Dupont set to return for Toulouse after 8-month layoff

Associated Press

TOULOUSE, France (AP) — France superstar scrumhalf Antoine Dupont is set to return for Toulouse in the Top 14 this weekend after more than eight months on the sidelines due to an ACL tear.

Dupont has not featured since rupturing cruciate ligaments in his right knee in March during a win over Ireland in the Six Nations. He returned to training at the start of October.

The 29-year-old Dupont is expected to play his comeback match on Saturday when Toulouse takes on Racing 92. □



France's Antoine Dupont makes a break during the Autumn Nations series rugby union match between France and Japan at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis, outside Paris, Saturday, Nov. 9, 2024.

Associated Press.

Cardinals and Buccaneers face off with each team trying to stop a 3-game losing streak

By **ROB MAADDI**

AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have lost three in a row. So have the Arizona Cardinals.

Still, the two teams are going in opposite directions.

The Buccaneers (6-5) lead a weak NFC South, though their grip on first place has loosened quite a bit following three poor defensive efforts against three winning teams.

The Cardinals (3-8) have almost clinched last place in the NFC West after losing eight of nine.

There's more at stake for the Buccaneers when the teams meet Sunday in Tampa Bay.

Baker Mayfield will likely try



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield (6) looks on from the sidelines wearing a sling during the second half against the Los Angeles Rams in an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025, in Inglewood, Calif.

Associated Press.

I have to be smart with that, understanding that our sights are still set on the playoffs, but to get there we have to win these games, especially the NFC matchups. (We have) got to look at it that way and it's kind of a double-edged sword, but we'll see how it goes."

Back to Brissett

The game will feature at least one backup quarterback starting.

Veteran Jacoby Brissett will make his seventh start for Kyler Murray. He's averaged 314.5 yards passing and has 11 touchdowns and only three interceptions.

"We aren't playing bad. It's just one or two things in those critical situations to get you over the hump," Brissett said. "I definitely see it unfolding for us; it's just a matter of when."

Sack attack

The Cardinals only have 22 sacks this season but the Buccaneers must be aware of two players: Josh Sweat and Calais Campbell.

Sweat has nine sacks and the 39-year-old Campbell has 5 1/2.

"The fact that Calais Campbell is still playing at the level that he's playing at is hats off to him," Bucs offensive coordinator Josh Grizzard said. "Sweat does a really good job coming off the edge."

Campbell, who is 6-foot-8, 315 pounds, has Mayfield's attention.

"I don't know how you're that big and play for that long," Mayfield said. "Kudos to him for taking care of his body the right way. I feel like everywhere I've been, I've had to play him... he keeps following me around."

Bucky's back

The Buccaneers are expecting second-year running back Bucky Irving to return after missing seven games because of foot and shoulder injuries.

Irving ran for 1,122 yards and scored eight touchdowns as a rookie while averaging 5.4 yards per carry. □

FEEL THE JAZZ

29 NOV - 8PM

THE GROOVE HUNTERS • LIVE
8PM to 10PM
Featuring Iris Wijserse on Vocals
DJ – 6PM to 8PM

Reservations through [Opentable.com](https://www.opentable.com)
@ [ZIMA.ARUBA](https://www.zima.aruba)

to play through pain after spraining his left shoulder and sitting out the second half of a 34-7 loss to the Rams last week.

He played through worse with the Cleveland Browns in 2021.

"I had dislocated my shoulder completely, had a torn labrum, partial (tear in the) rotator cuff and cracked the bone in the socket, so it's very different," Mayfield said. "Now, it's just truly about pain tolerance management, being able to move around and being able to throw and go from there."

The Buccaneers enter with a half-game lead over Carolina (6-6) and will face the Panthers twice. Carolina is a double-digit underdog this week against the Rams. Teddy Bridgewater would start if Mayfield can't go.

"Where we are at right now, we're viewing the rest of these games must-win situations," Mayfield said. "I know it's not, theoretically, but that's how we're viewing it, that's how we're approaching it and for me, if I am physically able to go, then I'll do it. ... but understanding that if I sit one game out and that provides me to be healthier for down the stretch, then that's how I am going to look at it."