



How Aruban beaches came to be!



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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

PREMIUM BRANDS



Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now in its 20th plus year, owned and run by a local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM
Full Service Bar
Live Music on weekends

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com



Could oyster farmer with a Nazi tattoo scandal be Democrats' new champion?



U.S. senatorial candidate from Maine Graham Platner speaks at a town hall at the Leavitt Theater on October 22, 2025 in Ogunquit, Maine.

Washington, United States
A gruff oyster farmer who only recently got rid of his Nazi-style tattoo is the unlikely face of the Democrats' bid to seize the Senate from President Donald Trump's

Republicans -- and recover working-class voters. That a man like Graham Platner finds himself on the front line of the fight for national power in the United States says a lot about a Demo-

cratic Party trying to find its way out of the wilderness. Democrats are bullish about winning the House of Representatives in November's midterm elections. But the Senate -- and ability to wield real power during Trump's last two years -- is a far tougher challenge.

Enter Platner, a 41-year-old former Marine who talks movingly of his opposition to war after serving in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is targeting a key Senate seat in Maine, where longtime Republican incumbent Susan Collins is seen as vulnerable.

Virtually unknown a year ago, Platner has barnstormed across Maine, delivering a feisty, anti-establishment message.

Revelations that he had a skull tattoo similar to a Nazi symbol, as well as strings of troubling past social media posts about sexual assault and gays, failed to stop him. On Thursday, Platner's heavy-weight rival for the Democratic nomination, current state Governor Janet Mills, threw in the towel. Now, he'll be trying to dethrone 73-year-old Collins in the election.

"Thank you all for believing," Platner posted in a video highlighting working-class supporters like fishermen and nurses who back "changing our politics."

Andrew Koneschusky, head of public relations firm Beltway Advisors, said the success of Platner's insurgency reflects wider hunger.

"Voters want authenticity," he told AFP. "They don't want robotic poll-tested candidates anymore."

- Authenticity or liability? -

For years, Democratic activists have been clamoring for everyman-candidates -- populists with blue collar backgrounds who can talk to regular folk, especially non-college-educated white men. It's natural Democratic territory that Trump and his hard-right MAGA coalition have done much to poach. Platner, with his war record, oyster farmer's gnarled hands, and plain talk, seemed to fit the bill.

But there were problems. That tattoo and the social media posts -- which Platner explains respectively as the result of a misguided outing during his Marines days and dark post-combat rants -- highlighted the risk of running untested candidates. And several Democratic grandees like Chuck Schumer, the party's leader in the Senate, pushed for Mills as the safer choice.

But polling showed voters were adamant: at 78, Mills literally represented the old guard and the party base wants to move on.

"Voters don't like it when establishment figures anoint a candidate," Koneschusky said.

Third Way, a think tank pushing for more centrist Democratic platforms, says the party needs to do better at accepting candidates who don't fit in normal liberal boxes.

A Gallup poll last year showed that 45 percent of Democrats or Democrat-leaning independents wanted the party to become more moderate, up 11 percentage points from 2021. That search is taking Democrats in many directions.

Another new candidate in the Platner-mold is burly Pennsylvania firefighter Bob Brooks, who is running for Congress.

He too is touted as appealing to working-class voters but ran into trouble from liberal activists over past comments defending gun ownership in the wake of a mass shooting -- a hugely sensitive issue.

Brooks quickly apologized and admitted to saying "a few stupid things."

But figures like Abigail Spanberger and Mikie Sherill, who convincingly won governorship races in Virginia and New Jersey last year, come from the national security world and pride themselves on centrism.

And then there's James Talarico, running for a Senate seat in ultra-conservative Texas.

Another unknown outside his home state until recently, Talarico has become a Democratic star by taking on Republicans at their own game -- by making his Christian faith the cornerstone of his politics. □

Paseo Herencia

WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS

8PM

MON	LATIN DANCE SHOW <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

WATERSHOWS

EVERY NIGHT AT

7:30

8:30

9:30

Stores are open from Monday to Saturday 10am to 10pm and Sunday 5pm to 10pm
Located in Palm Beach high rise area, across the Holiday Inn Hotel
www.paseoherencia.com



Help FUDA with a last wishambulance for Aruba!

Donation: CMB#65550908

All beneficiary will receive a Teddy Bear!

- Searching for a big tent -

Raisin moonshine banned in Iran enjoys resurgence in New York

New York, United States

Three Iranian men pressed rehydrated raisins at an artisan distillery just outside New York, thousands of miles from their war-struck homeland. They were carefully producing aragh sagi, a traditional spirit banned by the clerical authorities along with all alcohol following the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Despite its outlaw moonshine status, the drink is still made clandestinely and consumed inside Iran.

"Everybody's drinking, but we just don't want to get caught," said Siavash Karampour, formerly a fixture on Tehran's rock music scene and now the co-manager of a bar in Brooklyn.

Together with three childhood friends who, like him, came to New York to rebuild their lives, they decided to brew the Iranian firewater in the United States.

They say they wanted to offer others like them a taste of home as well as "something that has been behind the curtain."

Branded as "SAG," their aragh sagi -- like a stronger Italian grappa -- is made in the still of David Nahmias, a distiller born into a Moroccan Jewish family who makes mahia, a traditional dried fig-based



A bartender prepares a cocktail using the traditional Iranian spirit "Aragh Sagi" produced in Yonkers, at a restaurant in the Brooklyn borough of New York City, on April 28, 2026.

spirit from his homeland. "They came to me through word of mouth. Their alcohol uses the same process as arak, which you find in Syria or Lebanon -- but without the anise. It wasn't complicated for me... And I liked them!" Nahmias said.

The creators of SAG, aged between 35 and 41, settled in New York several years ago and remain active in the local Iranian diaspora and all have day jobs.

They were the first to bring aragh sagi to the U.S. market,

although a handful of brands exist in Europe.

- 'I feel privileged' -

The company's output of 7,000 bottles a year -- sold for \$50 a pop in around 30 liquor stores and available in as many bars -- remains modest.

But bars have latched on to their creation as a way to promote new cocktails.

"We just started this back in the day, as a hobby... we kind of want to grow organically," said brew group mem-

ber Sasan Oskouei, a visual artist.

The entrepreneurs see their venture as a project that goes beyond a simple spirit, representing an emotional and cultural gesture.

"So many Iranian artists and filmmakers have highlighted some parts of Iran that haven't been seen before, and in making this, we are kind of doing the same thing," said Karampour.

Since they launched SAG two years ago, many artistic projects have emerged

to complement the brand, with parties in New York and DJ sets performed by Iranian musicians.

Their connection to Iran through friends and family is constant, making the ongoing conflict between Tehran and their host nation all the more painful.

"It's really tough to be seeing all these images, and then you still have to go to work and live your daily life... You technically live in two countries," said Karampour.

With the help of large hand-held food mixers, they carefully grind the mixture of dried Californian grapes and water, which they then ferment before distilling it in a large still imported from Germany. Amir Imani, a computer engineer, says New York was the ideal place to establish their brand, a city that is both very diverse and tolerant, and where their business is not written off as "exotic."

"Being in New York helps, because I can see people are not supportive of what is happening in this administration -- either the war or like Immigration and Customs Enforcement and all of that," Imani said.

"So I feel privileged that I'm here surrounded by people who think the same." □

'Bookless bookstore': audio-only book shop opens in New York

New York, United States

Audiobook giant Audible opened what it billed as the first "bookless bookstore" in New York on Friday as industry statistics show more American consumers embracing the format.

There is no rustle of pages or stacks of best-selling novels at the pop-up store opened by the Amazon subsidiary on the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

"This is a physical place entirely dedicated to bringing audio storytelling to life," Audible CEO Bob Carrigan said during a press tour of the "Audible Story House" on Thursday.

It was a slightly "wild idea" which "took quite a bit of imagination," Carrigan said, adding that the month-long pop-up aims to "bring audiobooks to life in this en-

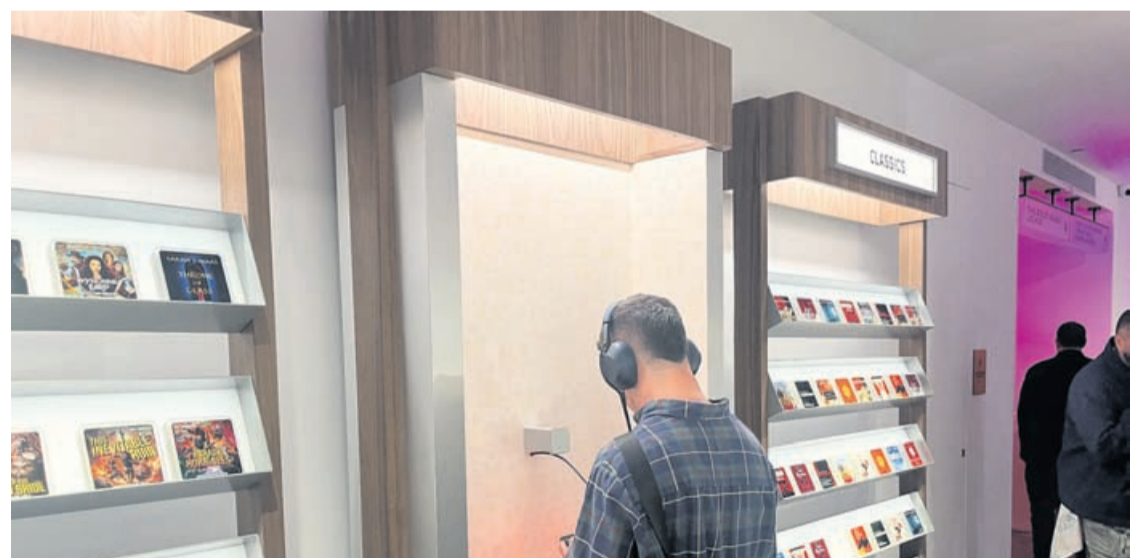
vironment where you can browse, you can connect with people."

According to the Audio Publishers Association (APA), audiobook sales reached \$2.22 billion in the United States in 2024, nearly doubling over the past five years.

In the store, audiobook tablets called "story files" line the shelves, ready to be inserted into a player for listening through headphones.

Each tile plays a short excerpt and the full title can be accessed on the Audible app.

The platform, which dominates the audiobook market, offers paid subscriptions, individual purchases and free access to some titles for Amazon account holders.



A customer shops at the Audible Story House in New York, on April 30, 2026. The pop-up store labeled as a "bookless bookstore" is dedicated to audiobooks.

The venue also has a room lined with speakers for headphone-free listening, as well as a "Listening Bar" where "Story Tenders" will "guide attendees in finding the perfect audiobook for

their tastes and interest," according to the press release. The space aims to reflect the fast-growing popularity of the format as well as the "shift toward offline experiences and real-world con-

nection." "Audible Story House taps into the nostalgia and community feel of book culture while bringing it fully into the present," the company said. □

How a 73-Year-Old "NICU Grandpa" whispers hope to Richmond's tiniest fighters



In the quiet, sterile corridors of the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, the rhythmic beep of heart monitors and the soft hum of ventilators form the soundtrack of survival. This is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a place where the world's smallest warriors fight for their first breaths. Amidst the high-tech machinery and the hurried footsteps of specialized medical staff, there is a man whose primary equipment is a rocking chair and a pair of steady, gentle hands.

At 73 years old, Dave Whitlow has discovered a retirement calling that is as profound as it is simple. Known affectionately as a "volunteer cuddler," Whitlow has dedicated the last eight years of his life to providing the one thing medicine cannot manufacture: the restorative power of human touch. Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, Whitlow arrives at the hospital, leaves his smartphone in his locker, and undergoes a rigorous scrubbing and gowning process. For the next several hours, he is not a retired local government manager or a grandfather; he is a lifeline for infants who are often too fragile to go home but too lonely to thrive in silence.

The science behind Whit-

low's work is compelling. Medical professionals have long recognized that for premature infants or those born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), "skin-to-skin" contact and consistent rocking are not just comforts—they are clinical necessities. Physical touch helps regulate an infant's heart rate, stabilizes their body temperature, and lowers cortisol levels. In many cases, babies who are held regularly by volunteer cuddlers see shorter hospital stays and improved neurodevelopment outcomes.

"These little ones are under so much stress," Whitlow explains with a soft smile. "They are poked and propped and monitored all day long. Sometimes, they just need to know that there is a person there who isn't going to stick them with a needle, someone who is just there to hold them and tell them they are loved." The need for volunteers like Whitlow arises from a heart-breaking reality of modern healthcare. While nurses are highly skilled, they are often stretched thin by medical emergencies and administrative duties. Furthermore, many parents of NICU babies face agonizing hurdles. Some must return to work immediately to keep their health insurance; others live hours away or are caring for oth-

er children at home. When a parent cannot be at the bedside, the "NICU Grandpa" steps in.

Whitlow's approach is one of total presence. While he rocks a baby, his eyes never leave the monitors. He has become so attuned to the infants that he can often sense a dip in oxygen levels or a spike in heart rate before the alarms even sound, allowing him to alert the nursing staff instantly. He is an extra set of eyes and a steady heartbeat in a room that can often feel overwhelmed by technology.

However, it is the emotional connection that leaves the deepest mark. Whitlow has a signature ritual for every child he holds. As his shift ends and he carefully places a sleeping infant back into their plastic isolette, he leans in and whispers a six-word mantra: "Grow strong, grow smart, grow kind." It is a benediction for a future that, only weeks prior, may have seemed uncertain. The impact of his service ripples far beyond the hospital walls. Parents who return to the NICU to find their child peacefully asleep in the arms of a volunteer often describe a sense of overwhelming relief. To know that their baby was not alone in their absence provides a unique kind of healing for the parents' own weary hearts. □

Alabama's \$17.5M green miracle: Restoring the great pine forests for future generations



In the heart of the American South, a quiet but monumental transformation is taking root. Alabama, a state renowned for its sprawling river systems and emerald forests, has officially committed \$17.5 million toward a landmark wildlife restoration project. This initiative is not merely about planting trees; it is a profound effort to heal a landscape and ensure that the state's natural legacy remains vibrant for generations to come.

The centerpiece of this ambitious plan is the restoration of the iconic longleaf pine ecosystem. Centuries ago, these majestic, towering pines blanketed nearly 90 million acres across the Southeast. Today, due to over-harvesting and urban expansion, less than five percent of that original forest remains. Alabama's new funding aims to reverse this trend by reclaiming thousands of acres of lost habitat, turning the tide for one of the most biodiverse environments in North America.

"This is a generational investment," says state conservation official Sarah Jenkins. "We aren't just looking at the next four years; we are looking at the next hundred. We are rebuilding an entire world from the soil up."

The project's impact reaches far beyond the timber. The longleaf pine forest is a sanctuary for some of the region's most vulnerable residents. Among them is the gopher tortoise, often called the "landlord of the forest." These tortoises dig deep, elaborate burrows that provide vital shelter for more than 350 other species, including the rare Eastern indigo snake and various small mammals. By protecting the tortoise, the state is effectively providing a home for an entire community of wildlife.

Furthermore, the initiative is a lifeline for the red-cockaded woodpecker. Unlike other birds, these specialized woodpeckers only peck their nesting cavities into living pine trees, a process that can take years. The restoration of old-growth stands ensures that these rare birds have the specific environment they need to thrive and sing once more in the Alabama wilderness.

The \$17.5 million will also support the revitalization of Alabama's wetlands and river basins. These areas act as the state's natural kidneys, filtering water and providing a buffer against flooding. By restoring the natural flow of these waterways, the project guarantees cleaner water for local communities and more resilient shorelines in the face of changing weather patterns. □

Immersive art: museum-goers in bikinis dive into Cezanne

Riehen, Switzerland

A Swiss museum made a splash on Friday by inviting in the public in their swimwear to enjoy Paul Cezanne's iconic paintings of people bathing.

At the Fondation Beyeler outside Basel, a young woman in a black swimsuit with a towel draped over her shoulder sat gazing at one artwork, while to her right a shirtless man in orange trunks perused the brush strokes.

"It's quite absurd" and "daring" as an idea, but "I like it", Julien Rondez, a 34-year-old Swiss graphic designer, told AFP.

He agreed to "play along" with the concept even though he had already seen the exhibition.

This time, he said, the visitors in their swimming costumes become "a kind of artwork within the museum".

Sat on a green towel on a bench and browsing the exhibition catalogue, he had on his stripey swimming trunks -- and the audio guide headphones.

Walking around the museum in a swimsuit was "difficult at first" because only a minority of visitors were doing likewise. But in the end, "it's fun", he said, adding it felt a bit like a day "by the pool" -- especially since the weather was hot.



Visitors wearing swimsuits pass by the painting "Baigneurs" ("Bathers", 1890) by French painter Paul Cezanne during the experience called "bathers' day" ("journée des baigneurs et des baigneuses") inspired by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, on the occasion of the exhibition "Cezanne" at the Beyeler Foundation in Riehen, northern Switzerland on May 1, 2026.

- Knowing smiles -

In the museum garden, visitors sunbathed on the lawn or by a pond bordered by water lilies and rushes.

"It's a rather unusual experience," said Lionnel, who was wearing a colourful sequined bikini.

"You're always looking" left and right to see if there are other visitors in swimwear, said the 53-year-old, who works in human resources.

"If there are, it's cool. We exchange a quick glance, a knowing smile. It's really nice," he added, while ad-

mitting that overall "it might be a little distracting" when it comes to concentrating on the paintings.

Those wishing to switch into bathing gear can do so in a changing room.

To encourage museum-goers to get into the spirit of things, those arriving in swimming costumes can avoid the 25 Swiss francs (\$32) entry fee.

Some visitors even donned swimming caps, while others were walking around barefoot.

Laurence Gainet, a gallery

owner who came from Dijon in France to see the exhibition, hadn't heard about the contemporary and modern art museum's "Day of the Bathers".

"At first, it's surprising; you wonder if it's a performance," she said.

- Breaking the code -

Clad in orange trunks, Marc Schmidlin, a 40-year-old landscape gardener, came from Thurgau, around 150 kilometres away.

"I didn't want to miss out on this event; I really like events

that are unique and special, and it's not every day you get to visit a museum for free," he told AFP.

The "Bathers" series by French Post-Impressionist Cezanne, who died in 1906 aged 67, depicts nude figures integrated into nature, closely intertwining bodies and the landscape.

"You can feel from Cezanne paintings that he wants to be inspired by nature and expose that organic experience of the nature, of the people," Ana Lopes, a 34-year-old Portuguese architect working in Basel, told AFP, while wearing a one-piece swimsuit.

"Dressing in swimwear is close to that, because you are almost naked."

The project was conceived by the renowned Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan.

"This intervention playfully brings the artist's vision of the human body in nature into the present day," the museum says.

"The unusual setting opens a dialogue between art and viewer, shifting perception, dissolving distance, and introducing a touch of humour and freedom."

Lukas Rupt, a 26-year-old environmental engineer, also in swimwear, thought the concept was a smart move.

"I like this idea to break this code," he said. "I like to go out of the comfort zone." □

Traffic stop: Warsaw's celebrity birds on perilous urban quest

Warsaw, Poland

Waddling across a Warsaw expressway, a brood of wild sea ducks brought traffic to a halt as volunteers held motorists at bay -- an annual ritual to protect the bustling Polish capital's famous ducklings. Every spring, dozens of days-old ducklings must make the risky trek from a centrally located park where they hatch to the Vistula river.

Local volunteers are mobilised to help ensure their safe passage, scrambling in hi-vis vests to stop cars and shepherd the birds across one of Warsaw's busiest roads.

Waddling through the city of 1.8 million people, the groups of mergansers -- fish-eating

sea ducks -- are led by their silver-feathered mothers, with their distinctive brown head crests.

"We call mergansers ambassadors of Warsaw's wildlife -- or our celebrities," said Barbara Rozalska from the city parks department.

She was speaking over the rumble of the six-lane expressway -- "one of the biggest threats" for the wild birds on their kilometre-long journey.

Rozalska is in charge of coordinating the volunteers, who, through April and May, monitor the park and tree cavities where ducks lay their eggs and the possible routes they

may take towards the river. Around 30 people -- trained by the city's ornithologist -- take turns to stay alert for any sighting of the mergansers.

"It's a bit like being on call at the accident and emergency department -- you get a call and you have to go, no matter if it's at dawn or in the afternoon," Rozalska told AFP.

The array of threats is not limited to road traffic.

"There are seagulls and crows, which can snatch a chick that gets away from its mother for a moment. There are also predatory fish that can drag a chick underwater," she said.



A common merganser (*Mergus merganser*) mother nicknamed Janina leads her ducklings from Lazienkowski Park in central Warsaw towards the Vistula River under the watchful eyes of volunteers and city parks department employees on April 28, 2026 in Warsaw, Poland.

- No honking -

One of the first merganser mums to cross this season took almost 24 hours to make it from the park to the river, testing the patience of the

volunteers monitoring their every step and stumble.

That included the 11 hours the birds spent nestled in the roadside greenery, waiting for their moment. □

Bangkok food vendor curbs push city staple from the streets

Bangkok, Thailand

Across Bangkok, aromas of garlic, chilli and grilled meat drift from roadside stalls and carts, but tighter controls on vendors threaten livelihoods and the street food culture that defines the Thai capital. Convenient, full of flavour and popular among locals and tourists alike, Bangkok's street food is one of the city's signatures -- where sizzling woks and smoky charcoal grills turn boulevards and sidewalks into open-air kitchens from morning until late at night.

But many street sellers in the foodie paradise face an uncertain future as the Bangkok government in recent years has moved to clear footpaths, improve order and relocate vendors from curbsides in packed commercial districts to designated market stalls. "I am worried because we are here illegally," said Looknam Sinwirakit, who was once fined 1,000 baht (\$30) for obstructing the street while selling 50-baht fried glutinous rice cakes in the capital's Chinatown. One of Bangkok's busiest tourist areas, the neighbourhood's steady flow of customers is worth the risk of city fines, Looknam, 45, told AFP. "Vendors need to earn a living," she said. "It's not fair just to evict us, but if they



This photo taken on April 29, 2026 shows street food vendor Thitisakulthip Sang-uamsap selling fried vegetarian snacks to visitors in Chinatown in Bangkok.

tell us to (leave) then we have to." Nearby, durian seller Wong Jaidee, who has sold the strong-smelling fruit for more than two decades, said he also feared being made to move. "I don't have any backup plan," the 56-year-old said. "Bangkok is a high-priced city and we may not be able to cope."

- Time to move -

Since 2022, the estimated number of mobile vendors in the city has fallen by more than 60 percent, with around 10,000 fewer now on the streets, according to data from the Bangkok

Metropolitan Administration (BMA). While dozens have moved to informal markets and hawker centres -- using a model similar to Singapore, where food vendors are grouped in designated locations -- many others have simply closed their business due to the stricter regulations or because they were no longer profitable, said BMA official Kunanop Lertpraiwan. The municipality has mostly targeted vendors crowding main roads with heavy pedestrian foot traffic, while those on side streets and in areas popular with backpackers and other tourists

were allowed more flexibility, Kunanop said. "We give them time and communicate with them clearly," he said, adding some sellers were given several months to find a new location. "It's not like we will move them tomorrow." The city is pushing more vendors to set up shop in one of five hawker centres opened in recent years -- the latest in April beside Bangkok's popular Lumpini Park. With rows of food stalls and picnic tables, the new hub so far houses around a dozen vendors who previously

sold food on nearby streets. BMA encouraged them to relocate, and they now pay 60 baht a day to rent a hawker stall.

Panissara Piyasomroj, who sold noodles to morning runners in the park since 2004, said moving into the centre meant better conditions, including convenient water and electricity access. Under a roof to beat the heat, the 59-year-old said her business had been "upgraded" and "looks cleaner".

- 'Part of the culture' -

But for other vendors, the prospect of moving from a familiar setting remains a concern. Thitisakulthip Sang-uamsap, 67, has sold fried vegetable balls near Chinatown for more than 40 years and worries she could be forced to relocate. "I live around here... if they ask me to leave, I won't be comfortable," she said, adding she hoped the government would show empathy for older vendors earning little income. The crowded, bustling sidewalks and the smell of freshly grilled squid and other street treats are for many visitors a key part of Bangkok's charm -- and a cheap, tasty meal on-the-go is worth the hassle of a blocked path. □

Fleeting freedom at festival for India's transgender community



This photograph taken on April 29, 2026 shows Thilothama, a member of the transgender community offering prayers to a chariot procession of Hindu warrior god Aravan during the annual Koovagam transgender festival at the Koothandavar temple in Tamil Nadu's Kallakurichi district.

India

For a few fleeting days each year, India's often-shunned transgender com-

munity is welcomed and revered at a festival that is at once sacred ritual, celebration, and a refuge.

At the heart of it is the Koothandavar Temple where ostracised transgender community members from across India come to honour the Hindu deity Aravan -- and to enjoy a brief oasis of freedom. Several thousand attend the annual ceremony in Koovagam, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, a tradition rooted in millennia-old Hindu texts that has gained prominence in recent decades. "I need a life like a bird," said Thilothama, 34, who uses only one name, her voice steady amid the hum of drums and devotional songs.

"Freedom -- to do what I want, despite being transgender." Thilothama, who works for Thozhi, a Chennai-based charity supporting transgender people, has spent more than a decade helping others find work and counselling those navigating rejection and uncertainty. Her own journey has been shaped by both resilience and loss. Facing opposition from her family over her gender identity, she left home and built a life within the transgender community. Today she earns a modest income -- but speaks with quiet pride about her inde-

pendence.

- 'My world' -

For the past 10 years Thilothama has returned to Koovagam, where a beauty pageant and singing contests are held alongside religious rituals. "I believe the rituals here bring good things," she says, adjusting her sari. She recalls caring for a friend's bedridden mother, only to be barred from the funeral rites after her death. "That was the hardest time," she says. The festival culminates in two days of ceremonies as Koovagam briefly becomes a rare space of acceptance. □

How Aruban beaches came to be!



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

beaches?

Aruba's beaches have developed over the span of thousands of years. Waves crashing on the rocky formations along our coast line (which consists mainly of coral reefs) have started to wear and tear the reefs over time, resulting in its gradual breakdown. Fish that feed off corals also

contribute to this—one small bite at a time. Over the course of thousands of years, as waves continue to crash and fish continue to eat off the corals, sand starts to accumulate around the area. However, whether the sand stays there is another question to be answered, and this is where we highlight the biggest difference between



the northern and southern coast of the island.

were swept away with the current!

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

Why is the north deep, but the south shallow?

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

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

A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba

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

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in Mainstreet Oranjestad, check out the wooden swing on Plaza Daniel Leo. This is another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram.

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

Mangel Halto



For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be careful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is sure to pop!

Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in



Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!

"I LOVE ARUBA"

While you're in the area, check out the 'I LOVE ARUBA' sign is a great first stop for a quick shot with the family. This spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way! □

THE WEST DECK **WEEKLY SPECIALS** OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR | RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL. 587-2667 | SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MARGARITA MONDAY

Starting at \$10

TACO TUESDAY

Beef, Chicken or Shrimp Tacos starting at \$15

WING WEDNESDAY

By the dozen \$18

@THEWESTDECK

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is 'placa'. Cents are called 'cen' (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this



last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting

local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban

culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin
On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Tortuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Florida (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin
On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal

plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin
On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin
This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin
There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Florida with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:
The word "florin" is supposedly named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba (BNA).





f Infini Aruba @ infiniaruba
 www.infiniaruba.com +297 699 3982
 J.E. Irausquin Blvd @ reservations@infiniaruba.com



Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he



ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and

one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals

on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass holds a lot of value to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com



Aruba to me

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

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

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

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

According to the Arikok National Park, Aruba knows two kinds of snakes, the Santanero and the Cascabel. The cascabel belongs to the rattlesnake family. The cascabel is the only venomous snake from Aruba. It has a length of 65cm to 100cm, and is about 4 to 5cm wide. Its color varies from light brown to grey-brown, and its underbelly is white. On its back there are marks that are a little darker, in the shape of diamonds.

Its reproduction is oviparous, meaning the offspring can hatch from their eggs just before, during or immediately after laying.

The cascabel lives mainly in the Arikok National Park. It likes to live in dark places, and is thus found hidden among the limestone rocks and under stones. As a defense mechanism, the cascabel uses its rattle as a warning, and it is not an aggressive animal.

The cascabel feeds on lizards, small mammals such as rats and mice. It paralyzes or kills its prey with its venom, which is injected through a bite. The enemies of the cascabel are donkeys, goats, humans and cars. Humans are the biggest enemy of the cascabel, as they kill them and destroy their habitat for

urbanization.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.



Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by

flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.

Coneu (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Coneu, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Coneu can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Coneu has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they

are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 liters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Coneu is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Coneu is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Coneu can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □



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.

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto



(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary

on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in

Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own

family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were

primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

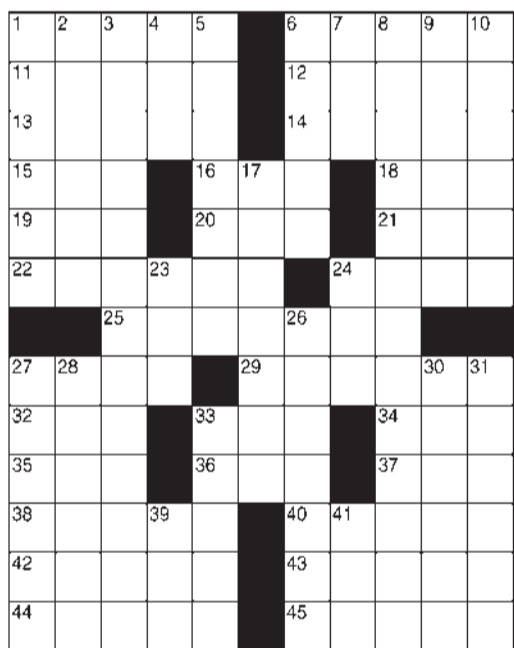


ACROSS 40 Mortensen

- 1 Isolated of "Green Book"
- 6 Fuses
- 11 Sub sounder
- 12 Plain to see
- 13 Rho follower
- 14 Copycat's cry
- 15 Before, to bards
- 16 Sch. support group
- 18 Quill need
- 19 Musical note
- 20 Play on words
- 21 Player's peg
- 22 New York's — Island
- 24 Encircle
- 25 Latte preparer
- 27 Speedy horse
- 29 Missouri motto
- 32 Not neg.
- 33 Dessert choice
- 34 Galloped
- 35 — Alamos
- 36 "2001" computer
- 37 Company abbr.
- 38 Psi follower

DOWN

- 1 Rate
- 2 Belgian sleuth
- 3 "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" co-star
- 4 Zodiac animal
- 5 Fur trader
- 6 Grown girl
- 7 Second person
- 8 "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" co-star
- 9 Tiresome talker
- 10 Excited
- 17 Libya neighbor
- 23 Bar bill
- 24 Car in a 1964 song
- 26 Put on hold
- 27 Poise
- 28 Dorm sharer
- 30 Crèche part
- 31 Concert bonus
- 33 Full moon, for one
- 39 Acquire
- 41 Mineral suffix



5-19

A XYDLBAAXR
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.

5-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

QFG'PM SFU T BUTP GSUEA

UJMQ LTS BYMAA QFGP STKM

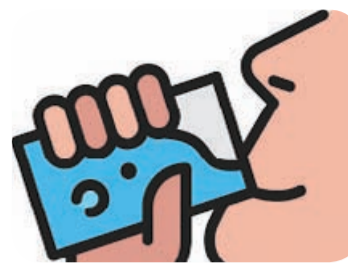
ES NTPTLJE. — JGKYJPMQ

IFVTPU

Cryptoquote: IT IS SPRING AGAIN. THE EARTH IS LIKE A CHILD THAT KNOWS POEMS BY HEART. — RAINER MARIA RILKE

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.



Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

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

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

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.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

02 SAT	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
05 TUE	CELEBRITY SILHOUTTE CARNIVAL MAGIC	Arrival: 08:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: B Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
06 WED	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 11:59 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
12 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
19 TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
20 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA	Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: I Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: C
21 THU	CARNIVAL VENEZIA	Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
26 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS	Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C

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

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

Difficulty: ★

5/4

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/3

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Decade-long study reveals whale shark Indonesia hotspots



This handout photo by Jonathan Irish for Conservation International taken on March 19, 2023 and released on April 29, 2026 shows a whale shark in the waters off Raja Ampat Islands in West Papua, Indonesia.

Bangkok, Thailand

A decade-long study tracking dozens of whale sharks off Indonesia's coast has revealed the secrets of their migrations and two hotspots where they gather year-round.

The research published Thursday fills in critical gaps in knowledge about the endangered species, and builds the case for increased protection of the Indonesian bays that the species flocks to, scientists said.

Whale sharks, which are a type of shark, not whale, face threats including pollution, tourism and vessel strikes.

While their speckled skin and stunning size make them instantly recognizable and a tourist draw, little was known about how the species moved between well-established gathering points.

Researchers in Indonesia aimed to change that by tagging Indo-Pacific whale sharks, which represent about 60 percent of the species, and tracing their movements.

Over a decade, they tagged 70 whale sharks at sites in Indonesia. Some were tracked for nearly three years.

"We could actually map or identify many variations of whale shark movement," said Mochamad Iqbal Herwata Putra, the study's lead author.

"The whale sharks that we tagged moved through (waters of) 13 different countries as well as the

function as nurseries. Cenderawasih Bay is already protected as a national park, and its remote location has helped temper mass tourism.

But Saleh Bay is both popular with visitors and in a region with growing corn production on land and aquaculture at sea.

Both these industries can produce pollution -- include pesticide runoff and sedimentation -- that impacts water quality and whale sharks.

Putra noted that Indonesia recorded dozens of whale shark strandings in recent years. Pollution and interactions with fishing vessels are believed to be among the causes.

Konservasi Indonesia is working with the government to establish the country's first whale shark-specific marine protected area in Saleh Bay, which Putra said he hoped would come into effect this year. □

high seas," he told AFP.

The research, published in the *Frontiers in Marine Science* journal, also revealed that two bays in Indonesia host whale sharks year-round, rather than seasonally as previously thought.

"This is very unique," said Putra, focal species conservation senior manager at NGO Konservasi Indonesia.

While most "aggregation sites" for whale sharks are believed to be seasonal gathering points, Cenderawasih Bay off Indonesia's Papua province and Saleh Bay in Sumbawa are "like home for them", Putra said. A combination of protection from predators and high availability of food such as krill make the bays crucial hotspots, with some evidence they may also

House for sale
Under construction
Moko Noord
Lease land : (371,191 sq feet)
Construction: 1022,571 sq feet
Laundry room : (430,556 sq feet
Pool : (32,292 sq feet / 53,82 s
Fence : 2.10 m (22,604 sq feet)
Price : \$530,000 turn key finish
July Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

ARUBA TODAY BONDIA

How to reach us!

Downtown

High Rise Hotels, Bus terminal, Royal Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Weststraat, Schepstraat, Caya G.F. Betico Croes, Caya G.F.

CLASSIFIEDS

To all time share owners
And condos owners
Want to sell ?
Contact us
40 years in business
011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Le Vent
Eagle beach
2 BR 2 1/2 bath
4 th floor ocean view
Price : \$1,350,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Aruba live
Noord 10 min drive
To eagle beach / palm beach
2 BR 2 bath \$385,000
1 BR 1 Bath \$ 285,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House For Sale
Savaneta ocean front
1 BR 1 Bath
Price : \$1,000,000
Call: 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Savaneta ocean front
2 bedroom 2 bath
Price : \$ 2,000,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Mangel Halto
2 min walk to mangel halto beach
3 BR 2 BR Ocean view
11848,302 sq feet lease land
Price : \$900,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott Surf club
Palm Beach
Gold season
3 BR 3 Bath sleep 10
Price : \$ 30,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Property land
Tanki Leendert
10 min drive to eagle beach
488 m2 (5252,788 sq feet)
To build a house 100m2 (1076,391)
Price : \$ 360,675
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

House for sale
Pos Chiquito
5 to 10 min drive to mangel halto
3 BR 2 bath
Lease land 500 m2 (5381,955 sq feet)
Price : \$390,000
Call : 011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad Hospital 7:00 pm/10:00pm Tel. 527 4000	San Nicolas IMSAN 24 HOURS Tel. 524 8833
--	---

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Dakota
Tel. 588 7364

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
Urgent Care	586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic	588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz	527 2900
Police San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence (FCVR) Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

No.4 Young cruises to PGA title at Doral



Cameron Young of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the the final round of the Cadillac Championship 2026 at Trump National Doral Miami on May 03, 2026 in Doral, Florida.

Miami, United States

World number four Cameron Young cruised through Sunday's final round despite a penalty to win the Cadillac Championship by six strokes, taking his third career PGA Tour triumph. The 28-year-old American

called a penalty on himself in the second fairway when he saw the ball move then salvaged par on his way to firing a four-under par 68. He finished 72 holes on 19-under 269 for the \$3.6 million top prize at Trump National Doral. Young became only the third wire-to-wire winner at Doral, the first since Andy Bean in 1977.

"When the golf course is difficult, when the playing conditions are difficult, that tends to make it easier for me mentally," Young said.

"That's a big part of keeping yourself in it out here... thankfully I was able to stay where my feet were and hit a bunch of good shots."

Young, who turns 29 on Thursday, won his first PGA title last August at Greensboro, captured the Players Championship in March and shared third last month at the Masters.

His six-stroke victory margin matched the largest ever in a PGA event at Doral, a feat last managed by Hubert Green in 1976.

"The self-belief just continues to build," Young said. "I put myself in plenty of good places over the course of the last four or five years and recently have started to come out on the better side of it so excited for the next few weeks."

More than an inch of rain fell overnight, delaying the final round of the \$20 million signature event after softening the Blue Monster course.

US President Donald Trump watched Young sink his final putt from a suite at the 18th hole.

Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler birdied three of the last four holes to shoot 68 and finish second on 275, one stroke ahead of fellow American Ben Griffin.

It was the third consecutive runner-up finish for Scheffler after placing second at the Masters and Heritage tournaments last month. Not since 2014 had one player managed three PGA runner-up efforts in a row.

The result came in Scheffler's final tuneup before defending his PGA Championship title in two weeks at Aronimink.

Australian Adam Scott fired a 64 to share fourth on 277 with Austrian Sepp Straka, who shot 66, and South Korean Kim Si-woo, who closed with a 70.

- Handled it pretty well -

After calling the penalty on himself at the second Young hit his approach to 13 feet and sank the clutch par putt to regain momentum.

"Your heart sinks when you see (the ball) move, but it moved and that's part of what golf is about," Young said. "There's no one that was going to give me a penalty there but myself."

"I've had about four of those on the PGA Tour now, so I need to start setting the club down a little softer, but it's just one of those times. How was I going to look the other way and say it didn't move when it rolled over and went an inch forward? "Just unfortunate but I handled it pretty well."

He followed with birdie putts from just inside 12 feet at the third and just beyond 12 feet at the fifth.

Young reached the green in two at the par-five eighth and sank a four-foot birdie putt, leading by seven at the turn.

After sandwiching a birdie at the par-five 12th between bogeys at 11 and 13, Young closed with a 12-foot birdie putt at the par-three 15th and drove the green at the par-four 16th to set up a tap-in birdie. □

ARUBA TODAY

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

Editors
 Pilar Flores
 Richard Brooks
 Angenette Figuereo
 Oriana Geerman

Sales
 Mark Gomes
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
 classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
 accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
 Juan Luis Pinto

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

Sinner dismantles Zverev to win Madrid Open, set record

Madrid, Spain

World number one Jannik Sinner dispatched Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-2 on Sunday to win the Madrid Open for the first time.

The Italian claimed a record fifth consecutive Masters 1000 title and stretched his winning streak to 23 matches with a superb display in the Spanish capital. Only greats Roger Federer, Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic had managed to win four titles at this level in a row.

"I'll never be able to compare myself to Rafa, Novak and Roger, what they've achieved is incredible -- over 10 or 15 years," Sinner told Movistar.

"I'm trying to make my own mark, but I'm doing it for

myself, I don't play for the records, I'm just putting myself in a position to succeed."

Sinner said he felt he was playing extremely well, in contrast to his opponent, who struggled to produce his best.

"Today I played very, very solid tennis. Sascha didn't play very well today, but if I don't get a break or two right away and stay out in front, his legs get going and he gains a bit of confidence, especially here on this court," he continued.

"He's been playing late all tournament, so his schedule is also a bit off, but I can be happy with what I'm doing."

Sinner has been in impeccable form and broke



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates with his trophy after winning the 2026 ATP Tour Madrid Open tennis tournament final singles match against Germany's Alexander Zverev at the Caja Magica in Madrid, on May 3, 2026.

world number three Zverev's first service game before consolidating for a 3-0 lead.

The Italian, who also won

the eight prior meetings against Zverev, secured another break and eased into a 5-0 advantage on his serve. □

Thompson-Herah shines at world relays, Tebogo helps Botswana to win

Gaborone, Botswana

Elaine Thompson-Herah ran a stunning anchor leg to hand Jamaica victory in the women's 4x100m event at the World Relays on Sunday, while Letsile Tebogo helped host nation Botswana win the second fastest 4x400m in history.

Thompson-Herah, 33, took the baton from third-leg runner Lavanya Williams and headed into the final straight a couple of metres down on Canada's Donna Ntambue.

But the second-fastest woman ever in the 100m, a five-time Olympic champion, turned on the power and reeled in the Canadian.

The Jamaican foursome, also comprising Briana Williams and Jodean Williams, won in 42.00sec, with Canada second in 42.17 and Spain (42.31) rounding out the podium.

There was a dream finish to two days of high-octane action in the Botswanan capital as the country's men's team won the 4x400m relay.

Lee Bhekempilo Eppie led the Botswanans out in front of a raucous crowd, before reigning Olympic 200m champion Letsile Tebogo took over.

But the country's first-ever Olympic champion pulled up badly at the end of his lap, handing South Africa's Lythe Pillay the advantage. It left world 400m bronze medallist Bayapo Ndori a mountain to climb on the third leg. He tracked down South African Leendert Koekemoer but could not break free.

It was neck-and-neck between Botswana, South Africa and Australia at the final baton handover.

But Botswana's world 400m champion Collen Kebinatshipibroke free from South Africa's Zakithi Nene 40 metres from the line to win in a blistering 2min 54.47sec, just 18 hundredths of a second slower than the world record set by a U.S. quartet featuring Michael Johnson in 1993. Competition was fierce with places at next year's world championships in Beijing were up for grabs, as well as qualification for the inaugural World Athletics Ultimate



Jamaica's Elaine Thompson-Herah (C) leads ahead of Canada's Donna Ntambue (L) and Italy's Alessia Pavese (R) in the women's 4x100m relay final during the Gaborone 26 World Athletics Relays at the National Stadium in Gaborone on May 3, 2026.

Championship in Budapest in September.

- Big U.S. names absent -

The men's 4x100m saw American anchor leg Pjai Austin hold off a fast-finishing Akani Simbine of South Africa for the win in 37.43sec.

With better-known US runners including Noah Lyles absent, Ronnie Baker, Max Thomas and Lance Lang completed the US team,

Jamaica set a new world record in the mixed 4x100m, a relatively new addition to the schedule at major championships.

Ackeem Blake, Tina Clayton, Kadrian Goldson and Tina's twin sister Tia Clayton raced to victory in a dominant 39.62sec.

The Jamaican quartet had become the first team to dip under 40 seconds when clocking an initial world best of 39.99sec in Saturday's heat. □



Palm Beach, Aruba

Operations Hours
Slots: 10am
Table: 4pm

Come and join the FUN!
Everyday from 10am till 6pm
We have **DOUBLE** points

BINGO
Play Every Day
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Slot Play \$10
Match Play \$15

Sign up and become a VIP Member.
ID required upon redemption!



Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on






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-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 □