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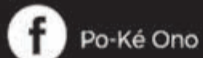
## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



Page 10



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# In Colorado, Trump cuts to climate research take toll

## Boulder, United States

In a vast Colorado laboratory nestled at the foot of the Rockies, a U.S. scientist waits and wonders if President Donald Trump's administration will dismantle his acclaimed institute.

One of his projects, focused on adaptation to climate change, has already been axed, and he cannot hire any more PhD students, with a giant question mark over his funding.

"This is different than at any other time in my career," the researcher at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) told AFP, asking not to be named to protect his job.

AFP spoke to a dozen scientists who recounted how facilities in Colorado one of the world's most important hubs for climate and meteorological science have been crippled since Trump returned to office last year. From demoralized teams to the flight of young talent from the area, the picture they paint is indicative of the impact of the Republican president's policies.

As so many staff left these labs and research centers after their projects were reined in or canceled, the upheaval is likely to linger, the scientists, many of them based in Boulder, warn.

Such a brain drain could sap U.S. ability to remain a global authority in climate and weather science, even after Trump has left the White House.



The Mesa Lab, headquarters of the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), sits on the foothills of the Rocky Mountains in Boulder, Colorado, on May 13, 2026.

### - Political backlash -

NCAR, which is housed in an imposing Brutalist building that dominates the skyline in Boulder, a university town, is a world leader in the development of weather and climate models.

Its work, largely paid for with federal funds, has allowed for major improvements in the prediction of extreme weather events and a reduction in the number of air accidents caused by severe wind shear.

But on December 16, the administration said it would move to dismantle NCAR, calling it a source of "climate alarmism."

When Dan -- who requested anonymity, so AFP has used a pseudonym learned the news, he was incredulous

"because of how crucial NCAR is for American sciences."

"It was a combination of outrage, confusion and, like, how could this even be happening?" he told AFP. Faced with an uncertain future, Dan decided to leave NCAR to take a job in another lab.

The alliance of 129 colleges and universities that runs NCAR took legal action in March to block at least part of the center's dismantling. The group has argued that NCAR is the victim of political retribution targeting the state of Colorado, which has a Democratic governor.

As the case wends its way through the courts, the government has not yet

made good on its threat to break up NCAR's various labs, which currently employ about 800 people. But its repeated policy blows have deeply undermined the research ecosystem in Boulder.

### - 'It affects morale' -

In the spring of 2025, John (also a pseudonym) was working on numerous projects in his lab at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), where he has worked for more than 20 years.

But amid severance checks and threats of firing, the Trump administration gradually pushed civil servants toward the door -- and John took an early retire-

ment deal on offer.

"My thought was, well, if I don't take that, they're going to lay off one of the younger scientists who needs this job much more than I do," he said.

In his division of NOAA, which works on improving weather forecasts, about 10 people, including the boss, left with him, taking with them invaluable knowledge and contacts.

"It affects morale," he said. "People don't function very efficiently if they're constantly worrying, 'Is my job going to exist next week?'"

The scientific community in Boulder, a city with a vibrant outdoors culture and trendy restaurants, largely depends on federal subsidies. But the Trump administration has either canceled or frozen many of those grants: the University of Colorado at Boulder, a research hub, has lost 59 federal research awards since early 2025.

Separately, one NCAR scientist, who asked not to be named, told AFP that three of his projects suffered: two grants came more than a year late, and another was effectively cut in half.

Such drastic reductions have been noted at universities and research facilities across the United States.

### - 'Death spiral' -

Tom Hamill, an alum of NOAA and NCAR who now works in the private sector, expressed his "genuine horror" over the situation. □

## Meteor explodes over U.S. with blast equivalent to 300 tons of TNT



This satellite image handout from the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere at Colorado State University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (CSU/CIRA and NOAA) taken on May 30, 2026 at 18:06 UTC shows a meteor exploding in the atmosphere over northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire.

### Washington, United States

A meteor crashing toward Earth exploded over the northeastern United States on Saturday, NASA said, setting off booms that echoed over the region with a blast equivalent to 300 tons of TNT.

The fireball broke up over northeastern Massachusetts and southeastern New Hampshire at 2:06 pm (1806 GMT), the U.S. space agency's deputy news chief Jennifer Dooren told AFP in a statement.

"This fireball was not associated with any currently active meteor shower, but it was a natural object and not a re-entry of space debris or a satellite," she said.

"The energy released at breakup is estimated to be equivalent to about 300

tons of TNT, which accounts for the loud booms."

The meteor was traveling at 75,000 mph (more than 120,000 kph) at an altitude of 40 miles when it broke apart, Dooren said. Area residents were alarmed by the unexpected loud booms, with social media users reporting they were so powerful that houses were shaking.

In 2013 a fireball streaked above Chelyabinsk, Russia. The house-sized space rock blew apart 14 miles above the ground, releasing a blast equivalent to 440,000 tons of TNT, NASA said.

The explosion blew out windows over 200 square miles (518 square kilometers), injuring more than 1,600 people, mostly due to broken glass. □

# Light, flight, and rights: 250 years of U.S. history in 30 objects

## Washington, United States

How do you choose just 30 artifacts from millions to encapsulate 250 years of American history?

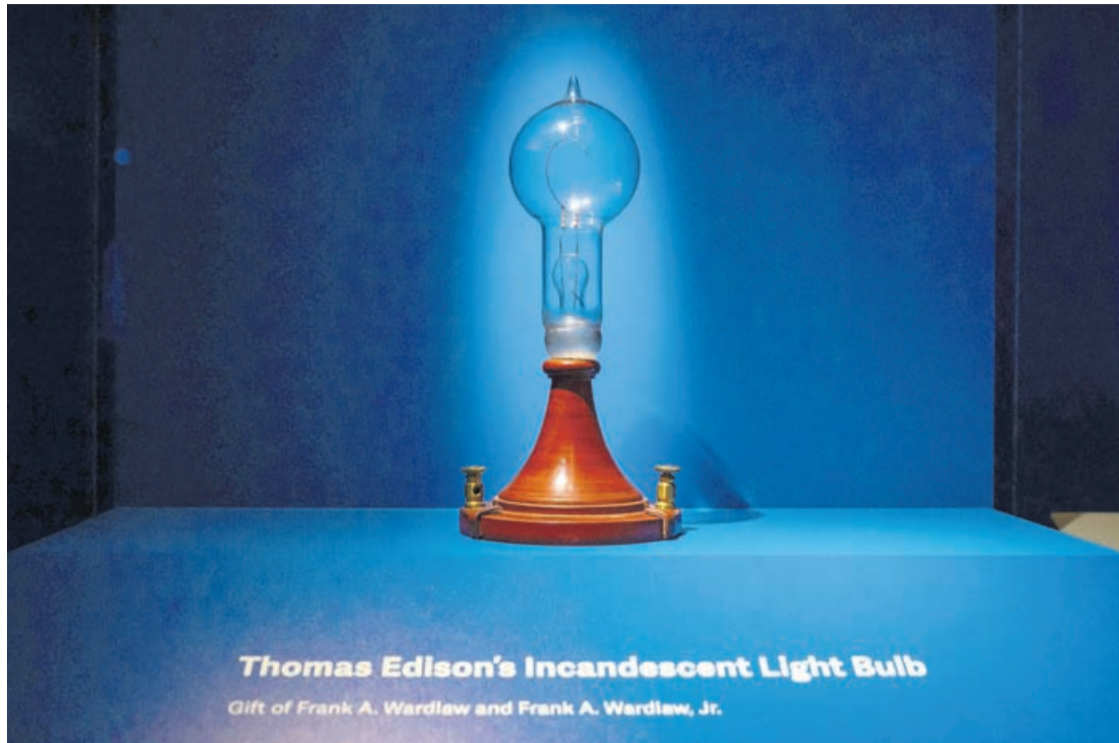
That's the question the government-funded Smithsonian Institution posed itself as the United States gears up for the anniversary of the nation's July 4, 1776, Declaration of Independence.

Among the answers: a small ink-stained mahogany desk, an antique light bulb, a brown leather flight suit and a baseball jersey.

These exhibits and others that present some highlights of America's faltering progress toward a perfect union go on show for two months in Washington next Tuesday ahead of the semiquincentennial.

"It's a daunting task," said Abeer Saha, who was one of a handful of curators tasked with choosing from 150 million objects across the Smithsonian which runs more than 20 museums and galleries. He spent more than two years on the project.

"What we've tried to do is find those highlights, those moments, those stories that



Thomas Edison's incandescent light bulb is seen on display during a press preview held by The Smithsonian for "American Aspirations" exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution Building in Washington, DC, on May 28, 2026.

best exemplify the ways in which Americans have sought to realize the founding ideals first expressed in the Declaration of Independence by Thomas Jefferson."

President Donald Trump has taken a series of norm-shattering steps to put himself at the center of attention on the 250th Independence anniversary.

But Abeer said the painstaking selection of artifacts, which have never been in the same room before, was done without any political interference.

To an AFP reporter, the only visible imprint of the current U.S. president -- whose administration has also sought to sanitize negative history at U.S. national parks -- was a "Trump-Vance"

election campaign badge alongside those of a roster of modern presidents from both parties.

### - Freedom, innovation, pathfinders -

The exhibition, "American Aspirations," is housed in a vaulted red sandstone hall inside the grand Smithsonian Castle, the institute's original premises on the Na-

tional Mall. It was previewed by journalists on Thursday.

Appropriately enough, it starts with the small desk used by Jefferson to draft the declaration of independence from Britain that began with the timeless words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."

The desk looks more like a small, table-top easel. It was designed for Jefferson by a Philadelphia cabinet maker and folds out to reveal a green baize writing top.

Lisa Kathleen Graddy, a Smithsonian curator of American political history, said Jefferson had an eye on history, and affixed a note to the inside of the desk authenticating it as the one used to write the declaration.

Nearby, is a large poster, with text penned by famed slavery abolitionist Frederick Douglass, that was carried in a 1863 parade during the Civil War that calls "Men of Color, To Arms! To Arms!"

It is one of several exhibits that address the struggle for greater freedom over the centuries, including against slavery and in modern times for civil rights. □

# Florida sues OpenAI, CEO Altman over ChatGPT harm to minors

## New York, United States

Florida's attorney general on Monday sued OpenAI and its CEO Sam Altman, accusing the company's ChatGPT chatbot of endangering young users by making them addicted and encouraging harmful behaviors.

"Today we're here to announce that we recently filed a monumental civil lawsuit against Sam Altman and ChatGPT for endangering our kids and deceiving parents into believing that this application is safe for use it's clearly not," James Uthmeier said at a press conference.

"People are getting hurt, parents are getting deceived, and they need to pay for it."

"ChatGPT, we know, can be addictive. It mimics empathy and human charac-

teristics to trick users into feeding it more information," he added.

In the lawsuit, reviewed by AFP, Uthmeier cites a recent study from Drexel University reporting sleep loss, declining grades and reduced social interaction among teenagers who use chatbots from Character.AI an OpenAI competitor for conversation.

The attorney general faults OpenAI for failing to put in place stricter rules to verify users' ages, invoking legal statutes on deception and negligence.

The suit states that "despite public knowledge of ChatGPT's use by minors, including preteens, defendants have not taken steps to prevent their use of ChatGPT."

It adds that "the free version of ChatGPT has no

gatekeeping or age verification mechanism whatsoever" and that while the paid subscription nominally asks users for their age, "there is no mechanism to verify the age of its users, and no ability to inform parents of what conversations minors are having with ChatGPT."

Contacted by AFP, an OpenAI spokesperson said: "AI is a new and powerful technology, and we believe minors need significant protection, which is why we have put in place industry-leading protections and policies."

In January, the California startup introduced a system that estimates a user's age and, if it detects a minor, applies additional safeguards.

ChatGPT use is banned for children under 13 and re-

quires parental consent for users aged 13 to 17.

Uthmeier also cited a report from the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH), which held several conversations with ChatGPT while posing as a teenager.

The chatbot reportedly

produced advice on how to hide eating habits from loved ones and how to plan a suicide or self-harm in a "safe" way.

The Florida attorney general is seeking stronger protections for minor users and damages set at \$10,000 per violation. □



Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier speaks during a ceremony to honor the victims of the Brothers to the Rescue Murders of 1996 at the Freedom Tower on May 20, 2026 in Miami, Florida.

# Hollywood honors Marilyn Monroe, 100 years after her birth

## Los Angeles, United States

Marilyn Monroe's hometown of Hollywood kicks off Monday a series of special events marking the 100th anniversary of the movie icon's birth.

At the historic Chinese Theatre, where Monroe's handprints are immortalized alongside "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" (1953) co-star Jane Russell, fans plan to sing "Happy Birthday" echoing her famed sultry serenade to president John F. Kennedy.

One hundred roses and a cake will be placed at the site, a symbol of Hollywood's golden age and a popular tourist hotspot.

Tributes to Tinseltown's legendary daughter began on Sunday, with the Academy Museum opening "Marilyn Monroe: Hollywood Icon," an exhibit celebrating her film career and life cut short.

After shooting to superstardom in the 1950s, the actress and model died of an overdose at her Brentwood home in August 1962, aged 36.

The Academy Museum will host special screenings of her prolific filmography



An exhibit is seen during the Exhibition Preview for "Marilyn Monroe: Hollywood Icon" Hosted by The Academy Museum at Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, in Los Angeles, on May 27, 2026.

throughout the month, including "The Asphalt Jungle" (1950), "Niagara" (1953), "The Seven Year Itch" (1955), "Some Like It Hot" (1959), and "The Misfits" (1961).

The exhibit, which runs until February 2027, includes hundreds of original pieces, some rarely on display such as Monroe's famed pink dress worn during her

iconic performance of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" in "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

Later in the week, on June 4, Julien's Auctions will put nearly 200 pieces of Monroe memorabilia under the hammer as part of its special "100 Years of Marilyn" sale.

The items include unpublished photographs, a script with notes from her final

production, the unfinished short film "Something's Got to Give," and personal items such as handwritten recipes and her Elizabeth Arden lipstick.

### - Image maker -

Born in Los Angeles on June 1, 1926, Monroe had an unstable childhood spent between orphanages and foster homes. She married for the first time at age 16.

She had her first brush with show business in 1944, while working in a factory, when a photographer arrived to capture photos of women working on production lines during World War II.

Launching into the world of modeling soon after, she divorced her husband and made a history-defining decision: dyeing her brown hair platinum blonde.

She landed her first contract with Fox, and by the age of 30 had established herself as a global star.

Behind the scenes, Monroe founded her own production company, attended the prestigious Actors Studio in New York, and even defied the studios.

In the 1950s, while under contract with 20th Century Fox, she refused to act in the adaptation of the musical "The Girl in Pink Tights," deeming the script mediocre and her salary three times less than that of co-star Frank Sinatra unfair.

More than half a century before the #MeToo movement shook the global entertainment industry, Monroe denounced the Hollywood "wolves" preying on female talent. □

# Jason Momoa says having best year of his career

## Los Angeles, United States

With several films yet to be released, and riding his success from the global hit "A Minecraft Movie," Hawaiian actor Jason Momoa says he is living a unique moment.

"It's probably my biggest

year of my career," Momoa, 46, told AFP in an interview.

The actor said he's enjoying playing a range of roles, including Lobo, the intergalactic bounty hunter in the upcoming "Supergirl" film, which he

described as "a childhood dream."

The star also appears in the film adaptation of "Street Fighter" and in the "Dune" trilogy, whose final installment hits theaters in December.

Momoa, who rose to fame thanks to "Game of Thrones," had the opportunity to work with Julian Schnabel, whom he described as his favorite director, in "In the Hand of Dante," which premieres this month on Netflix.

The actor is feeling like he's on a roll after playing a comedic role in last year's box office hit, "A Minecraft Movie," which he starred in with Jack Black.

"Minecraft really was huge, you know?" he said. "We didn't see that coming." "I always wanted to

do comedy. I mean, I've always done action my whole life," where playing superheroes felt "inevitable." But he enjoyed the opportunity to "make people laugh."

The actor said that comedic roles like those in "The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part," in which he voices a parody of Aquaman, a character he has portrayed in several productions, also allowed him to connect with a very special audience: his family.

"It was an epic moment because my kids got to see me do the looping (voiceover)," he said. While they don't seem to care much about his other roles, "when I'm involved with Lego, I'm an all-star." The actor reconnected

with the famous brick brand by debuting this Monday as "the Playmaster," the central figure in Lego's "Never Stop Playing" campaign to encourage families to dedicate more time to playing with their children, as social media and screens gain ground.

"I grew up with Lego. My children grew up with Lego," said Momoa, who sees the colorful pieces and their infinite possibilities as a tool for developing creativity and imagination.

"It's something that makes my heart smile," he said. The unique role came with a bonus: "Being chosen by Lego to have your own little action figures... for them to make that was pretty special." □



U.S. actor Jason Momoa promotes the upcoming film "Dune: Part Three" during the Warner Bros photo call during CinemaCon at The Colosseum at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 14, 2026.



Participants compete in the Causeway Challenge Bangkok Scrabble competition in Bangkok on June 1, 2026.

## Word nerds have a weekend on the tiles at Thailand's Scrabble title

### Bangkok, Thailand

If he were no longer physically able to play Scrabble, 86-year-old Tan Jin Chor said he would "shut the lights and call it a day", but his love of the word game has kept the veteran verbophile competing.

The Malaysian senior started playing the globally popular board game with friends over beers, but has now spent tens of thousands of dollars travelling the world to Scrabble tournaments.

"Competitiveness, I like that, I enjoy that. Even though I lose most of the time," he told AFP at the finals of a major Scrabble championship in Bangkok on Monday.

When Tan first started competing seriously 35 years ago, prizes could include a pair of socks, a necktie, or sometimes a plaque.

"Nowadays, it's for money... that's the main thing I've found is different from the old days," he said.

A \$10,000 top prize brought some 450 serious Scrabblers from 30 countries to the Thai capital at the weekend for back-to-back matches at the four-day Causeway Challenge.

Onomatopoeia could not adequately describe the sound of Scrabble tiles be-

ing shaken in a bag, a logophilic rattlesnake hiss that filled the Bangkok hotel room.

Singaporean organiser Michael Tang called his creation a "household brand name among the Scrabble community globally".

"Scrabble is not about English," he said.

"It's really about memory, about strategy, it's mathematics... you have to draw the tiles, so there's a luck element."

Tang's favourite word from the tournament was "craziest" a superlative he used to describe himself for his plan to host a thousand competitors at the next tournament in 2028.

Players clutched red bags above their heads in a show of fair play as they chose their lettered tiles.

"Scrabble for me, it has... there's a certain je ne sais quoi," said tournament winner David Eldar, adding that a lot depends on luck.

"I'm not the best player in the room, but I won," the 36-year-old Australian said, adding he would be "paying for a lot of beers tonight".

"It's nerve-racking, it's mentally stimulating, it's challenging. It's awesome."

### - 'A bit nerdy' -

British woman Natalie Zolty

was hesitant when she began competing professionally 10 years ago.

"I was thinking I don't know... this is a bit strange. Everybody's a bit nerdy," Zolty said.

It takes "a lot of time" to get to a high standard in a competitive, male-dominated game, she said, and "some women don't have that time".

Scrabble has since changed the 61-year-old maths teacher's life.

She said a lot of people at the event were not native English speakers.

"Most of the top players are maths-based because it's all about the probabilities and playing the odds... you don't need to know what the words mean," she said. The game demands eidetic knowledge of the English vocabulary not necessarily spoken proficiency and maths skills to exploit the points letters are assigned.

"Unfortunately, I'm very bad at maths," Malaysia's Tan said. "So I'm not like those top players... I'm mid-dling-rank."

He said he would take part in a Malaysian seniors' championship this coming weekend, despite being certain that he wouldn't win.

"I lose many more games than I win," he said. □



This photo taken on May 11, 2026 shows customers using claw machines in an arcade centre at a shopping mall in Hong Kong.

## 'Totally hooked': Hong Kong targets claw machine addiction

### Hong Kong, China

Claw machine lover Neiki Lee carefully lowers the metal jaws of a crane with a joystick into a pool of prizes, only to have the small toy slip from its clutches again and again.

Dozens of stores filled with claw machines have sprung up on streets and in malls across Hong Kong's finance hub in recent years, promising players a treasure trove of prizes and a sense of fulfilment.

The colourfully lit machines, often seen drawing people like moths to a flame, have come under regulatory scrutiny this month, as officials raised addiction concerns over the seemingly harmless games.

Lee, 48, admitted that she was "totally hooked" and that "this is definitely gambling", adding that she bets at least five Hong Kong dollars every time she attempts to win a higher-value plush toy.

### - 'Sunk cost fallacy' -

An office clerk, Lee said she has spent around HK\$100,000 (US\$12,800) on claw machines over two years – roughly half her annual salary.

"For a HK\$70 toy, you might eventually spend 700, or even 1,700, and still not be able to grab it," Lee told AFP. "I really want to give it up. Every day I scold myself and tell myself to quit: no more, no more."

Player Tommy Yu, 23, said he sometimes spends hundreds of dollars a day on it despite saying some machines have "traps" built-in.

"When you put money in but don't get anything back, you feel like you've lost out," he said.

"Yet it keeps driving you to play."

Gambling counsellor Chu Ho Ming told AFP that "the more (the players) invest, the harder it is to leave empty-handed and walk away".

"This is the sunk cost fallacy," he said, adding that "it keeps the addictive behaviour loop".

Chu said his team have noticed an increase in youth playing games with "gambling elements".

### - Too late? -

Claw machine operators have been able to expand and operate largely unrestricted, after a court ruled in 2022 they are not required to possess public entertainment licenses.

But after a sharp rise in the number of public complaints related to so-called claw machine gambling over the last two years, Hong Kong authorities proposed this month to tighten regulations over prize-based arcades, calling the situation after the 2022 ruling "not ideal". □

## 'AI simply can't replicate it': Japan embraces zine trend

### Kyoto, Japan

Through the noise of rushing papers and whirring belts at a print factory in Kyoto, two creators watch their photo essay come to life in broadsheet form part of an effort to win new audiences in the age of AI.

Despite the decline of the publishing industry, self-publication and handmade "zine" magazines are growing in popularity in Japan, reflecting the country's enduring love of paper in the digital era.

While speaking to AFP at the plant, his hands black with ink, one of the creators, Kazuma Obara said "I think (paper) is a medium that engages all five senses", unlike social media.

Obara and his creative partner Akihico Mori are among the latest artists to use a printing press offered by the Kyoto Shimbun newspaper, which is aiming to find alternative uses for its machines as subscriptions fall.

As the machine printed their work on newsprint paper, five technicians in uniform quickly flipped through the pages to check the quality. "I think print media is incredibly open. You can hand it to someone, you can read it together," 40-year-old photographer Obara said, calling mobile phones "very insular".

Mori, a 44-year-old writer, said people can "feel the



This picture taken on March 19, 2026 shows staff members packing photographer Kazuma Obara's work titled "The Newspaper" at the Kyoto Shimbun factory in Kumiyama, Kyoto prefecture.

creator's passion when they hold the work in their hands".

"I think that's what makes it so appealing, and AI simply can't replicate it."

### - Rise of self-publishing -

The pair's work was later showcased at popular international photography festival Kyotographie that ended in May.

Yoshihiko Okazaki of Kyoto Shimbun Printing said the company's services have been used by artists ranging from teenagers to those in their 70s.

"Surprisingly, it resonates with younger people... I

even hear comments like, 'it's interesting precisely because it's old'."

Japan has seen a rapid decline in print media, with book and magazine sales falling to just 40 percent of their 1996 pinnacle of 2.6 trillion yen (\$16.3 billion). Newspaper circulation peaked in 1997 at 53.76 million, but it dropped to more than half that in 2025, according to the Japan Newspaper Publishers & Editors Association.

Many authors and publishers around the world fear the trend will be accelerated by artificial intelligence and social media in the UK,

a 2025 study showed that half of novelists believe AI is likely to replace their work. However, like in other countries worldwide, do-it-yourself publication including zines which originated in the 1930s with sci-fi fans in the US is growing in Japan, especially among younger generations.

Public broadcaster NHK reported, citing one private research firm, the self-publishing market is estimated at 150 billion yen in the year ending March 2026, nearly double the figure four years ago.

### - 'Something tangible' -

On one weekend in Tokyo, hundreds of visitors flocked to a zine fair showcasing a wide range of handmade magazines in different sizes and formats some incorporating abstract designs, photography or personal monologues.

"AI and social media are driven by algorithms that feed us nothing but what we want to see or what suits us best," said 22-year-old visitor Harumi Kikuchi.

"But the fact that many zine makers are here suggests there are many different worldviews."

Zine creator Watashi Kishino, who hand draws her daily life in black-and-white illustrations, said people can "make a lot of things with AI and digital technology".

"But I believe there's a charm in having something tangible to hold in your hands like this," Kishino said, showing her works.

Major bookstores are also embracing the trend as young people increasingly drift away from physical books.

Sanseido, a 145-year-old bookstore in Tokyo's book district Jimbocho, began putting zines on their shelves almost a year ago.

"We felt that zines could appeal to a different audience than traditional readers," Masato Sugiura, deputy head of the sales promotion unit, told AFP. □

## French museum reports theft of arty banana

### Strasbourg, France

A museum in eastern France on Sunday report-

ed to police the theft of a banana that forms a core part of a multimillion-dollar

artwork by Italian visual artist Maurizio Cattelan.

The missing fruit which was taped to a wall to form the provocative work by Cattelan called "Comedian" was noticed by a guard on Saturday to have gone missing.

The Pompidou-Metz museum, which is a branch of the famous Pompidou Centre in Paris, said in a statement it had lodged a criminal complaint for theft against persons unknown. It also said it had replaced the banana.

It is not the first time damage has been dealt to

the conceptual artwork, whose perishable banana centrepiece is replaced every three days to keep it contemporary.

In July last year, a visitor to the museum ate the fruit. But guards quickly intervened and stuck up a replacement banana.

Cattelan said at the time he was disappointed the hungry visitor had consumed only the banana and not the tape as well. The museum did not take legal action in that instance.

This time, though, it decided to make its criminal complaint because the

perpetrator was unidentified, and therefore "there is no possibility of dialogue".

It also said that "this is the second time this has happened" and it felt it was an issue of respect for the artwork.

Cattelan's edible creation, which aims to question the notion of art and its value, has sparked controversy ever since it made its debut at the 2019 Art Basel show in Miami Beach with an asking price of \$120,000. A performance artist, David Datuna, ate "Comedian" at that 2019 show, saying he felt "hungry". □



A visitor looks at the "Comedian" artwork by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan during the press preview of the exhibition "Dimanche sans fin".

# The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

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

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

### Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

### Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

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

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



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

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

### Current design and symbolism

#### 10 florin

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

#### 25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban me-

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

#### 50 florin

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

#### 100 florin

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

#### 200 florin

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

### Extra fact:

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

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



# Property Management

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## Casago Aruba: Redefining Island Stays with Full-Service Property Management



Casago Aruba was born from a shared passion for elevating the island's tourism experience. Built on a strong foundation of service, hospitality, and a keen eye for quality, the Casago team—backed by over 16 years of experience in the vacation rental and hospitality industry—is on a mission to redefine what luxury and convenience look like for travelers visiting Aruba.

But Casago is more than just a vacation rental platform. It is a **full-service property management company**, offering seamless experiences



for both guests and homeowners alike. While travelers benefit from handpicked accommodations and personalized service, homeowners gain a reliable partner dedicated to the care and performance of their property.

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Casago Aruba offers more than just stylish villas. Their curated portfolio includes a **wide variety of condos, homes, and villas** in different sizes to suit all types of travelers—from solo adventurers and couples to large families and groups. Every stay is backed by local expertise, with concierge support, 24/7 guest assistance, and an attention to detail that consistently exceeds expectations.

Whether you're here to relax on world-famous beaches, explore Aruba's cultural gems, or discover hidden corners of the island, Casago Aruba ensures your getaway is as smooth as it is memorable.

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**maximize rental income** while minimizing stress. Services include:

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- **Full handling** of tax filings for both local and state requirements
- **Monthly property inspections** and full utility bill management
- **Strategic planning** to help homeowners increase profitability and keep their properties in top condition

This full-service model ensures that every home is maintained to the highest standard while giving property owners full peace of mind.

### Rooted in Community and Sustainability

What truly sets Casago Aruba apart is their commitment



to the local community and to sustainable practices. The team works closely with local businesses and artisans, promotes eco-conscious travel, and supports initiatives that contribute positively to the island's environment and economy.

As one of the fastest-growing vacation rental and property management companies on the island, Casago Aruba continues to expand its footprint—welcoming more travelers, partnering with more homeowners, and raising the standard of hospitality in Aruba. □



## PSA for off-roaders: Be careful when driving on rough terrains!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today recently received a message from a reader about the rough terrains and dirt roads on the northern side of the island, worried about how they may damage your car.

We at Aruba Today pride ourselves in enhancing your Aruba experience through informative articles about our history, culture and places you can visit. With this, we also want to make sure you take care of yourself and your loved ones.

You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging if

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

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

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**Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies**

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.



**Trupial**

Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

**Prikichi (parakeet)**

The Brown-throated Prikichi (Aratinga pertinax) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis



are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwih tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

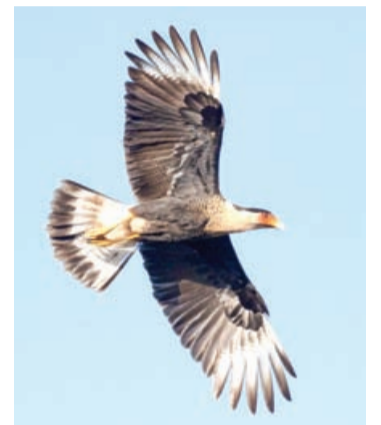
Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

**Warawara**

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the

"garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife.



By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature.

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation

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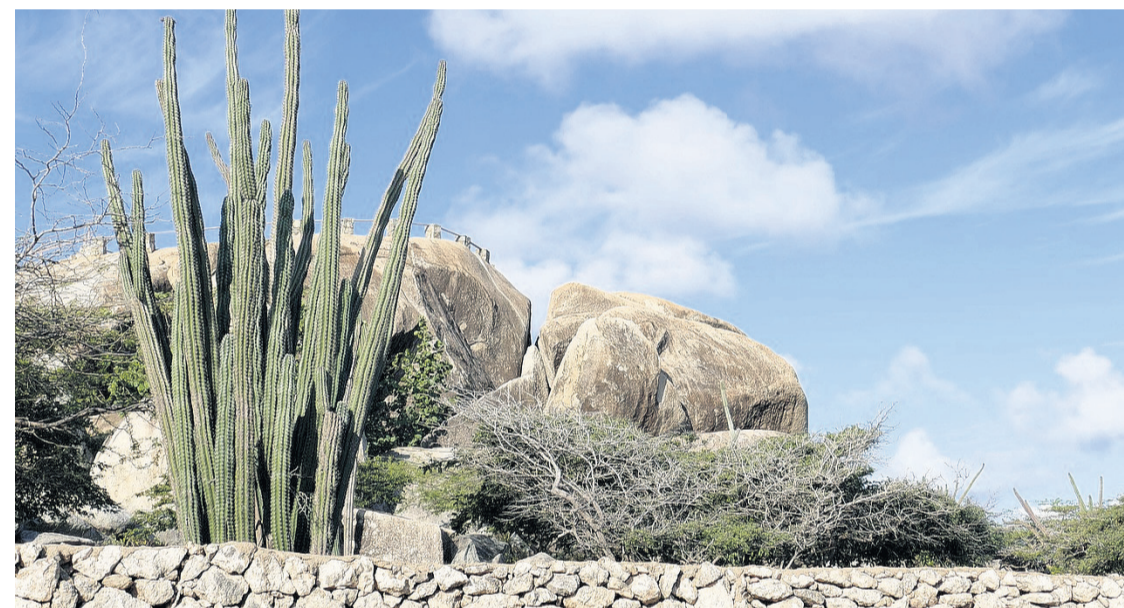
## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on

top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”\*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.



### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □

## How Aruban beaches came to be!

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

### beaches?

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

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

The sand that accumulates around a torn coral reef is swept away along with the debris by the ocean stream. However, in areas where it's shallow and the stream is weaker, the sand tends to stick to the bottom faster. This is why the beaches in the south—the areas with weaker stream and shallower ocean floors—has sand that stretches for miles. In



contrast, the northern area, where the stream is much stronger and the ocean floor is much deeper, there is no sand present—they were swept away with the current!

### Why is the north deep, but the south shallow?

Aruba is a continental island. The island actually forms part of South Amer-

ica, and the space between Aruba and the South American continent is simply referred to as land that runs under the ocean. This is why it gets gradually deeper in the south, whereas the ocean floor in the north runs steeply to the bottom.

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



# The stories of "Compa Nanzi"

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

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

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their cul-

ture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

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

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

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the

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

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

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

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

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

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

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said. "Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a



quick second." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

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

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

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bot-

tom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!" The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

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



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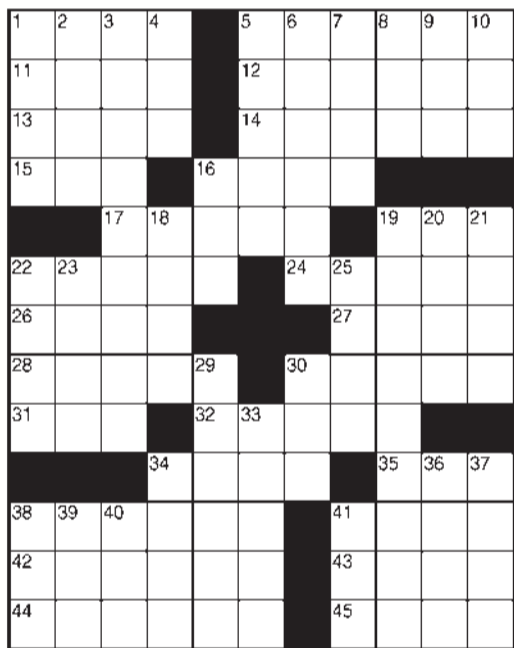
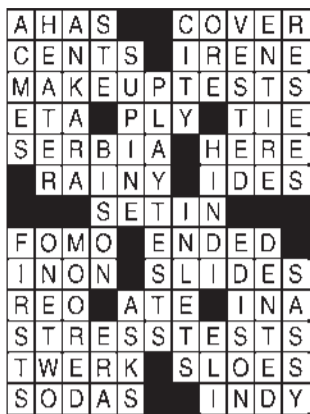
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### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 44 Not so small
  - 1 Smell
  - 5 Cube face
  - 11 Haleakala setting
  - 12 Screen sight
  - 13 Choir voice
  - 14 Poker plays
  - 15 Role for Keanu
  - 16 Stately trees
  - 17 Bowling round
  - 19 Motor need
  - 22 Further down
  - 24 Impudent
  - 26 Steel ingredient
  - 27 School near Windsor
  - 28 A googol has 100
  - 30 Yankee Stadium setting
  - 31 Inquire
  - 32 Geometry class challenge
  - 34 Put together
  - 35 Touch lightly
  - 38 Teem
  - 41 Edison's middle name
  - 42 Hotel area
  - 43 Enter the regatta
- DOWN**
- 1 Yemen neighbor
  - 2 Secluded valley
  - 3 Unemployed
  - 4 Brazilian city
  - 5 "Beat it!"
  - 6 Trembles
  - 7 "Exodus" author
  - 8 Wagon puller
  - 9 Fish eggs
  - 10 Hosp. sections
  - 16 Galley item
  - 18 Nevada city
  - 19 Like some foul hits
  - 20 File stand-in
  - 21 Bobcat's kin
  - 22 Minnelli of "Cabaret"
  - 23 Valuable rocks
  - 25 Flying start?
  - 29 Dish-washing aid
  - 30 "—
  - 33 Contract addition
  - 34 Psychologist Carl
  - 36 Gung-ho
  - 37 Account
  - 38 Maximum amount
  - 39 Frilly wrap
  - 40 Owned by us
  - 41 Blond shade



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.

2-1 CRYPTOQUOTE  
CV ZXCG HK HZHUV CWZLWVX.  
VWR JHMMGE CV YXLPGT.  
STGSXTG LW EHG. — "LPG  
STHZDGKK ATHEG"

Cryptoquote: LIFE MOVES PRETTY FAST. IF YOU DON'T STOP AND LOOK AROUND ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU COULD MISS IT. — "FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF"

## 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.

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.

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 occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

### Supermarket hours

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

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other

## JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

<b>02</b> TUE	<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</b> TUE	<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</b> TUE	<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</b> WED	<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</b> THU	<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</b> TUE	<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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# Blue Origin rocket explosion is bad news for both Bezos and NASA

## Washington, United States

Space exploration is filled with setbacks, but the spectacular explosion of Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket on Thursday night marked a significant blow to not only the company, which was founded by billionaire Jeff Bezos, but also NASA, with the two collaborating for the upcoming US Moon missions.

"Spaceflight is unforgiving," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said in a post on X soon after the explosion, promising to "support a thorough investigation of this anomaly," which happened during a ground test and resulted in no injuries.

The rocket -- which stands 98 meters (321 feet) tall and is the most powerful in Blue Origin's fleet -- exploded around 9:00 pm local time Thursday (0100 GMT Friday).

It was undergoing a ground test in Cape Canaveral, Florida in preparation of an upcoming flight when it blew up in a massive fireball, sending shockwaves throughout the space industry.

While anomalies during ground tests are relatively frequent, such explosions are rare, and the magnitude of the blast caused significant damage not only to the spacecraft but the launch pad itself, according to photos of the aftermath released Friday.

"It will take some time to rebuild their pad," Florida congressman Mike Haridopolos, whose district includes Cape Canaveral, told broadcaster Fox News on Friday.

Blue Origin declined an AFP request for additional details on the incident, extent of damage or the ongoing investigation, which is conducted alongside NASA and the US Space Force.

The New Glenn rocket will remain grounded while the investigation is conducted.

## - Moon Mission -

The vessel is at the heart of Blue Origin's ambition



This screen grab shows fire as the uncrewed Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket explodes during a test on a launchpad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Cape Canaveral, Florida, on May 28, 2026.

and NASA's Artemis lunar program, and could have implications for the company's role going forward. "I have no doubt they will recover but I'm wondering how does this affect Artemis," Clayton Swope, deputy director of the Aerospace Security Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told AFP.

NASA has also tasked rival space exploration company SpaceX to develop lunar landers for transporting astronauts and equipment to the surface of the Moon to establish a base.

SpaceX has seen its own challenges in recent months, and Blue Origin had emerged as a promising alternative for NASA, with the US space agency awarding a new contract to it for the lunar mission earlier this week.

## - Major setback -

But these projects depend on the New Glenn rocket, and with its explosion coming shortly after a malfunction causing a satellite mission failure last month, the anomalies could disrupt NASA's tight mission schedule.

NASA is aiming to test an in-orbit rendezvous between a spacecraft and one or two lunar landers in 2027 as part of Artemis III, and carry out a crewed lunar landing before the end of 2028, before the end of US President Donald Trump's time in office. □

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Nvidia PC chip hailed as 'game changer' in race for AI device

## Taipei, Taiwan

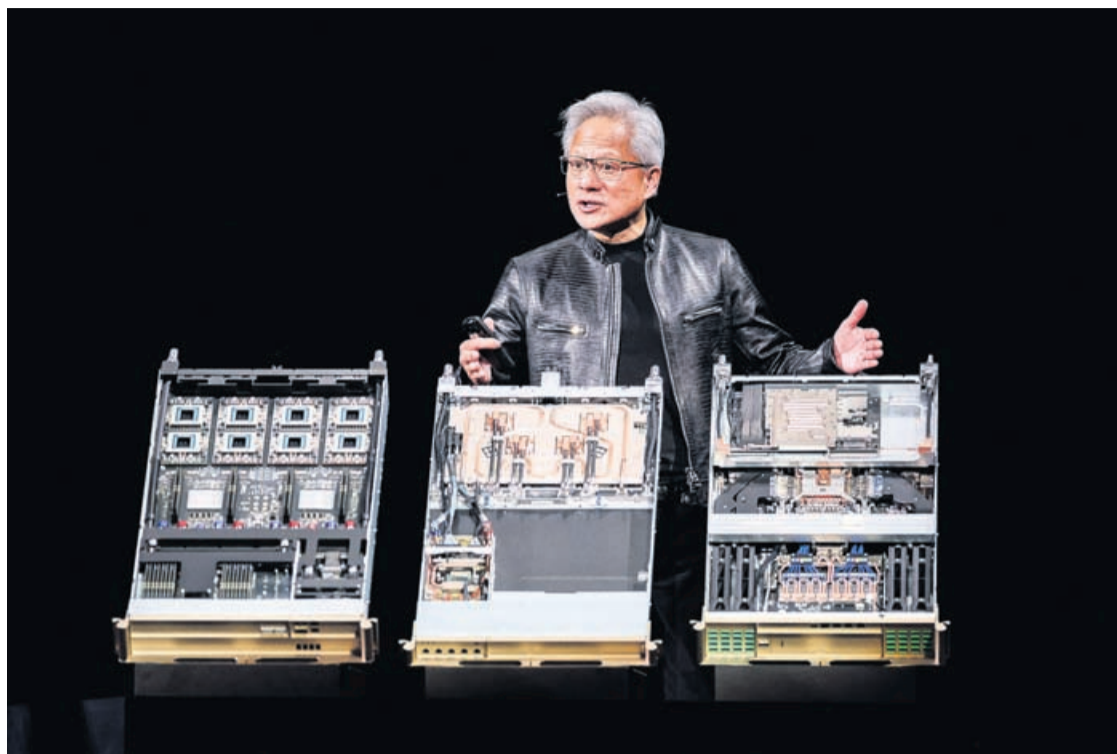
Laptop chipmakers such as Intel and AMD should be worried about their new rival Nvidia, experts say, after the U.S. hardware titan announced Monday a push into the personal computer market.

But despite Nvidia boss Jensen Huang's assertion that homes will soon contain AI supercomputers, the race is still on to develop an ubiquitous, one-size-fits-all intelligent device.

Huang vowed to "reinvent the PC" with Nvidia's powerful chip for Windows machines, calling it "as big of a deal as the reinvention of the phone into what we now know as the smartphone".

Lian Jye Su, a chief analyst at Omdia, told AFP that "legacy" laptop chip makers were now facing a challenge from Nvidia laptops optimised for AI.

"Both Intel and AMD are ready hardware-wise, but the question is software and creating the right type of device that can match



**Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang delivers his keynote speech at Computex 2026 in Taipei on June 1, 2026.**

consumer expectations," he said.

Nvidia is the world's most valuable company thanks to a construction boom of AI data centres packed with its advanced chips.

Zhibin Xiao, CEO of the US company ZFlow AI, said in Taipei where major industry show Computex takes place this week that Nvidia bringing its AI prowess

to laptops was a "game changer".

"There will be more people working on AI agents," and then "once you have developers, then you have more applications, and then people will buy the AI PC as a consumer", he said.

Others gave similar assessments, although AI Benzoni of Aperion Technologies said he would wait before

buying one of the new Nvidia-powered Windows PCs, available later this year.

"I wouldn't want to be the first guinea pig," as "it's not so easy to have everything just smooth" like Apple has managed to do with its laptops.

### - Next big thing -

Creating the world's next big gadget whether static,

handheld, or wearable like earbuds, pendants and brooches is something of a holy grail for AI companies. "It could be PC, but we are also looking at AI glasses," although neither can be seen as a killer device in the industry at this point, Omdia's Su said.

"There was a point where even an AI PC was not a convincing pitch," but the sudden popularity of agent tool OpenClaw has changed that, he added.

Some companies are also betting on smartphones, although attempts to ditch apps for agentic AI have so far run into problems with computing power and gaining permission to access on-device tools run by different firms.

And ChatGPT maker OpenAI is working with renowned industrial designer Jony Ive on a mystery device for interacting with AI, expected to be ready by next year.

Glasses are the top pick for tech influencer Selina Liu, whose "gptsavvy" Instagram account has more than 300,000 followers. □



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## New York Times publisher slams AI companies' 'brazen theft' from news outlets

### Marseille, France

The New York Times publisher on Monday slammed artificial intelligence companies for "brazen theft of intellectual property", warning they threaten the

future of journalism during a speech at the World News Media Congress in the French city of Marseille. AI companies' "hijacking of the public square is made possible by the origi-

nal sin that animates their A.I. products -- a brazen theft of intellectual property that has occurred at an unprecedented scale," said A.G. Sulzberger, according to his published remarks.

the 77th WAN-IFRA World News Media Congress, in a speech that was met with loud applause.

"Our profession has been too quiet, too passive and too fragmented in the face of abuses by the companies leading the AI revolution," he said. Sulzberger said AI companies are "consolidating their outside control over our data and our attention" but are "failing to embrace a core responsibility that comes with this power to ensure the public has access to trustworthy news and information".

"I fear we are careening toward a future with fewer and fewer journalists to do the expensive, difficult work of original reporting," he said. □



**Chairman of The New York Time Company and Publisher of The New York Times Arthur Gregg Sulzberger gives a speech on AI, Journalism and the certain future of the public square on the opening day of the 77th World News Media Congress in Marseille, southern France on June 1, 2026.**

"Tech giants strip-mine news websites without permission or compensation," he said, adding that the news sector "has been too quiet, too passive and too fragmented in the face of abuses by the companies leading the A.I. revolution".

Sulzberger, whose company is suing OpenAI, the creator of ChatGPT, and Microsoft over the use of copyrighted work, delivered an indictment against AI companies before news executives gathered for

## Sabalenka to face Osaka, Berrettini into French Open quarters



Japan's Naomi Osaka plays a forehand return to Aryna Sabalenka during their women's singles match on day 9 of the French Open tennis tournament on Court Philippe-Chatrier at the Roland-Garros Complex in Paris on June 1, 2026.

### Paris, France

Four-time Grand Slam champions Aryna Sabalenka and Naomi Osaka will go head-to-head in the first French Open women's night match in three years on Monday, after Matteo Berrettini reached his first major quarter-final in four years.

World number one Sabalenka will likely face a stern test in her bid to win a maiden Roland Garros crown after suffering an agonising loss to Coco Gauff in last year's final.

A resurgent Osaka has powered into the French Open second week for the first time in her career, looking more at home than ever before on the Parisian

clay.

It will be only the fourth meeting, all at the last-16 stage of tournaments, between two of the biggest stars in the sport.

Osaka edged their first encounter en route to the 2018 US Open title and then they never met again until this year.

Sabalenka saw off her Japanese opponent in straight sets in Indian Wells, before fighting back from a set down to win at the Madrid Open.

They renew their rivalry with a quarter-final against either former Australian Open champion Madison Keys or Russia's Diana Shnaider up for grabs.

"It's nice to see her," said Sabalenka of Osaka, who took a break from tennis in 2023 to give birth to her daughter.

"She's a great player, great person. I feel like I really enjoy our battles. It's high-level matches, and I really enjoy when somebody pushes me to the limit."

This will be the first time that WTA players have featured in the primetime slot since Sabalenka took on Sloane Stephens in the last 16 on June 4, 2023.

"I think it was pretty obvious this should be the night's match," tournament director Amelie Mauresmo told reporters on Monday.

The winner will face Diana Shnaider after the Russian

left-hander beat Madison Keys 6-3, 3-6, 6-0.

Former Australian Open winner Keys's defeat leaves Sabalenka and Osaka as the only Grand Slam champions left in either the men's or women's singles draws.

Austrian 28th seed Anastasia Potapova could not back up her win over defending champion Gauff, twice failing to serve for the match in a 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (10/7) defeat by Anna Kalinskaya.

The Russian will next face Polish qualifier Maja Chwalinska after she continued her remarkable run by cruising past the last remaining French player, Diane Parry, 6-3, 6-2.

"She's one of the top players in the world. No one knows me, to be honest, so definitely a very challenging one, like every match here," said Chwalinska of facing Kalinskaya.

There was something for the Paris crowd to cheer after Parry's defeat, though, as Paris Saint-Germain players Ousmane Dembele, Desire Doue, Warren Zaire-Emery and Bradley Barcola paraded their two Champions League trophies on court after securing a second straight title on Saturday.

### - Brilliant Berrettini marches on -

Former Wimbledon runner-up Berrettini, who has been plagued by injuries in recent years, booked his first major quarter-final since the 2022 US Open with a

6-3, 7-6 (7/2), 7-6 (8/6) win over Jannik Sinner's conqueror Juan Manuel Cerundolo.

The world number 105 is the lowest-ranked player to reach the Roland Garros men's last eight since Igor Andreev in 2007.

"This (tennis) is the love of my life, I guess, otherwise I wouldn't keep coming back after all the setbacks, the injuries," said the Italian, playing at Roland Garros for the first time since 2021.

"There were moments it was really tough to come back and hit a ball... But now I'm back and it's thanks to them (his team), my character and my resilience."

Berrettini is one of only two Grand Slam finalists left in a wide-open men's draw, alongside Alexander Zverev, after surprise early exits for Sinner and Novak Djokovic.

The 30-year-old will next face either American 19th seed Frances Tiafoe or fellow Italian Matteo Arnaldi on Wednesday.

Italian 10th seed Flavio Cobolli overcame some late nerves to beat Zachary Svajda 6-2, 6-3, 6-7 (3/7), 7-6 (7/5) on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Cobolli wobbled badly from 4-0 and 5-1 up in the fourth set, before finally getting over the line in a tie-break to reach his second Grand Slam quarter-final after Wimbledon last year. □

## Browns send star defensive end Garrett to Rams: reports

### Los Angeles, United States

Two-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year Myles Garrett will be traded from Cleveland to the Los Angeles Rams in a deal being finalized on Monday, according to multiple reports.

Garrett will join the Rams in exchange for two-time Pro Bowl pass rusher Jared Verse, a 2027 first-round NFL Draft pick and other compensation going to the Browns, according to ESPN and the NFL Network. The blockbuster move would be one of the biggest defensive trades in NFL history and comes as the Rams prepare to host the 2027 Super Bowl.

"We are in discussions of a potential transaction including him," Browns general manager Andrew Berry said on Monday.

"We're in negotiations. We're hopeful that we can close something here in the next several hours. But nothing is final."

Garrett, a 30-year-old Texan who was the top overall pick in the 2017 NFL Draft by the Browns, was the 2023 and 2025 defensive player of the year. He has made 412 tackles, 293 of them solo, with 125.5 quarterback sacks, 23 fumbles forced and six fumbles recovered, one for a touchdown. Last season, Garrett made an NFL record 23 sacks and a league-high 33 tackles for loss. Verse, 25, was the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year in 2024. He has made 124 tackles, 71 of them solo, with 12 sacks and 22 tackles for loss in two campaigns with the Rams while forcing five fumbles and recovering two. □



Jared Verse #8 of the Los Angeles Rams smiles as he looks on during an organized team activities workout at Rams Village at the Warner Center on May 28, 2026 in Woodland Hills, California.

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## Serena Williams to return to tennis at Queen's Club

**London, United Kingdom**  
 Serena Williams confirmed her return to tennis on Monday after an absence of nearly four years, with the American great set to compete in women's doubles at Queen's Club next week. The 44-year-old, who has not played competitively since the 2022 U.S. Open, has been granted a wild card for the London tournament, which starts on June 8.

The 23-time Grand Slam singles champion will reportedly play alongside teenage Canadian Victoria Mboko.

Rumors have swirled in recent months that the former world number one was on the verge of a return and Monday's confirmation sent the tennis world into a frenzy.

Williams shared a video on social media of herself on a tennis court containing the



USA's Serena Williams gestures to the audience after losing against Australia's Ajla Tomljanovic during their 2022 US Open Tennis tournament women's singles third round match at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York, on September 2, 2022.

caption: "Guess everybody heard the news", with her phone buzzing repeatedly in the background.

A post from the seven-time Wimbledon champion

alongside the video said: "Good news travels fast." Tournament chiefs said her return would be "one of the biggest sporting moments of the year so far".

"Queen's Club feels like the perfect place to begin this next chapter," Williams said in a statement from organizers.

"Grass has given me some

of the most meaningful moments of my career, and I'm excited to be back competing on one of the sport's most iconic stages." Queen's WTA tournament director Laura Robson described Williams as "one of the greatest athletes the world has ever seen".

### - Rumors -

Williams' third-round loss at Flushing Meadows in 2022 left her one short of the all-time record of 24 Grand Slam singles titles, jointly held by Margaret Court and Novak Djokovic.

Her imminent return has been touted since it was revealed in December she had re-entered the anti-doping program a prerequisite to play on the tour again.

The American, renowned for her unparalleled power, denied she was planning a competitive comeback but speculation grew. □

## Joshua says 'only success' matters as Fury fight looms

**London, United Kingdom**  
 Anthony Joshua said Monday he would not celebrate that a deal has finally been struck for a heavyweight clash with rival Tyson Fury until after he

won. "I'm not pleased because the pleasure really comes after victory," said Joshua. "Signing a contract doesn't mean anything. Winning is the only true

success." The pair are heading for a long-awaited 'Battle of Britain', probably in November, but before both boxers are eyeing a warm-up fight.

Joshua will face unheralded Albanian Kristian Prega in Saudi Arabia on July 25 in his first bout since being involved in a car crash in Nigeria last December which killed two of his close friends.

Fury last week posted a video in an Instagram story showing him back in training in Thailand alongside the caption: "Let's go August 1, Dublin, Ireland."

Fury, 37, could take a place on a card being put together by veteran pro-

moter Frank Warren in the Irish capital on that date. No opponent has yet been named, although Warren has ruled out Fury fighting Andy Ruiz Jr, who dethroned Joshua as world champion in 2019 before losing the rematch later that year.

On Monday, Joshua insisted it was time to get back to work as he prepares to take on little-known Prega.

The fight was originally scheduled to take place in Riyadh, but at their head-to-head press conference it was revealed it has been moved to Jeddah - Saudi Arabia's second largest city.

The 36-year-old Joshua

has not fought a meaningful opponent since being knocked out by Daniel Dubois in September 2024.

"What does boxing give me? It gives me an opportunity to work. I'm a contractor, this is a contract, this is my job so I've got an opportunity to work," Joshua said.

"You have to put a road map in front of a fighter and show them what is point one, point two, point three. It gives purpose and focus. I know what my year looks like.

"Give me the opportunity to fight Prega, give me the opportunity to fight Fury, give me the opportunity to fight for the championship. □



Albania's Kristian Prega (R) and Britain's Anthony Joshua (L) pose at a press conference in London on June 1, 2026, ahead of their boxing match in Saudi Arabia in July.