



Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

## A guide for the perfect picture: The most Instagrammable places in Aruba



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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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# Trump 'in excellent health' but should lose weight: presidential physician

## Washington, United States

Donald Trump's doctor said he was in "excellent health" but advised him to lose weight, the White House said Friday, after the US president's annual medical check-up weeks before his 80th birthday.

Republican Trump, the oldest president ever inaugurated, has repeatedly boasted about his mental and physical vigor compared to his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden.

But Trump's medical and dental check-up on Tuesday at the Walter Reed Military Hospital near Washington followed questions about his apparent sleepiness in meetings and bruising on his hand. "President Trump remains in excellent health, demonstrating strong cardiac, pul-



US President Donald Trump rides in his motorcade as he departs after a visit to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, on May 26, 2026.

monary, neurological, and overall physical function," said Trump's doctor, US Navy Captain Sean Barbabella, in

a memo published by the White House.

The three-page memo provides an overview of Trump's physical examination and diagnostic testing, in which Barbabella concludes that the leader is "fully fit to carry out all duties of the Commander-in-Chief and Head of State."

"Preventative counseling was provided, including guidance on diet, recommendation to take a low-dose aspirin, increased physical activity, and continued weight loss," it said.

According to the memo, Trump -- who stands at six foot three inches (191 cm) tall -- weighs 238 pounds (108 kilograms), 14 pounds (6.4 kilograms) higher than his last full annual medical in April last year. Trump's cardiac age is estimated to be "approximately 14 years younger than his chronological age."

Trump scored "30 out of 30" in the cognitive assessment.

The president has spoken dozens of times about "acing" a cognitive test that he claims his predecessors have not taken.

### - 'Frequent handshaking' -

Trump, who turns 80 on June 14, is on three medications, two of which are designated for cholesterol control and the third being aspirin for "cardiac prevention."

Since returning to office, the Republican has often appeared with bruising on his right hand, usually covered with make-up.

"Examination of the dorsal hands revealed ecchymosis (bruising), consistent with minor soft tissue irritation related to frequent handshaking in the setting of aspirin use for cardiovascular prevention," the memo said regarding Trump's bruised hands.

During a number of White House events, the president has also been seen apparently closing his eyes for several seconds, although he has repeatedly denied dozing off.

Last summer, the White House disclosed that he had been evaluated for swelling in his legs and diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency -- a common condition in which faulty vein valves allow blood to pool, causing swelling, cramping and skin changes.

The revelation came after Trump was seen with swollen ankles on a number of occasions.

The memo also noted "scarring of the right ear consistent with prior gunshot injury."

Trump was the target of an assassination attempt during a rally in Butler, Pennsylvania in 2024. A gunman fired several shots, killing a rally goer and lightly wounding the president in the ear.

### - 'Perfect' health -

Trump, for his part, said Tuesday's medical went "PERFECTLY" in a post on his Truth Social platform shortly after the appointment.

The White House later posted a picture of him on social media with the caption: "PERFECT BILL OF HEALTH!"

Following the president's check-up, US media reported that the White House had broken with precedent by not releasing the report, before it did so three days later.

The White House normally releases a summary of presidential physicals within hours or days, but the extent of the detail it gives is entirely at its own discretion. □

Paseo Herencia

## WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS 8PM

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

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# Famed Washington arts center ordered to take down Trump's name

## Washington, United States

A US judge on Friday ruled that the famed Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts had been illegally renamed after President Donald Trump and that his name must be taken down.

A furious Trump reacted by saying that he was giving up control of the Washington arts venue, which he seized at the start of his second term last year by naming himself its chairman.

"The Court has concluded that the Board overstepped its statutory bounds by unilaterally renaming the Kennedy Center after President Trump," Judge Christopher Cooper ruled.

The arts venue in the heart of the US capital was named in honor of slain president John F. Kennedy. Last December, the center's governing board, which Trump stacked with his allies, voted to rename itself the "Trump Kennedy Center."

The Republican president's name was soon added to the facade in large golden



A general view shows the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC on January 10, 2026.

letters above that of Kennedy.

Cooper's ruling stated that only Congress has the right to change the center's name and gave the administration 14 days to remove Trump's name from the facade and any materials linked to the venue.

"Congress gave the Kennedy Center its name, and only Congress can change

it," the ruling said.

Cooper also issued a temporary block on Trump's demand to close the Kennedy Center for two years of renovations, which was due to start in July.

Trump lashed out at the judge and said he was washing his hands of the "dying" venue.

"We are going to be work-

ing with Congress to transfer this failing Institution back to them so they can make a determination as to what to do with it," Trump said on his Truth Social network.

"Unless I am free to do what I do better than anyone else, bring this Institution back, physically, financially, and artistically, I have no interest in continuing what

could only be a hopeless journey into 'NEVER NEVER LAND.'"

Trump's lengthy post on the center came as the world was watching for a possible announcement on an Iran peace deal.

Since returning for a second term in January 2025, Trump has taken repeated measures to put his name and image in official spaces -- an abrupt break with US political tradition.

The disbanded US Institute of Peace has been renamed after Trump and his face stares down from huge banners outside the Department of Justice and Department of Agriculture.

The Trump administration is seeking to have his image on a \$250 bill to celebrate the country's 250th anniversary since independence from Britain.

In another upending of tradition, Trump ordered the East Wing of the White House to be torn down -- with little public warning or debate -- to make way for what he says will be a huge ballroom. □

# EU wants to break up with US tech

## Brussels, Belgium

Wary of being vulnerable to the whims of foreign governments, the European Union is preparing far-reaching new moves to ditch American digital companies and Chinese chips in favour of European alternatives.

The EU's technological sovereignty package is among many measures taken by Brussels to slash dependence on foreign firms and boost local manufacturing -- but risks opening up a new front in transatlantic tensions.

The hotly awaited package of new rules on chips, cloud computing and AI will be presented on Wednesday as part of the EU's effort to "reclaim its place in the global race for geo-economic power", a draft strategy document seen by AFP said.

Of particular concern is how much the European Union relies on US cloud

providers, which account for around 70 percent of Europe's market.

Since President Donald Trump returned to the White House last year, Europeans worry that critical digital infrastructure could be brought to a halt by an American "kill switch" if tensions ever reached fever pitch.

Top EU officials don't directly name their target as the United States, but American tech dominates, from cloud computing to social media to e-commerce.

"We need to develop our own capacities. We cannot allow someone trying to influence our own decisions, our own values, our own well-functioning economy and services," EU competition tsar Teresa Ribera said this month.

EU officials often point to Washington's sanctions against International Crimi-

nal Court judges -- imposed by Trump in February 2025 -- to illustrate the grip of US firms. Judge Nicolas Guillo has described how he lost access to his Visa card since it is an American system.

But US envoy to the EU Andrew Puzder has warned against any protectionist moves, while American companies have urged Europe not to keep them out.

"Europe will not be able to pull itself into the AI economy by bringing other people down," Puzder told AFP last month when asked about the plans.

### - Sweeping package -

Wednesday's package will include:

-- the "Cloud and AI Development Act", aimed at speeding up the deployment of data centre infrastructure



This photograph shows two flags of the United States and a flag of the European Union during an interview at US embassy in Brussels on April 9, 2026.

-- a "Chips Act" proposal to reinforce the security of supply for semi-conductors by reducing dependence on foreign providers

-- a push for public authorities to use more open-source software solutions as a way to gain greater control and flexibility and avoid being locked in.

EU lawmaker Oliver Schenk told AFP the package was "not about opposing our

trading partners or closing markets", but said: "Europe must avoid becoming structurally dependent on any single external actor" for AI, cloud and chips.

The draft strategy, which could still change before the announcement, said governments would be expected to conduct "sovereignty risk assessments" for cloud and AI to "improve resilience" and spot European alternatives. □

# AUKUS nations to develop payloads for uncrewed undersea vehicles



**US Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth (C), Thailand's Defence Minister Adul Boonthamcharoen (L), and Singapore's Minister of Defence Chan Chun Sing attend a ministerial roundtable during the 23rd Shangri-La Dialogue summit in Singapore on May 30, 2026.**

(Photo by MOHD RASFAN / AFP)

## Singapore, Singapore

The United States, Australia and Britain are developing high-tech payloads for uncrewed undersea vehicles under their trilateral security partnership, Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth announced on Saturday.

Hegseth met his Australian

and British counterparts on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, where they reviewed progress on the AUKUS pact, aimed at bolstering their presence in the Indo-Pacific and beyond.

"Today, we're pleased to announce the first AUKUS

Pillar 2 signature project, focused on fielding advanced uncrewed undersea vehicles, or UUVs," Hegseth told reporters at a briefing at the US embassy in Singapore.

"This signature project will deliver a suite of highly adaptable multi-mission UUV payloads designed to support undersea operations and maintain our collective advantage in the maritime domain," he said.

AUKUS's Pillar 1 focuses on Australia's acquisition of conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines, while Pillar 2 pools the talents of each nation's defence sector to develop advanced military capabilities.

The pact is framed as supporting a "free and open Indo-Pacific", though it is widely viewed as a bulwark against a rising China,

which strongly opposes it.

British Defence Secretary John Healey said that the planned technology, a "range of cutting edge sensors and weapons systems" for undersea drones, "will rapidly give our forces the very most advanced battlefield technologies".

The systems will be deployed on uncrewed underwater vessels, Healey added.

The protection of underwater infrastructure has been a major topic of discussion at Asia's premier annual defence summit at a swanky Singapore hotel.

"The seabed has become a major field of contest over the past 18 months," Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles earlier told delegates.

"We have witnessed a se-

ries of attacks against subsea critical infrastructure at a scale and frequency that is historically unprecedented."

There has been several incidents in the past two years of seabed cables being damaged by ships, both in the Baltic and around the Asian region.

Nearly all of Australia's internet traffic flows through just 15 subsea cables, Canberra's top diplomat pointed out.

"Our ability to operate as a modern economy and a functioning state, all of it is critically dependent on infrastructure that is exposed, that cannot move."

"As we've now seen demonstrated in the Baltic, (it) can be cut with an anchor in the middle of the night," he said. □

# Energy crunch fuels car pool growth

## New Delhi, India

Rising fuel prices triggered by the Middle East war are driving a sharp increase in carpooling, with a ride-sharing platform reporting a surge in new users seeking cheaper ways to travel.

The world's largest carpooling platform BlaBlaCar said soaring energy costs have pushed 600,000 additional drivers onto the app this year -- 20 percent more than initially projected -- as commuters look to offset the rising cost of fuel.

In India, its single biggest market with more than 20 million users in 2025, the number of passengers has increased by 40 percent since the start of the US-Israeli airstrikes against Iran on February 28.

Last year, the global carpooling leader posted record-breaking figures in the world's most populous country India -- outpacing Brazil with 19 million users and France with seven million, according to Benjamin Retourne, the platform's product director.



**This photograph taken on February 20, 2026 shows BlaBlaCar Chief Product Officer Benjamin Retourne posing for a picture at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi.**

This trend has been more pronounced in countries where fuel price increases driven by the war have been sudden and significant, combined with limited government support, such as in France. The platform works by connecting drivers and passengers willing to travel together between cities to share

costs, with the app in most of its 21 operating nations taking a 20 percent commission.

## - Saves fuel -

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier in May urged the country's 1.4 billion citizens to save fuel by making greater use of carpooling and public trans-

port.

India imports approximately half of its crude oil via the Strait of Hormuz, which Tehran effectively closed in retaliation to US-Israeli strikes launched in February.

Retourne said a decade ago, when BlaBlaCar first launched in India, even "after two or three years, it just

wasn't catching on".

The company, founded in France in 2006, therefore stopped investing in the world's fastest growing economy but kept its application running from its Paris headquarters, unlike many large foreign groups that outsourced their services to India.

Growth finally began to pick up after the Covid-19 pandemic, driven by the country's economic and digital acceleration, as well as word of mouth.

Retourne pointed to a growth in private car ownership as well as rapid urbanisation, with 200 million additional city dwellers over the past decade.

"People are very connected," he said, adding that "today, wherever you go, there is 5G".

That proved to be the "recipe for carpooling to take off".

But he was surprised that a driving factor was not the cost -- but rather to avoid often crowded buses or trains. □

## Two decades later, impacts from Indonesia mud volcano linger

### Sidoarjo, Indonesia

Harwati clasped her hands and offered a prayer on the edge of a sludge lake on the Indonesian island of Java, as dozen of residents gathered to mark two decades since mud volcano eruptions began displacing thousands.

On May 29, 2006, the earth in the Sidoarjo district of East Java province opened up, ejecting pungent, steaming hot mud that swallowed villages and factories. Thirteen people died when an underground gas pipeline in the disaster zone exploded.

The eruptions, which continue to occur, destroyed at least a dozen villages and have displaced tens of thousands of people.

Harwati said the gathering, held on Friday to mark two decades since the disaster, was organised to remind the government that residents are still feeling the impact of the mudflow.

"Even though presidents change, we still hope (the government will) provide justice for us," the 50-year-old told AFP on Saturday, insisting that the disaster was "far" from over.

She demanded the government conduct a thorough examination of the mudflow's impacts on the



**Residents affected by the Lapindo mudflow gather with environmental activists to offers prayers at the embankment of the mud volcano area, marking 20 years since a gas exploration accident triggered a mud flow that inundated more than a dozen villages and permanently displaced tens of thousands of people in Porong, Sidoarjo, East Java province on May 29, 2026.**

(Photo by JUNI KRISWANTO / AFP)

health of nearby residents, saying many locals have suffered from cancers after the incident.

An area of over 600 hectares was swallowed by the mud, according to the government, as efforts to plug it, including with huge concrete balls, have proved ineffective.

The disaster forced Muhammad Irsyad to leave his village in 2012, as he could no longer tolerate pollution that seeped into the well his family relied on for cooking and bathing.

"I was angry when I wanted to take a bath because when we shower, my eyes got stung as soon as the water hits it," Irsyad, 62, told AFP.

Two decades since the disaster, Irsyad said he was still "rearranging" his life, with his family surviving on income earned from their food stall and drinking water sales.

Irsyad's wife Siti Chusniawati said she was "sad" to relocate to a new place, but added that the family had little choice.

"It was tough, but whether we want it or not, we just go on day by day, trying to be able to adapt with this new circumstance," the 48-year-old said.

### - 'Not finished' -

Independent studies alternate blame between oil and gas company PT Lapindo Brantas, which was drilling in the area at the time, and an earthquake that struck two days earlier about 260 kilometres (162 miles) away.

Lapindo -- part of a business empire controlled by Indonesia's powerful Bak-

rie family -- was eventually ordered to compensate victims, but payments took years, triggering angry protests.

The government eventually intervened and loaned the company the funds to expedite the remaining payments.

Irsyad called the use of public money to pay for damages following the disaster an "injustice". He said the company should take responsibility.

Lapindo, which has since changed its name to Minarack Brantas Gas, did not immediately respond to an AFP request for comment, but the firm previously said investigations "determined that no correlation could be proven between the drilling activities and the mud eruption".

Environmental groups have found that groundwater near in area has been polluted following the disaster, causing illnesses for locals, said Melky Nahar, a coordinator of NGO Mining Advocacy Network (JATAM).

"After two decades, the destruction over the health, environment and base of production of people... are not finished," he said.

Irsyad, who moved to his current home some four kilometres away from his old one, said he told his friend that he wished to be buried in his old village. □

## Malaysia requires social media age checks barring under-16 accounts

### Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

(AFP)—Malaysia will require major social media platforms to verify users' ages and bar children under 16 from registering accounts under new online safety rules that took effect on Monday.

The requirements apply to providers with at least eight million users in the Southeast Asian country -- including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube.

But platforms will be given a grace period to implement the measures, the commu-

nications regulator has said, without specifying its duration.

The country is the latest to attempt to restrict young people's access to social media platforms, as concern grows worldwide over their negative impact on child wellbeing.

From Monday, "users below the age of 16 are not permitted to register for social media accounts", according to an FAQ document released by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) before the new rules came in.

Platforms are expected to implement "age verification measures", the FAQ said, including checks against government-issued records such as identity cards or passports.

The regulations under the country's Online Safety Act -- the new Child Protection Code and Risk Mitigation Code -- also require "stronger content governance" on social media.

Platforms must "implement proactive and systemic measures to mitigate harm-



ful content risks" such as "reporting and response mechanisms, advertiser verification measures and the labelling of manipulated content where appropriate".

Failure to comply with the two codes could result in financial penalties for the companies of up to 10 mil-

lion Malaysian ringgit (\$2.5 million), the MCMC said.

### - Global reckoning -

Australia in December became the first country to require TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat and other top sites to remove accounts held by under-16s, or face heavy fines. □

# O'Sullivan clan gathering in Ireland breaks world record

## Castletown Bearhaven, Ireland

Almost 2,000 people with the last names O'Sullivan and Sullivan travelled from around Ireland and the world to meet in County Cork on Saturday, in the largest ever recorded gathering of people with the same surname.

Guinness World Records representatives verified the milestone at the event in the picturesque southwestern town of Castletownbere.

"With a total of 1,848 the

O'Sullivan clan are the new Guinness World Record holders, congratulations!" an official told a cheering crowd.

The feat knocked another common Irish family name -- Gallagher -- off the top spot won in 2007 with a gathering of 1,488 participants in County Donegal, northwestern Ireland.

The surnames O'Sullivan and Sullivan are commonplace in County Cork and southwestern Ireland.

Many from the large international Irish diaspora also arrived to bolster the numbers, presenting passports as proof of their name.

"Where I come from in Boston, there's plenty of us Sullivans, but this is unbelievable," said Kevin Sullivan, 75, looking around at the crowds filing through a primary school where the event was coordinated.

"Everyone I look at here I know is a Sullivan or an O'Sullivan, so it's an incredible feeling," the retired IT executive told AFP with a smile.

Participants passed through turnstiles to provide a preliminary tally before officials circulated through the assembled groups on the school's football pitch for a final count.

Mary Sullivan, one of many Americans of Irish ancestry who attended, said she had "travelled over 3,000 miles" to join the record attempt. The gathering was hosted by the chieftain of the clan, Kelly Sullivan, who was presented with the chain of office in Boston in 2023.

"I feel blessed to have grown



**Lara O'Sullivan, her father Conall O'Sullivan, and her brother Ciaran O'Sullivan pose among participants in a bid to break a world record for the largest gathering of people with the same surname, in Castletownbere, Ireland, on May 30, 2026.**

up as part of the wider Sullivan-O'Sullivan family, we make a team that can't be beat," she told the crowd. The world record bid organiser Jim O'Sullivan from Castletownbere said wet weather early in the day raised doubts about whether enough namesakes would show up.

"But people turned out in their numbers, and we did it. So we're asking the Gallaghers, back on your shoulders now. Next time up, you'll beat us!" he said.

Among the participants who travelled the farthest was Michel Sanchez O'Sullivan who told AFP his grandfather was an O'Sullivan from New York who later settled in Mexico. "As far as we know, we're the only O'Sullivans in Mexico, it's great to be here to get to explore my Irish roots and meet the rest of the family!" the 35-year-old told AFP on Castletownbere's main street, holding his daughter Olivia on his shoulders. □



**The O'Sullivan clan family crest is held by a participant in a bid to break a world record for the largest gathering of people with the same surname, in Castletownbere, Ireland, on May 30, 2026.**

# Rescuers free four more men trapped in semi-submerged Laos cave

## Vientiane, Laos

Four more men trapped in a semi-submerged Laos cave for 10 days were freed on Saturday, rescuers said, after one was successfully brought to the surface a day earlier, but two remained missing.

Lee Kian Lie, a Malaysian rescue diver, told AFP via Messenger that the four were freed after water was pumped out of the cavern. A video he took from the scene showed teams under a makeshift tent attending to four people lying on stretchers and covered with thermal blankets. "Important they already out," Lee said. He declined to speculate on the condition of the two who remained unaccounted for.

The Thailand Rescue Diver Facebook page said in a post that "rescue officials were able to bring out four more people trapped" at about 3:10 pm (0810 GMT)



**This screen grab made from handout video footage taken on May 30, 2026, and provided by Adisak Wongsoraya, shows two men (centre L and centre R, with headlamp) being hugged after they were rescued from a semi-submerged cave in Laos' central Xaysomboun province, northeast of the capital Vientiane. (AFP PHOTO/ ADISAK WONGSORAYA)**

on Saturday.

"A total of five people have now been rescued, while two remain missing," it said. Seven men had been trapped in the cavern in a remote mountainous area of central Xaysomboun province since May 20,

when flash floods stranded them as they searched for gold, early state media reports said.

They were trapped after heavy rains triggered flash flooding that blocked the exit of the cavern.

Five of the men were located alive on Wednesday,

huddling in a narrow shaft around 300 metres (984 feet) from the cave mouth. Rescuers guided a bedraggled and muddy man over unsteady ground to safety on Friday.

- Water pumped from cave

- Rescue efforts had focused on pumping out the monsoon flood waters that trapped the men.

Rescuers had expressed optimism earlier on Saturday about their chances of freeing the four.

Lee, part of a team of specialist cave divers called in to assist, said after arriving at the scene that expectations were "getting more positive", with the water being pumped out and supplies sent in.

There was no mention of the two who remained unaccounted for.

The Lao Saychai Foundation posted a video to its Facebook page on Satur-

day of the man rescued the day before, identified only as Meud, who said the two missing men had gone about 500 metres deeper into the cave than he had. Asked whether he thought they were still alive, he said: "I'm afraid it's too cold there."

Footage filmed by rescue divers earlier in the week showed the five men, now rescued, looking muddy and despondent, complaining of chest pains and hunger pangs.

Thai rescue teams rehearsed extraction procedures outside the cave on Friday with stretchers, ropes and cables, according to images shared on social media.

A new team of specialist divers touched down in Laos later on Friday, including members from Thailand, France, Indonesia and Australia, according to Thai rescuers. □

## Unique fauna of Aruba

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

### Cascabel (rattlesnake, *Crotalus durissus unicolor*)

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

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

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

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

urbanization.

### Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

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

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

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

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

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



### Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

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

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

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

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

### Coneu (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigronuchalis*)

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

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

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

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



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



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

### Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in Mainstreet Oranjestad, check out the wooden swing on Plaza Daniel Leo. This is another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram. Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?



### Mangel Halto

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

### Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!



### "I LOVE ARUBA"

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

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

## Aruba to me

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

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

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## Watch out for Blue Crab Migration near Savaneta

(Oranjestad)—The department of nature & environment in Aruba are urging motorists to watch out for blue crabs crossing the road in Pos Chiquito to make their way to the ocean.

They added a new bright yellow road sign with "Land Crab Crossing" to remind people to be cautious while driving on the highway on Pos Chiquito with blue crabs.

Blue crabs in Aruba are found plenty near the beach areas, especially in Pos Chiquito, because of the amount of mangroves. They are known to dig holes deep in the beach sand in seek of humidity.

The diet of blue crabs consists of decomposed trees, insects, scorpions and rest of dead animals.

Nesting season for blue crabs is between June & July.

### Why protect blue crabs?

Because they are of high value for the ecology of the mangroves. Conserving the blue crabs is crucial for the preservation of mangroves.

Watch out for crossing blue crabs on the highway near Pos Chiquito & Santo Largo.



## Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on

this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center – it is free for all! □

## Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

**(Oranjestad)—Though Aruba’s traffic is relatively easy to manage, driving here—especially if it’s your first time visiting—can be foreign. To help you out, here’s a breakdown of some traffic signs you might encounter on the road.**

### Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday’s issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it’s a circle or triangle—usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

Besides the “50” sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says “bebouwde kom”. These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

### Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to

you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You’ll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a “stop” sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com) for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com)



## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

**(Oranjestad)—If you’re ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can’t recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here’s some information about the beloved Dorado.**

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It’s a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it’s



called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known

among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years al-

though very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing

together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

### Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

**Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).**

# The district of Savaneta: A quick history guide to the island's first capital

**(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.**

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" (Kibrahacha) trees on the island, which were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and

so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

## The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805)

During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them.

In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch mer-



chants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta of-

ficially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.

How Savaneta got its name The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area

was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "savana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th. □

Source: *Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta)* by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.



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**CROSSWORD**

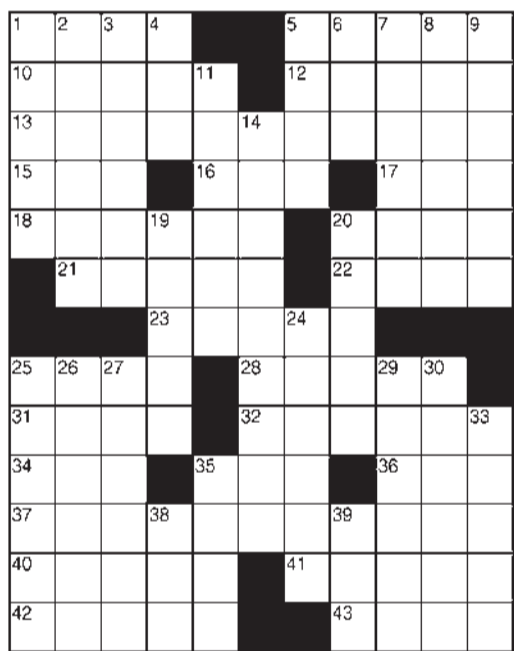
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 41 Tart fruits

- 1 Cries of insight
- 5 Book part
- 10 Dollar divisions
- 12 Dancer Castle
- 13 Exams for absentees
- 15 Airport sched. abbr.
- 16 Tissue layer
- 17 Even score
- 18 Belgrade setting
- 20 On this spot
- 21 Wet, in a way
- 22 March middle
- 23 Become prevalent
- 25 Anxiety about exclusion, for short
- 28 Over
- 31 Privy to
- 32 Trombone parts
- 34 Old auto
- 35 Had lunch
- 36 One — million
- 37 They may be taken on a treadmill
- 40 Shake your booty

**DOWN**

- 1 High points
- 2 Gangster's gun
- 3 Turkey's capital
- 4 Sault — Marie
- 5 Metropolis
- 6 Metal source
- 7 Like some interests
- 8 Complete
- 9 Views again
- 11 Flat on one's back
- 14 Tries out, as a game
- 19 Plains grazer
- 20 Delhi tongue
- 24 Coves
- 25 Historic events
- 26 Boxing combo
- 27 Secured to the dock
- 29 Prolific inventor
- 30 Ready for the body shop
- 33 Impudent
- 35 Invites
- 38 Pitching stat
- 39 Quarterback Manning



1-31

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.

1-31

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

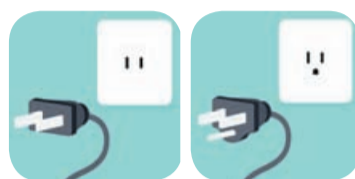
JNEL WXPLY QMLCCH EFYC.  
NE HXZ SXR'C YCXQ FRS JXXU  
FMXZRS XRAL NR F TONJL,  
HXZ AXZJS WNYY NC.

— "ELMMNY GZLJJLM'Y SFH XEE"  
**Cryptoquote:** YOU'VE FAILED,  
YOUR HIGHNESS. I AM A JEDI, LIKE MY FATHER  
BEFORE ME. — "RETURN OF THE JEDI"

**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.

**JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE**

<b>02 TUE</b>	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B
	<b>CARNIVAL MAGIC</b> Arrival: 9:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C
<b>09 TUE</b>	<b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B
	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
	<b>CARNIVAL MARDI GRAS</b> Arrival: 13:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: I
<b>16 TUE</b>	<b>ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B
	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
	<b>SEVEN SEAS MARINER</b> Arrival: 10:00   Departure: 21:00   Berth: I
<b>17 WED</b>	<b>CARNIVAL VISTA</b> Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 16:00   Berth: C
	<b>ALLURE OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: I
<b>23 THU</b>	<b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B
	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
<b>30 TUE</b>	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B
	<b>CARNIVAL MAGIC</b> Arrival: 9:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C

**SUDOKU**

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

**King Classic Sudoku**

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

Difficulty: ★★

6/2

**Answer to previous puzzle**

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

Difficulty: ★

6/1

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# Australian researchers teach brain cells to play 'Doom'



In this photo taken on May 5, 2026, research scientist Daria Kornienko places a CL1 unit containing cortical and hippocampal cells on a cell culture plate, into server racks and available to study via the internet at Cortical Labs' Physical Containment Level 2 (PC2) laboratory in Melbourne.

## Melbourne, Australia

Australian researchers have trained lab-grown brain cells on a silicon computer chip to play the nineties shooter game "Doom" and say they are just scratching the surface of what the neurons could be capable of doing. It's the science-fiction work of biotech boffins at Cortical Labs, who researched and developed the technology that harnesses the workings of the brain's networking system.

Each so-called "biological computer" contains around 200,000 living human brain cells, grown from stem cells that were harvested from blood donations.

Having mastered the simple computer game "Pong", where a paddle is moved up and down to send a ball across a screen, the brain cells have moved on to bigger things.

Initially, the neurons were at the "level of a beginner who's never played a video game before," Alon Loeffler, Cortical Labs' senior application scientist, told AFP.

"Doom" involves a chaotic 3D game-world where the user is required to explore its surroundings and dispatch enemies -- no easy task for a clump of cells.

"They were walking into walls a lot, shooting the walls, turning around, doing funny things like that," Loeffler said. "And then eventually they started targeting the enemies more regularly and correctly."

It's not the cleanest execution, however. One demon

takes several attempts to slaughter, with shots fired in multiple directions before the target is hit. But the mind-bending research proves the neurons can adapt to stimuli in real time and complete goal-directed learning, Cortical Labs say.

## - 'Scratching the surface' -

The researchers converted the digital environment in "Doom" into patterns of electrical signals the neurons on the chip could understand. When an enemy appears, specific electrodes stimulate the neurons on the special chip called a CL1, causing them to react.

Different patterns of neuron activity produce specific responses, such as firing the gun or moving left or right. Researchers monitor the electrical activity of the neurons from a computer screen connected to the CL1, re-



In this photo taken on May 5, 2026, senior scientific specialist Kwaku Dad Abu Bonsrah pipettes nutrients onto neurons on Micro Electrode Array (MEA) chips at Cortical Labs' Physical Containment Level 2 (PC2) laboratory in Melbourne.

resented by thousands of tiny dots.

From this data, the team adjusts their input to influence and train the neuron's activity.

The CL1 isn't limited to computer games -- the chip can be coded to perform a range of applications, from drug screening to AI-like machine learning.

"We are just scratching the surface of what these neural cultures can achieve when integrated in systems like our CL1," said chief scientific and operations officer Brett Kagan.

"Our neural cultures have been explored for a variety of tasks," he said -- everything from "robotics, real-time learning tasks that are similar to AI, as well as healthcare, medicine, disease modeling, drug screening and even personalised medicine".

## - Not 'wacky science' -

Kagan describes the CL1 chip as "a more sustainable and more powerful form of intelligence".

The human brain runs on an estimated 20 watts of power, a level of efficiency that silicon computing and artificial intelligence have not yet been able to replicate. While it's "not aimed to replace what AI is doing" it's intended to "give us abilities that we've never had before", Kagan said. □

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## HEALTH



### DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad Hospital 7:00 pm/10:00pm Tel. 527 4000	San Nicolas IMSAN 24 HOURS Tel. 524 8833
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### PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Sta. Cruz Tel. 585 8028	San Nicolas: Centro Medico Tel. 584 5794
--	---

### OTHER

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

### EMERGENCY

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

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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FAVI- Visually Impaired Tel. 582 5051
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Narcotics Anonymous Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR) Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Trump calls for replacing US 250th concerts with MAGA rally

## Washington, United States

US President Donald Trump called Saturday for the cancellation of upcoming concerts celebrating America's 250th anniversary after several musical acts backed out, saying they should be replaced by a political rally headlined by himself.

"We should have a giant MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN RALLY, for 250, instead of having overpriced singers, who nobody wants to hear, whose music is boring, and yet who do nothing but complain," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform, adding: "Cancel it."

Shortly after they were announced as performers in a Washington concert series around the July 4 holiday, multiple musical acts backed out, with some citing the event's politicization.

The concerts were scheduled to kick off on June 25 as part of a major event on the National Mall orga-



**Cranes work on the construction of a structure on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, DC, on May 29, 2026, for the upcoming UFC fight that US President Donald Trump will host as part of the 250th anniversary of the United States.**

nized by Freedom 250, a Trump-backed public-private entity.

"I understand Artists are getting 'the yips'" about performing, Trump said earlier on Truth Social, one day after a fourth and fifth act announced their departure, out of a total of nine artists

originally announced.

"So I am thinking about bringing the Number One Attraction anywhere in the World, the man who gets much larger audiences than Elvis in his prime...and the man who some say is the Greatest President in

History (THE GOAT!), DONALD J. TRUMP, to take the place of these highly paid, Third Rate 'Artists.'"

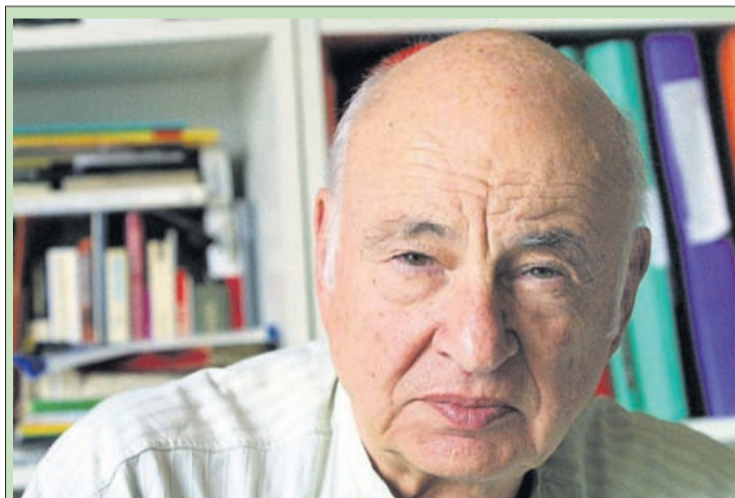
Trump said he was ordering aides to assess "the feasibility of doing an AMERICA IS BACK Rally" on the mall, where he would deliver a speech "rallying the Coun-

try forward like I have done ever since being President!" On Friday, artists including country singer Martina McBride and glam rocker Bret Michaels, frontman of 1980s band Poison, said they were dropping out of the concert series.

"Unfortunately, what was presented to us as a celebration of our country has evolved into something much more divisive than what I agreed to be a part of," Michaels posted on Facebook.

Trump has openly tried to stamp his mark on the celebrations, most notably by staging an mixed martial arts fight in a specially constructed arena on the White House lawn on June 14 -- his 80th birthday.

The remaining line-up of musicians, whose prime came and went decades ago -- such as Vanilla Ice and C+C Music Factory -- has sparked a flood of sarcastic comments on social media. □



**This picture taken on September 11, 2001 shows French philosopher and sociologist Egdar Morin posing in his office in Paris.**

## Paris, France

France's favourite intellectual Edgar Morin, a World War II Resistance member who dedicated his life to promoting critical thinking and combatting intolerance, has died at the age of 104, his wife said Saturday.

"He is the grandfather of all French people and the memory of the last (20th) century," the left-wing Liberation newspaper wrote in a 2021 profile of the dapper philosopher who had a

fondness for hats and silk cravats.

The son of secular Jewish immigrants, he trained as a sociologist but preferred to think of himself as a "humanologist" who fused elements of philosophy, psychology, ethnography and biology to try to understand the nature of humanity.

Outside of France he was best known as the inventor of "cinema verite" for his 1961 documentary with film-maker Jean Rouch

## Edgar Morin: France's intellectual 'grandfather' dies at 104

"Chronique d'un ete" ("Chronicle of a Summer") about the lives of ordinary young Parisians.

The unscripted discussions about class, race, colonialism and other weighty topics elicited by the simple question "Are you happy?" revolutionised documentary-making.

For the French, Morin was above all an intellectual guide, who developed a holistic transdisciplinary approach to the big questions of our time.

"What does it mean to be human? What is globalisation? What is life? These questions require us to connect knowledge that is currently scattered across fields of research," he told TV5 Monde channel in 2020, explaining his approach.

French President Emmanuel Macron praised him as "humanism personified" in

an X post sharing the "condolences of the nation" with Morin's family.

"With his kindness and curiosity, he never stopped enlightening us," he wrote. Well past his hundredth birthday, Morin continued to weigh in on current events, regaling his 220,000 followers on X with his thoughts on issues ranging from the 2022 heatwaves when he posted "Paris, 6pm, 40 degrees Celsius: Rise up, longed-for storm!" to the war in Ukraine when he wrote "war is a lesson in hatred".

"Until his final days, Edgar Morin remained attentive to the world, to others, and to the great human issues that nourished his thinking," his wife, Sabah Aboues-salam Morin, said in a statement sent to AFP on Saturday.

"Today, the void he leaves

behind is immense. But his courage, his loyalty to people and to ideas, his moral rigor and his hope continue to accompany us."

### - Rejected by Communists -

Morin was born Edgar Nahoum on July 8, 1921 in Paris to Jewish parents who had immigrated from Greece. He always resisted being defined by his Jewishness, stressing that he was also "French, Mediterranean and a citizen of the world".

When he was 10, his mother, whom he adored, died -- an event that his family tried to hide from her only child for weeks and which he described decades later as his "personal Hiroshima".

He took refuge in his studies and later in left-wing activism, joining the Communist Party. □

# Spanish teen Jodar fights back to reach first Slam quarter-final



Spain's Rafael Jodar celebrates his victory at the end of his men's singles match against Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta on day 8 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Suzanne-Lenglen at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on May 31, 2026. (Photo by Thomas SAMSON / AFP)

### Paris, France

Rafael Jodar continued his dream French Open debut by roaring back from two sets down to beat Pablo Carreno Busta and reach his first Grand Slam quarter-final on Sunday.

The 19-year-old Spaniard, playing at a major for only the second time, downed his compatriot 4-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Jodar was ranked 707th in the world this time last year, losing in the first and second rounds of second-tier Challenger events in the United States during the 2025 French Open.

Twelve months on, he will face either second seed Alexander Zverev or Dutch lucky loser Jesper de Jong for a semi-final place at Roland Garros.

"It's different, I'm the same person," said Jodar. "I appreciate all the people who came here to support me today... It was amazing to play here."

Jodar, who reached the quarter-finals in both Madrid and Rome earlier in the clay-court season, moved to a tour-best 19 wins on the red dirt this year, overtaking Jannik Sinner.

Carreno Busta was eyeing a first Grand Slam quarter-final since his run to the 2020 US Open semis, when he famously defeated Novak Djokovic via default in the fourth round.

The 34-year-old fought back from 4-1 down to take the opening set, be-

fore stretching his run of consecutive games to nine en route to opening up a two-set advantage.

Jodar took a lengthy break before the start of the third and emerged rejuvenated,



Spain's Rafael Jodar (R) and Spain's Pablo Carreno Busta (L) shake hands at the end of their men's singles match on day 8 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Suzanne-Lenglen at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on May 31, 2026. (Photo by Thomas SAMSON / AFP)

racing through the set in 30 minutes to get himself back into the match.

Carreno Busta, a former top-10 player now ranked 89th, opted for a medical

time-out before the fourth set. □



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



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

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

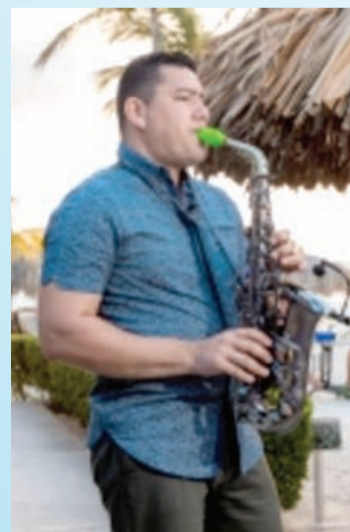
Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their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

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

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

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

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



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

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

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

### Live entertainment

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

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

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

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