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# All in on Musk, SpaceX's self-declared 'dream weaver'

## Washington, United States

When SpaceX lists on Wall Street, expected on Friday, Elon Musk will serve simultaneously as chief executive, chief technology officer and board chairman of the rocket and AI company. He will control more than 82 percent of its voting shares. There is no designated successor, no deputy and no key-person life insurance written into its filings.

The world's most valuable IPO depends entirely on one man.

"He's completely upending the conventional conduct of running a publicly traded corporation by declaring himself an irreplaceable dream weaver and master engineer of the whole undertaking," Quinn Slobodian, co-author with Ben Tarnoff of "Muskism: A Guide for the Perplexed," told AFP in an interview.

For Slobodian, a professor of international history at Boston University who has spent years studying Musk's empire, that brazen concentration of personal power is not a flaw in the SpaceX offering it is its defining feature.

SpaceX is targeting a valuation of approximately \$1.8 trillion and aims to raise \$75 billion when trading opens Friday under the ticker SPCX, in what will be the largest public offering in history.

### - Jobs and Gates -

To understand how Musk



Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk is seen on a large screen during a long distance Q&A session at the Smart Mobility Summit 2026, in Tel Aviv on May 18, 2026.

positioned himself as literally irreplaceable, Slobodian pointed to the "prophetic founder" model exemplified by Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.

"Jobs and Gates are kind of the template," Slobodian said, adding that Musk's decision to give Walter Isaacson the biographer who immortalized Jobs access for his own biography was itself a tell.

What gave Musk's version of that archetype genuine credibility, Slobodian argued, was a willingness to go against the grain of early 21st-century investment orthodoxy.

At a time when "design in California, assemble in China" was the way with the iPhone as the exam-

ple Musk poured his early fortune from PayPal into a rocket company and an electric vehicle manufacturer, both requiring him to solve brutally hard engineering problems.

His distance from his tech-billionaire peers is now measurable in purely financial terms.

Musk's fortune, expected to hit \$1 trillion with the IPO, is approaching three times the size of that of the second richest person on the planet, currently Google co-founder Larry Page.

"He's operating at a different scale, and with a scope of ambition that just makes him singular," Slobodian said.

### - Too big to fail -

Musk is often framed as a libertarian entrepreneur who built his empire outside the reach of government. Slobodian argues that Musk has always depended on government as primary client or subsidy giver, from his earliest startup Zip2's reliance on publicly funded GPS data to the billions SpaceX draws in federal contracts today.

He pointed in particular to what he described as SpaceX's Golden Dome contracts, worth \$4 billion, to supply satellite infrastructure for the Trump administration's proposed national missile defense shield.

In his view, SpaceX is structurally too critical to national security interests for any administration to let it fail.

"If Trump gave a second thought to bailing out Spirit Airlines," Slobodian said of the bankrupt low-cost carrier, "what about SpaceX?"

### - After Henry Ford -

Slobodian situated Musk's alignment with far-right movements in the United States and sovereignist parties in Europe as serving commercial ends, not merely personal ones.

He argued that Musk sees compliant political partners both abroad and at home as essential to obtaining the regulatory approvals SpaceX needs: spectrum allocations, satellite launch rights and permission to operate Starlink in key markets. That worldview, Slobodian and Tarnoff contend in their book, has roots in Musk's upbringing in the suburbs of Pretoria under apartheid-era South Africa a regime they argue deployed IBM mainframes and advanced technology to control the population through data collection and surveillance.

As for whether the Musk model outlasts the dream weaver himself, Slobodian pointed to Palantir -- which, like SpaceX, first broke into government work by suing the US military for contracts as one potential carrier of the torch.

But a true successor, he suggested, may be hard to find, "just as there was no Henry Ford after Henry Ford," only imitations. □

# U.S. Park Police probe '8647' anti-Trump markings on National Mall



Acting U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche (L) and FBI Director Kash Patel (R) listen to participants speak during a roundtable discussion at the U.S. Department of Justice June 11, 2026 in Washington, DC.

## Washington, United States

U.S. Park Police opened an investigation on Thursday into giant markings of the numbers "8647" which have been associated with opposition to President Donald Trump on the grass of the National Mall.

A spokesperson for the Department of the Interior, which manages the National Mall in downtown Washington, described the incident as "deranged vandalism" and said it "will not be tolerated."

"Any threat against the president is taken very seriously by the department, and our U.S. Park Police will investigate this incident and hold those responsible accountable," the spokesperson said in a statement.

The Trump Justice Department has claimed previously that the numbers "8647" consti-

tute a threat to the president -- "86" meaning to kill and "47" a reference to Trump being the 47th president.

Former FBI director James Comey, an outspoken political opponent of Trump, was indicted in April for allegedly threatening the Republican president in an Instagram post that showed the numbers "8647" spelled out in seashells.

Comey apologized at the time for the Instagram post, denied threatening the president and said he "didn't realize some folks associate those numbers with violence."

The Park Police said grass samples have been collected for testing to determine what caused the discoloration of the lawn on the National Mall and the investigation is ongoing. □

# America's power grid powers up with record-breaking renewables

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – In a historic shift that marks a turning point for the American energy landscape, the U.S. power grid is officially entering its "Greenest Year Ever." New data released today by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) confirms that 2026 will be the year renewable energy moves from the periphery to the podium, with solar, wind, and battery storage accounting for a staggering 99% of all new electricity generating capacity.

For a nation that has long balanced the scales between traditional fuels and emerging technologies, the 2026 forecast represents more than just a statistical win—it's a testament to American innovation and a shared commitment to a sustainable future.

## The solar surge

Leading the charge is solar energy, which continues its meteoric rise. Across the Sun Belt and beyond, massive utility-scale solar farms are sprouting up, turning vast stretches of land into "harvesting fields" for the sun's rays.

"We aren't just seeing growth; we are seeing an evolution," says Dr. Elena Vance, a senior analyst at the Clean Energy Institute. "The efficiency of photovoltaic cells has reached



An aerial view of wind turbines at the Altamont Pass wind farm on January 13, 2026 in Livermore, California.

a point where solar isn't just the 'right' choice for the planet—it's the most logical choice for the pocketbook. It is now the cheapest form of new electricity in the history of the United States."

From the deserts of Arizona to the rolling hills of North Carolina, solar panels are being deployed at a pace never seen before. In 2025, renewables already made up 88% of new capacity. The jump to 99% in 2026 signifies that the infrastructure and investment are finally in total alignment.

## Wind: The invisible workhorse

While solar captures the

headlines with its gleaming panels, wind energy remains the steady, invisible workhorse of the American heartland. Coastal states are also joining the fray, with offshore wind projects finally reaching completion. These "sea-based giants" are tapping into the consistent, powerful breezes of the Atlantic and Pacific, providing a stable flow of power to dense coastal cities.

In states like Iowa and South Dakota, where wind turbines have long been part of the skyline, the economic benefits are tangible. Farmers who lease their land for turbines are seeing a "new kind

of crop"—one that isn't dependent on rain or soil quality, but on the very air itself. This "wind-fall" of income is revitalizing rural communities, funding new school wings, and paving roads. The battery revolution: Solving the "after dark" problem. Perhaps the most inspiring part of the 2026 data is the role of battery storage. For years, critics of renewable energy pointed to the "intermittency problem"—the simple fact that the sun sets and the wind occasionally stops blowing.

Enter the "Battery Boom." Of the new capacity planned for this year, massive battery storage systems represent a

critical piece of the puzzle. These systems act like a giant "save button" for the grid, soaking up excess energy during peak production hours and releasing it precisely when it's needed most.

"Batteries are the glue holding our new grid together," explains Sarah Jenkins, an engineer at a leading storage facility in Texas. "We've solved the reliability question. We can now bottle the sunshine and use it at midnight."

## A community-driven future

What makes this transition truly special isn't just the technology—it's the people. Small towns across the country are seeing a surge in "green-collar" jobs. From technicians who climb 300-foot turbines to software developers managing smart-grid AI, a new generation of American workers is finding purpose in building the future.

Furthermore, the environmental benefits are already being felt. Cleaner air and reduced water usage for power plant cooling are leading to healthier local ecosystems. In vacation spots and national parks, the shift toward quiet, emission-free energy means that the natural beauty tourists flock to see remains pristine for generations to come. □

# Overdose deaths continue to decrease across U.S.



A makeshift memorial of opioid overdose victims is seen outside the US District Court for the District of New Jersey in Newark, New Jersey on April 28, 2026.

**Washington, United States** U.S. drug overdose deaths declined in 2025 for the

third consecutive year, new data showed Wednesday, marking continued prog-

ress in combatting the nation's long-running opioid crisis.

An estimated 69,973 people died from drug overdoses in 2025, a drop of nearly 14 percent from the 81,313 deaths estimated one year prior, according to figures from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the top U.S. health agency.

Deaths involving opioids -- including fentanyl, the powerful and addictive synthetic drug -- accounted for an estimated 44,564 fatalities in 2025.

It's a significant decrease from 2024, when opioids were involved in 55,296 deaths.

For more than 20 years the United States has faced a severe public health crisis fueled by synthetic opioids that have flooded across the country.

Following a staggering surge in fatalities -- in 2022, for example, nearly 108,000 total overdose deaths were recorded -- the country has experienced steady declines, a trend confirmed by the latest provisional figures.

Public health experts say the promising trend can be attributed to several factors, including improved access to naloxone -- the opioid overdose antidote known as Narcan, which became available over

the counter in the spring of 2023 -- as well as improved addiction treatment access.

The distribution of tools like test strips used to screen for fentanyl in illicit drugs also have played a significant role.

But nonprofit organizations like The Drug Policy Alliance have voiced concern that budget cuts under President Donald Trump could threaten progress by curbing resources for addiction and overdose prevention services.

America's opioid epidemic traces back to the 1990s, when drugmakers aggressively marketed prescription painkillers like OxyContin. □



The structure, known as "The Claw," for the upcoming UFC fight that US President Donald Trump will host as part of the 250th anniversary of the United States is seen on the South Lawn of the White House during a media preview in Washington, DC, June 11, 2026.

## 'The Claw' goes on show before Trump's birthday UFC fight

### Washington, United States

The White House on Thursday previewed the huge fighting arena known as "The Claw" that will host an Ultimate Fighting Championship bout on President Trump's 80th birthday. Journalists including an AFP reporter were granted access for the first time to the 92-foot (28-metre) tall structure taller than the White House itself that workmen have been building for weeks on the historic South Lawn.

In the center is the so-called "Octagon", the eight-sided cage where 14 UFC fighters will battle it out in front of Trump in the unprecedented event on Sunday night.

Firms including Bud Light beer and the Polymarket prediction market have their names emblazoned on the padding of the ring for the \$60-million-dollar tournament.

Surrounding the Octagon are black padded seats for 4,500 guests, each with a sign on the back saying "Warning: Please do not stand on chair," in case spectators get overexcited.

A huge red, white and blue sign saying "UFC Freedom

250" greets visitors and a similar logo appears on video screens attached to the side of the arena.

That's a reminder that the event is meant to kick off celebrations for this year's 250th anniversary of US independence as well as the fact that the UFC says it is picking up the price tag.

From the back of the structure, journalists could see beer tents leading down to the South Lawn's fountain, and portable toilets.

Behind that is a huge structure on the Ellipse, the grassy area just outside the grounds, where the White House says up to 125,000 people will be able to watch on free screens.

### - 'Disassembled immediately' -

The day of the UFC fight is officially Flag Day in the United States -- but it also happens to be the day that Trump, the oldest ever American president to take office, turns 80 years old.

Trump himself is a UFC fan who has attended a series of fights, endearing himself to its core fanbase of young men -- a key demographic in the 2024 US presidential election.

The billionaire Republican mused earlier this month about keeping "The Claw"

at the White House after the fight, comparing it to how the Eiffel Tower in Paris remained after an 1889 World Fair.

But the White House says the arena will start being dismantled the morning afterwards, according to papers in a lawsuit filed by people asking a judge to halt the fight.

"The Claw will be disassembled immediately after the event concludes," Joshua Fisher, Director for White House Management and Administration, said in the papers.

The Trump administration is meanwhile closely aligning itself with the macho world of UFC, even as it pursues a muscular foreign policy including the ongoing war with Iran.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is due to host UFC boss Dana White later Thursday to sign a new partnership to "enhance sports diplomacy initiatives and collaborate on the global growth of mixed martial arts."

FBI Director Kash Patel on Wednesday highlighted a separate partnership with the UFC to teach federal agents "amazing tactics so they can safeguard American lives." □



## The silver student boom: Lifelong learning takes center stage

State universities across the country are reporting a record-breaking surge in students over the age of 65, sparking a vibrant movement known as the "Silver Student Boom." This shift is transforming traditional campuses into intergenerational hubs where wisdom and energy collide. From Art History to Sustainable Agriculture, older adults are returning to the classroom, proving that curiosity has no expiration date.

### A new chapter of growth

For many in the "Silver Boom," higher education isn't about chasing a promotion or a paycheck; it's about the pure joy of discovery. These students are filling lecture halls with a unique sense of purpose. Freed from the pressures of starting a career, they bring a level of focus and enthusiasm that professors find infectious.

"I spent forty years in accounting," says 72-year-old Martha Chen, a sophomore studying Marine Biology at a coastal university. "Now, I'm learning about the migration patterns of whales. It's not just a hobby; it's a second act that makes me feel more alive and connected to the world than ever before."

### The intergenerational bridge

One of the most heartening outcomes of this trend is the breakdown of ageist stereotypes. In dorm-side coffee shops and library study groups, 19-year-olds and 70-year-olds are finding common ground. These "Age-Diverse" classrooms foster unique mentorships that work both ways.

Younger students often find solace in the perspective of their older peers, who have weathered life's storms and can offer a calming influence during stressful finals weeks. In return, younger students act as "digital natives," helping their older classmates navigate new research software or creative media tools. This exchange is creating a more empathetic and well-rounded campus culture, where every generation is seen as both a teacher and a learner.

### Economic and social vitality

Universities are welcoming this demographic with open arms. Many states now offer tuition waivers or deeply discounted "Audit" programs for seniors, recognizing that a diverse age range enriches the academic environment. This influx of "Silver Students" is also boosting local economies in college towns. These students often stay in the area long-term, patronizing local bookstores, theaters, and cafes, and bringing a steady, sophisticated presence to the community.

Moreover, research suggests that lifelong learning is a key factor in cognitive health. By staying intellectually active and socially engaged, "Silver Students" are maintaining their vitality and independence, reducing the social isolation that often accompanies aging. □

# The Indian workers training AI robots to take their jobs

## Karur, India

With a smartphone strapped to her head, Indian housewife Nagireddy Sriramyachandra films herself slicing mangoes to train AI-powered robots to take on household jobs in the future.

Earning just over two dollars for an hour of video, her mundane recordings are invaluable for global tech companies teaching machines how to move like humans in the real world.

The 25-year-old is one of a growing army of thousands of AI system trainers in the world's most populous country.

"Who else will give you 250 rupees an hour just for doing housework?" said Sriramyachandra from her kitchen in Chennai in southern India's Tamil Nadu state.

"I may get a robot myself in the future," she added.

Artificial intelligence chatbots and image generators crunch reams of digital data, but building systems to navigate real-life environments is more challenging.

Developers think feeding first-person footage, called "egocentric data", into specialised AI models will help robots copy humans. Some AI trainers work at home, others in factories



This photograph taken on May 13, 2026 shows a worker wearing a GoPro camera on his head recording actions through motion capture while folding towels inside a model bathroom at AI data company Objectways' office in Tamil Nadu's Karur district.

or specialised studios using video glasses, head-mounted cameras and motion sensors.

"It blares 'hands not detected' when I'm not recording properly," said Sriramyachandra, who sends recordings via a special app to the AI data company Objectways.

The firm, which has offices in India and the United States, lists Fortune 500 multinationals as clients. It works with Amazon SageMaker, a platform for machine learning models.

## - 'Better things' -

The humanoid robot market is booming, with investment bank Morgan Stanley predicting there could be over a billion in use by 2050, mostly for industrial and commercial purposes.

"Folding clothes, coffee making... cooking a very specific thing, sandwich making," Objectways head Ravi Shankar said, listing videos requested by clients.

"Some jobs are supposed to be taken over, so humans can go and do better things."

In India, the emerging field

of spatial AI is providing new employment for now. The 50-year-old CEO is US-based, but hires workers from Tamil Nadu, where he grew up, one of India's international technology hubs.

At a Karur textile factory, busy with workers attaching labels to caps and ironing cloth bags, AFP saw eight people wearing head cameras and smart glasses supplied by Objectways.

India has positioned itself as a global middleman for the creation, processing and annotation of AI data.

"It's likely that these data

collection services will increase", said digital labour expert Aditi Surie, from the Indian Institute for Human Settlements in Bengaluru.

## - Informal workers -

India is aggressively developing its AI industry, but its leaders are aware that, alongside the technology's much-hyped benefits, automation poses risks.

Government think-tank NITI Aayog said that most discussions around artificial intelligence and labour "focus on white-collar professionals and predict an almost certain loss of jobs in the segment" without urgent action.

"Little attention, if any, is paid to how AI can serve India's 490 million informal workers, the very people who form the backbone of our economy," it said in a report released ahead of a global AI summit in India this year.

The think-tank has examined how the technology could help or harm dozens of professions from cobblers to sewer cleaners, farmers to tea sellers.

For the last decade, 55-year-old Ponni has sat on a roadside in Bengaluru, the city known as India's Silicon Valley, making flower garlands.

She, too, has been paid to have a phone strapped to her forehead. □

# Smuggled dinosaur fossils return to Mongolia after two decades

## Mongolia

Mongolia has recovered a rare dinosaur skeleton and a trove of fossils illegally exported two decades ago, authorities said Wednesday, concluding years of efforts to return the palaeontological treasures.

The collection includes a Tarbosaurus bataar skeleton, estimated to be more than 50 percent intact, along with 28 groups of fossilised dinosaur remains originally found in Mongolia's Gobi Desert, according to police.

The bones had been illegally taken from Mongolia in 2006 "with the aim of making a profit", said D. Munkhkhuyag, head of the police public relations department.

French customs agencies confiscated the fossils between 2013 and 2015, and began returning them a year later to Mongolia under international conventions to combat the illicit trafficking of cultural heritage.

Following the lengthy process of returning the fossils, they arrived in the capital Ulaanbaatar on Thursday and will be housed in Mongolia's new National Museum of Natural History, where they will be studied and eventually put on public display.

"The dinosaur fossil is priceless and a unique piece of heritage," Manchuk

Nuramkhan, the museum's director, told a news conference.

"We are delighted that children and young people will have the opportunity to see Mongolia's dinosaur heritage firsthand and learn from it," she said.

Tarbosaurus bataar, a close relative of Tyrannosaurus rex, lived around 70 million years ago, with evidence of its existence almost almost exclusively found in Mongolia's Gobi Desert.

Manchuk said the return of the fossils was an important victory for efforts to recover cultural and scientific heritage taken from Mongolia and highlights growing international cooperation

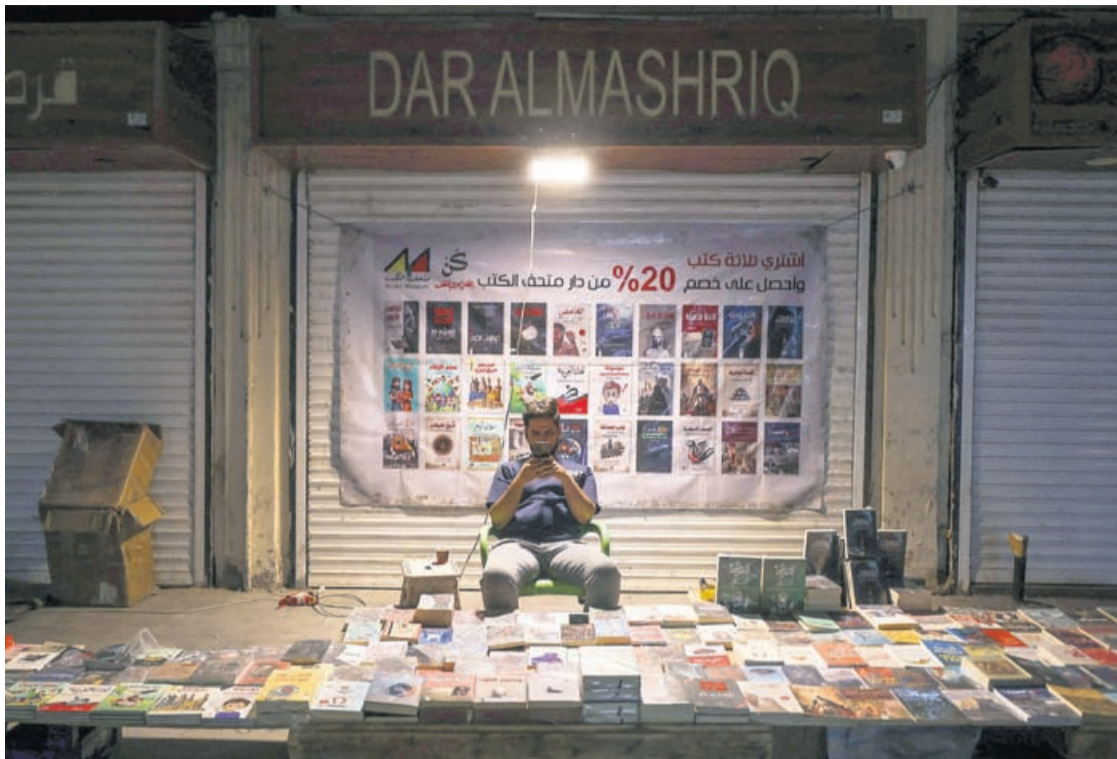
against the illegal trade in antiquities and fossils.

Mongolia has intensified efforts in recent years to recover dinosaur fossils smuggled abroad, as demand

from private collectors and auction houses has fuelled an international black market in rare palaeontological specimens. □



A Tarbosaurus dinosaur fossil is seen on display during a handover ceremony in Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia, on June 11, 2026.



An Iraqi man sells books at his shop on Mutanabbi Street in Baghdad on September 30, 2025.

## Famed Baghdad booksellers lament fading legacy as sales dwindle

### Baghdad, Iraq

For centuries, Baghdad's Mutanabbi Street was a zenith for book lovers, boasting titles from all corners of the world, such that it gave birth to the Arab adage: "Cairo writes, Beirut publishes, Baghdad reads." But on a quiet summer morning in June, traces of that rich history appeared to be fading, and booksellers like Hussein Ali, whose wares were spread across the pavement, bemoaned depleting sales as readers increasingly opt for online copies.

"Thirty-five years ago, I would sell more than 50 copies on a day like this," said Ali, speaking to AFP on a Friday, which marks the start of the weekend and is usually the busiest day in the book market.

"Today, I can barely sell five." Despite Baghdad's long-held reputation as having one of the most avid reading populations in the Arab region, there was little evidence of that tradition remaining.

The street, named after the famed 10th century poet Abu al-Tayeb al-Mutanabbi, is packed with stall after stall containing endless shelves of books in Arabic and English.

But the signs declaring some volumes which had now gathered a layer of dust to cost the equivalent of less than a dollar did little to attract more customers.

Beyond the rows of shelves containing books on astrology, psychology and yoga lay hidden treasures, including rare collections unavailable anywhere else in the world.

One such volume, Ali said, was "The Great Treasure", a religious text revered by the Sabian Mandaeans, an ancient religious minority spread mainly across Iraq and Iran.

The man in his 70s described feeling "sorrow that I work hard without any return", saying he continued to work because he had grown accustomed to it and to "seeing old friends who visit Mutanabbi".

He mourned what he described as the death of creativity, attributing it in part to "the spread of social media".

### - 'Speed and efficiency' -

The first forms of written text were believed to have appeared more than 5,000 years ago in Mesopotamia, in the ancient city of Uruk, now known as Iraq's southern city of Al-Warkah.

Issa Adnan, a computer

engineer, said he found it easier and faster to find books online rather than to go to Mutanabbi Street.

He added that he is no longer as interested in reading novels and philosophy as he once was "because we have come to worship speed and efficiency".

Throughout the decades of war and violence that gripped Iraq since the 1980s, Mutanabbi Street largely remained a beacon brimming with life and letters, until a 2007 suicide bombing there killed 30 people and destroyed many shops and stalls.

The street even got a major facelift, undergoing renovations just a few years ago.

But like other booksellers, Abdullah Abdulazim still pointed to a "great decline" in the number of readers and visitors.

Abdulazim, 26, has taken to social media to promote his bookshop, but still complains that "sometimes profits are meagre, others they are nonexistent".

"A home without a library lacks imagination and innovation," he said.

Author Hakim al-Shammari said he had begun distributing his latest book to ministries and institutions for free due to the declining interest in reading. □



Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Marc Miller speaks during a press conference in Ottawa, Canada, on October 26, 2021.

## Canada moves to ban under-16s from social media, regulate AI

### Montreal, Canada

Canada's culture minister on Wednesday introduced legislation that would ban children under 16 from having social media accounts and require AI chatbot services to limit production of harmful content.

The proposed Digital Safety Act makes Canada the latest in a wave of countries cracking down on social media platforms over concerns of harm to children.

"We have seen the very serious consequences that online harms can have...The safety of children cannot be an afterthought," said Culture Minister Marc Miller in a statement announcing the proposal.

The legislation would ban social media accounts for children under 16 years old, the statement said, adding that there be an exemption "pathway" for companies if they can demonstrate "sufficient safeguards" for children.

Social media services, including adult content platforms, would also face new requirements under the law to "mitigate risks associated with exposure" to various categories of harmful content and apply labels to synthetically generated content.

The eventual regulations would be enforced by a Digital Safety Commission, with possible fines on companies not in compliance of up to three percent of their global revenue or CAD\$10 million.

"This legislation will provide a safer environment for young Canadians and empower them to connect in-person, build friendships, focus in school, and learn real-world skills so they can thrive," Health Minister Marjorie Michel said in a statement.

Sachin Maharaj, an education professor at University of Ottawa, called the proposal "a step towards the right direction," with a "recognition that social media is associated with behavioral and social issues."

"Obviously, kids will find their way around" restrictions, he told AFP. "But the real challenge is to change the way the apps work."

### - AI rules -

In addition to the social media ban, the new law would also regulate increasingly ubiquitous AI chatbots by requiring companies to "mitigate the risk of the chatbot communicating harmful content."

Companies would also face requirements for transparency around "reporting thresholds in crisis situations," such as when a user intends to harm themselves or another person. □

# Create museum memories with the entire family!



**Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce you to these locations.**

## Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is



situated in the Water Tower and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruban Museum Foundation (FMA), which is a foundation that maintains, preserves, and protects the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page: Museum of Industry Aruba.

## Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjes-

tad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1,700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final



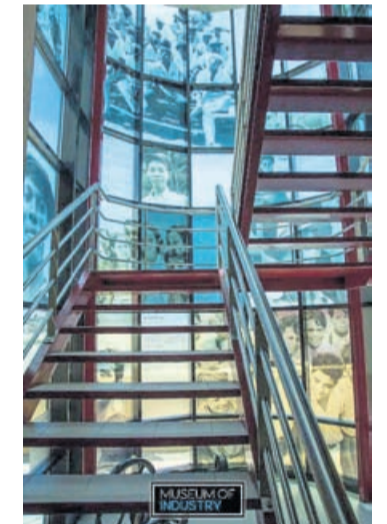
design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba uses approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit showcases archaeological objects and conveys modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum regularly hosts public seminars, special exhibitions and workshop for visitors to enjoy.

The museum is open daily from 9 am till 5 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page National Archaeological Museum Aruba or website: [www.manaruba.org](http://www.manaruba.org)

Editor's note: Pictures are property of the respective museums. □



## Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

### How to make "funchi"

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

#### Before we start, get to know the basics

What is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

#### Ingredients (measured by heart)

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

#### Directions

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

you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

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

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you).



Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce. □

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

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## Weichert® Aruba Realty Celebrates Soft Opening and Blessing Ceremony at Its New Palm Beach Headquarters



**ORANJESTAD – Weichert® - Aruba Realty marked a milestone moment with its soft opening and official blessings ceremony, gathering partners and staff at the brand-new Palm Beach office, a space purposely built to deliver a modern, warm, and world-class real estate experience to every client who walks through its doors.**

**A celebration rooted in purpose.** The gathering was a heartfelt celebration with the entire team and the exciting news: Weichert is now a reality in Aruba. PalmAruba Group has the privilege of holding one of the most recognized real estate franchises in the world, and this soft opening marked the

first official step toward the island-wide launch planned for June 24th. The event was blessed by a local priest in a brief and meaningful ceremony, symbolizing the values of community and trust that guide the company.

*"This was a beautiful occasion to celebrate together with our team and share the good news that Weichert Realtors® is now a reality here in Aruba. We want to elevate our service level—we want our agents to be the best-trained and most prepared professionals on the island, capable of delivering an outstanding experience to every client. We are very proud and excited about this step we are taking, and we are confident that Aruba will welcome us with open arms."*

— **Victor Acosta, Owner and Broker, Weichert® - Aruba Realty**

**A prime location, built from the ground up.** The office sits in one of Aruba's most commercially vibrant corridors, Palm Beach, in a building designed and constructed by PalmAruba Group itself. Interior design was entrusted to architect Laura Vélez, whose vision

shaped every detail of the space. Renovations began in September of last year and spanned nearly six months, encompassing custom furnishings, layout improvements, and all finishing touches required to meet Weichert's global standards.

**Designed for comfort, privacy, and collaboration.** The new headquarters features two main offices, two open workstations, two meeting rooms, two co-working areas, a reception, two enclosed private offices, a kitchen, and two restrooms. Open and closed spaces have been deliberately balanced to give clients both a welcoming atmosphere and the confidentiality they often require during real estate conversations. A striking scale model of Caribbean Town-Palm, Aruba's flagship development, greets visitors at the heart of the showroom floor.

**Looking ahead to the official launch.** The official public opening is scheduled for June 24th. The team plans to welcome island authorities, fellow brokers and agents, and community leaders to experience the new facilities first-

hand. The message is clear: starting July, Weichert® - Aruba Realty is present on the island and ready to serve. The company aims to create a measurable, positive impact on Aruba's real estate industry by combining local expertise, a powerful international brand, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.

This soft opening reinforces PalmAruba Group's long-term vision of elevating real estate standards on the island, now backed by the strength of one of the most respected franchises in the world. □



## Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



**(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest**

**natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.**

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site re-



mained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge

entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □

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**Your Voice, Our Honor: Bucuti Named Top Hotel in the World**

(Oranjestad)—Some places you visit. A rare few you carry home. For nearly four decades, travellers have come to one quiet stretch of powdery sand on Aruba's Eagle Beach, fallen in love with the island, the sea, and one another, and then spent years writing about it. More than 10,000 of those love letters, left as five-star reviews, have now once again ranked Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort as the No. 8 Hotel in the World, the No. 1 Hotel in the Caribbean, and the No. 1 Hotel in Aruba in Tripadvisor's 2026 Travellers' Choice Best of the Best Awards.

This devotion is anything but new. Every single year since 2002, Bucuti & Tara has kept its place on Tripadvisor's Best of the Best list: No. 1 in Aruba for 25 years, No. 1 in the Caribbean for more than 20 years running, and the most romantic destination in the region for over two decades. Its beloved Eagle Beach is ranked the No. 1 beach in the Caribbean and No. 4 in the world, and together these honors place the resort among the top 0.001% of the 1.6 million hotels Tripadvisor lists worldwide. Nearly a quarter-century of guest devotion, documented and real.

What makes the recognition so meaningful is that it comes, as it always has, from the guests themselves: from the stories they choose to share after returning home, and from the moments that stay with them long after their footprints traced Eagle Beach. The sunrise walks. The anniversary dinners. The rare gift of uninterrupted time together. Behind each of those moments is a Bucuti Associate who did everything they could to make their day extraordinary, bringing heart, intention, and authentic Aruban warmth to every greeting and every remembered detail. A legacy written by guests, and brought to life by the people who genuinely care for them. An honor like this is never won. It is given.



"We are deeply humbled and grateful," said Crescenzia Biemans, Managing Director of Bucuti & Tara. "Every review is someone telling us we mattered to a chapter of their life: a honeymoon, an anniversary, a quiet morning they never forgot. To our guests, thank you for letting us be part of those moments, and for sharing them with the world. To our Bucuti Associates, who give their hearts to this place each day, this honour is yours. We are so proud and honored to have you as part of our Bucuti family. And to our beloved Aruba, our One Happy Island, thank you for giving us a home. We vow to cherish and protect you for generations to come. Masha danki, from the bottom of my heart."

That gratitude is something you can feel, taste and see all throughout the resort. At Elements, the No. 1 fine-dining restaurant in the Caribbean, and at the new Terra by Jeremy Ford, the region's first restaurant led by a chef holding both a Michelin Star and the rare Michelin Green Star for sustainability, every plate begins the same way: with the morning's catch from local fishermen and produce from island farmers. Forbes called Terra the "most coveted reservation to score" within a month of its opening, yet its truest distinction, just like the resort, is that it belongs to Aruba. And on the same sand where

guests fall into deep relaxation as they listen to the rhythm of the waves, sea turtles return each season to nest, watched over by the Caribbean's first and only certified Carbon Neutral resort and the only hotel ever to receive the United Nations Global Climate Action Award. Here, caring for the island and honoring our people has never been an obligation. It is a form of gratitude, made visible

For nearly four decades, the purpose has remained unchanged: to care, exceptionally, for every guest, every Associate, and the island the resort is honoured to protect each day. Everything else, including this honor, follows as gently as the tide. To everyone who made it possible, the message from Eagle Beach is simple. Thank you. Masha Danki. This is yours.

Peace, Love and Happiness. Naturally. To learn more, visit [Bucuti.com](http://Bucuti.com). ☐



# Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

## Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

## Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight



ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

## Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same

as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

## Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away

from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

## "Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



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## The Aruban Cunukero: From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

- The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
- Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
- Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
- Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasants", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools



and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were

given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on

cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events. □

**Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.**

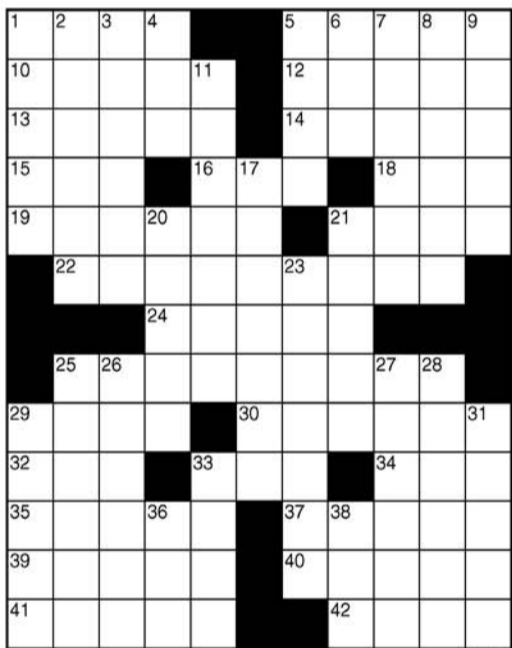


### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



- ACROSS**
- 40 Hot spot
  - 1 Homer's son
  - 5 More polite
  - 10 Dubai rulers
  - 12 Bowl
  - 13 Muscular power
  - 14 Fixes
  - 15 Easter find
  - 16 Broad st.
  - 18 Soak up
  - 19 Fencer's cry
  - 21 Gift toppers
  - 22 Wood slivers
  - 24 Worship site
  - 25 Track athletes
  - 29 Bill
  - 30 Parliament Hill setting
  - 32 Writer Beattie
  - 33 Vein yield
  - 34 Salon stuff
  - 35 "The Kiss" creator
  - 37 So out, it's in
  - 39 Effortless charm
- DOWN**
- 1 Trouble
  - 2 Pedro's pals
  - 3 Total at the register
  - 4 Due follower
  - 5 Newborn's need
  - 6 Fury
  - 7 Curse bleeper
  - 8 Funds
  - 9 Coarse files
  - 11 African tongue
  - 17 Avenue in Monopoly
  - 20 Lewis's partner
  - 21 Floppy top
  - 23 Rags
  - 25 Madrid Mrs.
  - 26 Bamboo eaters
  - 27 Con-vertible
  - 28 Veer suddenly
  - 29 River boat
  - 31 African lilies
  - 33 Addition column
  - 36 Bar cubes
  - 38 Greek vowel



2-11

A XYDLBAA XR  
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.

2-11

### CRYPTOQUOTE

BPK 'N NXLSMNSK RS FHNX

EPGS, CMCI. ESN'V DTVN WP

FMEYHKW HK NXS LMHK.

— CHEEHS XPEHBMI

**Cryptoquote:** THE LOVE WE GIVE AWAY IS THE ONLY LOVE WE KEEP. — ELBERT HUBBARD

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

### Electrical power



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

### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



### Supermarket hours

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

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

### Safety

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

## JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/12

### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

6/11

# Rising costs and competition threaten GoPro

## New York, United States

For nearly 25 years, GoPro cameras have gone underwater, glided with parachutes and slipped down ski slopes, allowing the adventurous to record images of their experiences.

But the California company now faces a battle for survival amid intensifying competition, questionable demand for electronics and rising material costs. Its plight is spelled out in U.S. securities filings containing cryptic language. GoPro "has incurred operating losses and negative operating cash flows," said PricewaterhouseCoopers. Failure to meet GoPro's commitments under financing arrangements will "raise substantial doubt about its ability to continue as a going concern," the auditing firm added.

Such language and the refiling of financial statements means creditors may assert an "event of default" under the agreements, said GoPro, which described itself as being "in active discussions" with lenders, including Farallon Capital Management and Wells Fargo.

The company has also engaged a financial advisory firm "to evaluate a range of strategic alternatives that could include a sale of the company or merger," GoPro announced in May.

Since then, no buyer has emerged. GoPro did not respond to AFP requests for comment.

### - Capture life's passions -

Launched in 2002 by Nick Woodman, who initially sought to capture images from his surfing ventures, GoPro went public in 2014. Woodman rang the bell on the Nasdaq trading floor, and the company touted its products as a way to enable "people to capture their life's passions in ways they could have never done before."

The company's ability to record and share vibrant images from activities fit well with the growth of



A GoPro Hero 7 White is displayed at the GoPro booth at CES 2019 at the Las Vegas Convention Center on January 8, 2019 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

social media, although heavy competition from smartphones has been a persistent challenge. In May, Morgan Stanley equity analysts said they were taking a "cautious stance" on the company, citing "continued uncertainty within the consumer electronics market, as well as heightened competitive pressures and memory headwinds."

The company's revenues in 2025 came in at \$651.5 million, down about 44 percent from four years earlier.

In April, GoPro announced it had engaged management consulting firm Oliver Wyman to help it pursue new opportunities for its technology with the defense and aerospace sec-

tor. In a May conference call, Woodman told analysts that the company had received "several inbound inquiries related to" mergers and acquisitions from "various" interested parties, adding: "I am fully supportive of evaluating strategic opportunities for the company to unlock value for shareholders."

Morgan Stanley described the prospects as potentially promising, but added that the current strategic reboot "is not GoPro's first attempt at reinvention." On May 28, GoPro announced that its new Mission 1 line of products was available, describing the series as "the world's smallest, lightest, and most rug-

ged 8K and 4K Open Gate cinema cameras." But the company reported a first-quarter loss on revenues of just \$99.1 million, down 26 percent from the year-earlier period. GoPro also announced in April it was cutting 23 percent of its staff, which had numbered 631.

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| HEALTH   |   |
|--|---|
| DOCTOR ON DUTY   |   |
| <b>Oranjestad Hospital</b><br>7:00 pm/10:00pm<br>Tel. 527 4000 | <b>San Nicolas IMSAN</b><br>24 HOURS<br>Tel. 524 8833 |

| PHARMACY ON DUTY                                   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Oranjestad: Eagle</b><br>Tel. 587 9011          |  |
| <b>San Nicolas: Centro Medico</b><br>Tel. 584 5794 |  |

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

| EMERGENCY                 |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Police</b>             | <b>100</b>      |
| <b>Police Oranjestad</b>  | <b>527 3140</b> |
| <b>Police Noord</b>       | <b>527 3200</b> |
| <b>Police Sta. Cruz</b>   | <b>527 2900</b> |
| <b>Police San Nicolas</b> | <b>584 5000</b> |
| <b>Police Tipline</b>     | <b>11141</b>    |
| <b>Ambulance</b>          | <b>911</b>      |
| <b>Fire Dept.</b>         | <b>115</b>      |
| <b>Red Cross</b>          | <b>582 2219</b> |

| TAXI SERVICES           |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Taxi Tas</b>         | <b>587 5900</b> |
| <b>Prof. Taxi</b>       | <b>588 0035</b> |
| <b>Taxi D.T.S.</b>      | <b>587 2300</b> |
| <b>Taxi Serv. Aruba</b> | <b>583 3232</b> |
| <b>A1 Taxi Serv.</b>    | <b>280 2828</b> |

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

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**ARUBA TODAY NEWS**

# Scientists warn of record heat, threats to climate monitoring

## Paris, France

Planetary heating is intensifying and key climate indicators are deteriorating, top scientists said Thursday, warning that funding decisions affecting Earth observation systems in the United States and other countries threaten efforts to track global warming.

More than 70 scientists including contributors to the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) raised the alarm over record human-induced warming and surging marine heatwaves in an annual study published between major IPCC assessments.

"These indicators represent an essential monitoring of the vitals of a patient exhibiting ever increasingly troubling symptoms," said Peter Thorne, a co-author and physical geography professor at Ireland's Maynooth University.

"They all rest upon a suite of global observation capabilities which are, for the first time in my lifetime, systematically either actively degrading or at risk," said Thorne, who is also deputy chair of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), a UN-backed Earth monitoring program.

Global temperatures reached about 1.39C above preindustrial levels in 2025, with nearly all of that warming 1.37C driven by



Picture shows the cracked riverbed due to drought in the Guadaleba reservoir, in Los Campillos, on August 9, 2017.

human activities, according to the study published in the journal Earth System Science Data.

Human-induced warming will reach 1.5C in around 2030, the scientists warned. Nations agreed under the 2015 Paris climate accord to limit warming to well below 2C and preferably 1.5C to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.

But the report found the world is accumulating heat at a rapid pace, worsening "Earth's energy imbalance" the rate at which energy enters and leaves the planet.

"Without human influence,

it should be close to zero, but it has been growing since the 1970s and is now at a record high, doubling in recent decades," said the study's lead author, Piers Forster, a physical climate change professor at the University of Leeds in Britain.

The high rate of warming is due to a combination of greenhouse gas emissions reaching an all-time high and the reduction of aerosol pollution, which has weakened a cooling effect as these particles reflect sunlight.

CO2 emissions, however, remain the main driver of

global warming and are at a record high.

While scientists said emissions are slowing, the "carbon budget" the amount of CO2 that can still be emitted to keep warming under 1.5C could be exhausted in around three years.

"Given that greenhouse gas emissions are still on the rise, keeping global warming below this (1.5C) threshold now seems unachievable," said Aurelien Ribes, climate scientist at the French meteorological service. The sea rose by around 23 cm between 1901 and 2025 and it is rising at a faster pace at 3.84

mm per year, due to melting land-based ice and through thermal expansion as the ocean warms.

The number of marine heat-wave days a new indicator added to this year's report has more than tripled since 1991, reaching 65 on average in 2025.

## - Trump cuts -

Launched in 2023, the Indicators of Global Climate Change provides an annual update for policymakers on the state of the planet as climate change accelerates. The last IPCC assessment was finalised in 2023 and the next is due in 2028 or 2029.

The annual indicators report relies on around 40 global datasets which come from satellites and an array of land, sea and air instruments, including weather stations, ships, buoys and weather balloons.

But efforts to tackle climate change are increasingly overshadowed by wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, with governments facing a global energy crisis, budget constraints and a climate-sceptic President Donald Trump.

"Future monitoring of these indicators, such as ocean and satellite measurements of the Earth's energy imbalance, are threatened by geopolitical and public funding decisions," the report said. □

## Four times as many icebergs calved from Greenland glaciers: study

**Copenhagen, Denmark** releasing four times more Greenland's glaciers are icebergs than 25 years



This aerial view shows icebergs floating in the waters beaten down by the sun off Nuuk, Greenland, on March 11, 2025, on the day of Greenland, the autonomous Danish territory, legislative elections.

ago as a result of climate change, with implications extending to maritime traffic and marine ecosystems, researchers said Thursday.

"Our results indicate a direct, climate-driven connection between glacier change at the surface, amplified iceberg traffic, and the increased availability of hard-bottom habitats on the deep seafloor," according to the study by researchers from the Technical University of Denmark (DTU), published in the scientific journal Nature.

"When the Greenland ice melts, sea levels rise. But

we can also see that the changes affect the entire Arctic," Shfaqat Abbas Khan, one of the study's authors, said in a DTU press release.

In the Fram Strait, between northeast Greenland and Svalbard, "the occurrence of icebergs has quadrupled since the year 2000", the statement said.

In addition, the proportion of groups of icebergs originating from Greenland and from the Russian Arctic, and comprising more than five individual icebergs, has increased by 4.5 percent per decade since

the turn of the century.

"The new study shows that the consequences do not stop at rising sea levels, but directly affect deep-sea ecosystems far from the glaciers," Abbas Khan said.

Icebergs transport large quantities of rocks and sediments several hundred kilometres offshore before sinking and transforming life on the seabed.

Furthermore, as new shipping routes open up in the Arctic, the risk that vessels will encounter icebergs along their journey increases. □

## Knicks stage historic comeback to beat Spurs, one win from NBA title

### New York, United States

The New York Knicks staged the biggest comeback in NBA Finals history on Wednesday as they erased a 29-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 107-106 and now need one more win to seal the title. OG Anunoby's soft-as-silk tip-in basket with 1.2 seconds left sealed the thrilling victory to give the Knicks a 3-1 stranglehold on the best-of-seven championship series, which shifts back to San Antonio for game five on Saturday.

Jalen Brunson scored 36 points and Anunoby added 33 for New York, putting in the game-winner off Brunson's three-point attempt that struck the rim. "Just do whatever it takes to win," Anunoby said of the basket that sent a star-studded crowd at Madison Square Garden into a frenzy as it put the Knicks on the brink of their first title since 1973.

"I inbounded the ball to Jalen. He got a pretty good look and I just went and crashed. The ball went over my head, so I couldn't really dunk it. So I tried to tip it in softly and it went in."



OG Anunoby #8 of the New York Knicks celebrates with teammates after scoring the go-ahead basket against the San Antonio Spurs in the final seconds of the fourth quarter in Game Four of the 2026 NBA Finals at Madison Square Garden on June 10, 2026 in New York City.

Spurs star Victor Wembanyama scored 24 points and pulled down 13 rebounds. Dylan Harper added 21 points and De'Aaron Fox and Devin Vassell had 18 apiece for San Antonio, who set a Finals record with 14 three-pointers in the first half but couldn't make their massive lead stick.

Brunson put New York in front for the first time with a

floater that made it 105-104 with 1:22 remaining. San Antonio's Stephon Castle made a pair of free throws but the Knicks came through, Anunoby rising highest from a scrum of Spurs defenders to clinch the win.

The previous biggest comeback in the Finals was 24 points, by the Boston Celtics against the Los Angeles Lakers in 2008.

"I can't really explain it right now," Wembanyama said of the Spurs collapse after their own epic start.

"I don't know. I think it's just execution, greediness of some sort. We clearly weren't the most hungry in the second half."

The Spurs, who dropped the first two games at home but then ended the Knicks' 13-game winning streak on

Monday, came out swinging, connecting on 15 of 23 shots on the way to 41 points in the first quarter. New York made just 29.4 percent of their shots in a first period that saw Karl-Anthony Towns pick up two early fouls and reserve Mitchell Robinson called for a flagrant foul after a frustrated forearm to Wembanyama's throat.

Brunson, hounded mercilessly by the Spurs, didn't make a basket until the second quarter. The Spurs pushed their lead to 29 points before taking a 76-49 lead into half-time. Their 27-point half-time lead was the largest for a road team in Finals history, but San Antonio scored just 30 points in the second half.

"It was an ugly, ugly game," Towns said.

He paid tribute to fans who stayed the course and kept cheering.

"We didn't bring it in the first half. But they stuck with us," he said.

Wembanyama was assessed a flagrant foul after catching Towns with an elbow to the face early in the third quarter. □

## Kylian, Neymar top South America football naming boom

### Quito, Ecuador

What's in a name? A victory foretold or a homage to greatness past?

Across South America, a legion of pint-sized Kylians and Neymars will be following the fortunes of the stars to whom they owe their names when the World Cup kicks off on Thursday. But in a year's time, depending on which players shine, expectant parents may be leaning towards Lamine (Yamal, Spain), Ousmane (Dembele, France), Harry (Kane, England) or Vitinha (Portugal). In Ecuador, which is taking part in its fifth World Cup, the most popular footballers' names are not those of local stars such as Kendry Paez or Willian Pacho, a two-time Champions League winner with Paris Saint-Germain.

Instead it is Brazil's all-time record scorer Neymar, playing at his fourth and probably last World Cup, who tops the board, with 3,847 namesakes, the country's civil registry said Wednesday.

Kylian Mbappe, the wunderkind who led France to victory at the 2018 World Cup in Russia, is second, with over 2,800 children bearing his name, ahead of James (Rodriguez, Colombia's captain), in third with 2,136 nods.

Argentine and Portuguese greats Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo also have (their first and last) names writ large in Ecuadorian family history.

The country boasts 1,549 little Lionels, 38 Messis, 178 Cristianos and 1,006 Ronaldos.

In Colombia, the order is reversed, with 836 children named Kylian or Mbappe, ahead of 269 Neymars and 220 Cristianos or Ronaldos, figures from 2022 show.

Neymar unsurprisingly, has also inspired a generation of parents in his homeland, with 2,443 children named after the player who has been an integral part of three World Cup campaigns, according to a 2022 census.

But five-time champions Brazil also have a soft spot for Kylian or Killian, with over 400 bearing his name. In football-mad Argentina, Lionel had a major moment in 2023, the year after Messi cemented his legacy by leading his country to its third title, but the name has since dipped in popularity. In Chile, one family made national headlines in the

run-up to the 2022 World Cup when it welcomed a newborn named Griezmann Mbappe, after France's former striker and current star forward respectively.

The young Griezmann found himself in illustrious

company: his brother was called James Modric (a mash-up of James Rodriguez and Luka Modric) while his cousins included an Andres Iniesta (legendary former Spain midfielder), a Lionel Messi and a Neymar Ronaldo. □



Lionel Messi of Argentina celebrates after scoring the team's second goal during the international friendly match between Argentina and Iceland at Jordan-Hare Stadium on June 09, 2026 in Auburn, Alabama.



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## Co-hosts Mexico kick off 2026 World Cup with a victory

### Mexico City, Mexico

Mexico beat South Africa 2-0 in the opening match of the World Cup at the Estadio Azteca on Thursday, kicking off the biggest ever edition of the global footballing showpiece.

Mexico's victory launched a sprawling tournament of 48 teams that will last nearly six weeks.

The extravaganza hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada features 104 games, culminating in the final in New Jersey on July 19.

Julian Quinones scored the opening goal of the tournament after nine minutes and 35-year-old striker Raul Jimenez headed in Mexico's second goal in front of 80,000 spectators at the historic stadium.

South Africa were over-run and had two players -- Sphephelo Sithole and Themba Zwane -- sent off. Before the kickoff, Colombian superstar Shakira and Nigerian singer Burna Boy



**Mexico's forward #16 Julian Quinones celebrates scoring his team's first goal during the 2026 World Cup Group A football match between Mexico and South Africa at the Mexico City Stadium in Mexico City on June 11, 2026.**

delighted the crowd with a performance of "Dai Dai", the official song of the tournament.

Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli also performed to round off the opening ceremony.

There was a festive atmosphere inside the stadium, but outside dozens of protesters clashed with police. Groups of teachers, rela-

tives of Mexicans who have gone missing, and student activists gathered outside the stadium amid a heavy police presence.

Some protesters breached barriers and traded blows with officers guarding the stadium's perimeter, moments after Mexico scored the tournament's opening goal.

### - Delighted fans -

Tens of thousands of fans crammed into a fan zone in central Mexico to watch the game, which was also enthusiastically followed by a large crowd of fans from Los Angeles' Mexican community on giant screens at the Coliseum.

South Korea and the Czech Republic play the second game of the opening day later, in Guadalajara.

The start of the action on the pitch will come as a welcome relief to football's world governing body FIFA, which has faced stinging criticism over the eye-watering costs of tickets.

In addition, Donald Trump's immigration crackdown has seen a top referee, Iranian team officials and fans refused entry to the United States.

Speaking in Mexico City on Wednesday, FIFA president Gianni Infantino defended the organization of the tournament and brushed off criticism over visa issues.

Infantino insisted that tickets -- which in some cases have topped \$30,000 -- had been priced appropriately, citing a small number of \$60 tickets that were made available in response to criticism.

"Let me just say that our entry price, which is 60 dollars, is the lowest entry price of any of the American sports in the play-off phases," Infantino said.

"Our average price which is below 500 dollars is again the lowest of the American sports on average."

Infantino also played down the controversy surrounding Somali World Cup referee Omar Artan, who was refused entry after arriving in Miami, suggesting reporters should "chill, relax".

On Thursday, European football's governing body UEFA announced that Artan had been selected to referee its European Super Cup, between Paris Saint-Germain and Aston Villa in August. □