



Carnival groups shine in the Lighting Parade in Oranjestad!

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Explainer: Why are many Hispanic surnames formed from 2 names and how does that work in the U.S.?



A person holds an American flag and a Mexico flag at a news conference, in Chicago, Sept. 4, 2025.

Associated Press

By **TRAVIS LOLLER**
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — What's in a surname? For many people from Spain and Latin America, it's about who your father is

and who your mother is. The tradition of using two surnames helps clearly identify familial relationships in much of the Spanish-speaking world. But in the United States, having

two surnames can be a bureaucratic headache, or worse.

More than 68 million people in the U.S. identify as ethnically Hispanic, according to the latest census estimates. Many of them use two surnames.

One famous example can be found in the birth name of Puerto Rican rap superstar Bad Bunny, who is set to perform in the halftime show at this weekend's Super Bowl. His given name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, after his father Tito Martínez and his mother Lysaurie Ocasio.

But there is more to the

origin story of Hispanic surnames.

How are Hispanic surnames formed?

In Spain and most Latin American countries, surnames are composed of two names. The first name is from the father and the second from the mother, with some exceptions.

Here is how it works. If Victoria's father is named Daniel Flores Garcia, and her mother is named Ana Salinas Marquez, her surnames will be Flores Salinas.

Women often keep their birth names when they marry, but laws and traditions vary by country. Women sometimes append the husband's paternal surname. An older way to do this is using "de," which means "of" as part of the name.

So if Victoria Flores Salinas marries Carlos Sandoval Cruz, she will likely remain Victoria Flores Salinas. But in some countries she might become Victoria Flores Sandoval or Victoria Flores de Sandoval. Other variations are also possible, like appending Sandoval after Salinas.

Regardless, if Victoria and Carlos have a child named Francisco, his full name will be Francisco Sandoval Flores.

How does this work in the United States?

People with typical Hispanic surnames who live in the U.S. often simply use the paternal surname to conform with the norm of a single last name. So in the United States, Francisco Sandoval Flores might just go by Francisco Sandoval. However, people unfamiliar with these naming conventions sometimes assume the father's name is a middle name, not a surname.

To avoid that problem, some people continue to use both surnames. Still

others hyphenate the two names. Occasionally, people even squish the two names together. Susana Pimiento has had to use all three of these strategies in the more than 20 years since she moved to the U.S.

Making sure official documents match, almost

Pimiento owns a translation and interpreter services agency in Austin, Texas, but is originally from Colombia. Her full name is Susana Pimiento Chamorro, but she uses that only for official government business. Even then, things can get tricky. When she went to get a driver's license for the first time in Texas, the only way they would allow her to keep her two surnames was by hyphenating them. "I could have dropped my mother's last name, but then it wouldn't have matched with my passport," she said.

Some airlines only allow one surname on a ticket, so she has to run both of her surnames together as if they were one word.

When she got a green card, things were even worse. The government issued it with her husband's name "not even in the American way, but in the old Latin American way," she said. "So I was Susana de Hammond. Like 'of Hammond.'" She had to return the card, which did not match any of her other documentation. It was a year before the government finally issued a new one with her actual name. In the meantime, she had to seek special permission to leave the U.S. so she could travel for work.

"Before I got married, I told my husband, 'I'm not taking your name, you know? There is no way,'" she said. "So then when my green card came with Susana de Hammond, we laughed. We thought that it was a joke. But, oh my gosh, it was so hard to straighten it out!" □

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Super Bowl ads try to overcome tough times with health, caring and the usual laughs

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, MAE ANDERSON and WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS
AP Business Writers

At a difficult time for America, Super Bowl advertisers ask viewers to take care of themselves and others — and maybe even crack a smile.

Ring shows how neighbors can use their doorbell cameras to find lost pets. A Budweiser Clydesdale protects a bald eagle chick from the rain. Novartis touts a blood test that can detect prostate cancer. Toyota reminds viewers to wear their seatbelts.

Mister Rogers is invoked twice: Lady Gaga sings his classic "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" in a tearjerker for Rocket Companies while the National Football League uses "You Are Special" to promote its work with youth sports organizations.

America is uneasy. U.S. consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since 2014 in January. The killings of two protesters by federal officers in Minneapolis last month led to widespread outrage. And winter weather has been brutal across much of the country.

"There is a collective trauma. Everybody is stressed out. It doesn't matter who you are, it's something that's impacting everyone," said Vann Graves, the executive director of the Brandcenter



This photo provided by Ro shows Serena Williams in Ro 2026 Super Bowl NFL football spot.
Associated Press

at Virginia Commonwealth University. Super Bowl ads, he said, give people a much-needed respite and a rare shared moment. "It's been a bit of time that we can just be human and be silly and enjoy ourselves," he said.

Playing for laughs

There is plenty of silliness in this year's commercials. Sabrina Carpenter tries to build the perfect man out of Pringles. Benson Boone and Ben Stiller play a disco duo doing flips over Instacart. Andy Samberg, playing "Meal Diamond," squirts Hellmann's mayonnaise on the sandwiches of Elle Fanning and other deli customers. Polar bears — Coca-Cola's traditional mascots — share a Pepsi in an ad that spoofs

last year's viral kiss cam. Adrien Brody can't stop over-acting in a commercial for TurboTax.

Delivery services try to outdo each other. George Clooney appears in a Grubhub ad to promote free delivery on orders of \$50 or more. Uber Eats enlists Matthew McConaughey to convince Bradley Cooper and Parker Posey that football is a conspiracy to make people hungry. And Rapper 50 Cent trolls Sean "Diddy" Combs in an ad for DoorDash.

AI Bowl

Artificial intelligence is all over the Super Bowl airwaves. Oakley Meta touts its AI-enabled glasses in two action-packed spots showing Spike Lee, Marshawn Lynch and others using the

glasses to film video and answer questions. Wix debuts an ad for Wix Harmony, which uses AI tools for website design. Svedka Vodka enlisted Silverside AI, an AI studio, to help create its ad, which features its robot mascot FemBot dancing alongside her male counterpart, BroBot.

Like AI itself, AI ads aren't without controversy. AI developer Anthropic is airing a pair of commercials pointing out that Claude, its chatbot, doesn't have ads. OpenAI CEO Sam Altman took issue with that in a recent social media post; OpenAI said last month it will start testing ads as a way to keep ChatGPT free.

Amazon also strikes a nerve with an ad starring Chris

Hemsworth that pokes fun of people's fears of AI. The ad is running just days after Amazon laid off 16,000 corporate workers, some of whom may be replaced with AI.

"I suspect this is meant to be funny, but it might reinforce some people's very real concerns about AI," said Tim Calkins, a clinical professor of marketing at Northwestern University.

Health Frenzy

Super Bowl ads still celebrate snacks. Bowen Yang, Scarlett Johansson and Jon Hamm team up to pitch Ritz crackers. A retiring potato farmer passes the farm along to his daughter in a heartfelt ad for Lay's.

But there's also a focus on health. Octavia Spencer and Sofia Vergara urge people to test for kidney disease in an ad for Boehringer Ingelheim.

Mike Tyson talks about his sister's death from obesity in an ad urging people to eat real, unprocessed food. The ad was paid for by MAHA Center Inc., a nonprofit led by Tony Lyons, a publisher and key ally of U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. GLP-1 weight loss drugs are also crashing the party. Novo Nordisk trumpets its new Wegovy pills in an ad featuring Kenan Thompson, DJ Khaled, Danielle Brooks, Ana Gasteyer, John C. Reilly and Danny Trejo. Telehealth firm Ro pitches its GLP-1s in an ad starring Serena Williams. □

Annual orchids show brings vivid color to Chicago winter

By ERIN HOOLEY
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — A soft layer of white snow blankets the grounds of the Chicago Botanic Garden. The air is chilly, the sky gray. Inside, however, the air is warm and lights illuminate more than 10,000 vividly colored orchids. Staff members move in and out of greenhouses, preparing to open the garden's 12th annual Orchid Show on Saturday.

This year's theme is "Feelin' Groovy" with several installations calling back to the 1970s, including a yellow Volkswagen Beetle filled with orchids.

"It's just a really great way to get out of the winter cold and come into our greenhouses," said Jodi Zombolo, associate vice president of visitor events and programs. "I think people are really looking for something to kind of bring happiness and something that they

will enjoy and find whimsy in."

The orchid family is one of the largest in the plant world and some of the species in the show are rare, exhibits horticulturist Jason Toth said. One example is the *Angraecum sesquipedale*, also known as Darwin's orchid, on display in the west gallery.

Toth said the orchid led Darwin to correctly conclude that pollinators have



Orchids adorn a Volkswagen Beetle as finishing touches are placed on the 12th annual Chicago Botanic Garden Orchid Show, Friday, Feb. 6, 2026, in Glencoe, Ill.

Associated Press

adapted in order to reach down the flower's very long end.

"It has a great story and it's quite remarkable-looking," said Toth. □

Giant snails and tiny insects threaten the South's rice and crawfish farms

By **MELINA WALLING and JOSHUA A. BICKEL**

Associated Press

KAPLAN, La. (AP) — Josh Courville has harvested crawfish his whole life, but these days, he's finding a less welcome catch in some of the fields he manages in southern Louisiana.

Snails. Big ones.

For every crawfish Courville dumps out of a trap, three or four snails clang onto the boat's metal sorting table. About the size of a baseball when fully grown, apple snails stubbornly survive all kinds of weather in fields, pipes and drainage ditches and can lay thousands of bubblegum-colored eggs every month.

"It's very disheartening," Courville said. "The most discouraging part, actually, is not having much control over it."

Apple snails are just one example of how invasive species can quickly become a nightmare for farmers.

In Louisiana, where rice and crawfish are often grown together in the same fields, there's now a second threat: tiny insects called delphacids that can deal catastrophic damage to rice plants. Much about these snails and insects is still a mystery, and researchers are trying to learn more about what's fueling their spread, from farming methods and pesticides to global shipping and extreme weather.

Experts aren't sure what role climate change may play, but they say a warming world generally makes it easier for pests to spread to other parts of the country if they gain a foothold in the temperate South.

"We are going to have more bugs that are happier to live here if it stays warmer here longer," said Hannah Burrack, professor and chair of the entomology department at Michigan State University.

It's an urgent problem because in a tough market for rice, farmers who rotate the rice and crawfish crops together need successful harvests of both to make ends meet. And losses to pests could mean higher



A crawfish crawls through apple snails after harvest Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at a farm in Kaplan, La.

Associated Press

rice prices for U.S. consumers, said Steve Linscombe, director of The Rice Foundation, which does research and education outreach for the U.S. rice industry.

Inconvenience, stress and higher costs for farmers Courville manages fields for Christian Richard, a sixth-generation rice farmer in Louisiana. Both started noticing apple snails after a bad flood in 2016. Then the population ballooned.

In spring, at rice planting time, the hungry snails found a feast.

"It was like this science fiction movie," Richard said, describing how each snail made its own little whirlpool as it popped out of the wet ground. "They would start on those tender rice plants, and they destroyed a 100-acre field."

Louisiana State University scientists estimate that about 78 square miles (202 square kilometers) in the state are now regularly seeing snails.

To keep the rice from becoming a snail buffet, Richard's team and many other rice and crawfish farmers dealing with the pests start with a dry field to give the rice plants the chance to

grow a few inches and get stronger, then flood the field after.

It's a planting method they'd already used on some fields, even before the snails arrived. But now, with the snails, that's essentially their only option, and it's the most expensive one.

They also can't get rid of the snails entirely. Many of the pesticides that might work on snails can also hurt crustaceans. People directly eat both rice and crawfish, unlike crops grown for animal feed, so there are fewer chemicals farmers can use on them. One option some farmers are testing, copper sulfate, can easily add thousands of dollars to an operation's costs, Courville said.

It all means "lower production, decreased revenue from that, and increased cost with the extra labor," Richard said.

Cecilia Gallegos, who has worked as a crawfish harvester for the past three years, said the snails have made her job more difficult in the past year.

"You give up more time," she said of having to separate the crawfish from the snails, or occasionally pluck-

ing them out of sacks if they roll in by mistake. Work that already stretched as late as 3 a.m. in the busy springtime season can now take even longer.

The snails separated from the crawfish get destroyed later.

One of the most significant pest appearances since the 1950s

To look for pests much smaller than the apple snails, entomologists whip around heavy-duty butterfly nets and deploy Ghostbusters-style specimen-collecting vacuums. Since last year, they've been sampling for rice delphacids, tiny insects that pierce the rice plants, suck out their sap and transmit a rice virus that worsens the damage.

It's worrying for Louisiana because they've seen how bad it can get next door in Texas, where delphacids surged last year. Yields dropped by up to 50% in what's called the ratoon crop, the second rice crop of the year, said The Rice Foundation's Linscombe. Texas farmers are projected to grow rice on only half the acres they did last year, and some are worried they won't be able to get bank

loans, said Tyler Musgrove, a rice extension specialist at the Louisiana State University AgCenter.

Musgrove said entomologists believe almost all rice fields in Louisiana had delphacids by September and October of last year. By then, most of the rice had already been harvested, so they're waiting to see what happens this year.

"The rice delphacid this past year was probably one of the most significant entomological events to occur in U.S. rice since the '50s when it first appeared," Musgrove said. Delphacids had eventually disappeared after that outbreak until now. It's been identified in four of the six rice-producing states — Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi — but it's not clear yet whether it's made a permanent winter home in the U.S.

Scientists are still in the early stages of advising farmers on what to do about the resurgence of the destructive bugs without adding costly or crawfish-harming pesticides. And they're also starting to study whether rice and crawfish grown together will see different impacts than rice grown by itself.

"I think everyone agrees, it's not going to be a silver bullet approach. Like, oh, we can just breed for it or we could just spray our way out of it," said Adam Famoso, director of Louisiana State University's Rice Research Station.

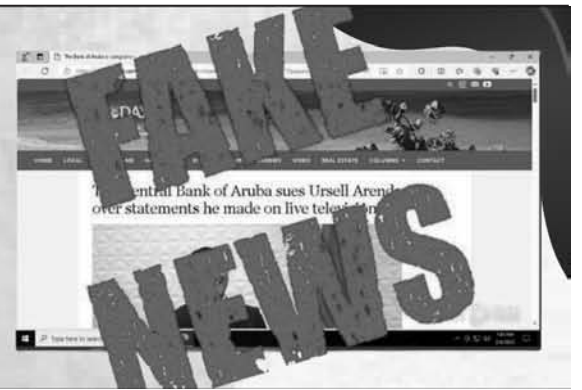
Climate change makes it harder to plan around pests Burrack, of Michigan State, said that climate change is making it harder for modeling that has helped predict how big populations of invasive pests will get and when they may affect certain crops. And that makes it harder for farmers to plan around them.

"From an agricultural standpoint, that's generally what happens when you get one of these intractable pests," Burrack said. "People are no longer able to produce the thing that they want to produce in the place that they're producing it." □

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Electric motorcycle riders in Kenya demand more flexible battery networks

By ALLAN OLINGO

Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) —

For weeks, popular Kenyan podcaster and radio presenter Francis Kibe Njeri has used his social media platforms to spotlight a problem he says many electric motorcycle riders face but few companies in the industry acknowledge: batteries unable to be swapped across networks and motorcycles that can be remotely disabled after periods of inactivity.

Electric motorcycles, also known as electric mobility bikes or e-bikes, are gaining ground throughout Africa, led by companies such as Ampersand, ARC Ride and Roam. The continent's largest e-bike firm, Spiro, operates more than 1,200 battery charging and swap stations and has deployed about 60,000 electric motorcycles, according to its most recent public filing in late 2024. Njeri claims in his widely shared posts that some operators' remote lockout features have rendered electric motorcycles unusable, stranding riders who depend on them for their livelihood. He is among many calling for more open, standardized battery systems.

"It is not fair that we purchase the bikes, but the battery remains the property of the manufacturer, and we can only use their stations and not charge them at home," Njeri said.

EV bike riders take to the streets

Hundreds of Kenyan e-bike riders in Nairobi and the coastal city of Mombasa took to the streets in November, chanting and waving placards demanding more battery-swap stations and open access across networks.

"I lose up to 500 Kenyan shillings (\$4.50) every time I can't find a swap point and



Riders wait near a motorcycle battery charging station in Nairobi, Kenya, Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026. Associated Press

sit waiting," said Oscar Okite, a Nairobi-based rider who has embraced e-bikes for lower operating costs but says scarce swap stations limit his earnings potential. "We need battery networks that work everywhere, not just in the city."

Electric motorcycles powered by replaceable lithium-ion batteries are cheaper to use than gas-powered bikes. Most of these firms say riders can save up to 40% on daily operating expenses because electricity is cheaper than fuel and maintenance is simpler. Yet there is still uneven access to swap stations, hubs where riders trade drained batteries for charged ones in minutes. In Nairobi and other urban centers, networks operated by Spiro, Ampersand and their competitors have set up dozens of stations, but gaps remain outside major corridors and in outlying areas.

"It's great when I'm near a proper swap site," Njeri said. "But go two or three towns away and you're likely to be stuck."

E-bike ecosystems limit flexibility

Africa's electric motorcycle companies have mostly built vertically integrated systems, where vehicles, batteries and charging infrastructure are designed to work only within a single brand's ecosystem.

The latest figures by the Africa E-mobility Alliance show East Africa leads with over 89 active e-mobility companies, followed by 46 in Southern Africa, 39 in West Africa and 19 in North Africa. There are only six such companies in Central Africa.

Most are e-bike companies, with 16% offering three-wheelers.

East Africa also accounts for most of the e-mobility investments, at \$207 million as of September, followed by West Africa at \$173 million and Southern Africa at \$100 million.

The mainstay of the e-bike business is battery-swap networks, an energy system that has proven effective in parts of Asia and Europe. But critics say fragmented systems where batteries and stations are tied to specific brands

due to their proprietary technologies are hindering growth despite supportive government policies.

"The lack of interoperability across charging and battery-swapping stations remains one of the biggest bottlenecks to scaling the sector," said Eric Tsui, commercial manager at asset financing firm Watu Africa. "From a financing and consumer perspective, the worst-case scenario is having many swap stations that cannot serve all riders," he said. "We need interoperability so that batteries can be charged or swapped at any station, regardless of the operator."

Businesses say sharing is complicated

Sharing swap networks is critical for scaling up electric mobility. But investment costs are high.

Building a network involves not just batteries and charging stations, but also land, security, software systems and continual maintenance. Millions of dollars are needed before companies make any return on their invest-

ments. Standardizing battery sizes, safety protocols and payment systems across firms also involves complex technical and commercial negotiations.

Spiro CEO Kaushik Burman said he is open to network sharing if it's done safely, pointing to battery safety standards set by Singapore and India. He added that his company welcomes "manufacturers who will want to build e-bikes that can run on our battery system."

"Before we allow them in, we will integrate, test and certify," he said. "However, openly allowing any battery to enter any swap station without integration is a recipe for disaster which we cannot accept."

There are signs of change

Ampersand announced plans in January to extend its battery-swap network to other electric motorcycle makers, allowing compatible bikes to use its infrastructure in the first such system in Africa.

"This open-platform approach means more manufacturers can enter the market without the need to build separate charging infrastructure," Ampersand CEO Josh Whale said. "In Africa's e-mobility space, one company often controls the bike and the battery network, but that's not how energy markets should work."

Ampersand sees itself as the electric battery "fuel station" where electric bikes whose battery packs meet quality and safety standards should be able to plug in, Whale said. E-bikes from other companies, such as Wylex Mobility, can tap into Ampersand's network in Kenya and Rwanda, expanding access for riders.

The changes are overdue, riders say. □

Olympic tourists in Cortina can explore the Dolomites with the new 'Uber Snowmobile' service

By JENNIFER McDERMOTT

Associated Press

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy

(AP) — For one month starting on Saturday, Olympic spectators keen for a side trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site can use Uber to reserve a ride on a snowmobile along the snow-covered road to the base of the Three Peaks of Lavaredo.

The dramatic, jagged limestone pinnacles stand just 23 kilometers (14.3 miles) from the Cortina venues where athletes are competing in the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics.

One of the Olympic torchbearers, Giulia Baffetti, runs snowmobiling tours through Cortina-based winter activities outfit Snowdreamers. The company partnered with Uber, the official ride-hailing sponsor for the Games, to offer free tours on the weekends in February to people in town.

"Uber Snowmobile" tours, which can only be booked through Uber, include a ride in an Uber transfer bus for up to eight people from Cortina to the spot where riders mount their snowmobiles for departure. Tourgoers then follow the instructor, who leads



The Three Peaks of Lavaredo are visible from a panoramic viewing point in Brunico on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026.

Associated Press

the line of snowmobiles.

The first slots offered went fast, but Uber spokesperson Caspar Nixon said Friday that it planned to add more.

The three peaks are a magical place, Baffetti said, and this is a way for more people to experience it. Hikers and

climbers flock there in the warmer months. In the winter, it's a prime spot for cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and sledding. Snowmobiling is allowed in a limited area in order to protect the environment.

"We want to give an experience to the tourists, so they

can feel the mountains in a different way," she said.

The Associated Press took the one-hour tour on Thursday, ahead of the Saturday launch, along with one other person. Helmets are essential, while heated handgrips are a most welcome feature. And that red button? Passengers

can push it to stop the snowmobile if it veers off course or they feel unsafe.

The adrenaline-filled ride reaches speeds up to 40 kph (25 mph) when zooming past snow-covered trees, and drivers are instructed to slow when coming upon cross-country skiers and sledgers. Deer and wolves are sometimes seen along the 7-kilometer (4.3-mile) route up to the base of the peaks. Also visible on Thursday was the southernmost of the three Lavaredo peaks, rising sharply out of the fog. While the Dolomites are breathtaking from Cortina — and on Friday, the sun shone and the view was clear from town — they are even more impressive up close.

The route back includes a short loop around Lake Antorno. Before traversing all the ups and downs, the snowmobile instructor leading the tour offers a reminder about that red button.

Saher Deeb, an Israeli tourist, was along for the ride Thursday, one day after his 29th birthday. It was his first time on a snowmobile, and he was all smiles as he climbed off at the end. □



Coach Khady Mbemgue (L) who took part in the Surf Academy program of the Black Girls Surf organization since 2019, instructs new surfers of the Black Girls Surf Academy during a practice session on a beach in the Almadies Corniche in Dakar on January 26, 2026.

Ngor, Senegal

For generations, Seynabou Tall's ancestors have fished, dived and rowed off the coast of Dakar, where the 14-year-old, who quit school nearly four years ago, is now learning to surf. She and some 20 other girls are participating in an inaugural Surf Academy

which requires they enroll in school, incentivized by the chance to shred waves. Nearly all come from the little community of Xataxely, a fishing village of narrow walkways that is part of the capital's larger Ngor neighborhood.

The area is a stronghold of Senegal's Lebou ethnic

In Dakar fishing village, surfing entices girls back to school

group, a fishing people closely tied to the ocean who live throughout the Dakar region.

The capital's world-class, year-round waves not only serve as the backdrop to the girls' lives, but also attract surfers from across the globe, including to the famed Ngor Right wave where the girls often practice.

Khadjou Sambe, Senegal's first female professional surfer, also a Lebou from Xataxely, is the vice president of the Dakar chapter of Black Girls Surf, which put on the four-month Surf Academy.

The US-based organization aims to train and increase the number of black women who participate in surf-

ing, a sport historically dominated by white men. While its Surf Academy centers on surfing and academics, it is also a "development program" meant to focus on the whole person, said the organization's founder and director, American Rhonda Harper, 57.

The first-ever Dakar academy was attended by 23 girls age seven to 17, of whom 17 had never gone to or were no longer in school. Nearly all were Lebou and live within 20 metres (yards) of the ocean.

They were provided with surfboards and wetsuits. And they participated in activities like fitness, meditation and surfing during the day, while receiving schooling at night in a pro-

gram for students no longer in the formal education system.

While the academy ended at the end of January, the school portion lasts through July. Six participants already enrolled in school participated in the academy as a weekend and after-school activity.

'We don't have the means'- Like many Lebou, Tall's father is a diver, plunging for fish which have drastically disappeared from Senegal's coast due to industrial trawling.

Her mother, who only went to primary school, sells fatayas and nems -- savory pocket pastries and spring rolls -- outside the family's compound where their extended family lives. □

Carnival groups shine in the Lighting Parade in Oranjestad!



(Oranjestad)—After a parade with a great atmosphere at Jouvert Morning that ended early Saturday morning, Aruba enjoyed once again on Saturday night one of the most popular parades of the Carnival season: the Lighting Parade in Oranjestad.

The parade saw participation from various groups, whose members danced and sang joyfully, complete with their colorful and dazzling costumes!

The parade started around 8 p.m. at the Aruba Entertainment Center in Dakota, then continued along Vondellaan, L.G.

Smith Boulevard, and ended at the Turbo Roundabout on the Boulevard.

The sequence of groups was as follows:

1. TOB Carnival Group
2. Dushi Carnival Group
3. Champagne Carnival Group
4. Empire Carnival Group
5. Los Laga Bai
6. HEPA DMC Society
7. Colours Carnival Group
8. Royal Carnival Group

Carnival lovers surely enjoyed a pleasant night with family!☐



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A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curaçao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special con-



nection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Light-house at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along

the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr.

Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curaçao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curaçao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable



from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations.

M A R E A

A taste of love

FEBRUARY 14, 2026 | 5:30PM

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Visit the island's hidden natural pool

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there are an additional two “hidden” natural pools that are situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura

di Turtuga (Turtle's Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you're up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as proof of payment. Once you've completed that, you are set!

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty

of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely



no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It's also relatively deep,

and you can climb up the rocks and jump in! □

Aruba to me



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LA NOTTE *dell' Amore*

FEBRUARY 14 | 5:38PM

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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 lo-

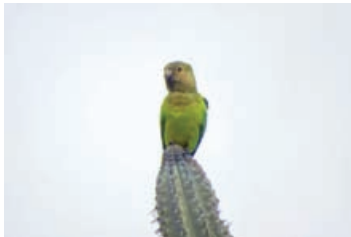


cally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up

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 "gar-



bage 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

A night of INDULGENCE

February 14, 2026 | 5:00pm

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Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable. Upon confiscation at the

airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

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

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

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, mov-



ies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on

entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front

of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than

movies at that time.

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

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

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

Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

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 approximately 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 resemble 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. □

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By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Diner

1 Barn patron area

5 Obsessed choice

captain 44 Fabric

9 Major worker

mistake

10 Vein

settings

12 Elroy's

dog

13 Sun

Valley

setting

14 Tendency

16 Reunion

group

17 Pert talk

18 What

a jeté

involves

20 Increase

22 Cuts off

23 Showy

flower

25 Prepares

for battle

28 Wild

32 Car option

34 Through

35 — es

Salaam

36 In front

38 Car of

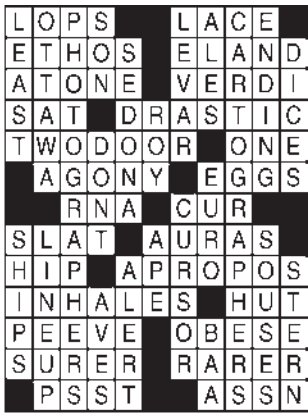
the '50s

40 Road

incline

41 Treatment

center



DOWN

1 Go

ballistic

2 Like some

books

3 Plant with

fronds

4 Cressida's

love

5 Juanita's

friend

6 Stashed

7 Luke's

father

8 Trailing

9 Pool

need

11 Album

tracks

15 Triton

orbits it

19 Sassy

to go

21 Fail to fail

24 Set to wed

25 Birch's

cousin

26 Book

buyer

27 Mason of

movies

29 Take to

the sky

30 Caretaker

31 Raring

to go

33 "You don't

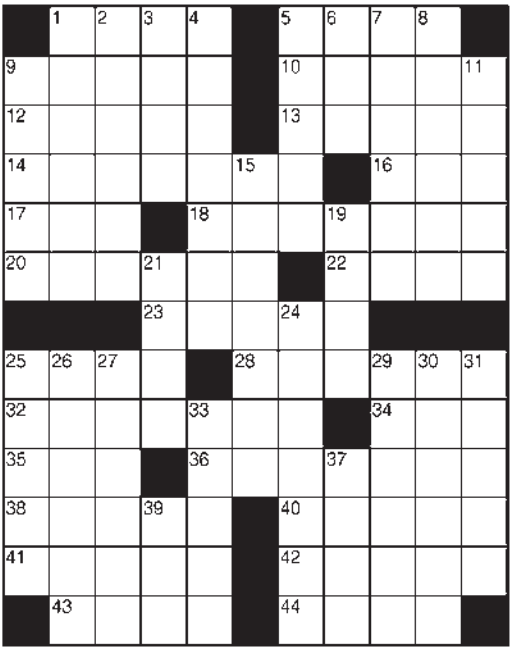
say!"

37 Simple

cart

39 Stirrup

setting



2-18

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.

2-18 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

WDINAD GNT JFAAG F LDAQNZ,

GNT QMNTYB IPAQE JFRD EMDJ

TQD F ONJLTEDA HPEM QYNH

PZEDAZDE EN QDD HMN EMDG

ADFYYG FAD. — HPYY IDAADYY

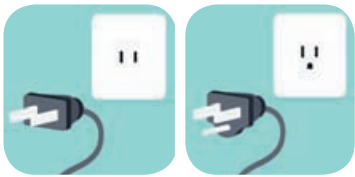
Cryptoquote: CLOTHES MAKE THE
MAN. NAKED PEOPLE HAVE LITTLE OR NO
INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY. — MARK TWAIN

Cruise ship Schedule: Feb. 9 - 15 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
MON	09	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2	08.00	20.00	C	1
TUE	10	MAJESTIC PRINCESS	07.00	18.00	B	1
		SERENADE OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	I	1
WED	11	BRITANNIA	07.00	18.00	B	1
		CELEBRITY SILHOUETTE	08.00	23.00	C	1
		SEA CLOUD SPIRIT	08.00	14.00	I	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
THU	12	MS RENAISSANCE	09.00	18.00	B	1
		CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	09.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL MAGIC	09.00	22.00	I	1
SAT	14	AIDAPERLA	09.00	21.00	C	1
SUN	15	NORWEGIAN PEARL	08.00	17.00	C	1
		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.



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.



Drinking water

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



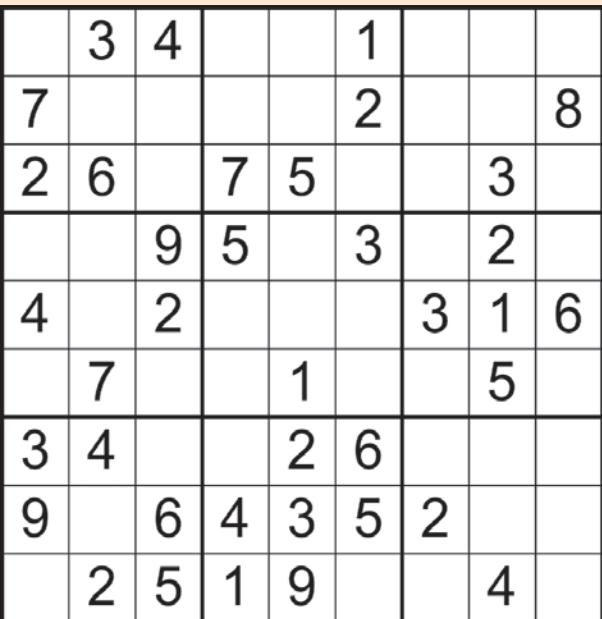
Safety

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

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: ★

2/9

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2/8

Can apes play pretend? Scientists use an imaginary tea party to find out



This undated photo provided by the Ape Initiative shows Nyota with Kanzi, a bonobo who learned to communicate with humans, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Associated Press

By **ADITHI RAMAKRISHNAN**
AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — By age 2, most kids know how to play pretend. They turn their bedrooms into faraway castles and hold make-believe tea parties.

The ability to make something out of nothing may seem uniquely human — a bedrock of creativity that's led to new kinds of art, music and more.

Now, for the first time, an experiment hints that an ape in captivity can have an imagination.

"What's really exciting about this work is that it suggests that the roots of this capacity for imagination are not unique to our species," said study co-author Christopher Krupenye with Johns Hopkins University.

Enter Kanzi, a bonobo who was raised in a lab and became a whiz at communicating with humans using graphic symbols. He combined different symbols to make them mean new things and learned how to create simple stone tools.

Scientists wondered whether Kanzi had the capacity to play pretend — that is, act like something is real while knowing it's not. They'd heard reports of female chimpanzees in the wild holding sticks as though they were babies and chimps in

captivity dragging imaginary blocks on the ground after playing with real ones. But imagination is abstract, so it's hard to know what's going on in the apes' heads. They could just be imitating researchers or mistaking imaginary objects for the real thing.

Researchers adapted the playbook for studying young children to stage a juice party for Kanzi. They poured imaginary juice from a pitcher into two cups, then pretended to empty just one. They asked Kanzi which cup he wanted and he pointed to the cup still containing

pretend juice 68% of the time.

To make sure Kanzi wasn't confusing real with fake, they also ran a test with actual juice. Kanzi chose the real juice over the pretend almost 80% of the time, "which suggests that he really can tell the difference between real juice and imaginary juice," said Amalia Bastos, a study co-author from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

A third experiment placing fake grapes into two jars had similar positive results. But not all scientists are convinced that Kanzi is

playing pretend like humans do. There's a difference between envisioning juice being poured into a cup and maintaining the pretense that it's real, said Duke University comparative psychologist Michael Tomasello.

"To be convinced of that I would need to see Kanzi actually pretend to pour water into a container himself," Tomasello wrote in an email. He had no role in the study, which was published Thursday in the journal *Science*. Kanzi grew up among humans, so it's hard to say whether his abilities extend to all apes or are because of his special upbringing. He died last year at the age of 44.

Many great ape species in the wild are critically endangered and it'll take more research to understand what their minds are capable of. "Kanzi opened this path for a lot of future studies," Bastos said. □



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Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

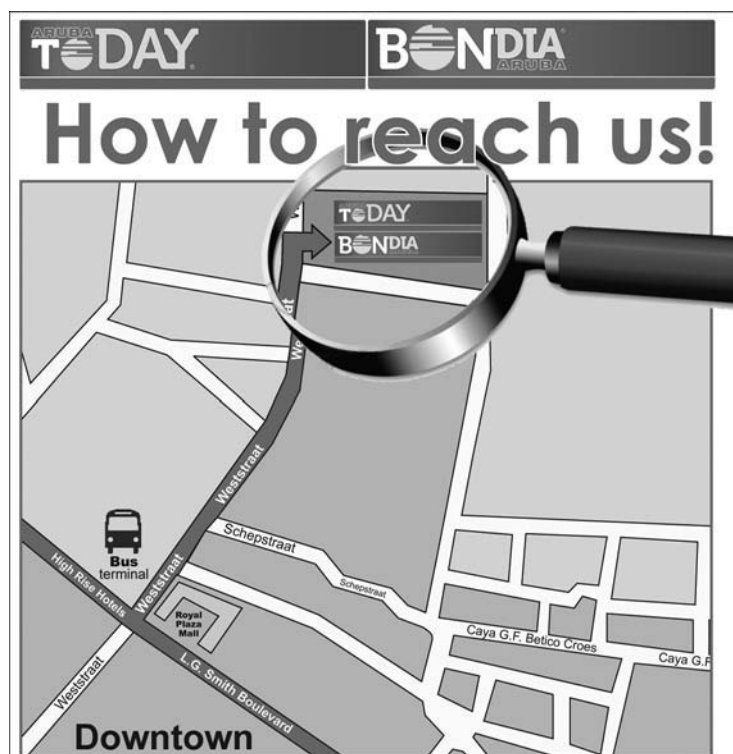
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Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Lindsey Vonn breaks leg in downhill crash at Winter Olympics, in stable condition after surgery

By **ANDREW DAMPF** and **PAT GRAHAM**
AP Sports Writers

CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy (AP) — Lindsey Vonn's defiant bid to win the Winter Olympic downhill at the age of 41, on a rebuilt right knee and a badly injured left knee, ended Sunday in a frightening crash that left her with a broken leg and saw her taken to safety by a rescue helicopter for the second time in nine days.

Vonn lost control within moments of leaving the start house, clipping a gate with her right shoulder and pin-wheeling down the slope before ending up awkwardly on her back, her skis crisscrossed below her and her screams ringing out soon after medical personnel arrived. She was treated for long, anguished minutes as a hush fell over the crowd waiting far below at the finish line.

She was strapped to a gurney and flown away, possibly ending the skier's storied career. She was taken to a clinic in Cortina, then transferred to a larger hospital in Treviso, a two-hour drive to the south. She was being "treated by a multidisciplinary team" and "underwent an orthopedic operation to stabilize a fracture reported in her left leg," the Ca' Foncello hospital said in a statement. The U.S. Ski Team said Vonn was "in stable condition and in good hands with a team of



United States' Lindsey Vonn crashes during an alpine ski women's downhill race, at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Sunday, Feb. 8, 2026.

American and Italian physicians."

"She'll be OK, but it's going to be a bit of a process," said Anouk Patty, chief of sport for U.S. Ski and Snowboard. "This sport's brutal and people need to remember when they're watching (that) these athletes are throwing themselves down a mountain and going really, really fast."

Breezy Johnson, Vonn's teammate, became only the second American woman to win the Olympic downhill after Vonn did it 16 years ago. The 30-year-old Johnson held off Emma Aicher of Germany

and Italy's Sofia Goggia on a bittersweet day for the team. "I don't claim to know what she's going through, but I do know what it is to be here, to be fighting for the Olympics, and to have this course burn you and to watch those dreams die," said Johnson, whose injury in Cortina in 2022 ruined her hopes of skiing in the Beijing Olympics. "I can't imagine the pain that she's going through and it's not the physical pain — we can deal with physical pain — but the emotional pain is something else."

Vonn had family in the stands, including her father, Alan

Kildow, who stared down at the ground while his daughter was being treated after just 13 seconds on the course where she holds a record 12 World Cup titles. Others in the crowd, including rapper Snoop Dogg, watched quietly as the star skier was finally taken off the course. Fellow American star Mikaela Shiffrin posted a broken heart emoji on social media.

Vonn's crash was "tragic, but it's ski racing," said Johan Eliasson, president of the International Ski and Snowboard Federation.

"I can only say thank you for what she has done for our

sport," he said, "because this race has been the talk of the games and it's put our sport in the best possible light."

All eyes had been on Vonn, the feel-good story heading into the Olympics. She returned to elite ski racing last season after nearly six years, a remarkable decision given her age but she also had a partial titanium knee replacement in her right knee, too. Many wondered how she would fare as she sought a gold medal to join the one she won in the downhill at the 2010 Vancouver Games.

The four-time overall World Cup champion stunned everyone by being a contender almost immediately. She came to the Olympics as the leader in the World Cup downhill standings and was a gold-medal favorite before her crash in Switzerland nine days ago, when she suffered her latest knee injury. In addition to a ruptured ACL, she also had a bone bruise and meniscus damage.

Still, no one counted her out even then. In truth, she has skied through injuries for three decades at the top of the sport. In 2006, ahead of the Turin Olympics, Vonn took a bad fall during downhill training and went to the hospital. She competed less than 48 hours later, racing in all four events she'd planned, with a top result of seventh in the super-G. □



Italy's national coach Marco Mariani, left, speaks to his athletes, Stefania Constantini, and Amos Mosaner during the mixed doubles round robin phase of the curling competition against Canada at the 2026 Winter Olympics, in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026.

Associated Press

Olympic court rejects Italian curler's claim of nepotism for losing place to official's daughter

MILAN (AP) — An Italian curling athlete who blamed nepotism for her non-selection for the Milan Cortina Olympics had her appeal rejected Sunday.

The Court of Arbitration for Sport said its judge rejected the argument of Angela Romei that there was a "conflict of interest" when the Italian curling federation last month picked Rebecca Mariani instead.

The 19-year-old Mariani is the daughter of the national federation's technical director, Marco Mariani, who competed when Italy last

hosted the Winter Games, in 2006 at Turin.

CAS said in a statement that Romei cited in her appeal being "a more experienced and qualified athlete."

Romei is a silver and bronze medalist on Italy teams at the European Championships.

However, the court said its judge "did not find it likely that the head coach of a national team would agree to include an athlete in the Olympic team that is inferior to another athlete, simply to help a member of the fed-

eration to include family into the Olympic roster."

The judge who heard the appeal Saturday was described as "not unsympathetic" to Romei's concerns, but "did not find sufficient evidence" that Mariani's selection was unreasonable. Rebecca Mariani is the expected reserve in the Italy women's team skipped by Stefania Constantini, the gold medalist in mixed doubles at the 2022 Beijing Olympics.

The women's competition in Cortina d'Ampezzo starts Thursday. □

Dame Time: Lillard, who hasn't played this season, will be in 3-point contest at All-Star Saturday

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Damian Lillard is apparently going to wear his Portland uniform again, in a most unexpected manner. And he'll have the Olympics as the television lead-in for his return.

Lillard — who has not played this season while recovering from a torn Achilles tendon — will participate in the 3-point contest on All-Star Saturday, the NBA

announced.

Viewers won't have to wait long to see Lillard's return. All-Star Saturday will lead off this year with the 3-point contest, a major change from the norm and a move that could command big ratings — with NBC's coverage of the event immediately following broadcasts from the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics, which the network also airs.

In other words, NBC is going from skating, sliding and skiing to shooting.

Lillard is joining 2018 3-point contest champion Devin Booker of the Phoenix Suns in the field, along with Charlotte's Kon Knueppel, Philadelphia's Tyrese Maxey,

Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell, Denver's Jamal Murray, Milwaukee's Bobby Portis Jr. and Miami's Norman Powell. If Lillard wins, he would join Larry Bird and Craig Hodges as the only three-time winners of the event, which will be held at the Los Angeles Clippers' home in Inglewood, California.

Saturday night's 3-point contest will be followed by the return of the Shooting Stars competition, then the dunk contest will close the Saturday night schedule. The skills competition is out, at least for this year.

It would be Lillard's first time playing — or at least shoot-



Charlotte Hornets guard Kon Knueppel (7) looks to shoot against Atlanta Hawks forward Zaccharie Risacher (10) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

NBA says Sengun will be the injury replacement for Gilgeous-Alexander at the All-Star Game



Houston Rockets center Alperen Sengun (28) looks to pass the ball against Charlotte Hornets forward Moussa Diabate (14) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Feb. 5, 2026, in Houston.

Associated Press

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Houston's Alperen Sengun was added to the roster for this season's NBA All-Star Game on Sunday, being selected as a replacement pick for Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander.

Sengun — who becomes Turkey's first two-time All-Star, after also being picked last season — will take Gilgeous-Alexander's place on the World team in the Feb. 15 event at the Los Angeles Clippers' home in Inglewood, California.

Gilgeous-Alexander had to withdraw from the game because of a strained abdominal muscle. Sengun is averaging 20.8 points, 9.4 rebounds and 6.3 assists this season for the Rockets. □



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



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

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

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

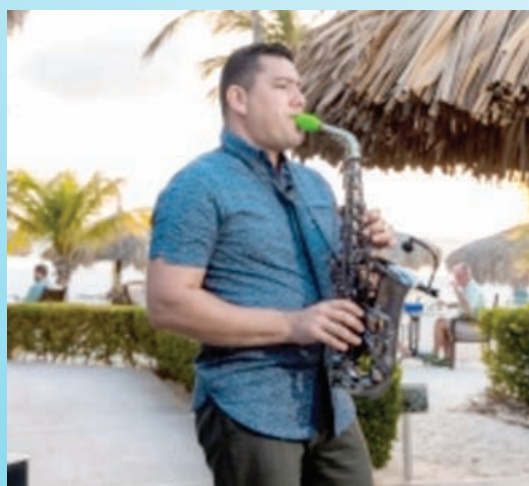
For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled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

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

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

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

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



and gluten-free guests.

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

Live entertainment

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

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

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

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