



Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

## Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!



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Today is going to be a good day



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AMMF with update on recovering dolphin 'Charlie'



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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

<b>SUNDAY:</b> MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>MONDAY:</b> ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>TUESDAY:</b> JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>WEDNESDAY:</b> MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>THURSDAY:</b> MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	<b>FRIDAY:</b> MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	<b>SATURDAY:</b> RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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Happy Hour  
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10

PREMIUM BRANDS



## Coastal communities lead nation in marine restoration

A wave of hope is sweeping across America's coastlines as local communities achieve record-breaking success in marine conservation. From the seagrass meadows of Florida to the kelp forests of California, citizen scientists and local volunteers are proving that collective action can heal our oceans. Recent data shows a 15% increase in healthy coral coverage in protected Hawaiian zones, a direct result of community-led nurseries. These grassroots efforts are not just saving fish; they are uniting neighbors under a shared purpose. Local families are spending weekends transplanting mangroves and cleaning beaches, turning environmental stewardship into a joyful communal hobby. This surge in "blue-green" volunteerism shows that when we work with nature, the rewards are as vast as the sea itself.

### The rise of the citizen scientist

The traditional model of marine biology—driven primarily by large academic institutions—is being augmented by a passionate army of "citizen scientists." In the Pacific Northwest, recreational divers are now trained to track the health of sunflower sea stars, providing vital data that helps researchers protect these



Members of the non-profit Combat Wounded Veteran Challenge (CWVC) and MOTE (Marine Laboratory and Aquarium), an independent research institution, stick a micro fragment of coral on a reef rock to help restore corals reefs, about 2,600 feet (800 meters) offshore Key West, Florida on July 13, 2023.

keystone species. This democratization of science has turned a simple vacation activity into a mission of restoration.

Travelers visiting coastal regions are no longer just passive observers of the beauty; they are becoming active participants in its preservation. "We used to just come for the sun and the surf," says one volunteer in the Florida Keys. "Now, we spend one morning of our trip out on the reef, clearing invasive species and checking the health of the coral we helped plant last year. It makes the va-

cation feel meaningful."

### Healing the blue carbon sinks

One of the most inspiring developments in this national movement is the focus on "Blue Carbon"—the carbon captured by the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems. Coastal communities in the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf Coast are leading massive replanting efforts for seagrass and salt marshes. These ecosystems are powerhouses of restoration, filtering water and providing nurseries for countless marine species.

What makes these projects unique is their community-led nature. Local fishing cooperatives, once at odds with conservationists, are now the primary champions of these "living shorelines." They have seen firsthand how healthy marshes lead to healthier fish stocks. By blending traditional ecological knowledge with modern restoration techniques, these communities are creating a sustainable cycle of growth that benefits both the economy and the environment.

### A future of abundance

The success of these marine restoration projects is sending a clear message: the narrative of "inevitable decline" for our oceans is being rewritten. In Southern California, the restoration of giant kelp forests has led to the return of vibrant ecosystems that had been dormant for decades. The sight of leopard sharks and bright orange Garibaldi fish weaving through golden kelp canopies is a testament to what happens when humans decide to be a "keystone species" for good.

As these success stories multiply, they create a "ripple effect" of inspiration. Schools along the coast are incorporating marine restoration into their physical education and science curriculums, ensuring that the next generation grows up with a deep-seated connection to the water.

### Your coastal connection

The beauty of the "Marine Restoration" movement is that it invites everyone to the table. Whether you are a lifelong resident of a coastal town or a traveler visiting for a week, there is a place for you in the tide. We are learning that the ocean isn't just a backdrop for our lives; it is a living, breathing partner that thrives when we offer our care. □



A vehicle kicks up dust during a long-duration heat wave which is impacting much of California on July 9, 2024 in Death Valley National Park, California.

In a world that often feels increasingly loud, a profound silence is reclaiming the American wilderness. The National Park Service (NPS) has reported a record-breaking trend for the current travel season: "Quiet Growth." While iconic landmarks remain popular, a new generation

of travelers is bypassing the crowded photo-ops in favor of the deep, restorative stillness found in the country's hidden gems.

From the star-filled basins of Nevada to the fog-drenched forests of Isle Royale, the American public is rediscovering the value of silence as

## National parks witness record "quiet" growth

a natural resource.

### The Search for "Soundscape Integrity"

For decades, the metric of success for a National Park was the sheer volume of visitors. Today, the metric is shifting toward "Soundscape Integrity." Travelers are trading the bustling boardwalks of Yellowstone for the wind-swept silence of Great Basin National Park. This shift toward "Quiet Tourism" is helping to distribute foot traffic more evenly across the 63 National Parks, protecting over-visited ecosystems while bringing vital support to lesser-known wilderness

areas.

"People aren't just looking for a view anymore," says one park ranger in the North Cascades. "They are looking for a feeling. They want to hear the sound of a hawk's wings or the trickle of a snowmelt stream without the hum of a distant engine. They are coming here to listen to the Earth breathe."

### The Health of the Silent Trail

The benefits of this trend extend beyond conservation. Modern research into "Forest Bathing" and acoustic ecology suggests that even a few hours of natural silence can significantly lower cortisol

levels and improve cognitive function. This has turned America's quieter parks into "Wellness Destinations."

In the Midwest, Voyageurs National Park has seen a surge in night-sky tourism, where the absence of light and sound pollution allows for a meditative experience under the Northern Lights. Similarly, the "Quiet Parks International" movement is working with the NPS to designate specific wilderness zones as "Quiet Trailheads," where hikers are encouraged to keep voices low and electronics off, preserving the acoustic sanctity of the trail for everyone. □

## Trump's Washington refurbishment sparks national row

### Washington, United States

The project has Donald Trump obsessed. Critics cry corruption and bad taste. Supporters praise the president for cleaning up America.

The ongoing project to refurbish the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool in front of the Washington Monument has transformed a symbol of national unity into yet another focus for discord in Trump's America.

Trump has ordered the long basin, designed to capture reflections of the towering Washington obelisk on the Mall, to be drained and painted in what he calls "American flag blue."

Currently the job is only half done, turning the popular tourist attraction into a fenced-off work site.

The 79-year-old Republican president is taking extraordinary interest in the project -- almost as much as in the enormous ballroom he has ordered built on the site of the White House East Wing, which he abruptly tore down after taking power last year. For opponents, the pool mirrors much of what is wrong in the administration.

They point to the rising cost and reported links between Trump and the contractor. And they question the use of blue paint at an iconic landmark, perhaps most famous as the setting for civil rights leader Martin Luther King's 1963 "I have a dream" speech.

Coming on top of the ball-



Crews resurface the bottom of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool with a new blue coating in Washington, DC on April 25, 2026.

room, Trump putting his name on the side of the Kennedy arts center, and plans for building a giant triumphal arch, it has critics fuming.

Trump's "putting his fingers in everything that he possibly can," Sammy, a young woman from Richmond, Virginia, said Wednesday, declining to give her last name.

"He's so narcissistic," she said. "The city is going to bear the scars of this lunatic for a really long time."

### - Trump the builder -

Trump says it's high time to fix up the pool.

"It was filthy, dirty and it leaked like a sieve for many years," he said in a White House video.

Fans say they trust his experience as a real estate developer -- an image he

has cultivated to leverage support for his call to remake not just public buildings, but the nation's economy and politics.

"He knows what he's doing with all his buildings," said Elizabeth Miller from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, while visiting the Lincoln Memorial. "He makes America proud by cleaning everything up." Trump backers also point out that the Reflecting Pool long had maintenance issues. Then president Barack Obama's administration spent \$34 million trying to fix it up.

Trump said he was rejecting a \$300-million, three-year project to replace the stone in the basin, and would instead turn to a swimming pool contractor he knew who could resurfacing the

place and coating it blue. This, he said, would cost a mere \$1.5 million or so. For Russ, who was visiting from Arizona and likewise did not want to give his last name, that seems like a deal.

"If it's cheaper, quicker and just as effective, why should we waste tax money? I don't see any downside to it," Russ said.

### - Murky water, murky finances -

But according to reporting in The New York Times, that supposedly bargain price tag is already ballooning to \$13 million.

The Times also reported that the government gave a no-bid contract for the job to a construction company in Virginia that had done previ-

ous work for Trump, bypassing the requirements to seek competing bids.

According to the report, the government cited urgency to get the job done by July 4th, marking America's 250th birthday.

Trump has since said he doesn't know the contractor and has not used the company before.

But it troubles Margaret Herro, a tourist from Wisconsin. "I understood we had some sort of a process to clean up our national monuments, and I don't feel like he went through that process," she said. "It's a bit of a dictator approach."

### - What next? -

The non-profit group Cultural Landscape Foundation has sued to stop the makeover, calling the blue paint job "desecration."

That has not stopped work. But beyond the political and symbolic controversies, there are already doubts over whether the Reflecting Pool will be fixed.

"It's not the right solution," said an engineer visiting from Maryland who only gave his name as Obe. "They needed to fix the drainage and not just paint it blue to make it look bright."

Joining tourists at the Lincoln Memorial on Wednesday, Gregory Scott from Atlanta echoed a question on the lips of supporters and opponents of Trump alike.

"What is he going to do next?" □

## U.S. Fed board names Powell temporary chief pending Warsh swearing-in

### Washington, United States

The U.S. Federal Reserve's board named outgoing head Jerome Powell as temporary chair on Friday pending the swearing in of his successor, Kevin Warsh, who was confirmed by the Senate earlier this week.

"This temporary action to name the incumbent as chair pro tempore is consistent with past practice during similar transitions between chairs," the central bank said in a statement. Powell's second four-year term as chair ended on Fri-

day.

He will now serve as temporary chair until Warsh, who was nominated by US President Donald Trump and faced an arduous confirmation process, is sworn in. The Federal Reserve has so far offered no date for when the incoming chair is to take his oath of office.

On Wednesday, the US Senate voted 54 to 45 in favor of Warsh, with Republicans holding a slim majority and ensuring Trump's nominee was confirmed.

The process had earlier

been held up by lawmakers over objections to a US Justice Department criminal investigation into Powell, which the outgoing chair had described as being designed to exert pressure on the Fed over monetary policy making.

In a statement, Fed Governors Stephen Miran and Michelle Bowman -- both Trump nominees -- said they approved Powell's appointment to a temporary term pending Warsh's induction, but did not sup-



U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell speaks during a press conference after announcing monetary policy decision at the Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington, DC, on April 29, 2026.

port the term being indefinite.

"Given that we do not support an unlimited time-

frame for temporary chair designation, we cannot support this action," they said. □

# Drones to fight school shooters? One US company says yes

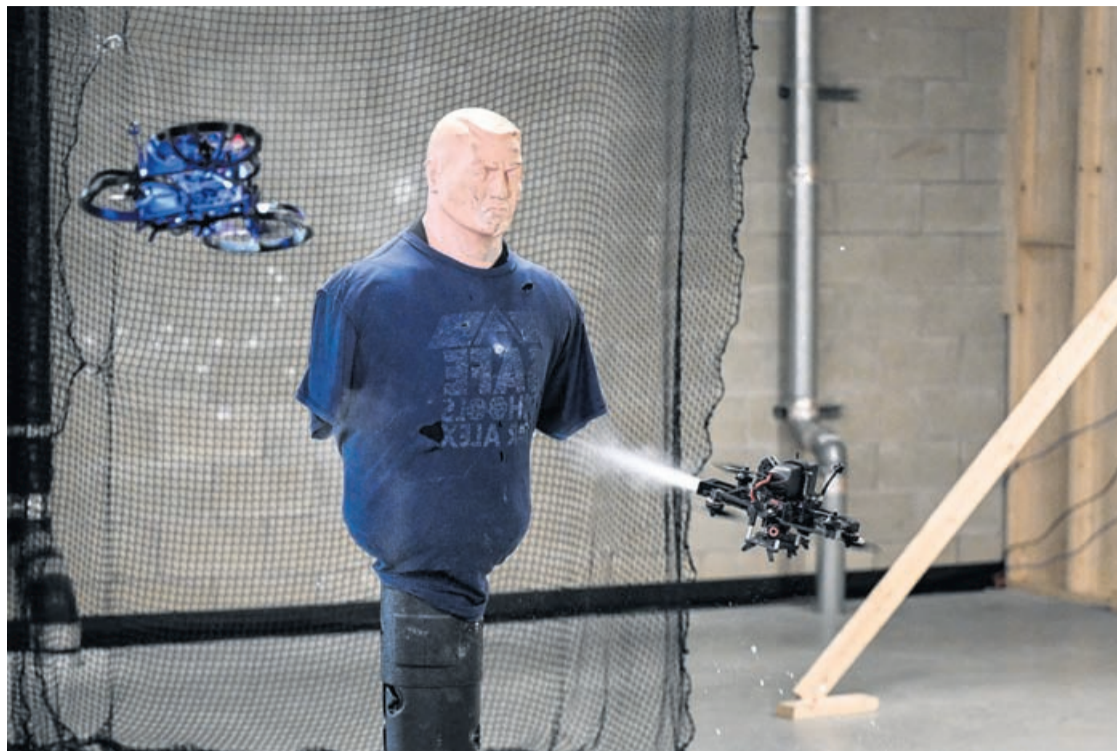
## Austin, United States

A new idea for combatting America's horrific problem of school shootings is to unleash an unarmed drone to confront the attacker, like a giant buzzing insect. It is the brainchild of a company called Campus Guardian Angel, which has pilot programs using the technology in Georgia and Florida, with growing interest in Texas. These drones have not yet been battle-tested, however.

The approach seems to reflect that part of America which says the way to address recurrent school shootings -- part of the country's broader gun violence epidemic -- is not with stricter gun control laws but rather with weaponry, such as giving teachers guns.

The company says the new approach would work like this: when a potential shooter enters a school, a teacher hits an alarm on their cell phone to alert the police and as officers rush to the scene, a drone is activated from a pre-established position inside the school as a first line of defense.

These small, black, roughly square drones weighing about two pounds (one kilo) are piloted by humans in the Texas state capital Austin and can actually buzz



**A drone fires inert gas at a mannequin, during a demonstration on how to neutralize a shooter in a school, held at the headquarters of the startup "Campus Guardian Angel" on May 8, 2026, in Austin, Texas.**

around inside the school by navigating 3D maps that Campus Guardian Angel will have made beforehand. The drones do not shoot bullets or any other kind of projectile.

Rather, they are designed to disable the attacker by flying right into him or her or spraying them with pepper gel. Khristof Oborski, Campus Guardian Angel's director of tactical operations, said the firm's CEO Bill King observed that small drones were highly effective in attacks on the battlefield in the

war in Ukraine.

"So he started thinking about how can you introduce this type of system to be able to combat a growing problem in the United States, with school shootings," Oborski said.

Oborski explained that what the drone actually does depends on what the shooter or potential shooter does. If a child with a gun is walking in a school corridor, the drone has two-way radio so human operators can talk to the attacker and try to per-

sue him or her to put down the weapon, Oborski said.

The operators are in constant contact with police so officers can, say, be guided to where the attacker is.

If the assailant is actually shooting people, "we go straight to either kinetic impacts or we use our less lethal JPX pepper gel on the suspect," Oborski said.

In 2025, US schools endured 233 incidents involving firearms, according to a data base called IntelliSee.

One of the worst recent school shootings was in

Uvalde, Texas in 2022, with 19 children and two teachers shot and killed. It took police 77 minutes to move in close enough to kill the attacker.

## - 'To be the nerd' -

Campus Guardian Angel offers its services with yearly contracts, the fee depending on the size of the school and how many buildings it has.

Besides the pilot programs in Florida and Georgia, the company says some parents in Houston are interested in getting the drones set up in their kids' schools.

"The best-case scenario is we put this in every single school in America and then never have to use it, right? Because it's got a deterrent quality to it," said King, a former Navy SEAL.

He said he is often asked if the drones are operated by artificial intelligence and the answer is no, which King said people find reassuring.

Alex Campbell, a 30-year-old operator in this system and professional drone-racing competitor, describes himself as more of a nerd than a soldier.

"To be the nerd behind the scenes, to help the heroes on this Earth saving us from the bad things happening, it's really fulfilling to be able to have a hand in that," Campbell said. □



**Dogs are walked in The Village of Abacoa condominium complex where the condo association will begin testing dog feces to match its DNA to the dogs whose owners who are not picking up after their pets on June 30, 2011 in Jupiter, Florida.**

## New York, United States

New York lawmakers on Friday proposed a pile of mea-

sures to rid dog poop from the city's streets and parks after residents raised a stink

over the issue. "We've all experienced it before, that instantaneous feeling of deep

# New York seeks to wipe out dog poop problem

regret right after you stepped in it, something that's much too soft to be concrete," Julie Menin, the city council speaker, told reporters.

She cited a 35 percent hike in dog poop complaints in early 2026 from a year earlier, largely blamed on a winter storm that exposed weeks of uncollected waste when snow and ice melted.

The so-called SCOOP Act includes provisions for more dog waste bags in parks and signage to encourage owners to clean up after their pets. It would also launch a pilot program to compost the poop at some city-managed dog runs.

A council vote on the bill is expected at a later date.

Menin said the SCOOP Act is not punitive and instead is aimed at "encouraging dog owners to do the right thing."

"Let's make no bones about it. Today is not about blaming dogs or their loved ones who care for them," she said. "It's about giving people more resources and gentle reminders to better care for their furry friends and their communities."

City lawmakers are also promoting a new NYC Scoop Patrol that will organize community dog-waste cleanup events.

It is illegal to not clean up after your dog in New York, but authorities say that enforcement has been inconsistent. □

## Mines 'draining Turkey's water sources', environmentalists warn

### Ankara, Turkey

Guney was once a water-rich village fed by 50 springs in Turkey's western Usak province, but since a gold mine opened 20 years ago, they have all dried up.

"Before, you only had to drill 60 metres to find water," said Ugur Sumer, environmental activist and resident of Guney, which is about 170 kilometres (100 miles) east of the resort city of Izmir.

"Today, even drilling 400 metres yields nothing. The mine has used all our water."

With Turkey hosting COP31 in November, its own environmental record is being scrutinised, and activists have warned about the growing number of water-intensive mining projects as resources dry up.

Since 2000, Turkey has rapidly expanded the number of drilling and mining permits granted, notably for gold and coal. The number reached 410,000 last year after the procedures were streamlined by a new law adopted in July.

"I am convinced this law will speed up the arrival of foreign investment in Turkey," Energy Minister Alparslan Bayraktar said in March while visiting Canada.

While there, he met officials from the Tuprag gold mine in Usak, which is owned by



Protesters march as a man holds a placard reading "No to the mine" during a protest march against mining at the Aybasti Plateau in Ordu Province, northeastern Turkey, on May 8, 2026.

Vancouver-based Eldorado Gold.

Turkey is hoping to hike its gold production from 28 tonnes to 100 tonnes per year "without compromising human health and the environment", Bayraktar said. It also wants to be a major player in global rare earths.

But experts and environmentalists warn this explosion in mining permits is endangering water resources and the economies of rural areas.

Not only does the extraction of metals like gold in-

volve large amounts of water, but it also uses cyanide and releases other pollutants, posing major environmental and health risks.

According to official data, in 2024 mining used 5.8 percent of Turkey's 20.3 billion cubic metres of water consumption four times the amount used in 2016.

### - Farmers' protest -

On the Aybasti plateau in the northeastern Ordu province, villagers turned out en masse earlier this month to protest plans to mine an area they use for

farming.

"Our pastures have been closed off because of an exploratory drilling plan for a gold mine," said Nuriye Dilek, a 48-year-old livestock farmer.

"What are we supposed to do if we can no longer raise livestock? Are we supposed to abandon our land and leave?"

Farming and animal husbandry are the main sources of income for locals in this region known for its hazelnuts, which are exported across the world.

"Once the gold mine

opens, we won't be able to grow hazelnuts here any more," says Omer Aydin, a nut producer and exporter. "What's above ground here is more valuable than what's underground. The real gold is the hazelnuts this country produces," he said.

"We are hearing that 80 percent of Ordu's land has been declared a mining site," he told AFP.

"We're extremely concerned."

Last month, the government's anti-disinformation unit Centre for Combating Disinformation denied claims "a large portion of land" was being actively used for mining.

It said the total area corresponded to "only 0.18 percent of Turkey's surface area", denouncing efforts to "tarnish the mining sector".

### - 'Excessive use of water, chemicals' -

But the increase in mining permits has infuriated environmentalists, including Ozer Akdemir, who says investment in the sector is being prioritised at the expense of pollution risks and harm to local economies.

"Mining uses excessive water and chemicals. The water isn't just used, it's also polluted," explained hydrologist Erol Kesici. □

## Germany's Merz says wouldn't advise young people to move to U.S.

### Berlin, Germany

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Friday he would not advise young people in his country to move to the United States for study or work, in the latest sign of cooling ties between Berlin and Washington.

Last month Merz had a high-profile spat with US President Donald Trump after the chancellor said Iran was "humiliating" Washington at the negotiating table.

Following the comment, Trump who suggested Merz was doing a "terrible" job as leader abruptly announced that the United States would pull 5,000 troops from bases in Ger-

many.

At a gathering of German Catholics in the southern city of Wuerzburg on Friday, Merz garnered applause after saying: "I would not recommend to my children today that they go to the US to get an education and to work."

He cited "the social climate that has suddenly developed" in the United States and said that "even the best educated in America have great difficulty in finding a job".

Merz has traditionally been a transatlanticist in the mould of most centrist German politicians but the relationship with the U.S. has become increasingly

strained under Trump's administration.

"I am a great admirer of America's, but right now my admiration is not increasing," he said, to laughter from the audience.

Even before the row over Iran, Merz had said that a cultural "rift" has opened between the United States and Europe due to the culture wars embraced by Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement.

The Trump administration has charged that Europe faces a "civilisational decline", and has courted far-right parties on the continent.

Trump's threats to annex

Greenland, an autonomous territory of NATO member Denmark, and his cutting back of support to

Ukraine have also frayed ties between the US and its traditional European allies. □



German Chancellor Friedrich Merz applauds as he arrives on stage to attend a panel discussion with young people during the "Deutscher Katholikentag", a congress of the German Catholic people, in Wuerzburg, southern Germany, on May 15, 2026.

## Sci-fi or battlefield reality? Ukraine's bet on drone swarms

### Lviv, Ukraine

Hundreds of AI-controlled robots operating in unison, talking to each other to autonomously attack targets a dystopian vision of the future of war that Ukraine's defense industry wants to make a reality.

Four years into the Russian invasion, the idea known as drone swarms is one of the hottest topics in military tech in a country that describes itself as the world-leader in drone warfare.

"There is a huge interest," military expert Yury Fedorenko told a recent Drone Autonomy conference, held in an undisclosed location in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv.

"No matter who you speak to, they always say: show them to us. Where are they, we want to see!" he added.

The conference was organized by Iron Cluster, a coalition of defense groups operating out of Lviv.

The prospect of drone swarms, groups of drones that can act together and fulfil set tasks without human intervention, has triggered both anxiety and excitement.

"We've been talking about swarm technology for a very long time, and we in the military have been waiting for it even longer,"



An FPV or First-Person View, drone Stalker, using fiber optic, flies during tests at an undisclosed location, on July 10, 2025, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

said Volodymyr "Colt", the head of civil-military cooperation at Ukraine's 412th brigade.

"The only question is when it will happen," he added.

### - 'A few years' away -

Ukrainian military and defense industry figures told AFP Kyiv had made progress in getting the much-hyped technology off the ground.

Others cautioned it remains some way off and that drone swarms were just one part albeit an eye-catching one of the much

broader race toward autonomous warfare.

The appeal is clear.

The swarms would allow a few operators to deploy dozens or hundreds of attack craft simultaneously overwhelming enemy defenses and helping Ukraine's army offset Russia's manpower advantage.

"The main purpose is to save the lives of our servicemen," Andrii Lebedenko, the Ukraine armed forces deputy commander-in-chief, told AFP.

"Today we have such proj-

ects. They're not large-scale, but they're growing... mass deployment is possible in the coming years," Lebedenko said.

### - 'Valid target' -

Defense Minister Mykhailo Fedorov has championed the use of advanced technology to fend off Russian attacks, including launching the Defense AI Center A1.

Its head, Danylo Tsvok, told AFP "drone swarms are currently in the testing phase ... there are a lot of things that we can't say".

Swarmer, a Ukrainian-US company, has emerged as a leader in the field, listing on the US Nasdaq exchange earlier this year.

US CEO Alex Fink told AFP the company had been deploying early swarm technology in combat since April 2024.

Its systems can autonomously deploy multiple drones to an area, when human pilots step in to manually engage a target, or operators select targets and the drones carry out the strikes autonomously.

"It's definitely not at the point where we can trust technology to make strategic decisions or even make tactical decisions about what's a valid target," Fink said in a telephone interview. "We don't want our systems to make that decision. We want the humans to be in charge."

### - 'Manhattan Project' -

At the AI defense conference in Lviv, there was some skepticism.

"Drone swarms are totally overhyped... because they make for a good sci-fi story and a visual image," said Yaroslav Azhnyuk, head of the Fourth Law, which specializes in drone autonomy. Autonomy, he argued, was about more than just drone swarms. □

## Japan 'robot wolves' in high demand to scare off bears

### Tokyo, Japan

A Japanese company making ferocious-looking robot wolves is being swamped by orders after record numbers of fatal bear attacks on humans

last year.

"Monster Wolf" is an animatronic scarecrow with flashing red eyes that howls and growls menacingly to scare away wild animals.

Ohta Seiki, the Hokkaido-

based firm that makes the devices, has already received around 50 orders this year, more than the usual volume for an entire year. "We make them by hand. We cannot make them fast enough now. We are asking our customers to wait two to three months," company president Yuji Ohta told AFP.

"Awareness of bear safety and measures against wildlife damage (on farm products) improved. There was also a growing recognition that our product is effective in dealing with bears," Ohta said.

Orders come mostly from farmers, operators of golf courses and people working outside in rural areas such as in construction.

Bears killed 13 people across Japan in 2025-2026, more than twice the previous high.

More than 50,000 bear sightings were recorded nationwide, more than double the previous record set two years before, according to official data. The animals were seen entering homes, roaming near schools and rampaging through supermarkets and hot spring resorts on an almost daily basis.

The number of bears captured and then culled nearly tripled from a year earlier to 14,601, also marking an all-time high.

Some northern regions also reported in April more than four times as many sight-

ings as last year as the animals emerge from hibernation, local media said.

"Monster Wolf" features artificial fur draped over an assembled pipe frame, attached to speakers, topped with a menacing, open-mouthed face.

For prices starting from around \$4,000 or higher, the system comes with a battery, solar panels, sensors, speakers and other apparatus.

It broadcasts more than 50 kinds of recorded sounds, including human voices and electronic noises, audible up to one kilometre away. The device turns its head from side to side, flashes red LED eyes, while its tail is equipped with blue LEDs. □



A wolf-like robot "Super Monster Wolf" stands beside a rice field to drive away wild animals that cause damage to crops in Kisarazu, Chiba prefecture, on August 25, 2017.

# One Love Foundation Inc. Strengthens Animal Welfare Efforts Through Leadership of Locks 4 Paws Pet Food Pantry

Many may not realize that Locks 4 Paws Aruba Pet Food Pantry has been part of One Love Foundation, Inc. since its inception in March 2023. While One Love Foundation, Inc.'s primary mission is fundraising for and supporting Stimami Sterilisami's national spay and neuter program to help fund FREE sterilization across Aruba, they knew from the beginning that they wanted to do more to help families keep their beloved pets at home and prevent unnecessary surrenders. From that vision, the Locks 4 Paws Pet Food Pantry was born.



One Love Foundation, Inc. will now exclusively manage the pet food pantry, as Locks 4 Paws shifts its focus back to the United States. This transition allows them to continue growing this vital program while staying true to their shared mission of compassionate and humane animal care.

The One Love Foundation, Inc. Pet Food Pantry will remain a walk-in commu-

nity resource located at the open-access shelter, Centro di Control di Cacho (CCC) a safe, judgment-free space where support, compassion, and education come first. The pantry is designed to provide temporary, supplemental feeding for families facing financial hardship, ensuring pets can remain in the homes where they are loved.

Since opening in March 2023, the pantry has been fully funded by generous monthly donations from supporters in the United States. Its core mission is intake diversion helping families care for their pets during difficult times. To receive support, pets must be sterilized through one of Aruba's many FREE spay and neuter clinics, reinforcing One Love Foundation,

Inc.'s commitment to responsible pet ownership.

Nathyy Ventura, whose dedication makes this program possible. She is the lifeline at the CCC and works closely with families to ensure they meet the requirements, provides education and guidance, distributes food and supplies with compassion, and carefully maintains monthly records to track the pantry's monthly impact.

### Pet Food Pantry Impact to Date:

- 2023: 38,105 meals • 1,164 pets • 173 families
- 2024: 87,730 meals • 2,657 pets • 322 families
- 2025: 126,199 meals • 3,504 pets • 431 families
- 2026: 24,169 meals • 795 pets • 90 families (\*through April 2026)

That's thousands of pets who have been able to stay where they belong with the families who love them.

As One Love Foundation, Inc. looks toward the future, they remain commit-

ted to expanding the impact of the Pet Food Pantry while continuing to support Aruba's lifesaving spay and neuter efforts through Stimami Sterilisami. Every bag of food distributed represents more than a meal—it represents hope, compassion, and a commitment to keeping pets with the families who love them. Together with the support of their donors, volunteers, and community partners, One Love Foundation, Inc. will continue working toward a future where no family has to surrender a beloved pet due to temporary hardship, and every animal in Aruba has the chance to live a healthier, safer life.

If you would like to contribute to the pet food pantry or learn more about One Love Foundation, Inc.'s mission and upcoming events, visit [OneLoveFoundationInc.org](http://OneLoveFoundationInc.org) or you can follow them on social media FACEBOOK: One Love Foundation, Inc INSTAGRAM: @OneLoveFoundationInc

## Today is going to be a good day



(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is

19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

### Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara

Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whiptail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.

For more information, visit the website [www.acf.aw](http://www.acf.aw)

### The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the



restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

### Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout as it might get a little windy and rough you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. □

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**AMMF with update on recovering dolphin 'Charlie'**

(Oranjestad)—On Thursday, the Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation (AMMF) published an update on their Facebook page regarding the recovery of an injured dolphin named "Charlie." AMMF is the foundation mainly responsible for rescuing dolphins that appear near the shore, and they have been caring for the injured dolphin day and night.



As the foundation informed, since Monday volunteers and experts have been working 24/7 to give the dolphin a chance to recover. As Aruba Today reported on Wednesday, information received from the Aruba Conservation Foundation indicated that a dolphin had been left behind and was having difficulty staying afloat in the water. AMMF, with support from ACF, was on site where the team took turns carrying the dolphin.

AMMF reported that they are now feeding the dol-

phin and that fortunately it is responding well. The foundation emphasized that their current focus is the dolphin's wellbeing and that they will continue to provide updates throughout the recovery process.

As ACF urged in their Tuesday publication, AMMF continues to stress the importance of ensuring a calm and disturbance-free environment, emphasizing that this is critical for the dolphin's recovery. Therefore, the organization repeated its appeal for the public to maintain a re-

spectful distance. According to their explanation, the group of dolphins is still in the area and any unusual activity could cause panic and stress, and could negatively affect both the rescue efforts and the animals' safety.

At the same time, the foundation is urging authorities to cooperate. Since dolphins are species protected under Aruba's laws, the support and efforts of the authorities are extremely important, the foundation emphasized.

**Clarifying misinformation**

Besides their tireless work, AMMF also had to take time on Thursday to clarify misinformation circulating on social media. Various individuals and media outlets had been spreading false information regarding Charlie's condition. Some have been saying how the dolphin died, while other claims circulating stated that the dolphin had returned to the sea and reunited with the other dolphins, and that there were nearly 100 dolphins in different groups. All of this is

false.

AMMF clarified that the dolphin is alive, recovering, and that volunteers and experts are still caring for the mammal. The foundation also condemned the mockery spreading on social media and called it harmful to the efforts of the team that has been working day and night since Monday to give Charlie the best possible chance of fully recovering.

In Charlie's case, keeping the public properly informed is critical for the dolphin's recovery, and misinformation is something that can easily weaken AMMF's efforts in this rescue operation. AMMF assured that all official updates regarding Charlie will come from AMMF first.

AMMF is asking the community to prioritize the wellbeing of the dolphin currently recovering and not to disturb or harm the creature.

ACF gave several tips on Tuesday, among them for people to keep their distance, avoid causing disturbances with noise, drone use, or large crowds. It is also advised to avoid the affected area as much as possible and respect the instructions of responders on site.

This way we can ensure that the dolphin can recover as quickly as possible and reunite with its group. □

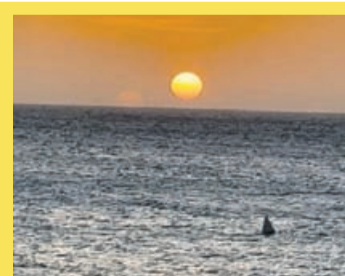
**What Aruba means to Gary Green!**

**ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to give you a shout out! Send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island and you can have a chance to be featured in our next issue.**

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](mailto: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 with-

out 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. For today we received a lovely message from Gary Green from Cape Cod Massachusetts and Naples Florida. He wrote to us saying:



"Aruba to me is: So many beautiful sights to please all walks of life."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!

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## Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some of the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the

white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □

## Sun catcher: The Cododo

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. One of them is the colorful Cododo, who you're bound to meet during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But, among other species, the Cododo is an exception.

### Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants. □

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



## Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

### How to make "funchi"

**(Oranjestad)—One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks), a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!**

### Before we start, get to

know the basics  
What is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a

corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

### Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour/Funchi flour
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

### Directions

Bring water to a boil in a



medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deli-

ciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce.

**Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.**

## Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key

**(Oranjestad)— The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.**

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina",

and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. Made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box." □



**Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.**

## Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost

### Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

#### Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

#### Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

#### Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often

used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

#### Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

#### Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system.

#### Concomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Concomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help



ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

#### Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

#### Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

#### Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruba is Sopi di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 45 Mid-month time

1 Lone Star staters

7 Cain's brother

11 Salem's state

12 Concert highlight

13 Coped

14 Archaeologist's find

15 City on the Passaic

17 Almanac bit

20 Assignments

23 Spanish gold

24 Discipline

26 Earth: Prefix

27 Vacuum lack

28 Low digit

29 Not neat

31 Sturgeon eggs

32 Cut's counter-part

33 Munich mister

34 Louisiana school

37 Doofus

39 Reduce to only the best

43 Workers' home

44 Concert bonus

46 Like ranked players

**DOWN**

1 Male turkey

2 Important time

3 Struck out

4 Deal maker

5 Network junction

6 Skiing surface

7 Houston team

8 Reader's destination

9 Shade source

10 High tennis hit

16 Isolated

17 Mist over

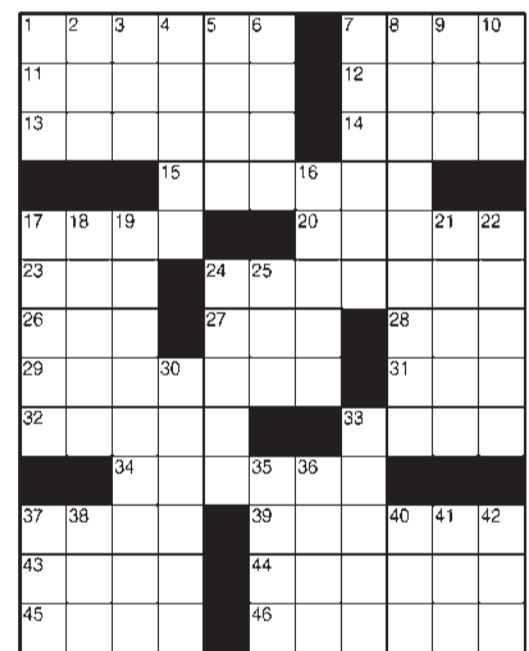
18 Game setting

19 Wood-burning appliance

21 Met performer

22 Snide expression

24 Caravan creature



1-18

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.

1-18

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

PI PC YXQNIY IYQI PC ZXQN

BXQNIY QMR MTI DPXWXC

TV OTNR QMR CPNGXZ.

— KQYQIKQ OQMRYP

**Cryptoquote:** LET US MAKE OUR FUTURE NOW, AND LET US MAKE OUR DREAMS TOMORROW'S REALITY. — MALALA YOUSAFZAI

**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, 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.



**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: ★★★★★

5/16

**Answer to previous puzzle**



Difficulty: ★★★

5/15

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# Why are some people mosquito magnets? Clues are emerging



**Aedes aegypti** mosquitos are kept in cages for reserachers to collect their eggs, at a laboratory of biotech company Wolbito do Brasil, in Curitiba, Parana state, Brazil on March 19, 2026.

## Paris, France

Ever felt like mosquitoes bite you while ignoring everyone else? Scientists are now making progress in deciphering the complex chemical cocktail that makes particular people more enticing to these disease-spreading blood-suckers.

"It's not a misconception mosquitoes are attracted to some people more than others," Frederic Simard of France's Institute of Research for Development told AFP.

"But we are not all magnets all the time," the medical entomologist added. A range of sensory cues can cause mosquitoes to pick one human over another mainly the smell and heat our bodies give off, and the carbon dioxide we exhale.

Female mosquitoes which are the only ones that bite detect these signals with finely-tuned receptors, then choose their target accordingly.

"We have known for over 100 years that mosquitoes are attracted by the carbon dioxide that we exhale this is the first signal that triggers their behavior" when they are dozens of metres away, Swedish scientist Rickard Ignell told AFP.

Within around 10 meters, "mosquitoes will start detecting our odor, and in combination with carbon dioxide," this attracts them even more, said the senior author of a recent study on the subject.

As they get closer, body temperature and humidity make particular humans even more enticing.

### - Blood type doesn't matter -

However some popular theories on this subject do not hold water.

The idea that mosquitoes prefer particular blood types "has no scientific ba-

sis," Simard said.

"There have been some studies, but only involving very few people," he said. "Nor is it related to skin, eye or hair color," he added. Odor, on the other hand, matters greatly.

"A soup of molecules produced by our microbiota is more or less appealing to mosquitoes," Simard explained.

Humans release between 300 and 1,000 different odorous compounds, research has shown, but scientists are only just beginning to understand which ones attract mosquitoes.

For Ignell's recent study, the researchers released *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes known for spreading yellow fever and dengue on 42 women in a lab, to see which ones they preferred. "We have shown that mosquitoes use a blend of odorous compounds (we identified 27 that the mosquitoes will detect, out of the possible 1,000) for their attraction to us," Ignell said.

The woman the mosquitoes most liked to bite which included pregnant women in their second trimester produced a large amount of a particular compound made by a breakdown of the skin oil sebum.

That even a small increase of this compound called "1-octen-3-ol", or mushroom alcohol made a difference came as a surprise, Ignell emphasized. "Mosquitoes are fascinating creatures," he added. □



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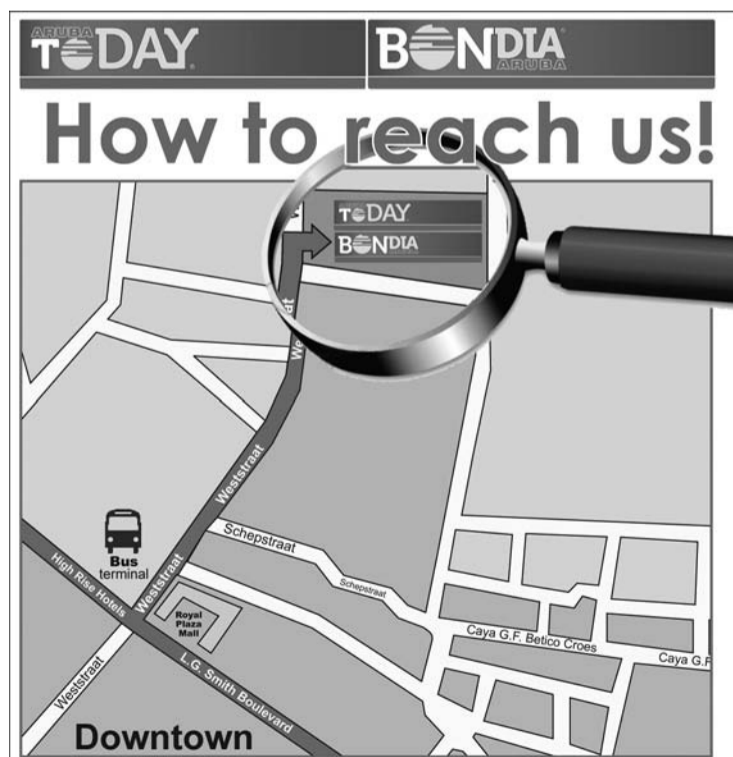
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<b>Oranjestad Hospital</b> 7:00 pm/10:00pm Tel. 527 4000	<b>San Nicolas IMSAN</b> 24 HOURS Tel. 524 8833
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<b>Oranjestad: Eagle</b> Tel. 587 9011	<b>San Nicolas: Centro Medico</b> Tel. 584 5794
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### OTHER

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

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<b>Police Sta. Cruz</b>	<b>527 2900</b>
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<b>Police Tipline</b>	<b>11141</b>
<b>Ambulance</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>Fire Dept.</b>	<b>115</b>
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<b>Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)</b> Tel. 583 5400	<b>Centre for Diabetes</b> Tel. 524 8888
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Harry Styles: from teen heart-throb to music icon

**London, United Kingdom**

A decade after One Direction, Harry Styles has cemented his status as one of the world's biggest pop stars, blending magnetic stagecraft with a modern vision of masculinity.

On Saturday, the British singer will open a new months-long tour with his first date in Amsterdam after launching his fourth album earlier this year.

"Kiss All The Time. Disco, Occasionally" was released on March 6 and shot straight to the top of the charts in some 20 countries, including Britain, France and the United States.

It was a spectacular follow-up to "Harry's House", which was released in 2022 and won album of the year at the Grammy Awards.

Spotted at just 16 on The X Factor television talent show, Styles rose to global fame in the chart-topping band formed in 2010 alongside Niall Horan, Zayn Malik, Louis Tomlinson and Liam Payne.

With their catchy pop-rock sound, One Direction, or 1D as they became known, sold nearly 70 million records before splitting up in 2016.

"He has never ever talked about his time in One Direction with any kind of deri-



**British singer Harry Styles performs on stage during the BRIT Awards 2026 at the Co-op Live arena, in Manchester on February 28, 2026.**

sion," said Hannah Banks, a creative industries specialist at Australia's University of the Sunshine Coast.

"And I think that helps because all of One Direction fans which was a huge, huge amount of people came with him. He has just built upon that by doing slightly different music." Styles quickly established his credentials as a solo artist.

His self-titled debut album in 2017 was followed in 2019 by "Fine Line", which

included the smash hit "Watermelon Sugar" and brought huge commercial success.

In the intervening years he has attracted a growing, more diverse fanbase.

"He's gone from a highly managed and manufactured boy band member to a man who's doing his own thing," said Sophie Cridland, a 37-year-old teacher and fan, pointing to his shift toward pop and electronic influences.

His album "Harry's House" and his 2021 to 2023 "Love

On Tour" sealed his transformation as someone who has "brought a bit of the flair back" to what some see as an increasingly bland male pop landscape.

He is set to play a record 12 shows at London's 90,000-capacity Wembley Stadium in June, followed by a 30-date residency at New York's Madison Square Garden from late August. The tour wraps up in December in Sydney.

### - Pushing boundaries -

He has also turned himself

into a style icon.

In 2020, Styles became the first man to appear solo on the cover pages of US Vogue, wearing a Gucci lace dress in one shot and a crinoline skirt by gender-fluid designer Harris Reed in another.

From sequined jumpsuits to flamboyant feather boas, skirts and pearl necklaces, his outfits recall stars such as David Bowie and Freddie Mercury, "who were also famous for pushing gender boundaries", said Banks.

For fashion designer Nik Shimmin, Styles is "a breath of fresh air" who embodies "a version of modern-day masculinity that a lot of people want to see".

Styles has consistently declined to label his sexuality, which has sparked some accusations of "queer-baiting" adopting queer aesthetics without clearly identifying with the LGBTQ community.

Publicly, he has only confirmed relationships with women.

According to the tabloid press, he became engaged in April to US actress Zoe Kravitz.

He has previously dated film director Olivia Wilde, as well as American superstar Taylor Swift and reality television personality Kendall Jenner. □

## 'Better than the Oscar': John Travolta gets surprise Cannes prize

**Cannes, France**

Hollywood star John Travolta was given a surprise lifetime achievement award at the Cannes Film Festival Friday as he premiered the first movie he has ever directed.

The man who became an icon overnight with "Saturday Night Fever" was visibly moved as he accepted the honorary Palme d'Or before the screening of "Propeller One-Way Night Coach", which is based on a children's book he wrote. "I just can't believe it. This is beyond the Oscar, really," he said as he accepted the honorary Palme d'Or.

"My favourite movies in the history of my life have always been the winners of the Palme d'Or."

Travolta who has never won an Oscar revived his flagging career with his iconic turn as hitman

Vincent Vega in Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction", which won the festival's Palme d'Or top prize in

1994. Many critics hailed it as his greatest performance, one that has since gone down in cinema history. Cannes had kept the award under wraps until Travolta walked on stage for the premiere.

Beyond the award, Travolta, 72, said he was hugely surprised to have his directorial debut, which stars his daughter, Ella Bleu Travolta, accepted at the world's most prestigious film festival.

He said when its director Thierry Fremaux told him in November that "it would be the first film ever accepted that early I cried like a baby.

"I had no expectation my

film would be accepted," he added.

A lifelong aeroplane nut, "Propeller One-Way Night Coach" is an autobiographical tale that unfolds in the golden age of aviation.

It tells of a young airplane fan making a one-way trip to Hollywood with his mother.

"This is the blueprint of my life," said the actor, sporting a beard and a beige beret.

"Everyone that was in the movie is sitting in the audience right there, my family. "And this is why this film exists and why I exist as an artist because of those people right there," he added, motioning to his family and crew. □



**U.S. director, screenwriter and writer John Travolta receives an honorary lifetime achievement Palm d'Or award prior to the screening of the film "Propeller One-Way Night Coach" at the 79th edition of the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France on May 15, 2026.**

## Smalley seizes PGA lead with Matsuyama making a charge

### Newtown Square, United States

Alex Smalley, chasing his first PGA Tour title, grabbed a one-stroke lead in Friday's second round of the PGA Championship as cold and windy Aronimink played havoc with contenders.

The 29-year-old American, among seven co-leaders on three-under par after day one, birdied the par-five 16th and par-four 18th to reach five-under while bigger names struggled on Aronimink's sloped greens. Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler tumbled from a share of the lead with three bogeys in his first four holes, missing his first six fairways after hitting 13 of 14 Thursday.

Smalley, a back-nine starter, grinded out six pars, the most spectacular on a 19-foot putt at the 15th, then reached the green in two at the par-five 16th to set up a tap-in birdie that gave him the solo lead.

At 18, Smalley sank a birdie putt from just inside 15 feet, becoming the first player this week to reach five-under, although it was short lived as he made a bogey at the first hole, missing an



**Alex Smalley of the United States chips onto the ninth green during the second round of the PGA Championship at Aronimink Golf Club on May 15, 2026 in Newtown, Pennsylvania.**

eight-foot par putt.

Smalley has top-20 finishes in his past four PGA Tour starts, including second at the pairs event in New Orleans and seventh two weeks ago at Doral.

Also making a charge in tough conditions was Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters champion who was three-under through 17 holes in his second round.

Matsuyama, a back-nine starter, sank birdie putts from 23 feet at 13, eight feet at the third, five feet at the par-three fifth and, after a bogey at six, from 20 feet at the seventh.

Top-ranked defending champion Scottie Scheffler tumbled from a share of the lead with three bogeys in his first four holes, missing his first six fairways after hitting 13 of 14 Thursday. Scheffler had been part

of the largest 18-hole co-leader pack in a major since 1989 with Smalley, Germany's Martin Kaymer and four late starters -- Australian Min Woo Lee, Japan's Ryo Hisatsune, South African Aldrich Potgieter and Germany's Stephan Jaeger.

Kaymer made bogeys on five of the first seven holes to stumble back.

Scheffler found thick left rough off the 10th tee,

plunked his approach short of the green, punched to 19 feet then missed his par putt.

He had a similar path to bogey at 12, missing a 10-footer for par, and added a three-putt bogey at 13 before making a tap-in birdie at the par-three 17th.

Fellow American Patrick Reed, the 2018 Masters winner, made a five-foot birdie putt at the fourth to briefly share the lead on three-under.

Two holes later, Reed made a three-putt bogey, becoming the last player to take his first bogey of the week.

England's Justin Rose opened with a double bogey at the 10th and added another at 14, soaring to four-over, two beyond the projected cut line.

Six-time major winner Rory McIlroy, the reigning Masters champion, spent hours on the practice range Thursday evening after spraying tee shots in an opening-round 74, making bogeys on five of the last six holes.

Not since Payne Stewart in 1979 has a PGA winner opened on 74. □

## Vingegaard powers to maiden Giro stage victory

### Italy

Jonas Vingegaard ignited his Giro d'Italia title bid on Friday with a brilliant stage seven victory on the formidable Blockhaus climb in the Apennines.

The two-time Tour de France champion, who is bidding to complete a career sweep of the three Grand Tours after winning last year's Vuelta a Espana, finished 13 seconds clear of Felix Gall to complete his set of stage wins on all three of the 21-day races. Former Giro winner Jai Hindley of Australia was a further 49 seconds back in third place.

"Today we just wanted to go for the win and I'm extremely happy that I was able to finish it off," said Visma's Vingegaard. "My teammates did an amazing job today."

Vingegaard's first Giro stage win laid down a serious marker to the field in his race debut.

He was over six minutes behind overall leader Afonso Eulalio heading into the day, but took almost three minutes out of that advantage.

The Dane is now second in the general classification, 3min and 17sec behind Eulalio and 17sec clear of third-placed Gall.

"I'm definitely happy that I could take back some time," added Vingegaard. "It was a good day for me, a good day for us... To take back some time on my opponents, it's a good day for us."

Portuguese rider Eulalio took the pink jersey by winning a rain-lashed fifth stage earlier this week.

Friday's race developed

on the brutal final Blockhaus climb with winds buffeting the riders, a 13.6km ascent with an average 8.4-percent gradient.

Former Tour de France winner Egan Bernal and Movistar's Enric Mas were both dropped by an ever-shrinking peloton.

Vingegaard attacked with six kilometres remaining, dropping Eulalio, with only Giulio Pellizzari able to follow the Visma team leader. The Dane attacked again on the steepest part of the climb, though, and this time Pellizzari was unable to keep pace.

The 29-year-old managed to stay ahead of a fast-finishing Gall, although the Austrian dug deep to limit the time lost.

"At first I was a bit annoyed that I couldn't follow the Italian and Jonas, but in the end it was the right choice

and it was good that I did my own pace," said Gall.

Eulalio crossed the line two minutes and 55 seconds behind, two seconds ahead of Bernal, achieving his goal of holding onto the pink jersey heading into Saturday's 156km eighth

stage from Chieti to Fermo. "It was one of the objectives for today," said Eulalio. "I tried to suffer as much as possible."

Pellizzari paid for his efforts to stay with Vingegaard, finishing fourth on the day. □



**Team Visma Lease a Bike Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 7th stage of the Giro d'Italia 2026 - Tour of Italy cycling race between Formia and Blockhaus, Italy, on May 15, 2026.**

# Can World Cup fuel North America's soccer boom?

## Los Angeles, United States

Long considered soccer's last great unconquered market, North America has embraced the beautiful game to a stunning degree over the past few decades and the upcoming World Cup could accelerate that boom.

Visit Miami's Nu Stadium one of the roughly dozen Major League Soccer stadiums built across the region in the past decade, and the new home of Lionel Messi and the enthusiasm is impossible to miss.

Or attend a sports bar in Los Angeles for an early morning English Premier League kickoff, and it will likely be packed with fans, most with American accents.

Mia Hamm, an icon of the United States women's multiple World Cup-winning team in the 1990s, told AFP she is still amazed at the number of Americans she sees wearing their favorite club's soccer shirts these days, as she travels around the country.

"You didn't see that when I was growing up playing," she recalled.

"It was just the small soccer community... (now) you can go along the street here in Los Angeles, in the country, people know the



Inter Miami fans celebrate during a Major League Soccer (MLS) regular season football match between Inter Miami CF and Orlando City SC at NU Stadium in Miami, on May 2, 2026

players."

The numbers bear out Hamm's observations.

When American sports fans are asked to name their favorite sport, "football's quite comfortably in third place," behind only American football and basketball, Daniel Monaghan of research firm Ampere Analysis told AFP.

Soccer has edged ahead of baseball since at least 2021, when the survey began, and the gap widened considerably last

year, when 15 percent said soccer and eight percent baseball.

### - Cash cow -

The surge in popularity is matched by an explosion in financial value.

FIFA is expected to make a record \$11 billion revenue from the 2026 World Cup. But soccer dollars were already on the rise before the cash cow of the world's biggest tournament.

Spending on soccer media rights in America including

everything from MLS and US national team games to the various European leagues also surpasses baseball.

According to Ampere, soccer fans skew wealthier and have a propensity to pay more for sports coverage.

In the domestic MLS, 400,000 fans attended this season's opening weekend, and across the 2024 season its total 12.1 million attendance was second only to the English Premier

League worldwide, according to data analytics firm Opta.

The league's transfer fees, though still far short of Europe's top clubs, are starting to reflect that, with MLS clubs splashing \$336 million on player signings last year alone.

Some \$11 billion has been spent on soccer stadiums and training facilities across North America, although that figure includes giant venues shared with the NFL like Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium

New state-of-the-art, soccer-specific homes for New York City FC, Chicago Fire FC and New England Revolution are opening soon.

### - 'Next generation' -

The roots of soccer's rise can arguably be traced back to 1994, when the US last hosted a World Cup.

Back then, football was in its infancy in America, yet it still holds the record for the most attended World Cup to date, with over 3.5 million spectators.

And the deal that granted the global tournament to the US required the country to establish a top-tier domestic league, laying the groundwork for what followed. □

# Sinner's bid to reach Italian Open final held up by Roman rain

## Rome, Italy

Jannik Sinner will have to wait to complete his passage to the Italian Open final after his gripping last four clash with Daniil Medvedev was interrupted by rain on Friday.

Hunting a 33rd straight win

in the ATP's top-ranked tournaments, Sinner was leading 6-2, 5-7, 4-2 when organisers called a halt to play following the second downpour of the day.

Just before 11.00pm local time, over an hour after played was initially

stopped, it was decided to postpone the end of the contest to Saturday, when Coco Gauff will contest the women's final against Elina Svitolina.

The rain came just as Sinner looked to have broken the back of battling Medvedev, who had given the Italian by far his toughest test of the tournament.

Medvedev looked like being blown away when Sinner rattled off the first four games before taking the first set in just 33 minutes.

But any idea that another massacre was on the cards went away when Medvedev won the first three games of the second set and began to get his racket to nearly everything Sinner, who began to show serious signs of tired-

ness, threw at him.

Sinner drew level in the set but repeatedly had to lean on his racket between points and after winning game six was visibly out of breath in his seat, looking out on his feet as he conceded the second set.

But Medvedev started to make mistakes of his own, hitting two consecutive double faults in giving up his serve in game three of the third set, as Sinner took control before the rain stopped play.

Sinner is still favourite to become the first Italian to win the Rome title in five decades, ahead of a potential career Grand Slam at the French Open.

- Ruud rolls into final - Should he get to the final he will have to get past

Ruud, who reached his first title decider since winning in Stockholm in October last year by dismantling Luciano Darderi 6-1, 6-1, another match interrupted by heavy rain.

Ruud, a specialist on clay, dealt with flamboyant Darderi with the minimum of fuss, even with a downpour that forced him to wait nearly two hours to restart a match he was already winning easily.

The Norwegian hasn't won a single set in any of his four matches with Sinner and was destroyed 6-0, 6-1 by him in the last eight last year in one of the most one-sided matches ever seen at the Foro Italico.

"It will be a tough match no matter who it is," said Ruud after his match. □



Italy's Jannik Sinner celebrates a point against Russia's Daniil Medvedev during their semi-final at the ATP Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome on May 15, 2026.