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Page 9

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Beautiful areas around Aruba



Page 7

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.



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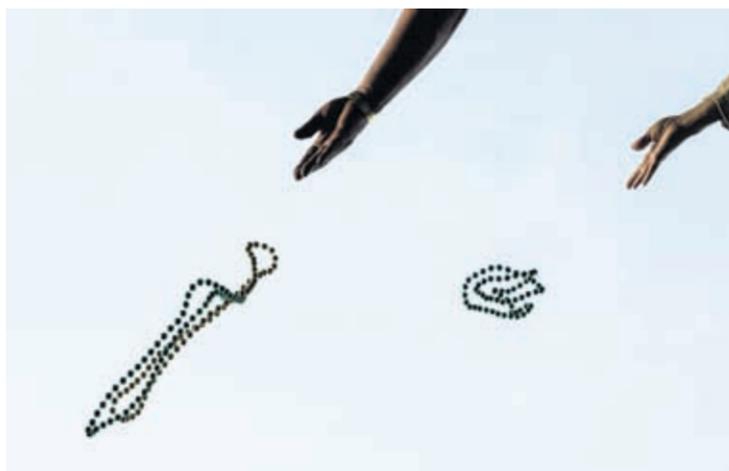
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Beyond the Plastic: The rise of sustainable “Jambalaya” throws

For decades, the standard currency of Mardi Gras has been cheap, mass-produced plastic beads. While they provide a temporary thrill, the environmental cost is staggering—tens of millions of pounds of plastic end up in landfills or clogging New Orleans’ storm drains every year. However, a new trend is emerging on the parade routes: the “Jambalaya” throw.



Mardi Gras participants throw beads to celebrants on Bourbon Street on February 21, 2023 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

What is a “Jambalaya” Throw?

Instead of a toxic plastic necklace that will eventually sit in a landfill, some krewes are now tossing burlap bags filled with jambalaya mix. These sustainable throws are designed to be useful, culturally relevant, and biodegradable.

Practicality: Unlike beads,

which are often discarded shortly after the parade, a jambalaya mix is a food item that spectators actually value and take home to use.

Environmental Benefit: By replacing plastic strands with dry ingredients like rice and spices, krewes like the Krewe of Iris and Krewe of

Freret are significantly reducing their plastic footprint.

Economic Support: Many of these specialty items are sourced locally, supporting Louisiana businesses rather than overseas plastic factories.

The Movement Toward a Greener Carnival

The shift to food-based throws is part of a broader coalition effort involving groups like Grounds Krewe and Arc of Greater New Orleans (ArcGNO). These organizations advocate for “conscious jewelry” and high-value items, such as: Sustainable Food Items: Jambalaya spice packets and native flower seed mixes.

Recycled Alternatives: Beads made from recycled magazines by groups like Atlas Beads.

Biodegradable Science: “PlantMe Beads,” devel-

oped by researchers at Louisiana State University (LSU), which are 3D-printed from starch-based bioplastic and contain okra seeds. While plastic beads remain a dominant fixture, the introduction of the “Jambalaya” throw signals a turning point. As more spectators “dodge” the cheap plastic in favor of items they can actually enjoy at the dinner table, the spirit of Mardi Gras is becoming as sustainable as it is celebratory. □

Engines of Empathy: Teens repairing cars to empower single mothers



A mechanic checks a truck at the technical check-up area

In the heart of high school auto shops across the country, a quiet revolution is happening—one where students are mastering more than just mechanical skills. Programs like the one at

Louisa County High School in Virginia are turning automotive technology classes into lifelines for single mothers in their communities. By repairing and donating vehicles, these teenagers are proving that a set of tools and a heart for service can drive profound social change.

A Curriculum of Compassion

At Louisa County High School, students in the automotive technology program spend months under the hood of donated, worn-out vehicles. Under the guidance of their instructor, Shane Robertson, about 20 students work on each car, handling essential repairs such as:

Safety Critical Work: Brake and tire repairs to ensure

the family is safe on the road.

Mechanical Integrity: Engine diagnostics, battery testing, and oil and fluid changes.

System Maintenance: Fixing heating and cooling systems to provide comfort and reliability.

Once a car is fully refurbished, it undergoes a final safety inspection at a partner repair shop before it is ready for its new owner.

Partnership with Giving Words

This initiative is fueled by a partnership with Giving Words, a nonprofit founded by Eddie Brown, a former single parent who understands the barrier that transportation presents. Since its founding in 2018, the organization has:

Donated over 60 cars to single mothers in need.

Performed more than 260 repairs to keep existing family vehicles on the road.

Collaborated with local shops to obtain donated vehicles. □

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AI agent invasion has people trying to pick winners

New York, United States

An onslaught of artificial intelligence agents that handle tasks from writing code to dispensing tax advice has the tech world and financial markets scrambling to pick winners and shed losers.

Gone are the days of being satisfied with OpenAI's ChatGPT simply creating responses to text prompts. Makers of leading AI models have embraced "agentic" capabilities that provide software assistants capable of independently tending to tasks, such as creating software applications, based on simple descriptions.

Futurum chief strategist Shay Bloor sees the moment as an "inflection point" where millions of AI agents will soon be routinely handling tasks long tended to by people.

"We've never had a tech disruption at this scale before," Bloor told AFP.

"It's extreme. The market is underwriting that future uncertainty in a doom-based scenario."

The turning point has been marked by rapid-fire releases of ever-improving AI



This illustration photograph taken in Mulhouse, eastern France on February 11, 2025, shows the logo of OpenAI's artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT.

models, including recent new versions from OpenAI and Anthropic.

Add to that the November debut of autonomous AI agent OpenClaw that some have equated to the fictional "Jarvis" AI assistant from the "Iron Man" superhero films.

The creator of OpenClaw was snapped up by ChatGPT-maker OpenAI, signaling that the San Francisco-

based startup has even more ambitious agentic aspirations.

- Future or fiction? -

Investors quickly saw AI agents as a threat to software publishers, particularly those serving businesses. Monday.com, which specializes in workplace collaboration, along with Salesforce and Thomson Reuters with its tax, ac-

counting and trade software arms saw their stock value plummet 30 percent or more on Wall Street in a matter of days.

Georgetown University management professor Jason Schloetzer recounted a recent chat with a chief executive who remarked about no longer needing consultants since there was "one in my pocket" thanks to AI.

"There's paranoia around AI in every industry," said Wedbush analyst Dan Ives. "I believe it's way overdone."

He viewed the concept of AI models replacing enterprise software and cybersecurity firms as "a fictional tale."

- Too much? -

As AI agents begin shaking up work, creators of large language models powering them continue to pour hundreds of billions of dollars into a battle for supremacy.

Claude-maker Anthropic has OpenAI, Google's Gemini and even Grok from xAI nipping at its heels in the market for professional AI.

Even though massive spending on AI infrastructure has some investors worried, Bloor contends "the risk is not overinvesting, but underinvesting" in the transformative technology.

Schloetzer reasons that the economic impact of AI may not be clear for several years, the same way it took time for the internet itself to become a vital part of daily life. □

NASA chief rules out March launch of Moon mission over technical issues

Washington, United States

NASA chief Jared Isaacman on Saturday ruled out a March launch for Artemis 2, the first crewed flyby mission to the Moon in more than 50 years, citing technical issues.

Workers detected a problem with helium flow to the massive SLS rocket that will "take the March launch window out of consideration," Isaacman said in a post on X.

"I understand people are disappointed by this development. That disappointment is felt most by the team at NASA, who have been working tirelessly to prepare for this great endeavor," Isaacman said.

"During the 1960s, when NASA achieved what most thought was impossible, and what has never been



NASA's Artemis II Space Launch System rocket and Orion spacecraft are rolled out of the Vehicle Assembly Building to Launch Pad 39B at Kennedy Space Center in Florida on January 17, 2026, ahead of the crewed lunar mission

repeated since, there were many setbacks."

The towering SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft will be rolled back into the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida to investigate the

technical issues and make any necessary repairs, Isaacman said.

A complete briefing will follow in the coming days, he added.

The highly anticipated Artemis 2 mission, lasting about

10 days, will see three Americans and one Canadian fly around Earth's satellite.

It would be a huge step towards Americans once again setting foot on the lunar surface, a goal announced by President Donald Trump in his first term.

On Friday, NASA had set March 6 as the earliest possible launch date.

The US space agency hopes to put humans back on the Moon as China forges ahead with a rival effort that is targeting 2030 at the latest for its first crewed mission.

China's uncrewed Chang'e 7 mission is expected to be launched in 2026 for an exploration of the Moon's south pole, and testing of its crewed space-

craft Mengzhou is also set to go ahead this year.

NASA surprised many late last year when it said Artemis 2 could happen as soon as February -- an acceleration explained by the Trump administration's wish to beat China to the punch.

But the program has been plagued by delays.

The uncrewed Artemis 1 mission took place in November 2022 after multiple postponements and two failed launch attempts.

Then technical problems in early February -- which included a liquid hydrogen leak -- cut short a so-called wet dress rehearsal for the Artemis 2 launch. That was finally completed earlier this week. □

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'One Battle' triumphs at BAFTAs that honour British talent

London, United Kingdom
Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another" continued its awards season streak by winning the top prize at the BAFTAs on Sunday, with the British awards also recognising homegrown talent across categories.

Following in the footsteps of Hollywood ceremonies last month, the BAFTAs gave the best film award to the offbeat thriller "One Battle After Another". Paul Thomas Anderson won the best director award for the political thriller, which has struck a chord with its portrayal of a deeply polarised United States -- and also won the most prizes of the night with a tally of six.

"Unfortunately, the title makes sense," Anderson told reporters after the ceremony. "It just does start to seem like one battle af-



FOTO X 2L to 3R) US actor Leonardo DiCaprio, American singer-songwriter and actor Teyana Taylor, US film director Paul Thomas Anderson, US film producer Sara Murphy and Puerto Rican actor Benicio del Toro pose with the award for Best film for "One Battle After Another" during the BAFTA British Academy Film Awards ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, in London, on February 22, 2026.

ter another these days. But stay hopeful." Chalamet's ping-pong drama "Marty Supreme" left the night with no awards -- having been nominated in 11 categories -- but Guill-

ermo del Toro's "Frankenstein" walked off with three wins in the technical categories. Vampire period film "Sinners" left the night with three awards, including for

best score and best original screenplay. The BAFTA ceremony, often seen as a weather vane for the Oscars in three weeks time, recognised British and Irish talent in some of the

top categories.

- Aramayo, local hero - Loud cheers erupted in London's Southbank Centre when British actor Robert Aramayo triumphed over established stars Timothee Chalamet and Leonardo DiCaprio to snag the best actor honour.

Aramayo, the underdog in the category, won for his portrayal of a man with Tourette syndrome in "I Swear", inspired by the real life story of Scot John Davidson whose life was irrevocably changed by the condition.

"I honestly cannot believe I won this award. I really, really cannot," said a tearful Aramayo, who had already won in the rising star category.

"I'm just really happy that 'I Swear' has shown a spotlight on something that is really, really misunderstood," he added. □

'Boldly headbang': Star Trek's Shatner, 94, unveils metal album

New York, United States
"Star Trek" legend William Shatner is boldly going where few 94-year-olds have gone before, as the Canadian actor announced plans to release a heavy metal album. "I have explored space. I have explored time. Now... I explore distortion," Shatner wrote on social media late Thursday alongside a picture of himself cradling an electric guitar in front of a red, smoky backdrop. "Thirty-five metal virtuosos. Thunderous guitars. Chaos with purpose," he said. The cult star promised covers of metal staples like Black Sabbath, Iron Maiden and Judas Priest, as well as "a few originals forged in the same cosmic fire."



William Shatner attends the 52nd Annual Saturn Awards at Hilton Universal City Hotel on February 02, 2025 in Universal City, California.

Shatner played the daring Captain James T. Kirk in 1960s sci-fi adventure fran-

chise "Star Trek," which follows the crew of a spaceship as it spreads liberal hu-

manitarian ideals through the galaxy. He also portrayed the titu-

lar character in cop show "TJ Hooker," and won both a Golden Globe and a Primetime Emmy for his role on "Boston Legal." In 2021, he became the then oldest person ever to go to space when he traveled aboard a Blue Origin craft at age 90.

Revealing his new album, Shatner showed no intentions of taking it easy. "Honest intensity. Unapologetic exploration. At 94, one does not slow down. One turns the volume up," he said.

"So prepare yourselves. We are about to boldly headbang where no one has headbanged before. Stay tuned. The metal voyage begins this year." □

158 giant tortoises reintroduced to a Galapagos island

Quito, Ecuador

More than 150 giant tortoises have been reintroduced to Floreana Island in Ecuador's famed Galapagos archipelago where they disappeared more than a century ago, the environment ministry said Friday. Park rangers carried large crates containing the 158 tortoises on their backs, hiking seven kilometers (four miles) across volcanic terrain and hard-to-access areas before releasing them, the ministry said in a statement.

"For the first time in over a century, Floreana is once again home to giant tortoises, a species that plays a strategic role as ecosystem engineers: seed dispersers,



This handout picture released by Ecuador's Environment Ministry shows park rangers releasing giant tortoises on Floreana Island, in the Galapagos archipelago, Ecuador, on February 20, 2026.

vegetation regulators, and promoters of natural habitat regeneration," it said.

The Galapagos Islands, a World Heritage Site, are situated some 1,000 kilo-

meters off the coast of Ecuador. They are famous for their unique flora and fauna and are where British scientist Charles Darwin developed his theory of evo-

lution.

An NGO, Island Conservation, said it was the first time that giant tortoises have walked on Floreana since the native species, *Chelonoidis niger niger*, was driven to extinction there in the mid-1800s after the introduction of invasive mammals.

There are 13 living species of Galapagos tortoises on other islands in the archipelago, according to National Geographic. They can weigh more than 250 kilograms (550 pounds). The oldest on record lived to be 175 years old.

The Ecuadoran ministry said the released tortoises come from a breeding center of the Galapagos

National Park, where a specialized program was developed using tortoises with a high genetic load of the island's endemic species that was found on Isabela island, which lies about 180 kilometers from Floreana.

Each tortoise underwent an extensive quarantine and was microchipped for identification before their release, it said.

For a decade, researchers have been working to reintroduce 12 other endemic species to Floreana as part of a rewilding program.

Floreana, covering 173 square kilometers, was the first to be inhabited by humans in the entire archipelago. □

Warming climate threatens Greenland's ancestral way of life

Sisimiut, Denmark

Standing in his boat with binoculars in hand, hunter Malik Kleist scans the horizon for seals. But this February, the sea ice in southwestern Greenland has yet to freeze, threatening traditional livelihoods like his.

"Normally the seals are on the ice or in the more calm waters. But today we had to sail all the way into the fjords to find them," the 37-year-old told AFP.

The Arctic region is on the frontline of global warming, heating up four times faster than the rest of the planet since 1979, according to a 2022 study in scientific journal *Nature*, causing the sea ice to retreat.

Seals rely on pack ice to give birth, to rest and for protection.

Hunters increasingly have to sail farther along the jagged coast of Sisimiut, navigating into the fjords for several hours to find them.

Traditionally, hunters' boats would head straight out to sea, slowly pushing through the ice and creating holes that attract seals coming up for air.

But without any ice, "it's too windy and the waves are too big," Kleist said.

Last year was exceptionally warm in the vast autonomous territory, with several temperature records beat-

en, according to the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI).

In December, the Summit Station, located at the height of Greenland's ice sheet, recorded an average temperature of minus 30.9C, 8.1C higher than the December average between 1991 and 2020.

"It affects everything we do. Because normally around November and December the ice comes. And this year there's no ice, so it affects our living a lot," Kleist said.

- Financial woes -

For the same reason, the government has also had to postpone the annual winter musk ox hunt that was due to start on January 31.

There wasn't enough snow and ice to transport the massive animals that roam the Arctic tundra back from Kangerlussuaq where they are predominantly found, around 165 kilometres (103 miles) away. Greenland has no roads connecting its towns.

That has left some Sisimiut hunters with less income than usual.

"This time of year there is not much to hunt. So we rely on musk ox meat and skin," Kleist said.

"Many of my fellow hunters are struggling with money



Musher Johanne Bech drives with her sled dogs for a training ride near her home in Sisimiut, Greenland on February 3, 2026.

right now."

Every part of the animal, from the fur to the meat, is either used or sold.

The summer hunting season has therefore gained importance, enabling Greenlanders to fill their freezers to get them through the winter months, he told AFP over a steaming bowl of fish stew.

The shorter winter season has also impacted another key activity in Greenland, one that has become increasingly important to the tourism sector: dogsled tours.

In the Sisimiut neighbourhood where the dogs are kept, their thunderous barking mounts as Nukaaraq Olsen, a 21-year-old musher,

attaches them to the sled. Raring to get going, his 18 dogs are hard to hold back. Twenty minutes later, the group bounds off.

But the road is bumpy, and several times Olsen has to get up to manually push the sled, stuck on the tundra's rocks in patches where there is no ice.

"This year we had a lot of hot, warm days, even though it's December or January," he said.

Other parts of the route are no longer safe to use, due to repeated melting and freezing of snowfall which causes uneven layers, he said.

- Dehydrated dogs -

The dogs' health is also affected by the changing cli-

mate.

They are used to quenching their thirst with snow, but with little or no snowfall, they can easily get dehydrated. Musher have to take that into account when caring for their animals.

Many have even had to get rid of their dogs, the business of maintaining them no longer profitable with the dogsled season shrinking to just two months, said Emilie Andersen-Ranberg, a researcher at the University of Copenhagen who runs a dog clinic in Sisimiut.

Others, such as 72-year-old Johanne Bech, are finding novel ways to adapt.

She plans to put wheels on her sled to continue running dogsled tours during the summer period.

That solution is growing in popularity, as "the window with snow is getting more and more narrow," the veterinarian said.

Over the past 20 years, the number of sled dogs has been halved from 25,000 to 13,000, according to a 2024 article from the University of Greenland.

Yet Johanne Bech remains optimistic about the future.

"I hope this is just for a short time, so we can go back to a little more stable snow or more ice in the future." □

Artist creates 'Latin American Mona Lisa' with plastic bottle caps

San Salvador, El Salvador

Call it a Renaissance in recycling.

A massive mural made of plastic bottle caps depicts Latin America's version of the famed Mona Lisa, adorning a modest apartment building in a working class neighborhood outside the capital of El Salvador instead of the walls of the Louvre.

Using a rainbow of colors and various sizes of caps, Venezuelan artist Oscar Olivares's latest installation is 13 meters (about 43 feet) tall and takes inspiration from Renaissance master Leonardo da Vinci as well as the pointillist paintings of French artist Paul Signac.



Venezuelan artist Oscar Olivares poses in front of his mural made with plastic bottle caps on an apartment building in the Zacamil neighborhood in Mejicanos, El Salvador, on February 20, 2026.

"I wanted to portray a Latin American Mona Lisa," Olivares told AFP.

The mural is in Zacamil, in the Mejicanos suburb of

San Salvador -- an area that was once controlled by violent gangs, whose activity has been curbed by President Nayib Bukele's

controversial security crackdown.

"The Mona Lisa is an ordinary woman, and she's an icon of the Italian Renaissance" -- and now "we are living through a new Renaissance, both in El Salvador and the world," Olivares said.

Completed in three weeks, the composition is made of more than 100,000 recycled bottle caps, after they were gathered by local residents over several months, washed and sorted.

Instead of the muted palette of the Italian countryside, Olivares replaced da Vinci's pastoral background with bright depictions of homes, a bold blue

mountain and a colorful checkerboard sky.

And it wouldn't be the Mona Lisa without her penetrating gaze and that ever-elusive smile, this time seen on a sun-kissed face rendered with red, orange and yellow caps. Her jewelry, hairstyle and colorful dress evoke a modern Latina woman's graces.

Olivares has created murals using plastic caps in Venezuela, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, France and Italy, finding use for over 2 million caps in more than two dozen murals.

He hopes his work will give viewers "a completely different view of plastic waste." □

'Solar sheep' help rural Australia go green, one panel at a time

Dubbo, Australia

Australian farmer Tom Warren's solar panels look like any other -- until you spot the dozens of sheep grazing and napping, helping the country transition to green energy and earning him a decent income while doing it.

More than 30,000 solar panels are deployed across approximately 50 hectares at Warren's farm on the outskirts of Dubbo, around 400 kilometres (250 miles) west of Sydney.

The farmer and landowner has been working with renewables firm Neoen for more than a decade and said he was initially worried the panels would restrict his sheep's grazing.

It quickly became clear those fears were unfounded.

"Normally they would seek out trees and camp under the trees, but you can see that the sheep are seeking out the shade of the panels," he told AFP at the farm in Dubbo.

"So, it's a much better environment for them as well." The farm produces about 20 megawatts of power, he said -- a "substantial amount" of the energy needs of the local area.

While he can't disclose how much he earns from the panels, he said he's taking in much more than



This picture taken on January 19, 2026 shows an aerial view of sheep grazing at the Dubbo Solar Hub, which contains over 30,000 solar panels deployed across approximately 50 hectares at Tom Warren's farm on the outskirts of Dubbo, around 400 kilometres (248 miles) west of Sydney.

he would from just farming. "The solar farm income is greater than I would ever get off agriculture in this area -- regardless of whether I have sheep running under the panels or not," he said.

- Grass is greener -

The panels have had another surprising side effect: because the grass is shielded from the elements, it's of more consistent quality.

That, in turn, has improved the wool produced by the sheep.

"The wool is actually better and cleaner," Warren said.

"All over, we've had about

a 15 percent increase in the gross revenue coming from the sheep running under the solar farm."

Fellow farmer Tony Inder, based around 50 kilometres south in the town of Wellington, agrees.

His flock is much larger -- 6,000 sheep grazing on two plots of land covering 4,000 hectares.

"If you want to grow wool, you just need one constant diet and then the wool will grow evenly," he said.

"Under the panels, because it's constant shade and it's constant green, we're supplying a more constant feed, which in

turn gives it a better quality wool."

Unlike Warren, Inder doesn't own the land where the solar panels are installed, but the landowners let him use it for free.

In exchange, "they don't have to mow as often", to ensure the panels function properly, but also, and more importantly, to comply with bushfire prevention regulations.

- Renewables boom -

Sheep, and in particular wool, were a mainstay of the Australian economy for much of the past 150 years, feeding into the no-

tion by the 1950s that Australia "rode on the sheep's back".

The Dubbo farm, however, was a pioneer in the field of agrivoltaics and many others are following its example.

"All of our solar farms in New South Wales now have sheep grazing on them," said Emily Walker, the company's director for the state.

"The industry is moving very quickly into a world where it's not really possible anymore to decouple the historical-agricultural land use from the solar."

Australia remains heavily dependent on its fossil fuel economy for growth despite heavy investment in the renewable sector.

Canberra has pledged to slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions by up to 70 percent from 2005 levels over the next decade.

It has also poured billions into solar power, wind turbines and green manufacturing and pledged to make Australia a renewable energy superpower.

Karin Stark, director of the consulting firm Farm Renewables, told AFP that more funding to incentivise this combined use of farmland was needed.

She said the benefits were clear. □

Beautiful areas around Aruba

(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty

and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. To reach this beauty you must go to San Nicolas and drive up the hill till The Point Lighthouse, park your car and walk until you reach the east point coast and go left along the coastline and good luck going down the cliff.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shift-



ed to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government reno-

vated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach.

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!



ORANJESTAD—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Holocentrus adscensionis:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as

Holocentrus adscensionis.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on

reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active

during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the

fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups.



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Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primar-



ily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the

one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know



that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far

left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt!

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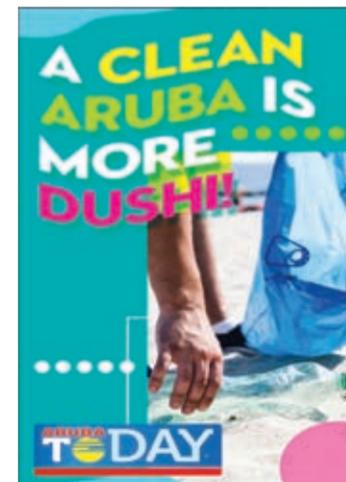
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Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista

(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a



part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our

article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received

this name from the Hill.

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.

Cas di Torto

Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguana Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round



wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural

support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white

color and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that

serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto.

The Aruban Cunukero: From past to present

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

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



Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

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

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are

hard to place, and their history may explain why.

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

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

The WIC placed a lot of

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

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

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

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

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

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of

land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

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

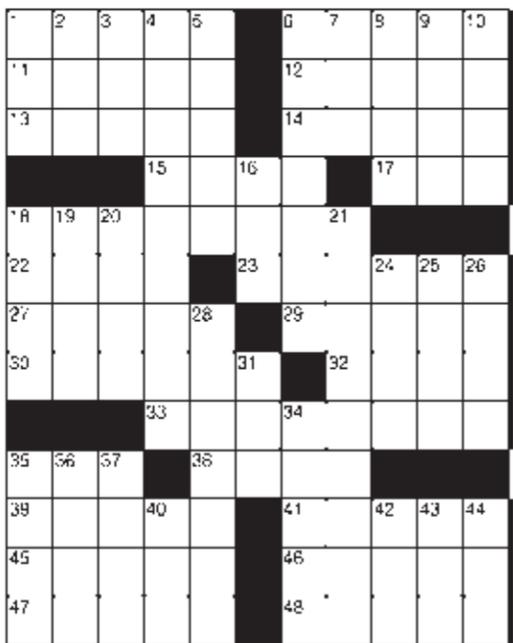
Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.

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By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS**
- 47 Held power
 - 1 Sprawling tales
 - 6 Site of a biblical tower
 - 11 Italian seaport
 - 12 Love to pieces
 - 13 Political crime
 - 14 Poison
 - 15 Minnow or marlin
 - 17 "Sure thing!"
 - 18 Be heedful
 - 22 Sea eagle
 - 23 Made a quick thrust
 - 27 Messy sorts
 - 29 "Beauty and the Beast" heroine
 - 30 Adds up
 - 32 Trick
 - 33 Slickers and umbrellas
 - 35 Parrot or puppy
 - 38 Hunted animal
 - 39 Require defrosting
 - 41 Dwelling
 - 45 Make blank
 - 46 Shire of "Rocky"
- DOWN**
- 1 Nest sight
 - 2 For each
 - 3 One — million
 - 4 Java joint
 - 5 Glossy fabric
 - 6 Soaking spot
 - 7 Brouhaha
 - 8 Like some cars
 - 9 Buffalo's lake
 - 10 Eye part
 - 16 Costa del —
 - 18 Final, for one
 - 19 Singer Guthrie
 - 20 Shoelace problem
 - 21 Snack in a gym bag
 - 24 Sticky stuff
 - 25 "Frozen" queen
 - 26 Doe or buck
 - 28 Hit, in a way
 - 31 Knight's title
 - 34 "Keen!"
 - 35 Harbor structure
 - 36 Beige hue
 - 37 Blue
 - 40 Try out
 - 42 Ancient
 - 43 Back-gammon cube
 - 44 Lobed organ



A XYDLBAA XR
is LONGFELLOW

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

3-6 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z P J A P Z F L P Z B L P Y D H

N Y Q F J T P Z Z F D I B B H

N P D J P D R P N. — N Q Z L F Y V Z Y J C
Cryptoquote: ALL JOURNEYS HAVE SECRET DESTINATIONS OF WHICH THE TRAVELER IS UNAWARE. — MARTIN BUBER

Cruise ship Schedule: Feb. 17 - 24 2026

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON NORWEGIAN SKY	08.00 13.30	22.00 22.30	B C	1 1
WED	18	SERENADE OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
THU	19	AIDABLU MSC DIVINA	08.00 08.00	18.00 18.00	B C	1 1
FRI	20	NORWEGIAN STAR	11.00	20.00	C	1
SUN	22	ISLAND PRINCESS EXPLORA I	08.00 08.00	17.00 18.00	B C	1 1
MON	23	MARELLA DISCOVERY 2 FREEWINDS - Dept.	08.00 ****	20.00 22.30	C E	1 -
TUE	24	OCEANIA INSIGNIA NORWEGIAN SKY OASIS OF THE SEAS	08.00 13.30 08.00	17.00 22.30 23.00	B C I	1 1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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



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 tourists that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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

Difficulty: ★

2/23

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

2/22

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Floyd Mayweather to come out of retirement

Los Angeles, United States

Floyd Mayweather is coming out of retirement and will return to professional boxing after his exhibition fight with Mike Tyson this spring, the 48-year-old announced Friday.

Former multi-weight world champion Mayweather retired from boxing in 2017, unbeaten in 50 bouts, though he has appeared in several exhibition fights since.

"I still have what it takes to set more records in the sport of boxing," Mayweather, said in a statement to AFP.

"From my upcoming Mike Tyson event to my next professional fight afterwards -- no one will generate a bigger gate, have a larger global broadcast audience and generate more money with each event -- then (sic) my events."

A first professional fight is tentatively scheduled for this summer, against an opponent to be announced.

Details will be revealed "in the coming weeks," said the statement.

Nicknamed "Money", Mayweather was once the world's highest-paid athlete, with earnings of \$300 million in 2015, according to Forbes.

At his peak he was widely considered boxing's pound-for-pound king, dominating the welterweight division for more than a decade.



U.S. boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. smiles during the weighing ceremony for his upcoming exhibition fight against John Gutti III in Mexico City on August 23, 2024.

Despite his success, Mayweather has long been a controversial figure.

He was often criticized for an overly defensive style, and accused by some of dodging the most dangerous opponents simply to embellish his record.

Mayweather has also spent time in prison for one of a string of domestic violence incidents.

But his supreme fitness, work ethic, athleticism and boxing brain earned him the respect of his peers in the ring.

Mayweather's last professional bout was in 2017 against UFC star Conor McGregor.

He has continued to ap-

pear in exhibitions, including a victory over John Gotti III in Mexico in August 2024, as well as bouts with reality television stars and YouTube fighters.

Mayweather has signed an exclusive agreement with promoter CSI Sports/Fight Sports, to begin following his Tyson bout.

Boxing outlet Ring Magazine recently reported that Mayweather's exhibition fight with Tyson will take place on April 25th in the Congo, though neither date nor location has been officially confirmed.

"Iron Mike" Tyson, 59, last appeared in the ring in a lopsided loss to YouTuber-turned prizefighter Jake Paul in November 2024 in

Texas.

Tyson barely landed a punch in that Netflix-backed bout, which was watched by a live crowd of around 70,000 spectators with an estimated millions more tuning in around the world.



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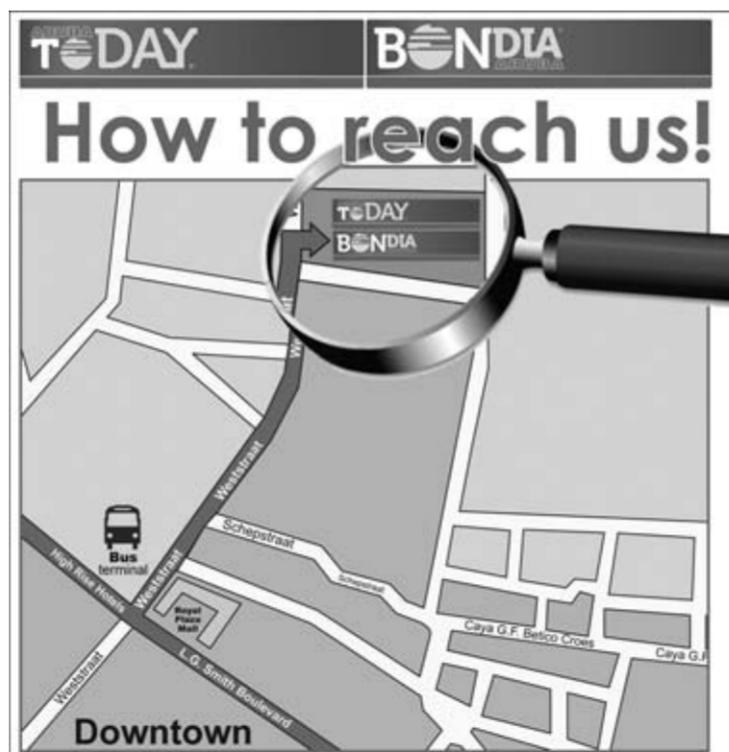
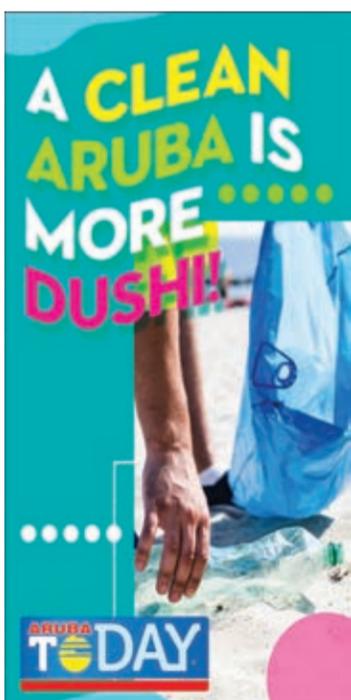
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Malinin highlights mental health as Shaidorov wears panda suit at Olympic skating gala

Milan, Italy

Ilia Malinin highlighted mental health struggles during an emotional performance at the Olympic figure skating gala on Saturday as men's gold medallist Mikhail Shaidorov got the crowd going to 'Kung Fu Panda'.

Wearing a grey hoodie sweatshirt with 'Fear' written upside down Malinin symbolically swatted away comments which represented the negative impact of social media.

The 21-year-old was a striking presence in a routine to "Fear" by NF -- capped off with his famous backflip that prompted a thunderous ovation.

"Tonight's performance was just an extension of the emotions that I've been feeling for the past year leading up to these Olympics," the two-time world champion told journalists. The skater known as the



USA's Ilia Malinin performs a backflip at the figure skating exhibition gala during the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games at Milano Ice Skating Arena in Milan on February 21, 2026.

"Quad God" had been favourite to win the men's individual title but tumbled to a humiliating eighth spot after the free skate.

"It has been so stressful, so much pressure from people, the noise, the media, the thoughts, it's something that no athlete should go through.

"But we have to get up and keep going no matter what.

"It's not the last of me, so there's going to be much more bigger plans in the future."

Malinin said doing non-competitive shows helped him "recharge".

"I can show my pure emotions and pure energy that I

have," he said.

"I've learned so much from these Olympics, and I think that having one Olympics under my belt is something that I'll be able to use as knowledge and understanding of how to approach these next Olympics.

"So, I'm going to take the next four years to really understand what I can do differently and have an even better strategy to come here and basically do my job."

Kazakh Shaidorov had a more lighthearted programme to "Kung Fu Panda" decked out in a full-body panda outfit.

He battled skaters in Mortal Kombat and Deadpool costumes before skating to a rendition of Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby One More Time" as the crowd cheered and clapped along.

Shaidorov managed to land a triple jump while still skating in the costume.

At the end of his routine he was greeted rinkside by actor, martial artist and stuntman Jackie Chan at the Milano Ice Skating Arena.

U.S. women's gold medallist Alysa Liu performed to "Stateside" by PinkPantheress and Zara Larsson.

Both Malinin and Liu won team gold with the United States and also performed along with their teammates.

The gala included Olympic figure skating medallists and invited skaters including former Italian Olympic medallist Carolina Kostner.

"I was really trying to portray myself and my own personal style," said Liu, 20, in a blue costume.

"The buttons are coloured to be the same colours as the Olympic rings - green, red, yellow, blue and black. It's very much my style." □

Gu strikes gold, USA beat Canada in men's ice hockey

Milan, Italy

Eileen Gu pulled out all the stops on Sunday to win the gold medal that had eluded her at the Winter Olympics on Sunday, while the USA beat Canada in the high-stakes final of the men's ice hockey.

US-born Chinese freestyle skier Gu had already won two silver medals at these Milan-Cortina Games, but her favoured halfpipe event always looked the likeliest to deliver the third gold of her career.

She had been forced to wait when the event was postponed on Saturday due to heavy snow high in Livigno, high in the Italian Alps.

On Sunday, in blazing sunshine, Gu delivered with panache, posting a best score of 94.75 to dazzle the judges, soaring high above the lip of the halfpipe and executing her tricks with precision.

She edged out her China teammate Li Fanghui, who scored 93.00 while Britain's Zoe Atkin took bronze.

In doing so, she became the most decorated freestyle skier -- man or woman -- in the history of the Winter Games.

As in her previous competitions, Gu was forced to deal with self-inflicted pressure.

The defending champion flunked her first run as world champion Atkin set the pace.

But Gu, who now has three Olympic golds and three silvers in total, went into the lead with her second run and improved it in the second round to the delight of a sizeable group of Chinese fans.

"Every day I was fighting," said Gu. "I gave my all every single day that I've been here, and that's no joke.

"In all three events I showcased my best skiing and as far as performance goes, that's all I can ask for -- to be able to show the world the best that women's skiing has to offer at the moment, that it really counts.

"I'm the most decorated



Gold medallist China's Gu Ailing Eileen celebrates on the podium after winning the freestyle skiing women's freeski halfpipe final during the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games at Livigno Snow Park, in Livigno (Valtellina), on February 22, 2026.

freeskier of all time, male or female," Gu added.

"That's a testament to competitive strength, it's mental strength. It's being able to perform under pressure. It has nothing to (do with) if you're a boy or a girl."

- USA claim overtime thriller

The men's ice hockey tournament produced the final that neutrals wanted, and

equalised for the Canadians.

Once the game went into the three-on-three overtime, Hughes applied the golden touch to send his teammates and the US supporters into raptures.

With US President Donald Trump ratcheting up the tensions with his North American neighbour over the past year, the game had an added edge.

"Congratulations to our great U.S.A. Ice Hockey team. THEY WON THE GOLD. WOW!" Trump said on Truth Social, adding: "WHAT A GAME!"

After the thrills and spills of the ice hockey, the final medal event of the Games, the closing ceremony will take place in the elegant surroundings of Verona.

Norway finished atop the medals table with 18 golds and 41 medals overall. The USA are second with 12 golds and the Netherlands third with 10. □

Jack Hughes scored the winning goal in overtime to hand the US men their first Olympic triumph since the 1980 'Miracle on Ice' win over the Soviet Union in Lake Placid.

It deprived Canada of a record 10th Olympic title and the first since the 2014 Sochi Games.

Matt Boldy gave the Americans a 1-0 lead in the first period before Cale Makar

Coventry 'let the Games do their magic': former IOC executives

Paris, France

Kirsty Coventry has had a successful first Olympics as president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) because she let "the Games do their magic", two former IOC executives said on Sunday.

Terrence Burns, a former marketing chief at the IOC, told AFP that Coventry, who last March became both the first woman and African to be elected to perhaps the biggest job in sport, showed a sure touch in overseeing the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics that close on Sunday.

"I think the best thing an IOC president can do at the Games is minimize their exposure, so the world focuses on the athletes," said Burns.

"The good ones don't make it 'about them' and so I think president Coventry has been great at letting the Games do their magic."

Michael Payne, who was credited with overhauling the IOC's brand and finances in two decades as marketing supremo, said Coventry could feel a sense of satisfaction as her first priority had been "a delivery of a great Games" and "everything went really well".

However, Payne warned that Coventry could not afford to be lulled into a false sense of security "because there are still major challenges ahead".

The one time the 42-year-old Zimbabwean did take centre stage in Italy was when the two-time Olympic swimming champion tried in vain to persuade Ukrainian skeleton racer Vladyslav Heraskevych to not wear a helmet adorned with pictures of Ukraine's war dead.

He had worn it in training runs but gestures of a political nature during competition are forbidden under the Olympic charter. Despite her personal intervention Heraskevych refused and was disqualified.

"It was an excellent move for Coventry to speak to the athlete one on one,



IOC President Kirsty Coventry presents an award to the President of the International Biathlon Union Olle Dahlin during the IOC session at the Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympic Games in Milan on February 22, 2026.

which showed genuine empathy," Payne told AFP. "It wasn't just a perception of the 'official suit' and you

can only compliment her on the human touch. "She was genuinely emotional about it, she under-

stood what it meant to an athlete if you take away the right to compete."

- 'Challenges on horizon' - Payne, whose self-deprecatory warts-and-all book on his time at the IOC under Juan Antonio Samaranch Senior caused a stir last year, said Coventry had "handled a real baptism of fire correctly".

"This was a red line that if the IOC had conceded, it might have avoided a public relations backlash today but would have stirred up a hornets' nest for tomorrow."

For Burns, the former Zimbabwean sports minister brings a different style to that of her predecessor, the German Thomas Bach. "She's a different generation from a different continent with a different perspective and is comfortable with English-speaking media. □



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

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

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



open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

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

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

grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

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

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

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their fa-

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

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

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

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a 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

