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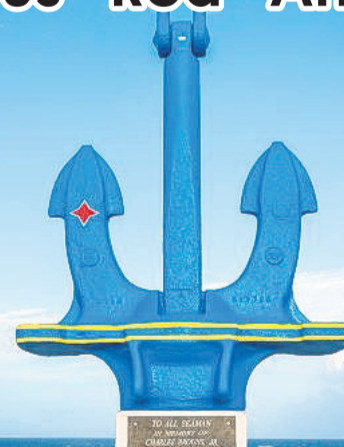
Emanuel Chapel: A symbol of faith and history now protected as a monument



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Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous "Red" Anchor



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MONDAY: ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	WEDNESDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	FRIDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	SATURDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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Happy Hour
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PREMIUM BRANDS



Birthright citizenship helps spark U.S. World Cup run

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump's bid to end birthright citizenship has gone all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court but the issue's impact is already being felt on a giant stage: the World Cup.

Historically, anyone born on U.S. soil automatically has the right to citizenship. Trump wants to end that as part of wider restrictions on immigration.

As Supreme Court justices prepare their ruling, Americans got a vivid illustration of the policy at work in the form of star US striker Folarin Balogun, who scored twice in the 4-1 rout over Paraguay. Balogun may have shone in the U.S. jersey, but if not for an accident of fate he wouldn't even be American. "(My mother) came to the U.S. to visit her sister, and she had her return ticket but then they said that she was too pregnant. So I was born in New York," Balogun said in an Instagram video posted by the U.S. team this week.

Even though Balogun grew up in London from the age of one month, he qualified for birthright citizenship.

Still so British that he prefers English tea over coffee, Balogun ultimately chose to play for the United States over England or his family's native Nigeria.

"The way I was eligible to represent America...I'm not



going to be the person to stand in the way of this story," he said in his distinct London accent.

The three co-hosts of the World Cup -- United States, Mexico and Canada -- are among the few countries in the world, mostly in the Americas, that grant automatic citizenship to those born there.

Trump wants to restrict citizenship for babies born in the U.S. to those with at least one parent who is an American citizen or lawful permanent resident -- none of which applied to Balogun.

- Football's Silicon Valley -
Experts interviewed by AFP said Balogun's citizenship

story is an outlier in the world of football, but that it nevertheless is an example of how migration is increasingly interwoven into the sport.

Nearly one-quarter of players at this World Cup were born in countries other than the one they are representing, said Marissa Kiss of George Mason University's Institute for Immigration Research.

"As with the World Baseball Classic, the Olympics, and the World Cup, countries are competing for talent and immigration policy is a competitive tool," she said.

"Countries that make citizenship easier to obtain have an advantage in recruiting talent."

Diaspora communities are

increasingly playing a role in widening player pools, said Gijsbert Oonk, a professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam who studies the intersection of migration and sports.

This World Cup features 75 European-born players on African teams, according to data compiled by Oonk. "France has become the world's most important exporter of football talent. During the 2026 World Cup, close to 100 participating players were born in France. Yet only a minority of them represent the French national team," he wrote in a recent blog post.

French-born players of African heritage are repre-

senting countries like Algeria, Morocco, Senegal, Mali and Haiti -- a reflection of France's colonial history.

"The banlieues surrounding Paris have become football's equivalent of Silicon Valley," he said of the suburbs home to many immigrant families.

- Brothers and refugees -

According to the US team, half of its 26 players have at least dual nationality.

They include Tim Weah, the son of football legend George Weah, the only African player to win the Ballon d'Or and who later became president of Liberia.

The younger Weah choose to play for the Americans but had been eligible to represent Liberia, Jamaica and France.

Meanwhile, tiny Curacao has only one player born in the Caribbean island nation, according to David Storey, honorary professor of human geography at the University of Worcester.

The team's other 25 members were born in the Netherlands, which counts Curacao as a constituent country.

"Although they have a small population (of 158,000), they have used their diaspora to expand the player pool," he told AFP.

This World Cup also features four sets of brothers where each pair is playing for a different team. □

Qatar-gifted Air Force One replacement unveiled



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks in front of the new Air Force One, gifted to him by Qatar, in a hangar at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland on June 19, 2026.

Joint Base Andrews, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump

unveiled on Friday a replacement Air Force One aircraft gifted by Qatar, which he

dubbed a "flying White House."

"This is considered the world's most luxurious plane," Trump said at a speech inside the plane's hangar, praising the gulf emirate for being "so nice and providing" it.

Qatar's gift of the aircraft -- valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars -- has raised ethical, constitutional and security concerns.

Trump has previously said it would be "stupid" to reject the gift, while also stoking further concern by saying the plane would eventually be donated to his presidential library.

At the unveiling Friday at Joint Base Andrews, just outside Washington, Trump

praised the workmanship that went into modifying the jet, saying "with the extraordinary devotion of many of you here today, this plane was transformed into a flying White House at a level of luxury that nobody's ever seen before."

"When you see it, you won't believe it, actually, the quality of woods, the quality of the materials, the quality of the engines," he added. "And I want to thank the emir of Qatar."

A pool journalist allowed to tour the inside of the plane reported that it features leather seats, plush carpets, wooden panelling and walls colored tan and light brown with shades of gold.

A framed print of a duck swimming in the Reflecting Pool -- a Washington landmark that Trump has sought to beautify with mixed results -- is among patriotic-themed pictures to adorn the walls. Repeatedly praising the size of the aircraft and its engines, Trump said, "it flies further and faster than any Air Force One."

Trump said the new aircraft would likely participate in a flyover as part of 250th US Independence Day celebrations on July 4.

The U.S. president has fixated on replacing the aircraft, which have been in service since the 1990s, since his first term. □

Why are some people mosquito magnets? Clues are emerging

Paris, France

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

"It's not a misconception -- mosquitoes are attracted to some people more than others," Frederic Simard of France's Institute of Research for Development told AFP. "But we are not all magnets all the time," the medical entomologist added.

A range of sensory cues can cause mosquitoes to pick one human over another -- mainly the smell and heat our bodies give off, and the carbon dioxide we exhale. Female mosquitoes -- which are the only ones that bite -- detect these signals with finely-tuned receptors, then choose their target accordingly.

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

Within around 10 meters, "mosquitoes will start detecting our odor, and in combination with carbon



This photograph shows an Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) on a house wall in Montreuil, eastern suburbs of Paris, on August 18, 2025.

dioxide," this attracts them even more, said the senior author of a recent study on the subject.

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

- Blood type doesn't matter -

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

The idea that mosquitoes prefer particular blood types "has no scientific basis," Simard said.

"There have been some studies, but only involving

very few people," he said. "Nor is it related to skin, eye or hair color," he added.

Odour, on the other hand, matters greatly.

"A soup of molecules produced by our microbiota is more -- or less -- appealing to mosquitoes," Simard explained. Humans release between 300 and 1,000 different odorous compounds, research has shown, but scientists are only just beginning to understand which ones attract mosquitoes.

For Ignell's recent study, the researchers released *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes

-- known for spreading yellow fever and dengue -- on 42 women in a lab, to see which ones they preferred.

"We have shown that mosquitoes use a blend of odorous compounds (we identified 27 that the mosquitoes will detect, out of the possible 1,000) for their attraction to us," Ignell said.

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

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

- Beer makes you attractive -

Drinking beer has also been linked to attracting mosquitoes, because it raises body temperature, increases the amount of exhaled CO2 and changes skin odor, according to several studies.

For standardized research conducted in Burkina Faso, some brave volunteers drank beer, then several days later water, to see which mosquitoes preferred. The *Anopheles* mosquito, which can spread malaria, was more enticed by the scent of the beer drinkers. For a 2023 study in the Netherlands, 465 volunteers put their arms in cages filled with female *Anopheles* mosquitoes.

The volunteers who had drunk beer in the previous 24 hours were 1.35 times more attractive to the mosquitoes.

Discovering why mosquitoes prefer particular people has become a more pressing issue as climate change expands the range where they roam. □

U.S. says needs \$80B for Iran war, other bills: media

Washington, United States

The U.S. Defense Department will ask Congress to approve around \$80 billion to cover costs from the Iran war and other expenses, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

President Donald Trump has faced backlash from Americans who accuse him of pouring billions of taxpayer dollars into the Middle East conflict while oil prices and inflation skyrocket in the United States.

Deputy Defense Secretary Stephen Feinberg shared the request with lawmakers this week, the Journal said, citing people familiar with the discussions.

Pentagon leaders have said they risk running out of money for operations in the coming

months unless Congress passes a new wartime spending bill, the newspaper said.

The military may need to cut back on training and troop deployment along the US-Mexico border as part of Trump's immigration crackdown, it added.

The Pentagon said last month the cost of the war with Iran had climbed to nearly \$29 billion, although Democrats and other critics of the war have suggested the true cost -- including damage inflicted by Iran -- could be far higher. Concerns over the war straining US weapons stockpiles also deepened last month after Acting US Navy Secretary Hung Cao cited the conflict as a reason for pausing arms sales to Taiwan.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth dismissed the idea when asked in an interview if there was a crisis in munitions stockpiles.

Some of the \$80 billion, if approved, would go towards munitions, personnel pay and ship operations, the Journal cited a source as saying.

The war, triggered by U.S.-Israeli strikes on Tehran in late February, has engulfed the crude-rich Middle East and choked the Strait of Hormuz, a vital waterway for the world's oil supplies.

A deal to end the war was under strain on Friday after fighting flared between Israel and Iran-backed group Hezbollah in Lebanon and talks in Switzerland were postponed. Some lawmakers have said they will not vote to back ad-



Stephen Feinberg, U.S. President Donald Trump's nominee to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, testifies during his Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing in the Dirksen Senate Office Building on February 25, 2025 in Washington, DC.

ditional funding for the war unless the conflict receives congressional authorization. Democrats have accused Trump of violating the Constitution by starting the war

without Congress's backing. Under the War Powers Act, presidents have 60 days to obtain congressional approval after introducing US forces into hostilities. □

'There's no soul': Tony Leung weighs in on AI in filmmaking

Shanghai, China

One of the things Hong Kong superstar Tony Leung Chiu-wai likes about acting is the novelty -- "you will never repeat the same role".

When it comes to the changes wrought on his beloved cinema by technology like AI, though, there are some things it seems he would rather keep constant.

The 63-year-old is president of the main jury at the Shanghai International Film Festival (SIFF) this year, and on Friday sat down with AFP and The Hollywood Reporter for a wide-ranging interview that took in artificial intelligence, Chinese cinema and his future projects.

Filmmaking has not been exempt from the disruption meted out onto the creative industries by AI's rapid development in recent years.

"I think AI is a double-edged sword," Leung said when asked about its impact.

"It saves a lot of time' means it saves a lot of money... But at the same time, a lot of people will lose their jobs."



Hong Kong actor Tony Leung Chiu-wai speaks during an interview with AFP at the 28th Shanghai International Film Festival in Shanghai on June 19, 2026.

The beneficiaries, he predicted, will be mainstream "popcorn movies": "You don't need to think. There's no creative. That's just calculation."

Filmmakers are experimenting more with new tech tools, with SIFF this year debuting an initiative in which selected teams were given a month to create short AI-assisted films.

Asked whether he thought a movie created with AI could truly be considered art, Leung paused for several seconds.

"But there's no soul," he answered almost plaintively. He paused again.

"I don't think so. I don't think it's an art. No."

Leung is clear-eyed about the challenges facing cinema globally especially

the clamour for attention against streaming, gaming and shortform content pushed by algorithms on social media.

He said he "really hate(s)" phone viewing.

"I feel sad. When I was a kid I used to watch movies in a big cinema with a big screen and somehow it's going smaller and smaller these days," he said.

"To me movies shouldn't be watched outside the cinema."

Creativity and censorship

Leung's collaborations with fellow Hong Konger Wong Kar-wai are emblematic of the golden age of the city's film industry in the 80s and 90s.

An icon of Asian arthouse, he has also taken on Hollywood, playing a supervillain in Marvel's "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" in 2021.

He received a Golden Lion for lifetime achievement at the Venice Film Festival in 2023.

SIFF is showing a retrospective of his works this year, but Leung will not be in the audience.

"I'm the kind of actor who doesn't like to look back to my old films," he laughed.

There was a time when the mainland Chinese industry was still in a "learning stage", including from Hong Kong, he said.

"Now they have their own thinking of making movies because they are the only ones who know the local culture, the local texture," he added. □

French curator unearths rare Mozart manuscript

Paris, France

Musicians this weekend will for the first time publicly interpret music for flute and harp that Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart wrote as a 22-year-old while teaching an aristocratic French student.

The unprecedented concert on Sunday at France's National Library (BnF) comes after what it has called a "major discovery".

Francois-Pierre Goy, a curator in the library's music department, stumbled across the treasure as he examined a pile of anonymous manuscripts he wanted to get through before retirement.

"I never imagined what I was about to find," he told AFP.

The 44-page notebook includes a dozen daily exercises the Austrian prodigy

gave Marie-Louise-Philippine de Bonnières de Guines from May to July 1778, as well as seven pieces for flute and harp, he said. She was an excellent harpist and the daughter of the Duke of Guines, himself a renowned flutist.

"It just so happened that I

had been looking at some of Mozart's teaching material a few weeks earlier," Goy said.

Soon he noticed similarities including "the treble clefs that are quite rounded and tilted slightly forward", and the bass clefs drawn in the opposite direction

from how they usually are in France, he added.

"Could it be him?" Goy said he thought to himself.

Comparisons with Mozart's other handwritten works, the French paper used, and stamps on the notebook identical to those on a French copy of Mozart's "Concerto for Flute and Harp" that the Duke of Guines had commissioned all seemed to indicate he was right.

Armin Brinzing, director of the Austria-based Mozarteum Foundation, authenticated the document in April.

The manuscript "is part of two bundles of music that were confiscated from the home of the Duke of Guines in 1794" during the French Revolution, and eventually ended up at the BnF, according to the

library.

Mozart died in 1791 aged 35.

Discoveries like this "for such a famous composer are almost unheard of", said Mathias Auclair, director of the BnF's music department.

Several Mozart compositions have been rediscovered in recent years.

In one case, in 2012, someone found a Mozart piano piece composed when he was 11 in an Austrian attic.

For harpists and flautists, who have "very little repertoire" available to them, the discovery at the BnF is a wonderful surprise, he said.

BnF president Gilles Pecout said the new music sheets shed light on Mozart as a young teacher and documented his last stay in Paris in 1778 on which there is scant information. □



This photograph taken on June 15, 2026, shows an original fragment of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's music handwritten notebook at Richelieu Library (Bibliothèque Nationale de France-National Library of France-BnF) in Paris.



A hiker enters the refuge de la Selle in the Ecrins Massif in Saint-Christophe-en-Oisans, on July 8, 2025.

French mountain lodges worry over strained water supply

Dingy-Saint-Clair, France

No spring, no river, no lake: "Every litre counts" at French mountain lodges where water is scarce but visitor numbers are booming.

The Parmelan mountain refuge in Haute-Savoie, a mountainous department bordering Switzerland, is perched at an altitude of 1,800 meters (nearly 6,000 feet).

The 19th-century building relies entirely on rainwater despite welcoming some 3,000 overnight visitors from May to October and countless hikers and campers passing through on the popular route.

The lodge collects rainwater in large tanks -- holding enough for six weeks of reserves -- that is then filtered and funneled to the only tap on the premises, which is in the kitchen and only accessible to staff.

The water tanks are locked and caretaker Mathis Graham keeps a close eye on their levels.

"Every liter counts, of course. It's very important, and it's at the end of the season that you realise that every liter mattered, that we needed every single one of them," he told AFP. For now, the lodge's water stocks, essential for

dishwashing and cleaning, are sufficient, but Graham knows all too well the lodge's water insecurity.

The refuge came within five days of shutting down during a severe drought in 2022.

"No more water, no more life, no more lodge. And so we would have closed until it rained."

France is in the grips of a heatwave sweeping Europe, having already seen record-breaking temperatures in May.

Demand for water at the lodge is high on hot, busy days, but there is no tap for visitors to fill their water bottles or wash their hands, and drinking water delivered at the start of the season by helicopter costs four euros (\$4.60) a bottle.

'Wake-up call'

Water scarcity is not unique among the 120 buildings managed by the French Federation of Alpine and Mountain Clubs (FFCAM), said Maria Isabel Le Meur, in charge of lodges and chalets.

Mountains are on the front lines of climate warming, and several high-altitude lodges have had to close their doors early in recent years for lack of water, she said.

The "wake-up call" of the

2022 drought convinced the federation to "radically rethink its approach to water use", she added.

The Lavey mountain hut in the Ecrins mountain range in the southeastern French Alps is avoiding flush toilets and showers in ongoing renovations, though a spring is available.

Hikers are instead asked to make do with freshening up with splashes of water in a washbasin.

It "may not seem like much, but it makes a big difference" for the refuge as a whole, Le Meur said.

The lodge has also been able to install a phytoremediation system, which treats wastewater using plants and is more environmentally friendly than the old system, Le Meur added.

Ultimately, water consumption will be limited to 15 to 20 liters per person per day, compared with an average of 149 liters in France. Water saving measures are not always well received by lodge visitors, Le Meur said, despite awareness raising efforts by caretakers.

"In France, after all, the issue of water scarcity is new" and "there isn't enough collective awareness of the problem".



Humanoid robot Alter-Ego, designed by the Italian Institute of Technology, assists patient Daniel Senna through remote interaction at the IRCSS Maugeri hospital in Milan on June 12, 2026.

'Alter-Ego': An Italian hospital's little robot carer

Milan, Italy

A robot with expressive eyebrows that is designed to perform basic tasks to free up healthcare workers is being given a trial run by a hospital in Milan.

Named "Alter-Ego", the 1.2-metre tall robot can stand in for a doctor working remotely, bring a patient a bottle of water or guide them to treatment.

Daniel Senna, a 31-year-old patient at the Maugeri Hospital, transmits his pain level on a screen attached to the robot's chest.

"Hi Dani. How are you? Do you need anything?" Ego asks wheelchair-bound Senna, as the data collected is sent instantly to the ward's nurses.

The robot has been undergoing testing since April in a department which treats people with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a neurodegenerative disease.

"At first, we were afraid the patient might have a negative reaction," Christian Lunetta, director of the hospital's neuromotor rehabilitation department, told AFP. But they soon were "very satisfied, because the robot was designed to spark curiosity and its movements, or at least its functions, suggest a wide range of potential uses".

- Ease burden -

The project is a collaboration between the Italian Institute of Technology and the University of Pisa in northern Italy and is currently being remotely controlled by an operator.

From July, the robot will work autonomously.

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) has significantly accelerated progress in robotics but robots still need a great deal of training to operate independently.

The aim with the Milan experiment is to work with patients and caregivers to better understand the limits of what a robot can or should do in a hospital ward, said Manuel Catalano from the Italian Institute of Technology.

"Alter-Ego" could also eventually assist patients and their caregivers at home, he said.

Lunetta pointed out that hospitals "have repetitive tasks" which "could be delegated to a good robot".

"This would also allow us to better value human beings, giving them the time to focus on the human relationship they must maintain with the patient," he said.

Nurses monitor patients while handing out medicine, picking up signals about physical or mental health.

From birds to fish, how extreme heat causes wildlife to suffer

Paris, France

Like humans, wildlife is increasingly vulnerable as climate change fuels longer and more intense heatwaves, disrupting feeding and breeding, and in extreme cases proving fatal. The human toll of heatwaves is well documented but their ecological impacts have received less attention.

A study published in March in the journal *Nature Ecology and Evolution* found that three-quarters of land and ocean species assessed were "negatively impacted" during a major 2021 heatwave across western North America.

Heatwaves can be "brutal" on wildlife, said Gregoire Lois, an ornithologist at the National Museum of Natural History in Paris, which is withering under its second heatwave of the year.

Animals have fewer opportunities to adapt during sudden heatwaves than under gradual warming, he told AFP.

- Birds -

Birds are particularly vulner-



A dog cools off under a stream of water during high temperatures at Omar Torrijos Herrera Recreational and Cultural Park in Panama City on May 03, 2026.

able to heat, with a body temperature of between 39C and 42C that rises further during flight or when foraging.

They also lack sweat glands, making it harder to dissipate heat when temperatures soar.

Instead, they cool down through evaporation via

their respiratory tracts, a water-intensive mechanism that increases the risk of heat stress and dehydration.

Young birds, still in the nest and unable to fly during the summer heat, are particularly vulnerable.

"The young, suffocating from the heat, sometimes

fall from the nest whilst searching for air," said the League for the Protection of Birds, a French wildlife NGO.

Birds that nest under eaves such as swifts and swallows are most at risk, added.

- Mammals -

Vertebrates regulate their

body temperature through panting or sweating but that process "results in greater water loss the smaller the animal is", said Lois.

Anne-Laure Dugue, from the league's 'fauna in distress' program, said the risk of hyperthermia or dehydration was particularly significant among hedgehogs and certain small rodents.

Mass bat die-offs have been recorded during heatwaves as animals become disoriented and dehydrated.

In January 2026, thousands of flying foxes perished during a heatwave in south-eastern Australia.

Large mammals are not spared either: for species adapted to the cold such as bears, bison, reindeer and moose their thick fur becomes a hindrance when temperatures rise.

Exposure to even a week of 27C daytime highs greatly increases the chance of koala illness or death, concluded a study of 20 years of observational data published in *Biology Letters* in May.

Other species like foxes can

suffer burns to their paws when they come into contact with scalding surfaces such as tarmac or sand.

- Invertebrates -

Most invertebrates are ectothermic, meaning that their body temperature depends largely on their environment.

Lois said the consequences can be "severe" when their thermal tolerance limit is exceeded.

This is particularly true as their movement is often limited, and sometimes nonexistent. In 2021, during a widespread heatwave in the North Pacific, more than a billion mussels, clams and starfish perished.

- Fish -

In fish, high temperatures reduce the oxygen available in the water while increasing their physiological needs, which can lead to heat stress, disease, reproductive disruption and, in some cases, mass mortality. □

Parthenon facade restored to early 1800s pomp, says Greece

Athens, Greece

Greece's culture ministry on Thursday said it had finished a lengthy restoration of the western facade of the Parthenon in Athens, re-creating the world-famous monument's early 1800s look.

The 2,500-year-old temple

honouring the goddess Athena, which sits on a hill overlooking the Greek capital, is visited by more than four million people each year.

"Today, we look upon the west pediment of the Parthenon as we have not seen it for two centuries,"

Culture Minister Lina Mendoni said in a statement.

"For the first time in about 220 years, the west side of the Parthenon is presented by the ministry of culture in its fullest possible form... the sight is truly overwhelming."

The ministry said a team of archaeologists, engineers and craftsmen had used both surviving ancient fragments and new marble to fill gaps and strengthen the monument's western facade.

"It is a project of exceptional difficulty," Mendoni said.

According to the ministry, the temple is now the closest it can get to the period immediately after around half of its surviving statues were removed on the orders of Lord Elgin, British ambassador to the Otto-

man Empire.

These statues are now in the British Museum in London.

Britain insists the works were legally acquired and successive governments have noted that the issue is up to the museum to decide. Under chairman George Osborne, a former finance minister, the British Museum has been engaged in long talks with Greek officials on a formula that would allow the marbles to be displayed in Athens.

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has also repeatedly sought to raise the issue with his British counterparts.

Parthenon sculpture fragments are also kept in museums in Paris, Copenhagen, Munich, Vienna and Wurzburg. □



This photograph shows the ancient Parthenon temple atop the Acropolis, free of external scaffolding after renovation work, in Athens on June 18, 2026.

Aruba's Nature is to be Cherished



The national park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are more places on the island that are a preserved area like the Bubali Plas which is a bird sanctuary.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the island's past offering unique geological,

cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches during breeding season? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below

on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches. A very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Bubali Magic

This beautiful close-up image of the pink bird is courtesy of Michiel Oversteegen of the Aruba Birdlife Conservation. This important foundation showcases and builds awareness of Aruba's birds and other native flora and fauna. You may have seen a 'pink cloud' lately at the Bubali or Spanish Lagoon Wetlands areas? It's most likely to be Roseate Spoonbills (*Ajaia ajaja*) or 'Chucharon Cora' as they are known in Papiamentu.



This unusual looking bird forages in shallow muddy water while sweeping its flattened bill from side to side to catch small fish, crustaceans and other aquatic invertebrates. The Roseate Spoonbill remains an uncommon sight as they are vulnerable to degradation of feeding and nesting habitats (Wetlands).

The afore mentioned is just a part of what Aruba's nature has to offer. We cannot stress enough to go, see for yourself. The island has the most beautiful beaches but it is also worthwhile to go beyond this and get an idea of our entire island.

Lately there is a discussion going on about the effect certain activities have on our nature, for example the ATV vehicles cause a lot of dust, noise and leave tire tracks. Animals live in these areas where the vehicles run, often with high speed and with detrimental consequences to flora and fauna. Motorized vehicles are forbidden to drive on the sand dunes in the Northern part of the island and all beaches in Aruba are forbidden for any motorized vehicle. Treasure our island to enjoy it like you do: as a tropical and natural paradise. We truly appreciate it! □

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and



interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other

rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the shortsighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easi-

est to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

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Why 'Rock Stacking' is more dangerous than you think

(Oranjestad)—“Rock stacking” is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba’s wilderness. Conservation organizations repeatedly warn people not to participate. To understand the growing opposition to the practice of stacking rocks, it is necessary to understand the deep and negative impact behind it.

The act, called rock stacking, has been practiced for thousands of years and was originally used to guide people on hikes or travelers in mountainous regions, as well as for rituals, burials, and memorials. However, the modern trend is quite different. Today, the popularity of rock stacking has less to do with utility and tradition and more to do with social media. An American artist based in Colorado, Michael Grab, noted that the trend really began gaining popularity around 2014 and 2015,



before it exploded and became an international art form.

The reasons behind participation vary widely, ranging from something purely practical or a tradition from the past, to an activity for its “beauty.” For many, it is about leaving a mark, creating “art,” or simply enjoying the process of balancing rocks. In recent times, those who participate in this—especially in Aruba—do so to leave proof of their presence or simply to post on social media.

Although it may seem harmless, there are several problems and negative impacts behind it. One of these is that many animal species hide under rocks to live, reproduce, or escape predators. If you move a rock, you may be destroying a home. If you stack one on top of another, you may expose prey to predators.

Whether this is done in nature areas, along the coast, or in desert environments, it can destroy entire colonies and, in the worst case, threaten species that are already endangered.

There are microorganisms and small species such as insects or certain snakes that live in the soil beneath rocks commonly used for stacking. These rocks help trap moisture underneath, allowing the ecosystem to sustain itself. When you remove a rock, the soil is exposed and the moisture can dry up, killing all living organisms that depend on that humid environment.

Additionally, each rock is full of life—everything from aquatic plants to microorganisms attaches to them. Especially when it comes to rocks near the sea, they create habitats for some marine animals. Holes in the rocks can hold eggs,

supporting them until the animals hatch. An expert explained that removing rocks from a fragile environment is essentially the equivalent of removing bricks from someone’s house while also taking everything out of their refrigerator.

There is also the issue of erosion and soil damage, because rocks help hold the ground in place, sealing the surface and helping manage excess water, even allowing new life to grow. When these rocks are removed, the soil becomes loose, significantly increasing the rate of erosion in that area.

This erosion can cause sedimentation in nearby bodies of water, negatively impacting aquatic habitats and water quality.

Rocks along the coast are part of a natural ecosystem

and play an important role in protecting the shoreline from erosion and the force of the ocean. When people remove or stack rocks, it affects coastal stability, increases the risk of erosion, and damages ecosystems. According to South African National Parks, this is particularly relevant for an island like Aruba—especially considering that most, if not all, rock stacking on the island takes place near coastal areas.

It is understandable that rock stacking may seem like a fun activity to do while off-roading; however, the survival, protection, and conservation of the island are just as important—if not more so—to ensure that in the future there will still be an island for both locals and visitors. We want our visitors to appreciate what Aruba has to offer—in a healthy and sustainable way. □

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Emanuel Chapel: A symbol of faith and history now protected as a monument

(Oranjestad)—Recently, Prime Minister Mike Eman officially placed the protected monument seal on Emanuel Chapel on Grote Bergweg in San Nicolas. With this, the chapel has officially become part of Aruba's protected historical heritage.

Emanuel Chapel was built during the period when Father Bernardinus van Baars served as pastor of San Nicolas. Architect Virgilio Kock designed the building in the shape of an inverted "V," with all walls, the ceiling, and the pews directed toward the altar and the central cross. During the ceremony, tribute was paid to architect Virgilio Kock, who designed Emanuel Chapel and gave the building its distinctive shape and identity.

His unique design contributed to the historical and architectural value that is now officially recognized.

The construction of the chapel was made possible thanks to the generosity of the parishioners of



San Nicolas, funds raised through the Maria League and other parish organizations, together with a financial donation from LAGO. Construction began in September 1965 and the building was completed and consecrated on March 25, 1966, by Monsignor Holterman, Bishop of Willemstad.

Over the decades, Emanuel Chapel has served as a gathering place for faith and community. Parishioners from the neighborhood

regularly came together for Mass and religious celebrations, especially during Christmas and Easter. Over time, the building suffered damage caused by salt air, wind, rain, and other natural factors.

The windows, tiles, and various other parts of the chapel gradually deteriorated. Despite several minor repairs in recent years, efforts were mainly focused on other maintenance projects such as St. Therese Mass, the Teresita Center,

and the parish rectory building.

In 2003, Fathers Tony Peralta and Toti Fuentebella, together with the Parish Pastoral Council, decided to make Emanuel Chapel a priority in renovation efforts. With support from the "A Rose for St. Therese" program and various fundraising campaigns, sufficient funds were raised to replace the floor, altar, roof, ceiling, windows, lighting system, and to renovate the interior of the building.

The San Nicolas Business Association also provided support to improve the exterior of the chapel.

After more than forty years of service to the community, Emanuel Chapel continues to stand as a symbol of faith and unity for generations within the San Nicolas community. With its official designation as a protected monument, Aruba is ensuring that the history and unique value of the building will be preserved for future generations. □

Adriaan Laclé: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name **Adriaan Laclé** may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, **Adriaan Laclé** was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans,

was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected his success and good taste. Currently, renovations are taking place to restore the Laclé house. It can be found in the back streets of main street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life,

it has been said that he was married twice during his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Laclé and Maria Veneranda Laclé, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends,

respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands

on the opposite side of the road to them—though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

Source: **De Kolibrie op de Rots** (en meer over de geschie-



The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.



Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.



The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs

from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks,

palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba even-

tually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, some-

one usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

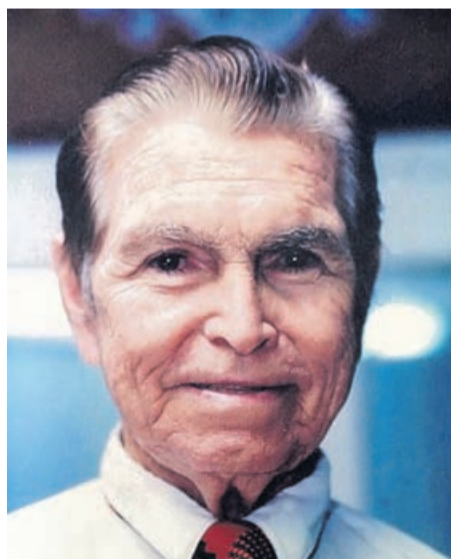
At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

Padu Lampe: The Father of Aruban Culture

(Oranjestad)—This weekend we celebrate Father's day. In celebration of fathers, we would like to focus on one of Aruba's trailblazers: Padu Lampe, also known as The Father of Aruban Culture. Padu is one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere.



On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world. One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was

able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Ca-

ribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotic technician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the



Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous "Red" Anchor

At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea. Usually a bright red color, the anchor was painted blue this year in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Aruba's flag and anthem.

Where to find the anchor?

The anchor is a "must see" landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when you're visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean Sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the "T" junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

About the anchor

Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the "fluke" or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the anchor come from?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Un-



fortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How did the anchor become a landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr., local businessman. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated "To All Seamen" on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

Through the years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr. died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery graciously sand-blasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated "To All Seamen" in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

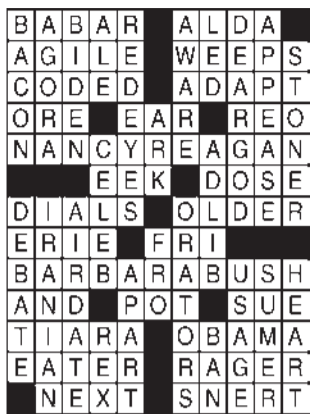
The best time to visit

When you're planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. □

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**



ACROSS 40 Beginning

1 Rot 41 Not tight

6 Played 42 Staggers

a role 43 Layout

11 Wed in choices

haste

12 Baseball's **DOWN**

Joe 1 Put off

13 Ladder 2 Best of

company's the best

base 3 Reef

15 Greek material

vowel 4 Gorilla,

16 Crooner for one

Tormé 5 Polite

17 Curvy answer

letter 6 "— of

18 Set free Two

20 Conk out Cities"

21 Scoundrel 7 Guest's

22 Sweater bed

material 8 Checked

23 Sacred for fit

song

26 Ron

Weasley's

sister

27 Finish last

28 Chips buy

29 Band

blaster

30 Monarch's

spouse

34 Maiden

name

label

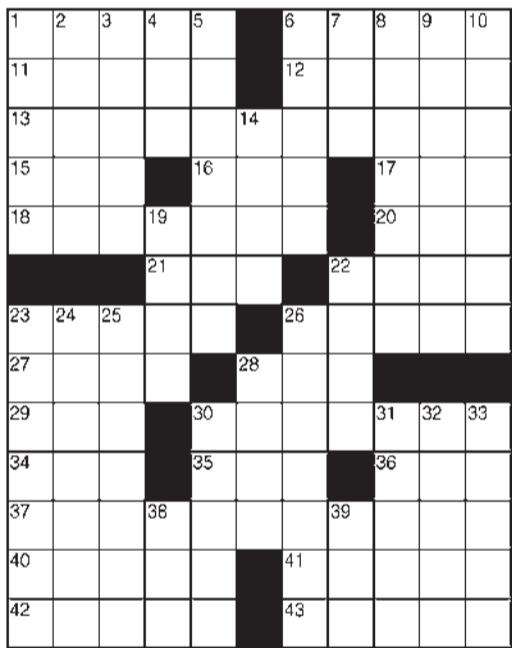
35 Unoriginal

36 Aussie

hopper

37 Planting

of trees



2-21

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.

2-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

NIWSWUWG OZE CZ K DIXSV ...
KBT OZEGBWPA IZN OZE NZEPC
KRD NWGW KPP DIW NZGPC
PZZTXSV KD OZE. — DIZQKB
LWAAWGBZS

Cryptoquote: LET YOUR HEART
FEEL FOR THE AFFLICTIONS AND DISTRESS
OF EVERYONE, AND LET YOUR HAND GIVE IN
PROPORTION TO YOUR PURSE. — GEORGE
WASHINGTON

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power



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

Drinking water

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



Supermarket hours

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

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

Safety

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

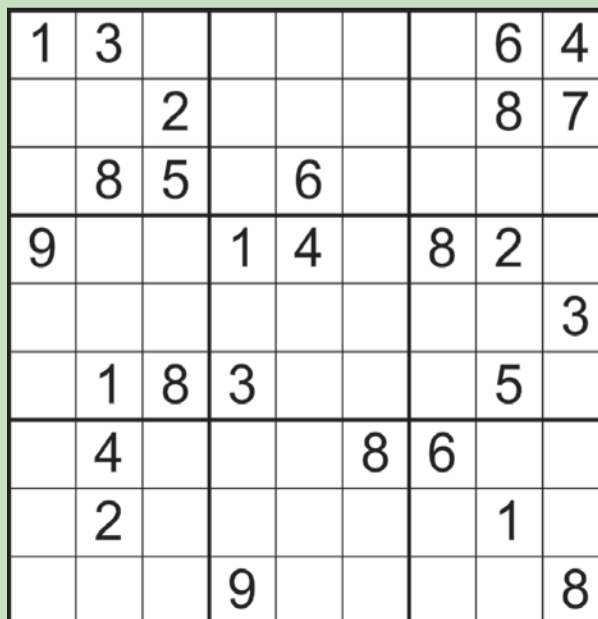
JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

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

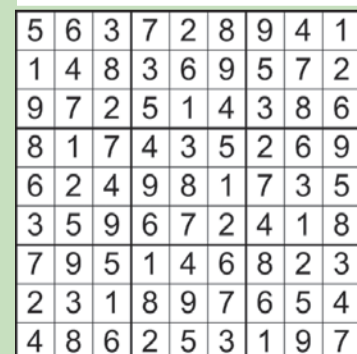
King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/20

Answer to previous puzzle



Difficulty: ★★★

6/19

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Fossils challenge assumptions on how animals adapted to land

New York, United States

Scientists have long posited the earliest water animals to transition to land had amphibious tadpole features, going through a metamorphosis akin to that of today's frogs.

But new research out Thursday in the journal *Science* challenges that conventional assumption. It presents analysis of rare fossils which scientists say fill knowledge gaps on the development of the creatures that gave rise to the first land-dwelling vertebrates.

The research centers on specimens excavated from the Mazon Creek fossil beds in northern Illinois, southwest of Chicago.

The world-renowned site features iron carbonate concretions that formed some 309 million years ago, fossilizing within them ancient creatures that had once thrived in the area's lush swamps, shallow seas and river deltas.

It's known for its exceptionally well-preserved specimens including soft tissue. The new study analyzes dozens of fossils to examine the evolution between fish and tetrapods, or four-legged animals.

At the center was a specimen determined to likely be the baby of a crocodile-esque creature known as an embolomere, which lived mostly in the water but did develop little legs.

In its juvenile stage, popular thought would have anticipated it to show tadpole-like features like external gills, explained Jason Pardo, a research associate at Chicago's Field Museum and the study's co-lead author.

But it didn't, he said. The body of the baby -- the specimen of which the researchers said are about the size of a short, narrow macaroni noodle -- instead showed evidence of direct development, meaning it was more or less put together the way they would be into adulthood.

That's not what we would expect to see in amphibians,



This undated image courtesy of The Field Museum shows an Embolomere fossil.

ans, whose metamorphosis from tadpoles into adults includes much more dramatic rearranging and development of organs and limbs.

"We now actually have some direct fossil record evidence," Pardo told AFP, "that this metamorphosis, this amphibian-like life cycle that we've for 150 years assumed was part of our history, turns out that it wasn't part of that at all."

- 'Glorious fossils' -

John Long, an Australian paleontologist who has also done extensive research in this field, called the study "quite outstanding."

"Not much was known about their early life stages," he explained to AFP of the animals that gave rise to the first tetrapods.

"This detailed work on a bunch of simply glorious fossils nails it that they went straight into a juvenile phase so didn't need to go through the tadpole stage."

Jason Anderson of the University of Calgary said the "impressive" paper highlights "the power of fossils to address questions we thought impossible given they take place in short periods of time, and in tissues not normally pre-

served over hundreds of millions of years." Both he and Pardo also noted that the study underscores that amphibians are impressive evolutionary creatures in their own right.



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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

European robotics start-ups go up against Chinese heavyweights

Paris, France

Humanoid robots able to perform tasks from grape harvesting to welcoming visitors were front and centre at France's Vivatech trade fair this week, with European firms looking to fill niches beyond what dominant Chinese giants can offer.

French company Enchanted Tools was showing off its Mirokai, a "social" robot with long orange ears and wide blue eyes.

Able to communicate in over 50 languages, prototypes of the Paris-based firm's machine are already out in the wild welcoming people to hospitals and airports, marketing chief Richard Malterre said on a Vivatech stage.

The start-up hopes its first mass-produced models will arrive by the end of this year.

"At least 60 percent of the robot is manufactured in Europe, and we're fighting to keep it that way," Malterre told AFP.

But some of the AI robotics know-how is "not necessarily available" in Europe, he said, such as the graphics processors from American chip giant Nvidia that power Mirokai's brain as well as the broader generative AI boom.



Technicians fix a RW robot, damaged after a fall, at the VivaTech technology startups and innovation fair at the Paris Expo Porte de Versailles, in Paris on June 19, 2026.

- 'Dark factories' -

When it comes to sheer robotics production capacity, China is unrivalled thanks to companies including Unitree and Agibot. Their androids' tightly choreographed displays wowed visitors to Vivatech, the latest fair to show them off in recent months.

Around 87 percent of the 13,000 humanoid robots deployed worldwide in 2025 rolled off a Chinese production line, according to the UK-based consultancy Omdia.

"China is definitely on the forefront" as its companies increasingly show off "dark factories" where robots work largely without human supervision, said Joern Buss, a robotics expert at the consultancy Arthur D. Little.

Nevertheless, Europe is "catching up" behind Japan and Korea, he added, boasting "some good robotics players" including longstanding firms.

New players on the European scene include Germany's Neura, which builds humanoid industrial and

household robots as well as a platform for training them to carry out human tasks. The company recently announced it had raised \$1.4 billion.

"We get requests for everything, even dentists, everyone is calling us and asking if they can have a robot as a supporter, because they can't find people," chief executive David Reger told AFP.

Like other advanced economies around the world, Europe faces an ageing population that could

squeeze the labour supply in both manufacturing and services.

Reger called robots like Neura's the continent's "last chance", saying "Europe does require this economic pillar to sustain" itself. He cited familiar challenges for European tech firms including tight regulation and a tougher search for financing than competitors in the United States.

But Reger has no plans to uproot Neura's business, which is collaborating with German car component suppliers Bosch and Schaeffler on factory automation.

He vaunts Neura's order book of over \$1 billion.

- Data protection -

"If all robot production goes to Japan or China, that could be a big problem when it comes to sovereignty," said Francesco Ferro, chief executive of Spain's PAL Robotics. His company was at Vivatech showing off its latest models bolted together in Barcelona.

One is a black biped that has been dubbed Kangaroo, while the Tiago machine is fitted with jointed arms that have been put to use in logistics as well as picking grape harvests. □

AI museum brings sights, sounds and smells of the rainforest

Los Angeles, United States
The squawks of macaws, the smell of wet earth after rain and a swirl of colors will transport visitors from a Los Angeles museum to the heart of the Amazon rainforest -- or rather, an AI

version of it. Data collected from those visitors -- their movements, their heartbeats and even the temperature of their skin -- will feed the computer that is creating the immersive display, using a

network of sensors, including those on the wrists of ticket-holders.

"Machine Dreams: Rainforest" is the inaugural exhibition at Dataland, a new museum in the heart of America's second biggest city that is the brainchild of Refik Anadol and Efsun Erkilic, whose 10 million lines of code power the animations -- using 1.5 billion pixels.

Anadol said he was inspired by a visit to the Brazilian Amazon, a place he thinks everyone should experience.

"But I do not believe we should all go to the rainforest," he told AFP.

"The question was: can the rainforest come to us? Can we still connect, feel special, respect and love

nature, learn about it?"

Wall-mounted sensors will track visitors' movements, and guests will wear a medical-grade, watch-like device to monitor their emotions and heart rate for interacting with the model. They will also carry a portable scent diffuser throughout the experience.

Using billions of images and datapoints, the model will create a constantly evolving experience.

It is as if the system were "dreaming," Erkilic explained.

"It's moving all the time, because it's gathering data. As soon as it builds one structure, it also affects the overall storytell-

ing," he said.

"It's coming from a more poetic place instead of a scientific place. The machine itself is trying to recreate the reality based on the data points, it's like bringing all the little bits and dots and trying to build the reality itself."

At the end of the experience, visitors can sample chocolates with flavors generated by the model, or print T-shirts and paintings resulting from their interaction.

These are intended to serve as tangible souvenirs of the ephemeral dream in Dataland.

"The system forgets you; that is the beauty of it," says Anadol.

Dataland opens to the public on June 20. □



Immersive visualizations from the inaugural exhibition Machine Dreams: Rainforest are projected at DATALAND, the Museum of AI Arts, in Los Angeles, California on June 9, 2026.

Clark leads as fellow major winners charge at U.S. Open

Southampton, United States

Wyndham Clark fended off charges by fellow major winners Xander Schauffele, Matt Fitzpatrick and Collin Morikawa to seize a four-stroke lead in Friday's second round of the U.S. Open at blustery Shinnecock.

Clark, the 2023 U.S. Open winner, curled in a 33-foot birdie putt at the 18th hole to fire a one-under par 69 and stand on seven-under 133 for 36 holes.

"That hole it kind of feeds toward the hole so I just thought I'd get it started," Clark said of his last putt. "I had it on a good line and I almost really called it. I'm glad it went in. It was a great way to finish the round."

The 32-year-old American led England's Fitzpatrick and compatriot Schauffele by four with Morikawa another stroke adrift.

On a 20-hole day, Clark parred his first 10, starting with two holes Friday morning to complete a six-under par 64 opening round.

A fog delay had prevented completion of the first round on Thursday.

Clark began his second round with eight pars but lipped out a 43-foot birdie putt at the ninth then missed a three-foot come-



Wyndham Clark of the United States putts on the 17th green during the second round of the 126th U.S. OPEN at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on June 19, 2026 in Southampton, New York.

back putt.

"Had an awesome day yesterday and then came out today, wasn't as good, but I really fought and hopefully this is the toughest day for me," Clark said. Clark, a PGA Tour winner last month in Texas, sank a five-foot birdie putt at the 12th and added a birdie putt from just beyond 28 feet at 13 to reach seven-under.

Clark rescued par from the right rough at 14 and left rough at 15 but found two fairway bunkers on the way

to a bogey at the par-five 16th before closing with his best putt to boost his lead. England's Fitzpatrick fired a 70 to stand on 137. The 2022 US Open winner followed 10 pars with bogeys at 11, on a five-foot par putt miss, and 12, when he hit a cart path on his second shot.

He then birdied the par-five 16th from just inside 10 feet and sank a 13-foot birdie putt at 18.

"Two in the last three always nice, especially at a US Open," Fitzpatrick

said. "Didn't really feel like I made too much up until those two holes really. Struggled a little bit off the tee on the back nine, but overall scrambled incredibly well to be where I am." Two-time major winner Schauffele, a back-nine starter, birdied three of his last four holes before the turn and sandwiched birdies at the fourth and sixth around his lone bogey.

Two-time major winner Morikawa made five birdies in his first 10 holes in shooting a 65. The American had a

tap-in birdie at 15 and sank an eight-foot birdie putt at 16 but found a bunker at the par-three 17th and made bogey.

"I chipped it a lot better," said Morikawa. That's the difference of kicking yourself out of a tournament, keeping yourself in it. Got off to a good start, hit a couple of good iron shots, but made the up-and-downs."

- McIlroy out late -

Other rivals, meanwhile, fell by the wayside.

Two-time major winner Dustin Johnson pulled within a stroke with a birdie on 10 only to double bogey the par-three 11th and bogey 12 and 13 on his way to a 77 to finish 10 adrift on 143.

Fellow American Gary Woodland, the 2019 US Open winner, began with a birdie to reach four-under but made bogeys on four of the next six holes and shot 73 to stand on 140.

Justin Thomas, a two-time winner of the PGA Championship, went three-under on the back nine, made bogeys at the first and third holes but closed with a three-foot birdie putt at nine to shoot 68 and stand on 139. □

Javelin-thrower Pathirage makes his point in Doha

Doha, Qatar

Sri Lanka's Rumesh Tharanga Pathirage beat a heavyweight javelin field and Jamaica's Kemba Nelson matched her 100 metres personal best at the Doha Diamond League on Friday.

Dominican Marileidy Paulino lowered Allyson Felix's 400m meet record to 48.91, while Qatar's former Olympic champion Mutaz Essa Barshim was second in the high jump.

Olympic champion Soufiane El Bakkali of Morocco battled to victory in the 3,000m steeplechase, seeing off Samuel Firewu's late challenge to win it in 8:09.28.

And Slovak 400m hurdler Emma Zapletalova re-

mained unbeaten in four Diamond League meets this season, setting a new national record of 52.30sec in the process.

Former cricketer Pathirage, 23, hit the front and ultimately sealed gold with his fourth javelin throw of 88.68, but did not trouble his world-leading personal best of 92.62 set two weeks ago in Rome.

Grenada's two-time world champion Anderson Peters threw 86.38 for second with American world bronze medallist Curtis Thompson third.

India's former Olympic and world champion Neeraj Chopra was fourth while the reigning world titleholder, Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago, fin-

ished seventh.

Jamaica's Nelson, twice a late omission for Olympic relay teams and pilloried over a botched baton exchange at the 2022 worlds, was delighted with her wind-assisted 10.88 to win the women's 100 meters.

"(I'm) shocked -- I mean, I have not run this fast since 2022," said Nelson, 26, who has also battled serious knee injuries.

"I have been trying, I have been through some hardships, I have been through so much, so to be able to tie my personal best from 2022, it means a lot." Barshim, 34, the home favorite and Tokyo 2020 Olympic champion, was happy with second behind

Italy's Matteo Sioli (2.29) in his first outing this season.

"It is a very, very good start of the season for me. I've been away for a long time, and coming back to the world stage is nothing easy after so many injuries," said the Qatari. Earlier Cuban Davisleydi Velazco jumped

a world-leading 15.13m, a new personal best, to win the women's triple jump.

In the men's pole vault, missing Olympic champion Armand Duplantis who is getting married, Emmanouil Karalis of Greece won on countback with a leap of 5.92. □



USA beat Australia 2-0 to reach World Cup knockouts

Seattle, United States

The United States advanced to the World Cup knockout rounds with a game to spare following an impressive 2-0 win over Australia Friday, stoking the hopes of an already hyped host nation.

The US join fellow tournament co-hosts Mexico as the first teams to progress, and could be assured top spot in Group D if Turkey fail to beat Paraguay later Friday.

Excitement had been running high from last week's US thrashing of Paraguay. And a glorious day in the Pacific Northwest did not disappoint the red-and-white-clad fans who packed Seattle's Lumen Field and its surrounding streets and bars.



Alex Freeman #16 of the United States celebrates scoring his team's second goal during the FIFA World Cup 2026 Group D match between USA and Australia at Seattle Stadium on June 19, 2026 in Seattle, Washington.

Alex Freeman doubled the US lead in the 44th minute from what was surprisingly his team's first shot on target.

Taking a free kick from the right byline, Antonee Robinson ignored the scrum in the box and played the ball to Sergino Dest, wide open in the D, whose blocked shot looped up into the air.

Freeman son of Super Bowl-winning NFL wide receiver Antonio Freeman was first to the ball, heading it past Patrick Beach. The offside flag went up. But it was overturned by VAR, and the stadium rocked for a second a time.

Australia made three changes at the break sending on Connor Metcalfe and Nestory Irankunda, the goalscorers against Turkey and pushed higher up the field.

They were nearly caught out immediately. Balogun raced onto a through ball for a one-on-one chance, but his shot was blocked after a heavy touch.

Australia's best chance so far came in the 62nd minute. The dangerous Cristian Volpato who switched allegiance from Italy to Australia on the eve of the tournament skied his shot from Irankunda's cut-back pass.

With the U.S. sitting back, Metcalfe had a shot saved, a rampaging Irankunda was brought down by Richards, and Jason Geria's close-range effort was blocked in a nervy final phase for the hosts.

But despite late-flaring tensions between the teams, the Americans held on for the clean sheet and will have the luxury of playing Turkey next Thursday, knowing their spot in the round of 32 is secured.

With home advantage and sparkling form so far, U.S. fans will be dreaming of a run to the quarter-finals, which they last reached in 2002, and even beyond. □

Even before kickoff, chants of "USA" rocked a stadium best known as the raucous home of the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks, but also a US soccer hotbed that hosts the local Sounders.

Without injured talisman attacker Christian Pulisic, who failed to recover from a calf issue in time, coach Mauricio Pochettino switched to a 4-4-2 formation, bringing in second striker Ricardo Pepi.

For the second game running, the U.S. were gifted an early lead, thanks to an own goal in the 11th minute.

Playing slightly wider than usual, star striker Folarin Balogun raced down the left and cut the ball back from the byline.

Under pressure from a lurking Pepi, Aussie defender Cameron Burgess steered the ball into his own net.

- Toothless Australia -

Having surprisingly dropped both goalscorers from their impressive opening win over Turkey, Australia looked toothless.

The US controlled possession and were lively and dynamic on the attack, Weston McKennie and Sergino Dest combining well down the right flank.

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