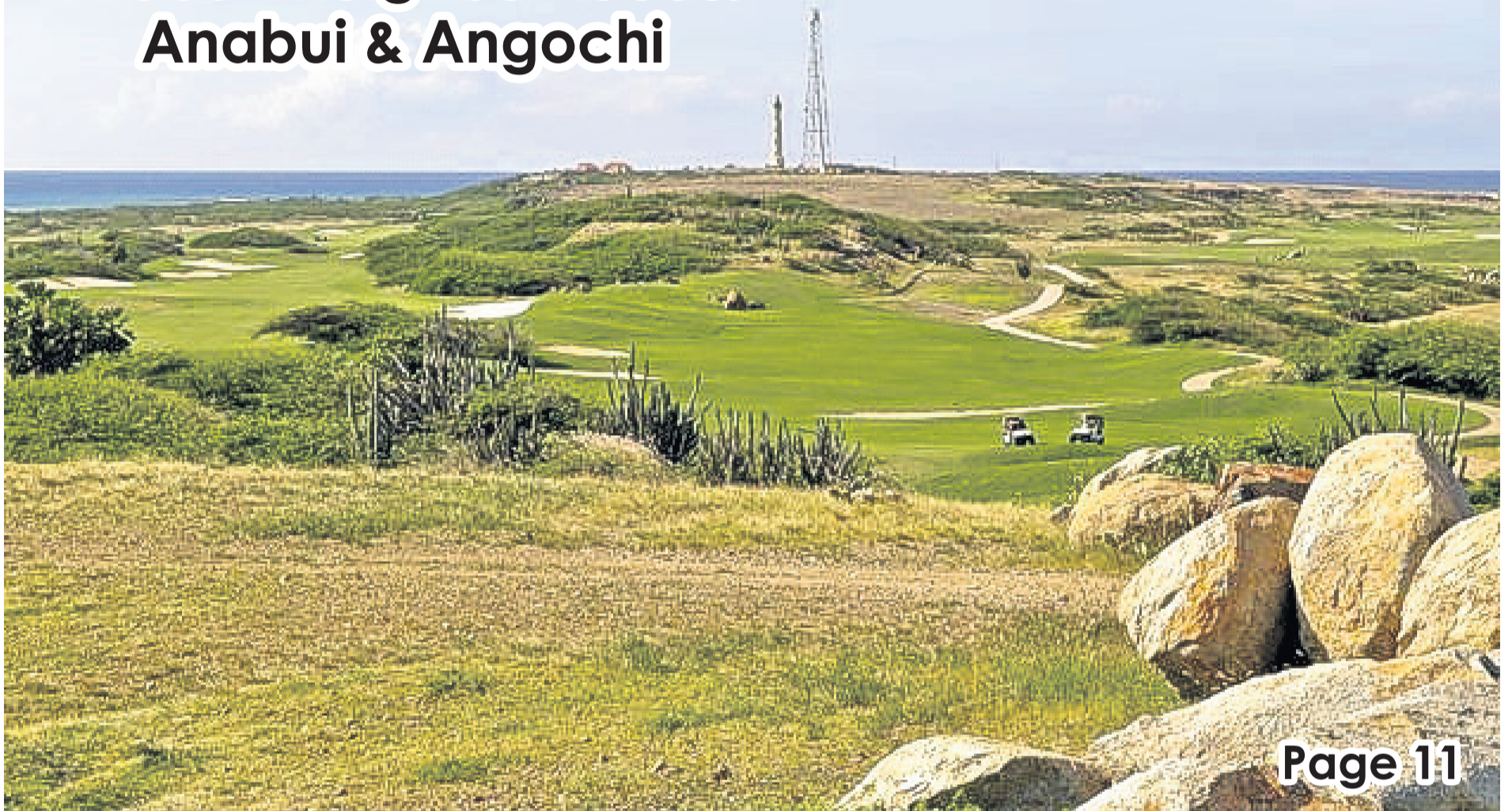




Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

## Aruban neighborhoods: Anabui & Angochi



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# Alan Greenspan: longtime Fed chief with a divided legacy

**Washington, United States**

Alan Greenspan, the longtime U.S. Federal Reserve chief who presided over an unprecedented period of American economic expansion but was faulted for failing to rein in markets ahead of the 2008 global financial crisis, has died aged 100.

Greenspan guided the world's biggest economy through a stock market crash in 1987 as he first took up his post, the Mexican and Asian financial crises, the dotcom boom and bust, and the September 11, 2001 attacks.

A native New Yorker who excelled at math as a child but initially studied music before pivoting to economics, Greenspan spent decades in the inner circles of power in Washington, ultimately leading the Fed for presidents of both political parties.

Greenspan was hailed by some as the greatest central banker the world has ever known, winning praise for his steady hand and cool demeanor.

Supporters admired his willingness to cut interest rates and keep them low even as unemployment rates



**Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan speaks about "Brexit" and the state of the European and U.S. economies during a discussion with Bloomberg Government at their offices in Washington, DC, June 27, 2016.**

fell, which conventional wisdom said would cause inflation to spiral out of control. But his impenetrable prose used to avoid committing to any particular course and his confidence in unfettered markets and institutions to correct themselves frustrated critics, who believed the US economy needed stronger guardrails.

And after the world sank into crisis in 2008, soon af-

ter his retirement in 2006, his decision not to do anything to rein in the mortgage markets was viewed as naive. Born on March 6, 1926, Greenspan grew up an only child raised mostly by his mother after she separated from his stockbroker father.

**- Music first -**

Initially, rather than going to college, he attended the elite Juilliard School to

study music. After he was declared unfit to serve in the military due to a lung issue, he went on to play clarinet and saxophone in a band.

Greenspan earned \$62 a week more than his mother was making in her job at a department store, according to biographer Sebastian Mallaby, who wrote "The Man Who Knew: The Life and Times of Alan

Greenspan" in 2016. He read books on finance in his free time and helped his bandmates with their taxes.

In 1945, he quit music to attend New York University, where he would eventually earn a PhD in economics. Greenspan started a consulting firm where he delved into economic and manufacturing data, a habit that would become the trademark he was known for poring over statistics in his bathtub.

He became an active member of the libertarian salon surrounding anti-government writer and philosopher Ayn Rand.

His thinking evolved during his career, but he never fully relinquished his Randian support of laissez-faire economies free from government intervention.

Greenspan entered politics in the late 1960s as an adviser to Richard Nixon during his successful campaign for president, but initially declined to take a job in the Republican administration.

When he did accept the post of White House economic adviser, he was not confirmed until after Nixon

resigned in disgrace, and working for Gerald Ford.

In 1987, another Republican president, Ronald Reagan, named Greenspan to serve as chair of the Federal Reserve.

It was a position he would hold until January 2006 serving under four presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush, his Democratic successor Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

**- Market turmoil -**

Greenspan was tested early in his new post -- on "Black Monday" in October 1987, the benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average collapsed by nearly 23 percent still the biggest single-day percentage drop in the index's history as part of a global market crash. The new Fed chair issued a terse statement promising central bank support, and the Fed pumped liquidity into the financial system. □

## U.S. judge tosses Justice Dept subpoenas to Minnesota officials

**Washington, United States**

A U.S. federal judge has tossed out grand jury subpoenas issued by the Trump Justice Department to Democratic officials in Minnesota, calling them

political retaliation. The subpoenas seeking state records were served on Minnesota Governor Tim Walz and other officials in January during a federal immigration crackdown in

the northern state. US District Judge Patrick Schiltz, an appointee of former Republican president George W. Bush, said the Justice Department "has struggled without success to identify a single plausible investigatory justification for the subpoenas."

The subpoenas were unconstitutional and intended to "coerce Minnesota officials into assisting the federal government with enforcing civil immigration laws and to harass and retaliate against them for failing to do so," the judge said.

"Initiating a criminal investigation in order to harass political opponents or to coerce them into taking

official action...is a blatantly unlawful and unethical use the grand jury process," Schiltz said in his June 17 order, which was unsealed on Monday.

President Donald Trump's aggressive immigration crackdown in Minnesota was met with protests and resistance from the state's Democratic leaders.

Two American citizens were shot and killed by federal agents during protests in Minneapolis against immigration raids.

Walz, who was Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris's running mate in 2024, welcomed the judge's ruling, calling it a "victory for the rule of law and our democracy." □



**Minnesota Governor Tim Walz speaks onstage as Hundreds of Thousands Protest as part of the No Kings Rallies on March 28, 2026 in St. Paul, Minnesota.**

# How a 73-Year-Old "NICU Grandpa" whispers hope to Richmond's tiniest fighters

In the quiet, sterile corridors of the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, the rhythmic beep of heart monitors and the soft hum of ventilators form the soundtrack of survival. This is the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), a place where the world's smallest warriors fight for their first breaths. Amidst the high-tech machinery and the hurried footsteps of specialized medical staff, there is a man whose primary equipment is a rocking chair and a pair of steady, gentle hands.

At 73 years old, Dave Whitlow has discovered a retirement calling that is as profound as it is simple. Known affectionately as a "volunteer cuddler," Whitlow has dedicated the last eight years of his life to providing the one thing medicine cannot manufacture: the restorative power of human touch.

Every Tuesday and Thursday morning, Whitlow arrives at the hospital, leaves his smartphone in his locker, and undergoes a rigorous scrubbing and gowning process. For the next several hours, he is not a retired local government manager or a grandfather; he is a lifeline for infants who are often too fragile to go home but too lonely to thrive in silence.

The science behind Whitlow's work is compelling.



Medical professionals have long recognized that for premature infants or those born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS), "skin-to-skin" contact and consistent rocking are not just comforts—they are clinical necessities. Physical touch helps regulate an infant's heart rate, stabilizes their body temperature, and lowers cortisol levels. In many cases, babies who are held regularly by volunteer cuddlers see shorter hospital stays and improved neurodevelopment outcomes. "These little ones are under so much stress," Whitlow explains with a soft smile. "They

are poked and propped and monitored all day long. Sometimes, they just need to know that there is a person there who isn't going to stick them with a needle, someone who is just there to hold them and tell them they are loved."

The need for volunteers like Whitlow arises from a heartbreaking reality of modern healthcare. While nurses are highly skilled, they are often stretched thin by medical emergencies and administrative duties. Furthermore, many parents of NICU babies face agonizing hurdles. Some must return to work

immediately to keep their health insurance; others live hours away or are caring for other children at home. When a parent cannot be at the bedside, the "NICU Grandpa" steps in.

Whitlow's approach is one of total presence. While he rocks a baby, his eyes never leave the monitors. He has become so attuned to the infants that he can often sense a dip in oxygen levels or a spike in heart rate before the alarms even sound, allowing him to alert the nursing staff instantly. He is an extra set of eyes and a steady

heartbeat in a room that can often feel overwhelmed by technology.

However, it is the emotional connection that leaves the deepest mark. Whitlow has a signature ritual for every child he holds. As his shift ends and he carefully places a sleeping infant back into their plastic isolette, he leans in and whispers a six-word mantra: "Grow strong, grow smart, grow kind." It is a benediction for a future that, only weeks prior, may have seemed uncertain.

The impact of his service ripples far beyond the hospital walls. Parents who return to the NICU to find their child peacefully asleep in the arms of a volunteer often describe a sense of overwhelming relief. To know that their baby was not alone in their absence provides a unique kind of healing for the parents' own weary hearts.

For Whitlow, the benefit is mutual. He describes the NICU as a place of perspective. "You can't have a bad day when you're holding a miracle," he says. "It keeps me grounded. It reminds me of what is actually important in life. We spend so much time worrying about big, complicated problems, but here, the only thing that matters is the next breath and a little bit of warmth." □



A customer shops at the Audible Story House in New York, on April 30, 2026. The pop-up store labeled as a "bookless bookstore" is dedicated to audiobooks.

**New York, United States**  
Audiobook giant Audible opened what it billed as the first "bookless bookstore" in New York on Friday as in-

dustry statistics show more American consumers embracing the format. There is no rustle of pages or stacks of best-selling novels

## 'Bookless bookstore': audio-only book shop opens in New York

at the pop-up store opened by the Amazon subsidiary on the Lower East Side in Manhattan.

"This is a physical place entirely dedicated to bringing audio storytelling to life," Audible CEO Bob Carrigan said during a press tour of the "Audible Story House" on Thursday.

It was a slightly "wild idea" which "took quite a bit of imagination," Carrigan said, adding that the month-long pop-up aims to "bring audiobooks to life in this environment where you can browse, you can connect with people."

According to the Audio Pub-

lishers Association (APA), audiobook sales reached \$2.22 billion in the United States in 2024, nearly doubling over the past five years.

In the store, audiobook tablets called "story tiles" line the shelves, ready to be inserted into a player for listening through headphones.

Each tile plays a short excerpt and the full title can be accessed on the Audible app.

The platform, which dominates the audiobook market, offers paid subscriptions, individual purchases and free access to some titles for Amazon account holders.

The venue also has a room lined with speakers for headphone-free listening, as well as a "Listening Bar" where "Story Tenders" will "guide attendees in finding the perfect audiobook for their tastes and interest," according to the press release.

The space aims to reflect the fast-growing popularity of the format as well as the "shift toward offline experiences and real-world connection."

"Audible Story House taps into the nostalgia and community feel of book culture while bringing it fully into the present," the company said. □

# Clive Davis: the starmaker who shaped modern music

**New York, United States**

Clive Davis, the music maverick who championed some of the globe's biggest names including Whitney Houston, Bruce Springsteen and Santana, died Monday aged 94.

An empathetic executive whose expertise transcended genres, he displayed an uncanny ability to spin talent into gold. Aretha Franklin once called him "the greatest record man of all time." "Clive has the mind of a bank executive and the ears of a teenager," said Davis protegee Barry Manilow, the singer-songwriter known for "Copacabana" and other easy listening hits.

A lawyer by education, Davis entered the music world as counsel at Columbia Records before shifting into management and in 1966 becoming president of the reorganized CBS Records.

It marked the start of a career that would come to define the modern music industry.

From Janis Joplin to Earth, Wind & Fire, Aerosmith to Billy Joel, Patti Smith to Alicia Keys, Davis discovered, mentored and catapulted an empire of artists to household name status, reigning for decades in a business where longevity is rare.

Grateful Dead singer Bob Weir even sometimes changed a lyric when performing the band's standard "Jack Straw" to honor Davis.

"We used to play for acid," he'd sing. "Now we play for Clive."

**- 'No clue' -**

Born April 4, 1932 in Brooklyn, Davis enjoyed music but did not see it as his professional future.

"The emphasis in Jewish families that did not have any money was that you've got to be a lawyer, or you've got to be a doctor," Davis said in the documentary "Clive Davis: The Soundtrack of Our Lives."

"I was going to be a lawyer, with no clue what being a lawyer meant."

He was a New York University student when personal



**Legendary U.S. record producer Clive Davis speaks during the Recording Academy and Clive Davis' Salute To Industry Icons pre-Grammy gala at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California on January 31, 2026.**

tragedy struck: Davis's mother died suddenly and then his father passed within the following year.

He graduated from Harvard Law School and began working at a New York law firm. His move to CBS subsidiary Columbia Records as legal counsel proved pivotal.

"I knew nothing about music. I knew nothing about what awaited me," said Davis. "But I did seize that opportunity."

**- 'Weakness for artists' -**

CBS executives ultimately convinced him to change from law into management, and Davis took an interest in the burgeoning world of folk and rock.

He attended the storied Monterey Pop Festival, an experience he later described as life-changing. Awestruck by Joplin and the social and musical revolution she embodied, Davis signed her that night.

He worked with Bob Dylan as well as Simon and Garfunkel, convincing the duo that the soft, melodic "Bridge Over Troubled Water" could be a radio hit, though it was far from the sounds on the airwaves at the time.

And Davis returned a demo

to a young Springsteen, telling him it still needed a hit single.

So the rocker went to the beach and penned "Blinded by the Light" and "Spirit in the Night" in a single evening.

"That was a good call," Springsteen has joked.

Davis encouraged jazz legend Miles Davis who came to the executive furious that young white artists were profiting off styles pioneered by Black musicians like himself to play rock venues.

Shortly thereafter, the trailblazing trumpeter released "Bitches Brew," a seminal, rock-imbued album.

Davis had a "weakness for artists," said another groundbreaking musician, Patti Smith -- a Davis favorite who he signed to the record company he would eventually found, Arista.

**- Whitney, his ultimate star -**

Davis struck out on his own after CBS Records fired him in 1973, on charges, which Davis denied, of bankrolling personal expenses including his son's bar mitzvah.

Arista, which Davis started in 1974, featured stars including Manilow, Franklin, Dionne Warwick, Keys, The

Kinks and Lou Reed.

And he made the eyebrow-raising decision to throw his weight behind Kenny G, convincing radio stations to play the solo saxophonist's music among pop songs.

Davis also forged a deal with Sean Combs -- the mogul known as "Diddy," who is now in prison on prostitution-related charges -- to start Bad Boy Records, one of hip-hop's foundational labels.

But for all the stars he launched, it was Davis's mentorship of Whitney Houston that would prove among the most significant. She became one of the best-selling artists ever and great voices of her generation under his guidance, before her shock death the day of one of Davis's famed pre-Grammy galas. It was another of the mogul's great personal tragedies.

"The loss of Whitney came about as suddenly as the loss of my parents," Davis said. "And profoundly reminded me how quickly and immediately vitally important people in your life can just disappear."

**- Party of the year -**

Married and divorced twice, Davis had four chil-

dren, and publicly came out as bisexual in his autobiography.

After another skirmish with CBS over Arista and several more shake-ups and mergers in the industry, Davis landed the title of Chief Creative Officer at Sony Music Entertainment, where he remained into his later years.

His career was not without critics: an industry joke held that Davis's ego was so large he thought CDs were named after him.

But he was a music mainstay for well over half a century.

A Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee with an armful of Grammys, Davis for decades hosted a splashy signature pre-Grammy galas.

The bash remained one of the most coveted tickets in showbiz and included a private variety show put on by A-listers.

"Clive's Grammy parties, it's kind of more than just a party... it's kind of a historical event," said Berry Gordy, the storied founder of Motown Records.

Davis refused to retire.

"I don't continue to do things to prove a point," he told Rolling Stone in 2021. "I just do what I always did." □



Co-founder of the project, photographer and educator Amar Kilic speaks to children during a workshop held as part of Fotohane Darkroom project in Mardin, southeastern Turkey, on June 13, 2026.

## In Turkey's 'house of photos', the world as seen through the lens of children

### Mardin, Turkey

In a dimly lit room illuminated by a pair of red lamps, eight-year-old Zeynep waits to see photographs she has taken, now trapped as shadows and silhouettes on a roll of film. "How big is your curiosity?" asks her mentor, 40-year-old photographer Amar Kilic, as he develops the negatives in a sink. "As big as the world," she replies.

Originally from the southeastern province of Mardin, Zeynep is among eight children taking part in a two-month analogue photography workshop for local and migrant youth near Turkey's borders with Iraq and Syria.

The project, called Fotohane Darkroom, started in Mardin in 2024, by Kilic and Syrian photographer and educator Serbest Salih. In Turkish, Arabic, Kurdish and Persian, Fotohane means "house of photo", a name chosen by the children. In fact, insists Kilic, the children are in charge throughout the process.

"From loading film, to developing it and printing their own photographs, they do everything by themselves. They get to set and write their own rules also."

### - Fleeing IS -

Once part of Mesopotamia, the walls of Mardin's old city, traversed by narrow streets, holds thousands of years of history and attract tourists from all over the world.

But the city is also home to low-income families and refugees who fled Syria's civil war.

Among them are the families of 13-year-old Yahya, 12-year-old Yusuf, 11-year-old Nihal and 13-year-old Sam. They came from Damascus in 2014 and 2015 when Islamic State (IS) jihadists started a war inside Syria.

"I'm very excited when I take pictures, it's all very interesting for us", says Nihal, swinging a small, black camera from her wrist as she searches for a frame to capture.

Their teacher, 32-year-old Serbest Salih, a smiling photographer with curiosity-filled eyes, fled the Kurdish town of Kobane, in northern Syria, when it came under assault from the IS group in 2014.

Thousands of Syrian refugees have settled across the Turkish border in Mardin region during the war that ended with the fall of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

His own struggle is a topic Salih wants to avoid and

instead insists all the attention should go on the children he's patiently educating, switching effortlessly between Turkish, Kurdish, Arabic and English.

Since his arrival in Turkey, he has been trying to establish himself as a bridge of tolerance and integration.

He started his first analogue photography workshop in 2015 in a secondhand caravan, driving to villages along the border and focusing on vulnerable local and refugee children.

"Analogue photography is about self-confidence. When taking a digital photograph you might think about deleting it on the spot. But with film, they spend the whole workshop thinking and feeling every one of those 36 frames, and only see them at the end. And their photos are beautiful," Salih says.

### - 'The magic room' -

Ask any of the children what part of the process is their favourite and the answer will be: the darkroom where the images they first see through the viewfinder and captured by pressing the shutter come to life.

"They call it the magic room", says Murat Kilic, who teaches development and printing, always with a smile on his face while giving feedback. □



Netherlands' Prime Minister Rob Jetten looks on before the start of a round table meeting during the EU Summit at the EU headquarters in Brussels, on June 19, 2026.

## 'Historical justice': Dutch PM makes formal apology to Moluccans

### The Hague, Netherlands

Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten Sunday issued a formal state apology to members of the Moluccan community for their decades-long mistreatment by the Netherlands after Indonesia won independence from colonisation.

Many Moluccans, from the so-called "spice islands" in eastern Indonesia, fought for the Dutch colonial army during the post-World War II struggle for independence. After Indonesia gained independence in 1949, around 12,500 Moluccans were brought to the Netherlands in a state-organised transfer to escape reprisals.

They were supposed to stay only briefly before returning to an independent country, as part of negotiations at the time between the Dutch government and Indonesia.

However, the Dutch reneged on their promise to repatriate them and they were housed in dire conditions, with little attempt to find them jobs or integrate them into broader Dutch society.

Unveiling a monument to commemorate that dark period of Dutch history, a visibly moved Jetten told hundreds of Moluccans gathered in Rotterdam that it was "high time" to apologise.

"For the inadequate reception and housing. For being unseen and abandoned. For the unfulfilled longing for home. And for the grief and pain in so many families. For this, I offer my apologies today on behalf of the Dutch government," said Jetten.

The Ulu Kora monument was unveiled on the Lloydkade in Rotterdam, where the first ships transporting Moluccans arrived in the Dutch port.

Those who were in the army were immediately discharged and many were sent to former concentration camps used to gather Jews in the Nazi-occupied Netherlands.

The 1970s saw a number of violent actions by second-generation Moluccans, who felt betrayed by the Dutch for failing to secure their independent homeland.

"I realise the injustice cannot be suddenly removed with apologies. We cannot change the course of history and the reality of today with a few sentences," said Jetten.

"But I do hope that the words I just spoke are perceived as a form of recognition and an act of historical justice for you," he told members of the community, many of them clutching family photos of first-generation Moluccans now dead. □

## J-Bay: S.Africa's surf mecca missing out on the global tour

### Jeffreys Bay, South Africa

The celebrated waves off Jeffreys Bay secured the town a spot on a world surfing tour that for years drew the sport's biggest names to this remote corner of South Africa almost every July.

This year, though, J-Bay is missing out on the international spotlight after the World Surf League (WSL) abruptly pulled the South African stopover from its 2026 Championship Tour.

It is a blow for the otherwise humble Eastern Cape town of 30,000 inhabitants, which made an occasion of an event that booked out its accommodation and, by one estimate, brought in millions of dollars.

"It is a big financial loss for all the small businesses in Jeffreys Bay," said Jacqui Bursey, 55, manager of a surf school and shop.

The stretch of signs touting surf schools, rentals and B&Bs shows the spin-offs the sport has brought to the local economy.

The competition "creates such a vibe and an energy in the town", said 19-year-old Josh Jansen, preparing to paddle out with a board under his arm.



A surfer rides a wave in Jeffreys Bay, on March 7, 2026.

"I am really hoping that they will come back next year or the year after... that we can make a way to get them back," he said.

### - Best in the world -

Announcing the exclusion of Jeffreys Bay on the 12-stop tour in favour of New Zealand's most famous wave at Raglan, the WSL said in January the decision was based on financial reasons.

"It's undoubtedly one of the best waves in the world, and we will continue to explore ways to return in the future," it said in a statement.

"Financial support isn't there to make it viable this year," it said.

The town was "very devastated", said deputy mayor Timothy Jantjes, alluding to "issues" with the national sports ministry, although details were not clear.

"We would like to have them back in the coming years," he told AFP.

"We will obviously do everything we can to support the WSL."

The municipality is run by the country's second-largest political party, the Democratic Alliance, which said the loss of the event would have an "economic impact" of around 150 million rand (about \$8 million).

### - Supertubes -

When the conditions come together and the swells and wind direction align, J-Bay's Supertubes break can offer barrels and long rides that have earned it the reputation as one of Africa's best surf locations.

Mike Ginsberg, one of South Africa's surfing pioneers, told AFP he first saw the spot in 1968 when it was still an undeveloped strip of wilderness.

"We heard rumours from our friends in Cape Town who had been here before and a couple of fishermen," said Ginsberg, 78.

"There were no houses then. We walked over the sand dunes and saw proper point break," he said.

They pitched tents and camped in the dunes. "We had the best waves in the world to ourselves."

Another devotee is German national Florian Petersin, who has spent decades chasing surf around Europe's Atlantic coast and now owns an apartment in Cape Town, nearly 700 kilometres (430 miles) away.

"When we have European winter, it's also a bit too cold, so I come here," said the 47-year-old. □



Residents from nearby slum settlements sleep on the Versova Beach to escape the hot and humid conditions inside their homes, during the early-morning hours in Mumbai on June 19, 2026.

### Jaisalmer, India

On India's hot plains, scorching summers have become increasingly harder to endure, requiring adaptations and forcing life into the hours of dark before the sun turns punishing.

"We try to adjust, but the traditional ways to combat heat are not working,"

said 26-year-old herdsman Sawai Bhati Singh, who lives outside the desert city of Jaisalmer, in the western state of Rajasthan.

"Every year the heat is increasing."

His home, made of thick stone blocks with few windows, helps keep some of the furnace-like heat out. But temperatures inside

## India learns to live with hotter summers

are still stifling.

The South Asian country is no stranger to scorching summers, but years of scientific research have found climate change is causing heatwaves to become longer, more frequent and more intense.

Temperatures in Singh's village of Sanwata hit 45C in early June, as is often during the summer. The highest temperature recorded in the area has been 49C.

Singh is worried about the health of his two young sons, aged two and four, playing barefoot in the dust.

In a separate kitchen hut with a thatched roof for ventilation, his wife and mother struggle as they cook on a wood fire.

Water is drawn from a nearby well and cooled in bottles wrapped in woven

jute string, using evaporation to lower the temperature.

Singh's herd of goats and cattle struggles too.

"They stay in the shade," he said. "The heat impacts the eating, and that lowers their milk."

But temperatures are becoming harder to endure. The family bought their first air cooler, which uses wet fibres, last year.

"We never needed it before, but last year was hot, so we bought one," he said. "Now we have two."

A world away, along the lush green banks of the Yamuna river floodplains near the capital, New Delhi, farmer Bhole Shankar faces a different version of the same crisis.

New Delhi hit 46.5C this summer, still below the sizzling 49.9C record mea-

sured in 2024.

"Living on the floodplain feels cooler than being stuck in the middle of houses," 36-year-old Shankar said, standing outside a hut made of plastic sheeting on bamboo poles. "But on some days, day and night feel the same."

Shankar, his wife and their three sons, aged between nine and 16, live beneath the city's power lines but their hut is not connected. A solar panel provides enough power to run a small fan, pushing hot air.

The family shifts its routine, working in the fields before dawn, resting in the shade during the fiercest heat, and returning to check crops towards dusk. □

## Today is going to be a good day



(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days,

and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

### Nature Calls

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

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

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

### The Lighthouse

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



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

### Kayak in the Mangroves

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

## Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

### Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least



not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

### Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

**Bon dia** is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

### Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

### Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

### Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

### Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □



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## Po-Ké Ono Brings Bold Asian Fusion to Aruba's Dining Scene

*Innovative eatery blends island culture with modern Asian cuisine*



Oranjestad, Aruba – In a culinary landscape known for its diversity and creativity, Po-Ké Ono stands out as a vibrant and contemporary addition to Aruba's restaurant scene. With locations at Azure in Palm Beach and the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad, the concept introduces a refreshing take on Asian fusion dining—casual in style, yet refined in execution.

Established in 2020, Po-Ké Ono was envisioned as a space where flavor, culture, and creativity intersect. The menu features an array of signature dishes including poke bowls, steamed bao, and sushi, crafted with precision and a focus on freshness. Drawing on Asian influences, the restaurant delivers bold flavors in an approachable format, appealing to a broad audience of locals and visitors alike.

The ambiance is designed to be welcoming and relaxed, with a philosophy centered

around accessibility and enjoyment. Whether dining indoors or grabbing a quick bowl on the go, guests can expect a consistently high standard in both service and cuisine. With extensive menu options, including selections for vegan diners, Po-Ké Ono caters to a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences.

While the concept leans into fast-casual dining, the quality of ingredients and thoughtful



preparation reflect fine-dining roots. Many of the restaurant's core ingredients are sourced locally, emphasizing sustainability and support for Aruba's agricultural community. The result is a dining experience that honors both the island's spirit and the culinary traditions it draws inspiration from.

Open daily from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Po-Ké Ono continues to gain recognition as one of the island's premier destinations for sushi, poke, and

bao. Its growing popularity is a testament to Aruba's evolving food culture—one that embraces global influence while staying rooted in community and craft.

For those seeking a modern taste of Asia in the heart of the Caribbean, Po-Ké Ono offers a flavorful and memorable experience worth exploring. □



## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot

fish that you can't recognize.

**One of these may be the "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.**

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is *Sphyræna barracuda*. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in



the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

### In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year.

Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

**Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Santo Rosa).**



**Picuda**  
Greater Barracuda  
*Sphyræna barracuda*

# Property Management

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## Nights of Culture, Music, and Entertainment at Paseo Herencia



**(ORANJESTAD)—As the sun sets, Paseo Herencia comes alive with entertainment that celebrates Aruba's culture, music, and vibrant energy. The open-air plaza transforms into a lively hub where locals and visitors gather to experience the island's rhythm, sights, and flavors. Evenings at Paseo Herencia invite guests to slow down, connect, and enjoy a mix of music, dance, and immersive experiences in a relaxed, welcoming setting.**

This month, we proudly celebrate Dia di Betico, a day honoring the life and legacy of Betico Croes, a

key figure in Aruba's journey toward autonomy. A beloved traditional Aruban band will perform live on January 25th from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Known for their authentic rhythms and lively performances, Grupo di Betico brings a strong sense of cultural pride to the plaza, offering both visitors and residents a memorable evening filled with local heritage and island sounds.

Weekly programming ensures that every night offers something new. Cultural Wednesdays celebrate Aruba's musical heritage, starting with steelpan mu-

sic at 7:00 pm and followed by a cultural dance show at 8:00 pm that highlights traditional movements and storytelling. Saturdays in January are dedicated to Carnival Nights beginning at 8:00 pm, filling Paseo Herencia with dazzling costumes, lively music, and spirited performances that immerse guests in one of Aruba's most beloved celebrations.

The plaza's entertainment continues with themed nightly water show at 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:30 pm, creating a natural transition from live performances into the evening's activities.

For younger visitors, the carousel and kids' train provide joyful, memorable experiences that bring a touch of magic to the plaza.



za. Thrill seekers can also enjoy the Airsoft attraction located behind The Lazy Turtle, ensuring that there is entertainment for all ages.

For those continuing the night, Paseo Herencia offers a variety of vibrant nightlife experiences. Gusto Nightclub is known for high-energy DJ sets, VIP bottle service, and a daily happy hour from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The club brings together locals and visitors for a lively, unforgettable party atmosphere. Frenchie's

Karaoke Bar provides a relaxed outdoor setting where guests can take the stage, sing, and perform while enjoying the support of friendly staff and fellow patrons. Flamingoes Bar offers a social all-ages experience with inventive cocktails, delicious snacks, and a spacious terrace ideal for groups, making it a top choice for music, conversation, and a lively bar vibe.

With stores open daily from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, visitors can combine shopping, dining, and entertainment into one seamless visit. Parking at Paseo Herencia is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie, simply by presenting a purchase receipt to the parking cashier. Whether visiting for an evening show or staying late into the night, Paseo Herencia offers a complete island experience where music, culture, and entertainment come together to create memorable moments for all ages. □

## Dining in? Try making some local favorites! How to make "pan bati"

**(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!**

### Ingredients:

- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- 1 1/3 cup of milk
- 1 pinch of salt
- 2 tbsp of granulated sugar
- Oil for cooking

### Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl

first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moister is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □



## Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger



**Many years ago, Cha\* Tiger did not live in the mondi\*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.**

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei\*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peeped through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth

what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria\* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife.

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



## The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was



enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the

locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.



Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The

next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Anabui/Tierra Del Sol  
This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino



language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and lboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Ana-boio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the

iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the Second World War and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mari-

niers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original

and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

Angochi  
This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

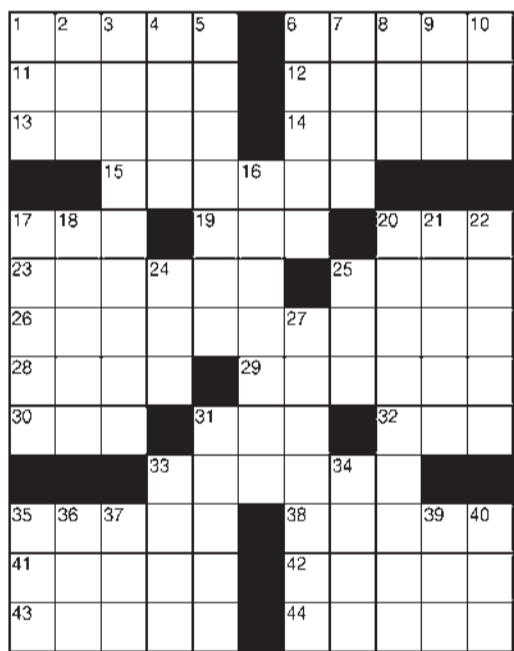
However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An. □

**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 42 Patriot
  - 1 Impressed greatly
  - 6 Foxx of "Ray"
  - 11 Cartoon genre
  - 12 Undermine
  - 13 Jeans material
  - 14 Bar seat
  - 15 Formal
  - 17 Big D player
  - 19 Pub pint
  - 20 Kids' card game
  - 23 Galahad's mother
  - 25 Prudent
  - 26 They help to develop breathing capacity
  - 28 Preceding nights
  - 29 Frozen expense
  - 30 — Moines
  - 31 Martini base
  - 32 Claire of "The Crown"
  - 33 Second-largest nation
  - 35 Yellow gem
  - 38 Character found in kids' books
  - 41 Not dozing
- DOWN**
- 1 Gum mass
  - 2 Low digit
  - 3 Rooftop turners
  - 4 Mideast ruler
  - 5 Lowers
  - 6 Track great Owens
  - 7 Preentious
  - 8 Cattle call
  - 9 Wedding words
  - 10 Twisty fish
  - 16 Didn't get up early
  - 17 Imitated a kitten
  - 18 Full of energy
  - 20 Sources of sudden wealth
  - 21 The Jetsons' dog
  - 22 Utter over
  - 24 Passport, license, etc.
  - 25 Victory
  - 27 Out of control
  - 31 Peered
  - 33 Soap unit
  - 34 Secluded spot
  - 35 Letter after sigma
  - 36 Possess
  - 37 Pussy foot
  - 39 Bear abode
  - 40 Lennon's love



2-23

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-23

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

HP HE MLMKHWJ SOMP GYZ  
DMW MDDYLQAHEO HI GYZ RY  
WYP DMUC SOY JCPE POC  
DUCRHP. — OMUUG E.  
PUZLMW

**Cryptoquote:** IT IS EASIER TO DO A JOB RIGHT THAN TO EXPLAIN WHY YOU DIDN'T.  
— MARTIN VAN BUREN

**Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba**

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

establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

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

**Safety**

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

**Supermarket hours**

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

**Electrical power**



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

**Drinking water**



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

**JUNE CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE**

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

**SUDOKU**

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

**King Classic Sudoku**

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2/12

**Answer to previous puzzle**

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

Difficulty: ★★★

2/11

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# France ditching Palantir could be 'tricky', experts say

## Paris, France

France's domestic intelligence agency is to drop AI giant Palantir to avoid over-dependence on the United States, but shedding the powerful American software could prove complex, experts say. Governments and lawmakers in European countries, notably in France, Germany and Britain, have been rethinking ties with the firm amid shifting transatlantic ties under U.S. President Donald Trump. When Washington last week ordered that another US behemoth Anthropic ban foreigners from using two of its models, it added urgency to the debate on digital sovereignty. But "the tricky thing about Palantir is how powerful it is. It's a piece of software that is extremely capable," said Clement Renault, an intelligence expert at the French Institute for Strategic Research (IRSEM).

Doing without such tools presents "a real risk of losing data processing capabilities in the short term", he said.

Palantir was co-founded by Peter Thiel, a right-wing billionaire close to Trump, in the wake of the September 11 attacks to sift through vast datasets to flag security threats. It has also worked more recently with the US government to identify undocumented immigrants or targets in the U.S.-Israel war on Iran.

Palantir provides powerful AI-driven facial recognition software to help governments to find, track and in some cases kill people, with the company accused of enabling Israel's targeting of Palestinians in Gaza. The scale of the company's mass surveillance, potential for racial bias and ties with Trump have drawn a chorus of alarm from rights groups and privacy advocates.

### - 'Can't afford snags' -

French Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu on Tues-



Josh Harris, executive vice president of Palantir Technologies, speaks during the 29th annual Milken Institute Global Conference at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, California on May 5, 2026.

day said his country would "build real autonomy" by turning instead to domestic provider ChapsVision. The firm, founded in 2019, it is a relative minnow in comparison to American giants, reporting 200 million euros (\$232 million) of revenue in 2025 compared to Palantir's \$4.5 billion. Deploying the new ChapsVision software would take several months, Finance Minister Roland Lescure has said, without providing a clear timeline. A French security source told AFP Chapsvision's tool was "nearing the end of its development" and "entering a real-world testing phase". In the meantime, the domestic spy agency or DGSI "can't afford operational snags" and will "continue to use Palantir", they said.

Palantir has said its contract with the DGSI "remains fully in force" for the time being.

Germany's internal security service too is thinking about quitting Palantir and working with ChapsVision instead, according to media reports last month. But Interior Minister Alexander Dobrindt has not ruled out using it in digital investigations, and security authorities in several regions do use Palantir software. British lawmakers earlier this month called for the country's National Health Service to end its contract with the American company. The London mayor's office also blocked a bid by the British capital's Metropolitan Police to work with Palantir. □

ARUBA TODAY
BONDIA

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

# Interstellar comet likely far older than Solar System: astronomers

## Paris, France

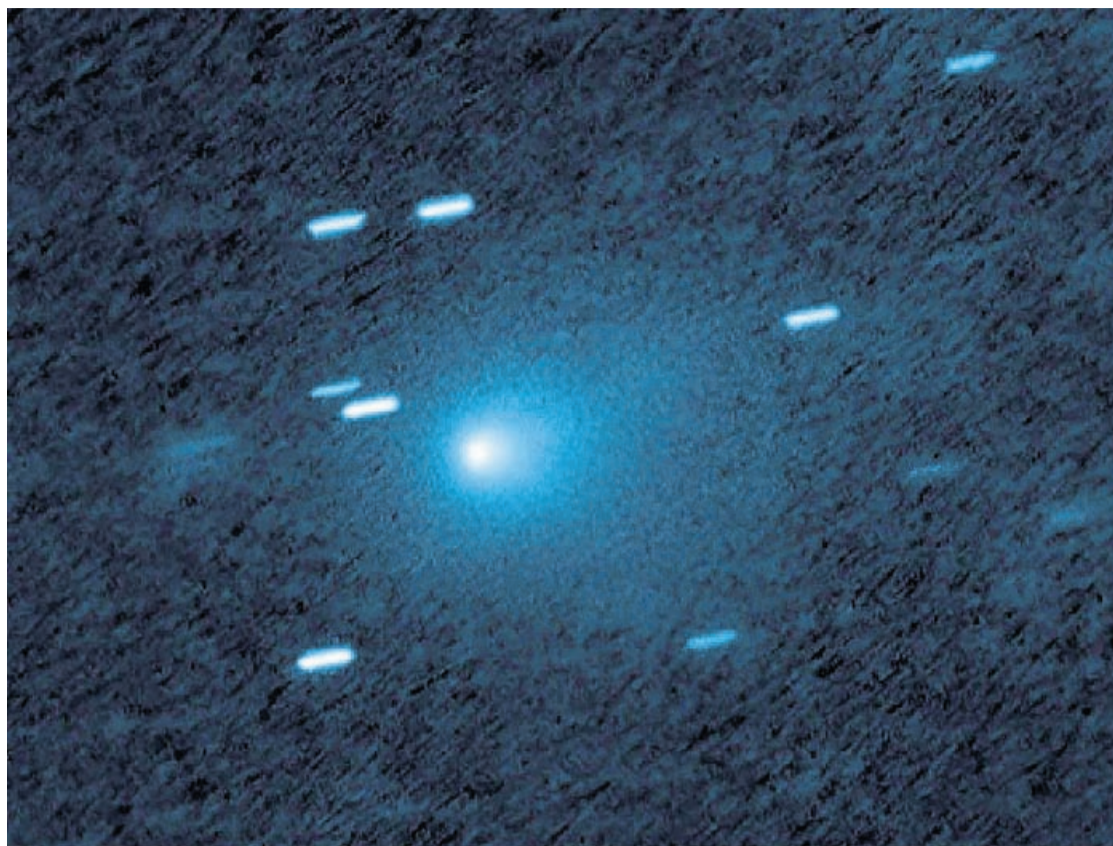
An interstellar comet that blazed past the Sun last year could be nearly three times older than our Solar System and is unlike anything ever before seen in our cosmic backyard, astronomers said Monday.

The comet 3I/ATLAS is just the third visitor from beyond our Solar System that humanity has ever observed, its unusual brightness offering scientists an unprecedented opportunity to study something that came from elsewhere in the galaxy.

After being spotted in July last year, the space rock prompted excitement online, with one prominent Harvard researcher speculating it could be an alien spacecraft a theory that NASA shot down.

Now, observations by the world's most powerful telescopes are revealing more about the unique comet.

According to a new study published in the journal Nature, 3I/ATLAS could be up



This handout photograph released by NASA on June 22, 2026, shows a view taken by Hubble of the interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS on July 21, 2025, when the comet was 277 million miles from Earth.

to 12 billion years old. Our Solar System is believed to have formed around 4.5 billion years ago.

Lead study author Martin Cordiner of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center told AFP that "maybe it's

the oldest object to have been observed in our Solar System".

However there could be "edge-case scenarios" that offer other explanations for the comet's unusual chemi-

cal composition, he added. The new research is based on the comet's ratio of chemical elements called isotopes detected by the James Webb space telescope and the ALMA observatory in Chile.

These measurements "reveal an elemental composition unlike any Solar System body", the study said.

## Relic from 'cosmic noon'?

Compared to comets in our Solar System, 3I/ATLAS had around 30 times more deuterium, a type of hydrogen commonly seen in heavy water, according to a NASA statement.

"That high abundance of heavy water can only really happen, according to our understanding of astrochemistry, in a very cold environment," Cordiner explained.

This means the comet is also likely among the coldest objects ever seen in our Solar System, the isotopic evidence suggesting it formed in an environment that was minus 243 degrees Celsius. Exactly where this comet came from within the Milky Way remains a mystery.

But these interstellar objects are thought to form in a similar way to the comets in our Solar System being flung out during the violent formation of a new planet. □



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## Dangerous 'heat stress' has surged worldwide, study shows

### Paris, France

The number of people exposed to dangerous heat stress worldwide has risen sharply over the last half century propelled by climate change, according to a study released on Monday as Europe sweltered through a punishing heatwave.

Heat stress the name giv-

en to the hazardous buildup of body heat caused by soaring temperatures, humidity and other factors is one of the most common ways that weather kills people.

The new study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, tracked how heat stress levels surged between the 1970s

and 2024. "On every continent, strong to extreme heat stress is now more frequent," lead study author Rebecca Emerton, of the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, told AFP.

In the 1970s, for example, 16 percent of the world's population experienced at least one day of extreme heat stress when the "feels-like" temperature was at least 46C.

Fifty years later, the rate has risen to 22 percent.

"That might not sound like so much," Emerton said.

"But that's an extra approximately one billion people that are seeing at least some extreme heat stress now that wouldn't have done in the 1970s," she added.

The study used the Universal Thermal Climate Index (UTCI), which represents

the temperature it "feels like", by including factors such as humidity, wind, radiation and how the human body responds to heat. The daily average UTCI has been rising as heat stress events become more frequent, severe and longer-lasting due to human-driven global warming, the research found.

Some countries, including Spain, Portugal, Italy and France, are now experiencing "feels-like" temperatures up to five degrees hotter than they did in the 1970s, Emerton said. In France on Monday, two children died during the country's second exceptionally intense heatwave of the year.

Heat stress is also "expanding into areas of the globe where historically it's not been experienced", Emerton said. □



Foreign workers clean a water pond next to a public installation in Doha on May 10, 2023, as the International Conference on Occupational Heat Stress is held in Qatar.



Argentina's forward #10 Lionel Messi (C) scores the opening goal during the 2026 World Cup Group J football match between Argentina and Austria at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington on June 22, 2026.

## Messi sets World Cup scoring record as Argentina down Austria

### Los Angeles, United States

Lionel Messi became the World Cup's all-time leading goalscorer on Monday, scoring twice as holders Argentina powered into the last 32 with a 2-0 victory over Austria.

Messi swept home a low finish in the 38th minute of the Group J game in Arlington, Texas to take his career World Cup goals tally to 17, one clear of the previous record of 16 he shared with Miroslav Klose.

He then extended his record to 18 goals, ramming home a finish through a crowd of defenders deep in stoppage time to put the seal on Argentina's win.

The eight-time Ballon D'Or winner, who turns 39 on Wednesday, had blown a chance to break the record after eight minutes when he dragged a penalty wide of the post.

But the Argentina skipper made no mistake seven minutes before half-time, coolly placing his finish beyond the dive of Austrian goalkeeper Alexander Schlager.

He then completed his double in the fifth minute of stoppage time to take his tally for the tournament to five goals following his hat-trick in Argentina's opening 3-0 win over Algeria last

week.

Monday's victory guarantees Argentina a place in the knockout rounds of the tournament, and the South Americans could clinch top spot later Monday if Jordan fail to beat Algeria.

### - Mbappe's century -

Messi is now four goals clear of another player eyeing the all-time World Cup scoring record, Kylian Mbappe, who will play his 100th game for France when they meet Iraq in Philadelphia.

"There is nothing bigger 100 is a historic figure, and to have the chance to reach that tally here at a World Cup means it will be a special match for me," Mbappe said on Sunday.

Mbappe, 27, is tied with West Germany legend Gerd Mueller on 14 goals after he netted twice in France's opening 3-1 win against Senegal in Group I. France, who were beaten by Argentina on penalties in the last final in 2022, will expect to brush aside the Iraqis to guarantee a ticket to the knockout phase in a match which could be interrupted with thunderstorms forecast in Philadelphia.

Norway and their marksman Erling Haaland, who

scored twice against Iraq in a 4-1 opening win, will also be guaranteed of going through from Group I if they beat Senegal in New Jersey and France defeat Iraq.

The World Cup, though, is over for German defender Nico Schlotterbeck.

The 26-year-old injured ligaments in his left ankle in Saturday's 2-1 win over Ivory Coast.

### - Cape Verde magic -

In Sunday's action, Spain got their campaign back on track with a 4-0 thrashing of Saudi Arabia and World Cup debutants Cape Verde conjured up another memorable performance to snatch a 2-2 draw with Uruguay.

Cape Verde coach Bubiستا said his team were now dreaming of a place in the knockout rounds -- a scenario that would have been unthinkable before the tournament.

"We want to show the entire world that we are in the condition to fight for qualification, and I think that that's what we showed in today's match," Bubiستا said.

Belgium are still looking for their first win after being held to a 0-0 draw by Iran in Group G. □



An Argentina supporter holds a flag depicting late Argentine football player Diego Maradona and Argentina's forward #10 Lionel Messi after the during the 2026 World Cup Group J football match between Argentina and Austria at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington on June 22, 2026.

## Argentina fans defiant, 40 years on from Maradona's 'Hand of God'

### Arlington, United States

It is one of the most infamous moments in football history, and 40 years on Argentina fans are unapologetic about Diego Maradona's "Hand of God" goal, with one calling it "clever" and another saying winning was the only thing that mattered.

It was June 22, 1986, Mexico City's Azteca stadium, and Argentina faced England in a World Cup quarter-final grudge match.

The game was dominated beforehand by political tensions following the Falklands War in 1982.

And it came to be defined by two contrasting goals scored by the late, great Maradona, who died aged 60 in November 2020.

For the first, Maradona ran into the box, rose with England goalkeeper Peter Shilton and punched the ball into the net.

To the fury of the England players and disbelief from the watching millions all over the globe, the goal stood.

Four minutes later, Maradona ran more than half the length of the field, beat six England players and scored the Goal of the Century. It was also the match-winner.

Maradona went on to score twice more in the semi-final win over Belgium and lifted the World Cup after Argentina defeated West Germany in the final.

Maradona came up with the infamous "Hand of God" at the post-match press conference, and the phrase went down in footballing folklore.

Maradona and Argentina refused to apologize, much to the anger of the England players, and 40 years on the country's fans remain equally defiant.

"I would not focus on the 'Hand of God' but on the second goal, which is the best goal ever at the World Cup," said one fan at his country's second group game in the on-going World Cup, against Austria in Texas.

The fan, who gave his name as "Alex", said the first goal was acknowledged back home as cheating.

"That was Maradona, I think it is cheating too," said the 52-year-old supporter, who watched the game on television.

"I didn't realize it was a hand at the time," he added. "But then you guys (media) made a big deal of it, so everyone knows about that.

"You focus on that one, and not the best goal in history." □

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## Ex-Wimbledon champion Vondrousova banned four years for refusing drugs test

**London, United Kingdom**  
Former Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova was handed a four-year suspension on Monday for refusing an anti-doping test. Vondrousova did not submit a sample when notified by a doping control officer during an out-of-competition test attempt at her home in December 2025. The 26-year-old Czech, who won Wimbledon in 2023,

claimed "months of physical and mental stress" affected her decision making, in addition to concerns for her safety. Writing on Instagram in April, Vondrousova said she was scared when the doping officer approached her door late in the evening "without properly identifying themselves or following protocol. "In that moment it was about feeling safe, not

about avoiding anything." Players are required to log their whereabouts for an allotted hour each day so that authorities can conduct anti-doping tests outside of competition. An independent tribunal considered Vondrousova's claims, as well as testimony from the doping control officer who attempted to conduct the test.



Czech Republic's Marketa Vondrousova plays a forehand return to Kazakhstan's Elena Rybakina during their women's singles round of 16 tennis match on day eight of the U.S. Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City, on August 31, 2025.

The tribunal concluded that the evidence offered "no compelling justification" for the world number 122 to refuse the test.

portant to us. Our testers are well-trained, professional, and the gender of our testing witness always matches the player.

International Tennis Integrity Agency CEO, Karen Moorhouse said: "We understand that the testing process is uncomfortable, and acknowledge that it is an additional burden for players whose jobs already come with a high level of pressure and scrutiny, but it is essential to protect fair competition. "Safety and welfare of players and our testers is really im-

**- Considering appeal -**  
During her ban, the Czech is not allowed to play in, coach at, or attend any events organised or sanctioned by the ITF, WTA, ATP, the Grand Slams, or any national association. Vondrousova will consider the verdict before deciding whether to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). □

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## Draper makes winning return at Eastbourne with Murray on his side

**London, United Kingdom**  
Britain's Jack Draper made an winning start to his comeback from injury in front of new coach Andy Murray at the Eastbourne Open on Monday.

Murray watched from a courtside box as former world number four Draper beat Marcos Giron 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in the first round on the sun-baked English south coast. He showed no obvious fitness concerns during a solid display to set up all-British encounter

with Jack Pinnington Jones in the last 16 of the Wimbledon warm-up event. "It's been an incredibly difficult year for me with certain physical bits but to be here is really special," Draper said. "If you haven't competed in a while you never know what to expect. But I'm really happy with the way I came through in the end. "I've given myself another opportunity in the second round to play better and keep on hopefully building momentum in my tennis and in my body." □