



Origin of Papiamentu Aruba's native language



Unlimited brunch \$39
Bottomless mimosas \$15

BREAKFAST

- Screamble eggs with herbs
- Avocado toast with spinach and tomato
- Pastechi with cheese and sour cream
- Belgium waffle with fruits
- Bread basket and cheeses

MOTHER'S DAY
Brunch

SALADS

- Berry spinach salad with balsamic
- Italian pasta salad with olives and mozzarella

APPETIZER

- Empanada with pulled pork and cheese
- Mac and cheese with shrimps
- Carpaccio with basil and coffee oil

DOUBLE DOWN
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

MAIN COURSE

- Skirt steak with Kimchi
- Chicken skewer peanut sauce and Atjar
- Grouper roll with lobster sauce
- Truffle raviolis and mascarpone

DESSERT

- Fresh fruit salad
- Pan dulce
- Chocolate cake

kitchen open from 11am till 2pm
A 15% service charge will be added on the final bill

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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WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR

costa linda
beach resort

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

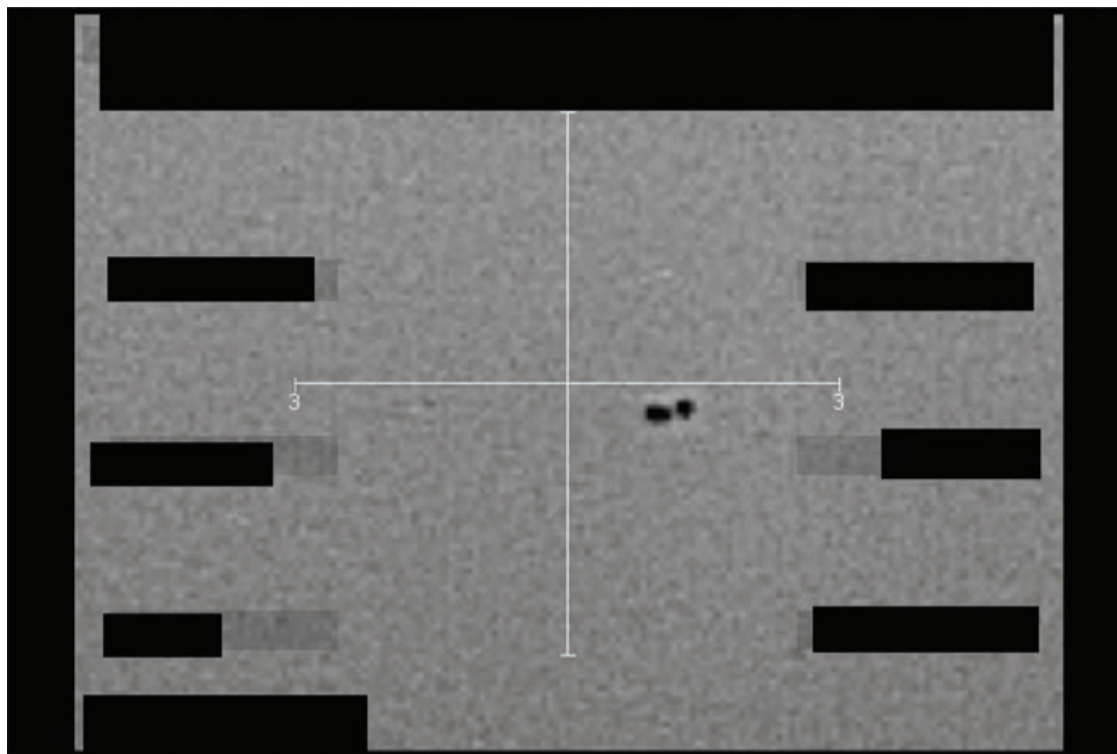
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Is there anybody out there? Pentagon releases secret UFO files

Washington, United States

The Pentagon on Friday released a first batch of secret files documenting reported sightings of unidentified flying objects -- some dating back to the 1940s -- fanning speculation over whether alien life exists. Reports of flying saucers and discs, and a sighting of a "Lord of the Rings" glowing orange orb, are among incidents in the files, which are from the FBI, State Department and NASA in addition to the Pentagon. Interest in UFOs has been renewed in recent years as the U.S. government investigated numerous reports of seemingly supernatural aircraft, amid worries that adversaries could be testing highly advanced technologies.



This handout image released by the US Department of Defense on May 8, 2026, shows what the Department of Defense and FBI say is an infrared still image derived from a U.S. military system showing unidentified object(s) over the western United States in September, 2025.

"These files, hidden behind classifications, have long fueled justified speculation -- and it's time the American people see it for themselves," Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said in a statement. President Donald Trump hailed the release, posting: "Whereas previous Administrations have failed to be transparent on this subject, with these new Documents and Videos, the people can decide for themselves, 'WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?'" More than 160 files were released on the website

of the Defense Department, which officially refers to UFOs as "Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena," or UAPs. One file -- from December 1947 -- contains a series of reports on "flying discs." "Continued and recent reports from qualified observers concerning this phenomenon still makes this matter one of concern to Headquarters, Air Material Command," a document in the file said. An Air Force intelligence report -- marked "top secret" -- from November of the following year features

information on reported sightings of "unidentified aircraft" and "flying saucers." "For some time we have been concerned by the recurring reports on flying saucers," a document in that file said. **- 'Most compelling' -** Another file summarizes statements from seven federal government employees who separately reported "several unidentified anomalous phenomena" in the United States in 2023. "The reporters' credibility, and the potentially anom-

alous nature of the events themselves -- combine to make this report among the most compelling within AARO's current holdings," a description of the file said, referring to the Pentagon's All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office. In one incidents, three teams of federal law enforcement special agents independently described "seeing orange 'orbs' in the sky emit/launch smaller red 'orbs.'" In another, two federal special agents witnessed "a glowing orange orb... perched close to a rock

pinnacle." That account included an artist rendering of a red-orange circle with a streak of yellow in its lower third. The object was described as looking "similar to the Eye (of) Sauron from Lord of the Rings, except without the pupil."

Trump directed U.S. federal agencies in February to begin identifying and releasing government files related to UFOs and aliens, saying the move was "based on the tremendous interest shown." The Republican president also claimed the same day he issued the release order that one of his Democratic predecessors, Barack Obama, had revealed "classified" information in podcast remarks about extraterrestrial life. "They're real, but I haven't seen them and they're not being kept in... Area 51," Obama told host Brian Tyler Cohen, referring to the top-secret US military facility in Nevada at the heart of many UFO conspiracy theories. Trump told reporters at the time that Obama "gave classified information, he is not supposed to be doing that," while saying of his own beliefs: "I don't know if they are real or not." No evidence has been produced of intelligent life beyond Earth. □



Nature takes flight: Portland's new timber terminal becomes a sanctuary for the modern traveler

While most airport construction projects are met with groans of frustration, the city of Portland has achieved the impossible: a terminal that travelers actually want to visit early. As of April 2026, the newly completed main terminal at Portland International Airport (PDX) is being hailed

as a global masterpiece of "biophilic" design, proving that the stress of modern travel can be cured by a return to nature. The centerpiece of the \$2 billion "PDX Next" project is a massive nine-acre wooden roof. Sourced entirely from sustainably managed

forests within a 300-mile radius—including small family-owned timber lands and tribal nations—the structure is a soaring tribute to the Pacific Northwest's heritage. The lattice-work skylights filter sunlight through the beams, creating a "dappled forest floor" effect that immediately lowers the heart rate of hurried commuters. "Airports are usually glass and steel boxes designed for machines," says project lead Sarah Jenkins. "We wanted to build a place for

people. When you walk in here, you smell the Douglas fir and see the living trees. You feel grounded before you ever leave the ground." The terminal functions less like a transit hub and more like a vibrant city square. The interior features "park-like" pods filled with native Oregon greenery, permanent lounge seating that mimics a backyard deck, and a curated selection of local shops that require no "airport markup." In a motivational move for the local

economy, the airport has maintained its "street pricing" policy, ensuring a cup of Stumptown coffee costs the same at the gate as it does downtown. Industry experts are taking note. Earlier this week, PDX was awarded the 2026 "Architecture for Wellbeing" prize, with judges citing its ability to reduce passenger cortisol levels through design. It serves as a powerful reminder that our infrastructure can—and should—reflect the natural beauty of the regions they serve. □

The slope of enlightenment: How 2026 became the year we outsmarted heart disease

BOSTON, MA — For decades, the fight against cardiovascular disease has been described in terms of a battlefield. But today, standing in the bustling heart of Boston's medical district, the conversation has shifted. Experts are no longer just talking about fighting disease; they are talking about outsmarting it. According to leading researchers at the American Heart Association's latest summit, 2026 has officially entered the "Slope of Enlightenment"—a period where cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) and precision gene-silencing therapies have finally converged to transform preventive cardiology from a dream into a daily reality.

The silent risk: Cracking the genetic code

For years, doctors have warned patients about the "usual suspects" of heart health: high blood pressure, smoking, and LDL cholesterol (the "bad" kind). However, many patients followed every rule—eating greens, running marathons, and taking statins—only to suffer unexpected heart attacks. The culprit was often a shadowy genetic factor known as Lipoprotein(a), or Lp(a).

Unlike lifestyle-driven cholesterol, Lp(a) is determined entirely by your DNA. Until recently, there was no effective way to lower it. But



today, the medical community is buzzing with the success of Pelacarsen, a revolutionary "antisense" therapy. By essentially "turning off" the messenger RNA that tells the body to produce Lp(a), Pelacarsen has shown the potential to reduce these dangerous levels by up to 80%.

"We are moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach," says Dr. Julian Thorne, a lead investigator in the Phase 3 clinical trials. "We can now look a patient in the eye and tell them that their genetic history is no longer their destiny. We are rewriting the script of their health before the first symptoms even appear."

AI: The Guardian in Your Pocket

While gene-silencing therapies tackle the internal blueprint, Artificial

Intelligence is revolutionizing how we monitor the heart in real-time. In 2026, the stethoscope is being supplemented by sophisticated algorithms that can detect "silent" heart conditions through a simple smartphone interface or a wearable watch.

New AI software, recently cleared by the FDA, can now analyze the subtle electrical patterns of a person's heartbeat to predict the onset of atrial fibrillation or heart failure weeks before a patient feels a single palpitation. These "digital twins"—virtual models of a patient's heart—allow doctors to simulate the effects of different medications or lifestyle changes in a digital environment before ever prescribing a pill.

"The AI doesn't just see what is happening now; it sees

what is coming," explains Sarah Chen, a biomedical engineer. "It's like having a world-class cardiologist sitting on your wrist 24/7. This technology is saving lives by turning 'ER visits' into 'pharmacy pickups.'"

The Power of "Positive Prevention"

Perhaps the most inspiring shift in 2026 is the move toward Positive Prevention. Hospitals and community centers across the U.S. are moving away from the "fear-based" model of medicine. Instead of focusing on the dangers of heart disease, new initiatives are celebrating the "Joy of Vitality."

In cities like Boston and San Francisco, "Heart Cafés" and "Movement Hubs" are popping up, where residents can get free, non-invasive heart screenings

in a relaxed, social atmosphere. These centers focus on the "four pillars of the vibrant heart": restorative sleep, social connection, nutrient-dense joy, and consistent movement.

Data from the first quarter of 2026 shows that these community-led programs have increased screening rates by 40% among young adults. By making heart health a part of a positive lifestyle—rather than a scary medical chore—the medical community is fostering a culture of proactive care.

A Future Without Fear

As we look toward the horizon, the implications of these breakthroughs are staggering. With the success of Lp(a) therapies and the precision of AI diagnostics, experts predict that by the end of this decade, the incidence of premature heart attacks could drop by as much as 50%.

For the readers of our vacation-style newspaper, this is the ultimate peace of mind. Whether you are planning a hiking trip through the Rockies or a long-awaited cruise across the Atlantic, the innovations of 2026 ensure that your heart is as ready for the adventure as you are. We are no longer just living longer; we are living better, with the confidence that science has our back—and our hearts. □

Uber rolls out new "women rider preference" feature across U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO — In a significant shift for the gig economy, Uber officially launched its "Women Rider Preference" feature nationwide this week, allowing women and non-binary drivers to prioritize requests from women riders.

The feature, which has undergone successful pilot testing in several international markets, aims to bolster safety and increase the number of women participating in the rideshare

workforce. Company data suggests that safety concerns and comfort levels have historically been primary barriers preventing women from signing up as drivers, particularly during late-night hours.

"We believe this is a massive step toward making the platform more inclusive," said an Uber spokesperson during the launch event. "By giving our drivers more control over who they pick up, we are fostering an environment where everyone

feels more secure behind the wheel and in the backseat."

How it works

The feature is accessible via the driver app settings. Once activated, the algorithm prioritizes matching the driver with riders who identify as women. If no female riders are nearby, the app will still offer standard trips to ensure earnings remain steady. Riders are not charged extra for the preference, and the company



A Lyft decal is seen on a car in the pick-up area at JFK Airport on April 28, 2023 in New York City. Lyft, the ride-hailing app, confirmed that it will be laying off 1,072 employees, which equals to roughly 26% of its corporate workforce.

has clarified that the feature is designed to complement, not replace, existing

safety protocols like GPS tracking and the in-app emergency button. □

In big man U.S. football league, guys score a different kind of goal

Houston, United States

In a football league of big men trying to lose weight, the five-a-side teams feature names like OB City, Big Bananas and Heavy Touch FC.

And players can score before the game even starts, standing on a scale and winning goal points for chipping away at their weight problems.

Last week there was a game in which the scoreboard read 11-0 before anyone had even kicked the ball.

Welcome to Man vs. Fat Soccer, a tongue-in-cheek Texas league that is thriving as Houston prepares to join cities elsewhere in the United States in hosting World Cup games, along with Mexico and Canada.

One of the players is Alberto Escalante, 28, who put on weight after a car accident left him temporarily paralyzed from the waist down.

He tipped the scales at 168 kilos (370 lb) when he signed up for this league of heavy men poking fun at themselves. In three months he has lost 15 kilos.

When Escalante first joined the eight-team league he was embarrassed to be part of a squad called OB City and did not want to tell people.



Participants in the "Man vs Fat Soccer" weight-loss program weigh in before playing a soccer game, in Houston, Texas on May 5, 2026.

"But now it's funny and I enjoy it," he told AFP, proud to sport the team's bright red jersey.

Of his weight loss, he said he cannot yet notice it in the mirror but he feels better.

"I'm not that tired. I'm not as agitated as I was before. And health-wise, it's been helping me manage my food intake," said Escalante.

- Kilos shed, points earned -

It is Tuesday night and the teams gather to play football. One called Los Porci-

nos porcino means pig or porcine in Spanish wears pink shirts reminiscent of Lionel Messi's Inter Miami as it warms up.

The Big Bananas, sporting yellow, practice taking shots on goal. Heavy Touch FC's men wait on the sidelines for their turn to play. Then there is AFC Thickmond, a nod to the team AFC Richmond from the "Ted Lasso" series, and a side called MSG, a name that smacks of the common flavor enhancer.

This twice-a-week big man league draws on a similar

phenomenon in Britain and comes as football gains popularity in the United States. Other chapters have sprung up in Florida, New York and other states. It has overtaken the sport long considered the national pastime, baseball, and is now only behind American football and basketball, says a report by Ampere Analysis, a data and analytics firm, published in The Economist in late 2025.

But before the opening whistle can blow, everybody has to get weighed, even the guys sitting on the

bench.

Zachary Beardsley, the league's health supervisor, said players who lose weight compared to the week before win points that go to their team. The more they slim down, the more points they accrue.

"You get more points the more guys on your team lose weight," he said.

So if a team's players for some reason fail to weigh in, or even to show up, it hurts.

"Like last week, we were already losing 11-0 before the game even started," said Roberto Rodriguez, 28, goalkeeper for Los Porcinos whose weight has gone from 134 kg to 110 kg in this league. Cameron Roberts, who is 36 and works in corporate finance, has lost 31 kg and is now down to 116 kg. His parents are British and he hopes to travel to Dallas to see England play Croatia in the World Cup.

"You know, you can see just from this group of guys here, everybody's starting to get the buzz," he said of the world's premier sporting event, which starts June 11 and ends July 19.

Beardsley said the league is good for the players' heads and hearts, not just their waistlines, as they connect with each other. □

Rail fare to World Cup final stadium is cut ... to \$105

New York, United States

The price of a roundtrip rail ticket from New York to the nearby stadium that will host the final and seven other matches at football's World Cup is being cut from \$150 to \$105, following outrage from fans, an official said Thursday.

Supporters' groups had accused organizers of price gouging on transit to the New York New Jersey stadium, an approximately 18-mile (30-kilometer) roundtrip journey. The return fare is typically \$12.90. Just 40,000 train tickets will be available for each of the games at the 82,500-capacity stadium. New Jersey Governor

Mikie Sherrill, responsible for the railroad that will ferry fans from Manhattan to the Meadowlands sports

complex, "asked NJ TRANSIT to find private sponsorships and other sources to reduce the cost of the tick-

et," said the system's chief Kris Kolluri.

"I am pleased we are able to reduce the price by at least 30 percent and bring the cost down to \$105 per ticket."



An under construction New Jersey Transit bus stop at New York New Jersey Stadium (temporarily renamed from MetLife Stadium for the 2026 FIFA World Cup) is seen in East Rutherford, New Jersey on May 7, 2026.

The decrease is unlikely to put to bed the row over the steep pricing that also drew rebukes from football's governing body, FIFA.

FIFA, already under fire over the high cost of match tickets, previously said that the original host city agreements "required free transportation for fans to all matches."

A re-negotiation stipulated that transport be offered

"at cost" on match days, FIFA added.

In contrast to the New York New Jersey stadium, fans heading to Philadelphia's Financial Field stadium, another World Cup venue, will pay just \$2.90 to reach the ground, and nothing to leave it on the city's subway system.

Reacting to the \$150 price point, England's Football Supporters' Association (FSA) chief Thomas Cannon told the BBC, "we weren't expecting to be gouged."

The United States is co-hosting the World Cup with Canada and Mexico. The tournament kicks off on June 11. □

'Blessed' Leo marks one year as pope with southern Italy visit

Pompeii, Italy

Pope Leo XIV said he felt "blessed" as he marked one year as leader of the Catholic Church on Friday with a visit to southern Italy, after weeks dominated by a clash with Washington. On the anniversary of his May 8, 2025, election, the first US pontiff visited a shrine in the city of Pompeii founded by a former Satanic priest.

"What a beautiful day, so many blessings," the pope told a crowd of faithful inside the church, including some 400 sick and disabled people.

"I feel the most blessed for being able to come here to the sanctuary... on this anniversary," the pope said. The pope flew in on a white helicopter, eliciting cries of "the pope has arrived!" from thousands of pilgrims assembled in a vast square in Pompeii.

One of them was Salvatore Sica, 68, who had come from nearby Naples.

"I'm curious to see the new pope... He's not like Francis, who was one of the family, like a brother or a father," Sica told AFP.

"He preaches peace but I see him as distant from the people. But he is a good pope."

The 70-year-old pontiff's measured and discreet style contrasts with the more spontaneous Francis, the late Argentine pope who died on April 21 last



Pope Leo XIV attends a meeting with citizens at Piazza del Plebiscito as part of a pastoral visit in Naples on May 8, 2026.

year.

- Pope meets Rubio -

The visit came a day after Leo received US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for an audience aimed at easing tensions after scathing criticism of the pope's anti-war views from US President Donald Trump.

At the time, the pope said he had a "moral duty" to speak out, and this week added: "The Church's mission is to preach the Gospel and to preach peace."

Rubio on Friday said he had a "very good meeting" with Leo, adding: "It's important to share our points of view and an understanding of

where we're coming from." Among the faithful in Pompeii, Mariella Annunziata, 52, said the pope had responded "in an elegant way" to Trump's comments.

"He did not give in to provocation," she said.

Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, who was also criticised by Trump after defending the pope, paid tribute to the leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics. "In a complex and highly uncertain time, his voice is a point of reference on a global level for Christians but not only," she wrote on X.

- 'Good morning Pompeii!' -

During the visit, Pope Leo toured the square in Pompeii on his popemobile, with people leaning out of windows or gathering on balconies above to see him.

Wearing a red mozzetta short cape over his white papal robes, he greeted a crowd of around 20,000 people outside with a "Good morning Pompeii!" before entering the basilica.

At an outdoor mass, the pope returned to his anti-war message, saying: "We cannot resign ourselves to the images of death that we see on the news every

day".

He also prayed for God to "enlighten all those who bear special responsibilities of governance" and for a "renewed commitment" to end all wars.

Among the attendees, Tommaso Del Sorbo, 32, carried a small poodle named "Giorgio" during the mass.

"It's a wonderful feeling because it's not every day that we have the pope here among us, especially one year after his election," he said.

The pope was visiting the sanctuary of the Virgin of the Rosary of Pompeii, near the ruins of the ancient Roman city destroyed by a volcanic eruption.

Leo cited the sanctuary in his first address from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican on the day he was elected.

The one-day trip marks the first of several short pastoral visits planned this summer in Italy, and comes a fortnight after a tour of four African nations.

Later on Friday, the pope headed to Naples, where he venerated the relics of San Gennaro, the city's patron saint, and greeted the crowds in the Piazza del Plebiscito.

In a speech, he praised the city's beauty, calling it a "pearl of the Mediterranean", but also spoke of its "multiple faces of poverty". □

Myanmar says massive 11,000-carat ruby discovered

Yangon, Myanmar

A huge 11,000-carat ruby has been discovered in Myanmar, state media reported Friday, one of the largest ever found in the country renowned for its precious gemstones.

Coup leader turned president Min Aung Hlaing was pictured on the front page of the state-run Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper, examining the 2.2-kilogram (4.8-pound) rock at his office.

Unearthed in the Mogok area, the ruby was "exceptionally large, rare, and difficult to find," the new military-backed government said in a statement.

"The giant ruby has a purplish-red colour with yellowish undertones and is considered to have a high-quality colour grade," it added.

While smaller than a similar 21,450-carat ruby found in the same area in 1996, the recently discovered stone is more valuable "due to its superior colour, clarity, and overall quality," the government said without giving a precise value.

Emperors, kings and warlords have long fought over the valley of Mogok in Mandalay region, where the unique "pigeon-blood" stones lie hidden.

The Mogok rubies are the most expensive in the world, with the highest-quality jewels fetching multi-million-dollar prices in an industry notoriously bereft of regulation.

Myanmar has been ruled by a junta since a 2021 coup that triggered a civil war, but former military chief Min Aung Hlaing was sworn in last month as civilian president after a tightly restricted election. □



This handout photo taken and released on May 7, 2026 by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) shows an 11,000-carat ruby in Naypyidaw, after it was found at a gem tract in Mogok in Mandalay Region.



Authorities mix sodium chloride and water in a cloud seeding process at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Military Base in Subang on September 19, 2019.

Malaysia plans cloud seeding for drought-hit 'rice bowl'

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Malaysia is resorting to cloud seeding to bring much-needed rain to the country's "rice bowl" north, where a drought has delayed planting of the staple crop and raised supply fears.

"This year... has been affected by prolonged dry weather, low rainfall and reduced dam water levels," the Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Malaysia, Mohamad Sabu, told AFP.

The conditions mean farmers have missed two of the three usual planting phases for so-called "wet direct seeding" of rice, a technique that requires fields to be flooded. Dry direct seeding is an alternative, and deadlines for that extend until June.

But farmers argue the technique provides lower yields, and that scattered recent rainfall has rendered it impossible in some fields anyway.

While more than 50 percent of the region's rice fields have been prepared, just a fraction have been planted as farmers await the rain.

Planting has "not been cancelled", Mohamad insisted, but "temporary adjustments and mitigation

measures are being implemented".

In Kedah's Muda Agricultural Development Authority areas, the main dam reservoir for the region is at just eight percent, according to local reports.

- High costs -

Farmer Abdul Rashid Yob, who has a three-hectare paddy in the region, told AFP the drought's impact was being compounded by rising fuel costs linked to the war in Iran.

"Even where water is available, many cannot afford to proceed due to high costs."

Rice is a staple crop in Malaysia, which consumes around 2.5 million tons a year, around half of which is produced domestically. Most of that comes from northern peninsular Malaysia, with Kedah the biggest producer.

The region is "strategically important to Malaysia's food security", Mohamad said.

So with farmers facing arid brown fields that should be flooded, lush paddies, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim this week announced cloud-seeding operations to trigger rain.

The process involves spraying particles such as silver

iodide and salt into clouds from aircraft to produce rainfall, and is widely used to affect weather patterns or even tamp down air pollution.

But success depends on atmospheric conditions without clouds, seeding will not work. Reports suggest officials hope to begin seeding soon, but no date has been publicly set.

The government has also announced programs to offset fuel costs, including boosts to existing aid programs.

Struggling with conditions

Fitri Amit, a small-scale rice farmer in Perak region further south, was sceptical of the measures, which he said were often delayed, arriving only once farmers' "capital has already been drained".

"Farmers prefer that support be given by increasing the paddy price," he said, referring to the sale price of cultivated rice.

"If the paddy price is guaranteed, once they sell, they get the money," he told AFP.

Though he is south of worst-hit Kedah, he too has been struggling with dry conditions.

"Irrigation was stopped because the reservoir levels were low," he said. □

Nepal issues record 492 climbing permits for Everest



Japanese climber Nobukazu Kuriki (L) accept his permit to climb Everest in the autumn season from Nepal's tourism minister Kripasur Sherpa (R) in Kathmandu on August 23, 2015.

Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal has issued a record 492 permits to climb Mount Everest this spring, officials said on Friday.

"We have issued a historic high number of permits for Sagarmatha," Himal Gautam, spokesman for the tourism department, told AFP.

The last record was in 2023 when 478 permits were issued in a post-pandemic rush on the mountains.

As most of these mountaineers will attempt to summit Everest with the help of at least one Nepali guide, about a thousand climbers will be heading for the summit in the next few weeks.

A team of highly skilled mountaineers, known in Nepal as "icefall doctors", began fixing ropes and ladders on Everest last month, to prepare for the spring climbing season.

But a serac a block of glacial ice above the already treacherous Khumbu icefall disrupted their work, sparking fears of delays in the limited summit season on the world's highest peak.

Gautam said that the route has been opened up to the South Col mountain pass at 7,906 metres (26,000 feet) through an alternate road.

"Climbers are now making acclimatization rotations as usual and we hope for a good season," Mingma Sherpa of Seven Summit Treks, one of the biggest expedition organizers, told AFP.

However, the high number of climbers raises fears of heavy traffic and bottlenecks en route to the summit if there is a shorter window to reach it because of unfavorable weather.

In 2019, a massive queue on Everest forced teams to wait hours in freezing temperatures, lowering depleted oxygen levels that can lead to sickness and exhaustion. At least four of 11 deaths that year were blamed on overcrowding.

China has closed the summit from the northern Tibet side this season, causing an extra flow of climbers in the south.

The highest number of climbers receiving permits this season were from China (109), followed by the United States (76).

Nepal is home to eight of the world's 10 highest peaks and foreign climbers who flock to its mountains are a major source of revenue for the country.

The government has collected a total of \$7.1 million from the Everest permits. □

The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?
“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately

jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nék Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.



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Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves.

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the

cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the

cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly



known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the

cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy. Take care to not disturb the bats' habitat. □

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PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a "lora"

(Oranjestad)—The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the 'Lora,' relies on how we act as humans. We've seen many hikers who've encountered the 'Lora' in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the 'Lora.' Please, don't just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for fu-

ture generations.

No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with the "Lora". The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their re-introduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water

You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the



Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including

poaching and killing of the Lora. Let's work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □

PSA for off-roaders:

Be careful when driving on rough terrains!



(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today would like to give a PSA about the rough terrains on the northern side of the island after a reader expressed their concern about how this can be damaging to certain cars.

We at Aruba Today pride ourselves in enhancing your Aruba experience through informative articles about our history, culture and places you can visit. With this, we also want to make sure you take care of yourself and your loved ones. You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging if you are

traveling by (regular) car. These holes often occur after heavy rain or during the raining season, primarily because Aruba is a hilly island with a lot of downward streams, so rain water travels downward creating cracks and holes along the way.

For your own safety, please be advised to not drive on potentially dangerous terrains or dirt roads with deep holes if you are traveling by regular car. We advise you to rent a 4x4 vehicle instead or better yet, plan your off-roading trip with a tour guide who can provide proper vehicles and assistance. □

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papi-



mentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca,

the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bisau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to

Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of

Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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, Henry E. red. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



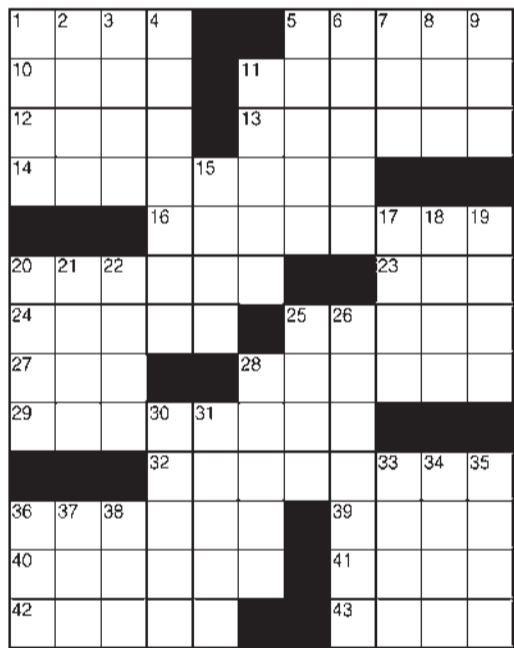
ACROSS

- 1 Neatnik's opposite
- 5 Small porch
- 10 Casserole staple
- 11 Painter's place
- 12 Brighton brews
- 13 Take care of
- 14 1998 Wes Anderson film
- 16 Weary from walking
- 20 Modify
- 23 Pasture
- 24 Elite Navy group
- 25 Corona, e.g.
- 27 Here, in Quebec
- 28 "Key Largo" co-star
- 29 Legends and such
- 32 Dyed-in-the-wool
- 36 Tahini base
- 39 Follow orders
- 40 Conjured up
- 41 Single
- 42 Luke-warm
- 43 Owner's document

DOWN

- 1 Flag feature
- 2 Hum-dinger
- 3 Wallet bills
- 4 Doc's friend
- 5 Set off
- 6 Melodies
- 7 Strange
- 8 Gusher flow
- 9 "The Gold-Bug" writer
- 11 Photo session
- 15 Terrarium growth
- 17 Gymnast Korbut
- 18 Genuine
- 19 Rank above viscount
- 20 "Like that'll happen!"
- 21 1920s art style
- 22 Lockup
- 25 Joker, e.g.
- 26 Freezing
- 28 Yawning, perhaps

- 30 Uniform material
- 31 Crippled
- 33 Clarinet cousin
- 34 Painter Magritte
- 35 Took in
- 36 Ready to go
- 37 Genesis name
- 38 Soak up



1-12

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

1-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

C STQ'P YQTV VGOXO C'U

FTCQF HXTU GOXO, LIP C

BXTUCRO C VTQ'P LTXO ATI.

— SWECS LTVCO

Cryptoquote: FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE AND DO IT ON PURPOSE. — DOLLY PARTON

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.



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 Saturday. On Sundays, su-

permarkets 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.

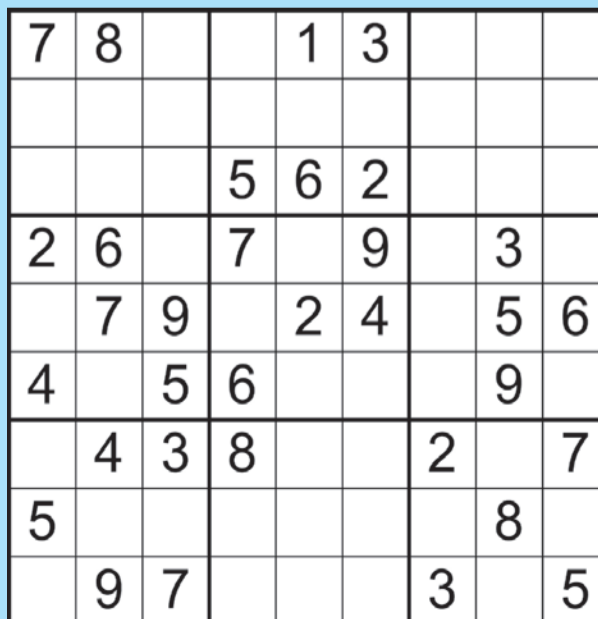
CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

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



Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/9

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/8

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EU monitor says sea temperatures near all-time highs as El Nino looms

Paris, France

The European Union's climate monitor said Friday that ocean temperatures are edging toward record highs as conditions shift toward a potentially powerful El Nino weather pattern. Samantha Burgess from the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) said sea surface temperatures in recent days were just shy of the all-time highs of 2024 and May looked set to break its own record. "It's a matter of days before we are back in record-breaking ocean SSTs (sea surface temperatures) again," Burgess, strategic lead for climate at ECMWF, told AFP.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service said daily sea surface temperatures in April "gradually inched" toward near-record highs, reflecting the transition to El Nino expected in coming months. Copernicus, which is overseen by the ECMWF, said sea surface temperatures in April were the second-highest measured, with marine heatwaves breaking records in the ocean between the tropical Pacific and United States. Last month, the World Meteorological Organization said El Nino conditions could develop as soon as May to July.

One phase of a natural climate cycle in Pacific Ocean temperatures and trade winds, El Nino influences global weather and increases the likelihood of drought, heavy rainfall and other climate extremes. It also adds heat to a planet already warmed from burning fossil fuels. The last El Nino helped make 2023 and 2024 the second- and first-hottest years on record, respectively. Some weather agencies forecast the coming event will be even stronger possibly rivalling a "super" El Nino three decades ago. Zeke Hausfather, a scientist at Berkeley Earth, an inde-



This photograph shows a sailboat on the Mediterranean ocean from Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, south-eastern France on April 9, 2026.

pendent climate research organisation, wrote last week that a strong El Nino could significantly raise the chances of 2027 becoming the hottest year ever recorded. Burgess said it was still too early to predict the event's intensity with confidence as forecasts made during the Northern Hemisphere spring could be unreliable. But she said regardless of its strength, this El Nino would not go unnoticed. "We're likely to see 2027 exceed 2024 for the warmest year on record," she said. El Nino's impact on global temperatures typically comes the year after

its peak, she added. **- Extremes -** Copernicus said the upturn in ocean temperatures over March and April indicated the transition from neutral conditions to El Nino was underway. Scientists stress that El Nino alone is not driving the extraordinary ocean warmth or its knock-on effects, such as coral bleaching and marine heatwaves. The phenomenon is unfolding against a backdrop of long-term global warming caused primarily by greenhouse gas emissions, with oceans absorbing around 90 percent of the excess

heat generated by human activity. In its monthly bulletin, Copernicus said April was the third-hottest globally and 1.43C above the 1850-1900 pre-industrial benchmark. □

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PHARMACY ON DUTY

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OTHER

Dental Clinic	587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba	587 0002
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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
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Fire Dept.	115
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Afrobeats' Tiwa Savage nurtures Africa's future talent

Lagos, Nigeria

Nigerian Afrobeats sensation Tiwa Savage walked around a music centre in Lagos, smiling, listening and giving words of encouragement to scores of young artists in an elite music training programme.

The multi-talented Savage, a prominent face in Nigeria's flourishing music scene, recently brought together 100 young, aspiring artists selected from 2,000 applications for instrumental workshops, vocal coaching and masterclasses on the inner workings of the music industry.

The group is the first cohort of her newly established music foundation.

Savage is partnering with the prestigious Berklee College of Music in the United States, where she studied around two decades ago. "When I'm no longer here, I'm praying that a recipient of this foundation will be the next Michael Jackson, the next Quincy Jones, the next Wizkid, the next great artist or producer or songwriter," said the artist, whose global hits include "Koroba" and "Kele Kele".

Born in Lagos 46 years ago as Tiwatope Omolara Savage and raised partly in Britain, she established herself in the early 2010s after



Nigerian singer Tiwa Savage poses for a photograph at the Muson School of Music in Lagos, on April 24, 2026.

returning to Nigeria. She is one of the most influential female voices in Afrobeats, a genre that has attracted a global audience by blending traditional African rhythms with contemporary pop sounds, with its roots in Nigeria. Vocal drills, musical notes and frequent peals of laughter echoed from the classrooms where Berklee tutors worked with the students.

"I'm evolving as a beat maker and producer, and refining my piano artistry," said 24-year-old student

Aliyu Olukoya, who called the experience "amazing". The instructors from Berklee which is extending its academic programme for the first time to the cultural behemoth that is Africa's most populous country adjusted and corrected the students as Savage watched closely.

"Being secure in who you are and what you have to offer, even in a competitive environment, is your superpower, and that's what we teach here," said vocal coach Nichelle J. Mungo, 51, whom Savage met at

Berklee.

- 'Too good to just compete locally' -

Savage recalled seeing very few African students at the East Coast American college.

It was there that she started nurturing the idea of making it easier for young Africans to access high-level musical training.

"The problem isn't lack of talent or gift," she told AFP. "The problem is access access to education, music education in particular."

"As a musician in whatever capacity, you need to study the industry, especially the global industry, because we're too good to just compete locally," she said.

If Afrobeats is to match the staying power of R&B or rock'n'roll, Savage believes the entire ecosystem needs to become more professional.

"If we only focus on the artists, how are we going to sustain the industry for many, many years and decades to come?" she said, urging the professional development of producers, sound engineers, songwriters and marketers.

She also aims to raise the profile of talented artists who lack visibility due to limited resources, in a country marked by deep social inequalities.

"I see so much talent," she said, referring to already highly skilled musicians forced to practise without regular access to instruments.

Several young artists have already caught the attention of the Berklee professors who came to Nigeria to teach.

After their concert at the National Theatre in Lagos, 18 students received scholarships to Berklee, with a total value of \$2.1 million. □

AI actors not eligible for Golden Globes, say organizers

Los Angeles, United States Performances by AI-generated actors will not be eligible for Golden Globe awards, organizers said Thursday, days after they were also ruled out of Oscars contention.

The new guidelines will not automatically disqualify performances that have used artificial intelligence to enhance an actor, but require that a live human be the main element.

"Submissions in which a performance is substantially generated or created by artificial intelligence are not eligible" for consideration in the annual film and television prize-giving extravaganza, which kicks

off Hollywood's awards season, organizers said. "The use of AI for technical or cosmetic enhancements (such as de-aging, aging, or visual modifications) may be permissible,

provided the underlying performance remains that of the credited individual and AI does not replace or materially alter the performer's work."

The new rules come days

after the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said it was cracking down on the use of AI.

The body that doles out the Oscars said only real human performers -- not their AI avatars -- are eligible for the film world's biggest prizes, and screenplays must have been penned by a person, rather than a chatbot.

The use of artificial intelligence remains one of the most sensitive issues in the entertainment industry and was central to the 2023 strikes that shut down Hollywood, as actors and writers warned that unchecked technology threatened their liveli-

hoods.

The new restrictions come after an AI version of the late Val Kilmer was unveiled to an audience of movie theater owners, a year after the "Top Gun" star's death.

A youthful, digital version of Kilmer appeared in the trailer for archaeological action pic "As Deep as the Grave," telling another character: "Don't fear the dead and don't fear me." The project was created with the enthusiastic support of the actor's family, who granted access to Kilmer's video archives, which were used to recreate the actor at multiple stages of his life. □



This artificial intelligence-generated handout image courtesy of First Line Films shows an AI-generated likeness of actor Val Kilmer for his posthumous role as Father Fintan in the upcoming movie "As Deep As The Grave".

Thunder top LeBron and Lakers, Pistons down Cavs



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander #2 of the Oklahoma City Thunder drives around Marcus Smart #36 of the Los Angeles Lakers during the first quarter in Game Two of the Second Round of the NBA Western Conference Playoffs at Paycom Center on May 07, 2026 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Los Angeles, United States
The Oklahoma City Thunder pulled away late to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 125-107 in an NBA playoff thriller on Thursday, taking a commanding 2-0 lead in their best-of-seven Western Conference semi-final series.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, the reigning NBA Most Valuable Player and finalist for the award this season, scored 22 points and the Thunder capitalized on 21 Lakers turnovers to hand LeBron James a defeat in his 300th career playoff game. Eastern Conference top seeds Detroit are also up

2-0 after a 107-97 home win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

In Oklahoma City, Gilgeous-Alexander was again below his best but he was amply supported. Chet Holmgren scored 22 points and pulled down nine rebounds, Ajay Mitchell added 20 points and Jared McCain delivered 18 points off the bench to help the Thunder withstand a 31-point performance from Austin Reaves.

James, who became the first player to contest 300 post-season games, scored 23 points and handed out

six assists, and the Lakers led by five points early in the third quarter.

But with league-leading scorer Luka Doncic still sidelined by injury the Lakers couldn't hang on, even with Gilgeous-Alexander on the bench for considerable stretches because of foul trouble.

Oklahoma City produced a 22-5 scoring run to seize control and will aim to keep the pressure on when the series shifts to Los Angeles for games three and four on Saturday and Monday. "We've got to be the ag-

gressor," Gilgeous-Alexander said. "I feel like they were playing with more force, they were attacking harder, making quicker decisions, playing with a better sense of urgency, especially in the first half.

"As long as we take care of that we should have our foot in the right direction." A bruising contest saw both teams irked by the officiating. Gilgeous-Alexander was whistled for a flagrant foul and both he and James were spent sprawling under the basket after a foul by Reaves late in the game. Lakers coach JJ Redick took issue with the officiating, saying the Thunder "have a few guys who commit a foul on every possession". But he added: "We didn't lose because of the refs."

- 'High stakes' -

In Detroit, Cade Cunningham scored 12 of his 25 points in the fourth quarter and handed out 10 assists to lead the Pistons. They set the defensive tone early but had to rally late after the Cavaliers battled back to take a two-point lead early in the fourth quarter. "I just want to win games," Cunningham said of his dominant fourth-quarter performance. "It's been a lot of games down the stretch where it's tight... the ball is in my hands and I've got to make plays with it. "The pressure and the mo-

ment, it's high stakes ... all of that stuff fuels me."

Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell scored a game-high 31 points. Jarrett Allen chipped in 22, but James Harden had just 10 on three-of-13 shooting and his four turnovers included a costly giveaway in the final minute.

The Cavaliers have a mountain to climb as they head home for game three on Saturday and game four on Monday.

The Pistons, who locked up the top seed in the East with the third best record in the league, had to fight back from a 3-1 deficit to beat the Orlando Magic in the first round.

This series they were determined to hold on to home-court advantage and game two featured another lockdown defensive display from Detroit on the way to a 54-43 halftime lead.

The Cavaliers responded in the third quarter and took the lead on Evan Mobley's dunk minutes into the fourth their first lead since the opening minutes.

But they couldn't hang on. A Duncan Robinson three-pointer put Detroit back in front and they wouldn't trail again.

Cunningham said the Pistons will have to "turn up our energy even more" in Cleveland.

"They're a tough team to beat at home," he said. □

Ring great Mayweather to meet kickboxer Zambidis in exhibition

Los Angeles, United States
Former multi-weight world champion Floyd Mayweather will take on Greek kickboxing star Mike Zambidis in a "full-contact exhibition showdown" in Athens on June 27, promoters confirmed on Thursday. The pay-per-view event will be held at the Telekon Center at the OAKA Olympic Complex in Athens. Mayweather, 49, retired from boxing in 2017 with a perfect 50-0 record. He has appeared in multiple exhibition bouts since then, but an exhibition

announced late last year against former heavy-weight world champion Mike Tyson has never materialized and plans for an official rematch with Philippines ring icon Manny Pacquiao -- announced by Netflix for September -- have also run into trouble.

That bout, announced for the Sphere in Las Vegas, would have been a rematch of the highest-grossing clash in boxing history. But after Mayweather said the fight would be an exhibition only, Pacquiao insist-

ed he had signed a contract for an official bout. Whatever the fate of that contest, it won't take place at the Sphere on September 19 as originally announced with the venue now set to host a concert by the Eagles on that date. Mayweather said in a statement on Thursday that the clash with Zambidis "is an opportunity for me to sharpen my skills for what's to come this year." Zambidis, 45, is an 18-time world champion best known for his career in K-1 MAX. □



Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr. speaks during a news conference to announce an upcoming full-contact exhibition match against kickboxer Mike Zambidis at the Mayweather Boxing Club on May 07, 2026 in Las Vegas, Nevada.



Serbia's Novak Djokovic plays a backhand return to Croatia's Dino Prizmic during their men's singles match of the WTA Rome Open tennis tournament at the Foro Italico in Rome on May 8, 2026.

Ailing Djokovic falls to early Italian Open exit ahead of Roland Garros

Rome, Italy

Novak Djokovic slumped to an early elimination from the Italian Open on Friday, crumbling to a second-round defeat at the hands of qualifier Dino Prizmic which leaves question marks about his physical condition ahead of Roland Garros.

Tennis icon Djokovic was sent packing by big-hitting Croatian Prizmic, who claimed the biggest scalp of his young career with a stunning 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 win on centre court in Rome.

Djokovic, a 24-time Grand Slam winner, was making his comeback from a shoulder injury in the last big tournament before the French Open, which starts later this month.

And the world number four was unsure as to whether he would be back to his best for the clay-court Grand Slam, simply saying "I hope so" when asked by reporters whether Paris would see the all-conquering "Nole" of old.

"Let's see what happens," said Djokovic, who lamented persistent physical problems in the twilight of his stellar career.

"I don't recall the last time in the last couple of years of preparation where I didn't have any physical is-

ssues coming into a tournament," said Djokovic.

"It's always something, it's kind of a new reality that I have to deal with."

Djokovic wore shoulder strappings in his first tournament since losing in the last 16 at Indian Wells in March, after pulling out of tournaments in Miami, Monte Carlo and Madrid.

He hadn't previously been knocked out this early in a tournament since the Madrid Open last year, and he looked a long way from the player who has won six titles at the Foro Italico.

He breezed into a one-set lead but then buckled under the weight of Prizmic's powerful hitting which has led to the 20-year-old rising to a career-high world ranking of 79.

Prizmic has beaten two top 10 players in a matter of weeks with sixth-ranked Ben Shelton succumbing in the second round in Madrid last month.

Djokovic is Prizmic's idol, and a landmark win gives the young talent a match with either Ugo Humbert or Vit Kopriva and a chance to make the fourth round of a Masters 1000 event for the first time.

"He's a great competitor, a great fighter, a great kid" said Djokovic of Prizmic.

"I always wish him all the best and today he has definitely performed high-level tennis."

- Zverev, Swiatek through - Earlier, Alexander Zverev eased into the third round after comfortably dealing with fellow German Daniel Altmaier in straight sets, 7-5, 6-3.

The second seed is in good form having reached the final in Madrid last weekend and he is again on the other side of the draw to red-hot favourite Jannik Sinner. The 29-year-old has been beaten by Sinner in four Masters 100 events this year and will have his work cut out if he is to add to his 2017 and 2024 titles in Rome.

Three-time champion Iga Swiatek battled into the third round of the women's tournament with a 6-1, 6-7 (5/7), 6-3 win over Caty McNally.

Swiatek will play US 28th seed Emma Navarro or Italy's Elisabetta Cocciaretto this weekend for a place in the last 16, after a match which initially looked like being a routine win but dragged on for the best part of three hours.

"It was a tough match, Caty really played great," said Swiatek. □

Formula One engines to change again in 2027



Mercedes' Italian driver Kimi Antonelli races during the 2026 Miami Formula One Grand Prix at Miami International Autodrome in Miami Gardens, Florida, on May 3, 2026.

Paris, France

Formula One bosses have responded to the criticism of this season's power unit modifications by agreeing to "further evolutionary changes" before a revamp for the 2027 season, the FIA announced on Friday.

Motorsport's governing body said that an agreement had been reached "in principle" between the 11 team bosses and five power unit manufacturers to restore the primacy of combustion power over electric power as early as 2027.

"The measures agreed in principle today for 2027 would see a nominal increase in internal combustion engine power by 50 kilowatts with a fuel-flow increase and a nominal reduction of the energy recovery system deployment power by 50 kilowatts," the FIA said in a statement.

This decision, which still has to be discussed in detail let alone approved, would in effect put an end to the 50/50 parity in hybrid engines - half electric, half combustion introduced this season by the FIA.

The new regulations have created exciting racing for viewers but have met with a varied reception from the drivers with four-time Max Verstappen describing it as "Formula E on steroids" and hinting he might step away from Formula One if it did not change.

The 50/50 system involves a complex management of the battery during overtakes and then during the necessary recharging of electrical energy when slowing down and braking.

This has triggered safety concerns, notably when Oliver Bearman had a dramatic crash at the Japan GP as he closed on Alpine's Franco Colapinto.

The significant difference in speed between the two cars as a result of their contrasting states of energy deployment led to Bearman taking evasive action and hitting the wall.

Last month, the FIA announced a new "adjusted" version of the regulation which came into play at last weekend's Miami GP.

Friday's meeting gave the thumbs up to the modifications, saying they had improved competition and were a "step in the right direction".

The FIA said they would look at "further adjustments at future events", possibly as soon as the next grand prix in Canada on May 24. □