



Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

Things to do this weekend!



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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



Trump sparks US midterm fears with election body firings

Washington, United States
U.S. President Donald Trump stood accused Friday of trying to seize control of November's crucial midterm elections after he fired the last two Democrats on a federal agency that oversees fair polls. Trump's brazen removal of the officials from the bipartisan Election Assistance Commission comes as he pushes for voting restrictions ahead of the midterms, in which Republicans could lose their grip on Congress. The two commissioners nominated by Democrats received an email from the Trump administration dismissing them on Thursday, U.S. media reported.

The remaining Republican-chosen commissioner on the four-person panel resigned Thursday, after another resigned in April. The White House defended Trump's move, saying a Supreme Court ruling last month gave the 80-year-old president expanded powers to fire members of independent government agencies.

"The President, and head of the Executive Branch, reserves the right to remove



People walk past a drop box at a polling place at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library during the DC primary elections on June 16, 2026 in Washington, DC.

individuals that may not be totally aligned with the important task of securing America's elections and ensuring every legal vote is counted," a White House official said in a statement to AFP. The official added that the Trump administration was "working across all agencies and local partners to safeguard elections from fraud and abuse" before November.

Top Democrats vowed to fight what Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer called Trump's "power grab" over the election commission, which certifies voting equipment while administering hundreds of millions of dollars in federal support for elections. "Firing every remaining member of the bipartisan Election Assistance Commission months before the midterms is a brazen at-

tempt to seize control of our elections before a single vote is cast," Schumer said on X. U.S. Senator Mark Warner of Virginia said it was an "extraordinary step that demands an immediate explanation from the administration."

- Baseless claims -

Trump has stepped up baseless claims of election fraud, echoing his false

claims that fraud contributed to his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden.

But Republicans fear Trump's near-record unpopularity, and the high cost of living sparked by his Iran war, could cost them control of the House of Representatives in November.

Trump had previously clashed with the commission over an executive order directing the agency to add a requirement for proof of citizenship to voter registration forms, a demand that was largely blocked in court, CNN reported.

To approve any actions, the commission requires agreement from three of the four commissioners, but it could take months to fill the vacancies, USA Today reported.

Trump's gutting of the commission comes as he shows mounting frustration over Congress's refusal to pass a package of fresh voting restrictions.

His so-called SAVE America Act would require proof of citizenship to register to vote and photo identification at polling places, while imposing new limits on mail-in ballots. □

Apple sues OpenAI for stealing trade secrets

San Francisco, United States
Apple on Friday sued OpenAI, accusing the artificial intelligence company of orchestrating a campaign to steal the iPhone maker's trade secrets as it tries to develop its own consumer hardware device. The lawsuit -- filed in a federal court in San Jose, California -- paints a picture of an aggressive effort by OpenAI to poach Apple employees and extract confidential information to build its own device. The lawsuit marks a dramatic escalation in tensions between two companies that partnered in 2024 to integrate ChatGPT into Apple's products. That relationship has since deteriorated. Bloomberg reported in May that OpenAI was itself considering legal action against Apple, alleging the tech giant had

failed to adequately promote the ChatGPT integration. "At every level, from members of its Technical Staff to its Chief Hardware Officer, and in coordination with business partners, OpenAI has been stealing Apple's trade secrets and confidential information," Apple

said in the 41-page complaint. The suit will significantly complicate OpenAI's plans for a hotly anticipated initial public offering.

The company, valued at roughly \$852 billion, has raised more than \$180 billion from investors, and



Pedestrians pass by an Apple store in Beijing, China on July 7, 2026.

expanding into consumer hardware was seen as a major opportunity for growth.

"Significant evidence has emerged suggesting individuals employed by OpenAI wrongfully took Apple's secret and confidential information regarding our unreleased technologies, processes and products," the company said in a statement to AFP.

"We will always defend our teams' hard work and innovations, and we are taking all appropriate steps to do so."

OpenAI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The suit names OpenAI, its hardware subsidiary io Products -- the company co-founded by former Apple design chief Jony Ive -- and two former Apple employees: Tang Yew Tan,

now OpenAI's chief hardware officer, and engineer Chang Liu.

Apple said it was seeking damages and an injunction barring OpenAI from using its confidential information, calling the lawsuit necessary after OpenAI failed to respond to concerns the company raised in February.

- 'Show and tell' -

Tan spent 24 years at Apple, most recently as vice president of product design for the iPhone and Apple Watch, before co-founding io Products, which OpenAI acquired for roughly \$6.5 billion in 2025.

Apple alleged that Tan used confidential project code names during OpenAI job interviews to probe candidates about unreleased Apple products. □

Scare Force One? Security questions swirl over Trump's new plane

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump faces questions about the security of his new Air Force One plane gifted by Qatar, after he took an older jet home from a NATO summit this week.

The billionaire president has barely been able to contain his excitement over the retrofitted Boeing 747-8 aircraft, which took him to Ankara on its maiden trip outside the United States. But then Trump abruptly announced in Turkey that he was sending the luxury plane on ahead to a British airbase -- saying it was so US troops could tour the plane donated by the Qatari royal family.

The New York Times reported on Friday that the new plane lacked the same security countermeasures boasted by the older jet, including anti-missile defenses. U.S. media also reported that the Secret Service had advised the switch.

Speculation was fueled by the fact that U.S. hostilities had flared again with Iran, which borders Turkey, and because journalists on the



U.S. President Donald Trump walks towards Air Force One after disembarking from the older VC-25A Air Force One at Royal Air Force (RAF) Mildenhall in Mildenhall, eastern England, on July 8, 2026, before continuing his journey to the United States.

old plane out of Ankara were also told to keep their window blinds down, a step normally reserved for war zones.

Trump himself denied any security concerns -- but after switching back to the new plane for the flight from the UK to Washington, he referred to alleged Iranian assassination attempts. "You're probably on a dan-

gerous flight because of the sleazebags we have to deal with," he said.

- 'Every tool at our disposal'

The White House defended the new plane's safety. "The new Air Force One is a state-of-the-art aircraft that has been fitted with high-level security protocols that ensure the safety of

the President and his staff," Communications Director Steven Cheung said in a statement to AFP on Friday. "As the President has said recently, there are many enemies of America who have their sights on him, and we use every tool at our disposal to address those threats."

In a similar statement to some U.S. media on Thurs-

day, Cheung said those tools included "distraction and misdirection," in an apparent reference to the plane swap.

The Secret Service referred queries to the White House. While U.S. officials never disclose details, the older Air Force Ones are widely reported to have sophisticated countermeasures that can jam enemy radar and infrared tracking systems. They also reportedly have dispensers for chaff -- metal shavings that distract radar-guided missiles -- and flares that blind heat-seeking missiles.

It is unclear which if any of those measures are on the Qatari plane, although it lacks some of the specialized external equipment fairings that are visible on the older jets.

Qatar's royal family donated the luxury airliner last year after Trump complained about the state of the two aging Boeing 747 jets that had served as Air Force One since 1990.

The plane was then rapidly retrofitted and flew Trump for the first time on July 1, to North Dakota. □

Brutal heat wave forecast for western U.S. this weekend

Los Angeles, United States

A "widespread and significant" heat wave is predicted to bring oppressive temperatures to drought-hit western U.S. states over the weekend, with all-time records at risk of falling, the National Weather Service said Friday.

A developing heat dome will spread from northwestern states through the northern plains, where temperatures could hit 110F (43C) on Sunday.

"Extremely hot daytime highs combined with potentially record-warm overnight lows will result in increasing heat stress, leading to widespread major to locally extreme HeatRisk," the agency said.

"Extreme" is the highest level on the NWS's HeatRisk scale, with impacts affecting anyone without cooling or hydration. Energy grids

are also expected to come under strain.

Marc Alessi, a science fellow at the Union of Concerned Scientists, told AFP the heat wave is "occurring in a fundamentally different system" under the influence of human-caused climate change.

"The ocean-atmospheric system is so different, and there are marine heat waves in every ocean basin in the world right now releasing just a ton of heat into the atmosphere, no doubt influencing weather patterns throughout the planet and leading to these absolutely unprecedented heat waves."

Alessi added that a brewing "super" El Nino in the equatorial Pacific could also be influencing the heat dome.

"Already we are starting to

see sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific warm up drastically," he said.

"Because of this, the storms in the Pacific are sending out energy in a different way from the tropics to the mid-latitudes, which then affects the jet stream in such a way that it will allow this heat dome to basically build up in the western United States."

The latest heat wave follows similar events that roasted the central and eastern United States last week, and Europe before that.

Scientists from the World Weather Attribution group released an analysis showing the hot and humid conditions that characterized the past U.S. hot spell which fell as the country celebrated its 250th anniversary would have been "virtually impossible" with-

out human-caused climate change.

Hot and windy conditions will meanwhile bring elevated wildfire conditions, with much of the western United States already experiencing abnormally dry to drought conditions.

Heat domes also cause "dry thunderstorms" where

rain evaporates before hitting the surface and lightning strikes are liable to trigger wildfires.

A National Interagency Fire Center prediction map showed the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming at particularly elevated risk. □



A poster about heat-related illness is posted at a bus stop on July 08, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

Table for one: how Japan's 'Solitary Gourmet' became a TV hit

Yokoshiba, Japan

A lanky businessman ventures into a hole-in-the-wall restaurant and savours his meal alone.

It's a mundane premise for a TV show, yet Japan's "The Solitary Gourmet" draws a cult-like following around Asia, captivating millions of viewers with its simplicity, nostalgia and deeply quirky Japanese feel.

Combining culinary discovery with the showcase of local heritage, the show centres on fictional entrepreneur Goro Inogashira, who drives around in his Mini, using brief business meetings as a pretext for his gastronomic wanderings.

On a shoot for an episode of the latest season, which AFP visited, actor Yutaka Matsushige studies the menu at a tuna restaurant where the camera crew has set up, asks the owner for her recommendations, then suggests a rewrite of the script.

"The atmosphere of a restaurant, the welcome from the owners... all of that creates a story that Goro immerses himself in, and you immediately feel the life experience and history of the person behind the stove," Matsushige told AFP.

"When we talk with them, they sometimes suggest dishes that weren't planned, and we add them in during the shoot,"



Japanese actor Yutaka Matsushige performs a dining scene during the filming of an episode of the TV drama series "Solitary Gourmet" at a tuna restaurant in Yokoshibahikari, Chiba prefecture on May 19, 2026.

he said.

The 63-year-old actor has been playing Inogashira, invariably dressed in a suit and tie, on screen since 2012.

The character is also the star of the eponymous manga by Jiro Taniguchi and Masayuki Kusumi on which the show is based.

- Nostalgia in a bowl of soup -

That original work "is less a story in the traditional sense than wanderings through unfamiliar regions where you simply stop to eat", Matsushige said.

"I wanted viewers to al-

most feel like they were watching a documentary," explained the actor, who over the course of his career has worked with a clutch of prominent Japanese filmmakers such as Takashi Miike, Kiyoshi Kurosawa and Takeshi Kitano.

During the show, Goro's internal musings about other diners at the restaurant as he nods approvingly at the food, peppered with close-ups of the dish, make for a distinctly Japanese experience.

Broadcast late at night in Japan, the series had at first very modest ratings before gradually finding

its audience, including in Taiwan and South Korea, where some episodes were filmed. A Mandarin remake shot in Taiwan was also released.

Despite the success of the manga in Europe, the series is only available on YouTube.

Former South Korean president Yoon Suk Yeol, sentenced in February to life in prison for insurrection, declared in 2023 that he was a devoted fan.

For Matsushige, this success stems from the work's uniqueness.

"Nowadays, people ex-

pect TV series to be easy to follow and spectacular," he said.

"The expression of subtle nuances, like the nostalgia you feel while drinking a bowl of soup, is being lost." With this show, "we wanted everyone to be able to have their own interpretation... I'd like the series to evoke abroad a sensibility closer to Yasujiro Ozu's films", which capture the subtle nuances of everyday life, than to the more grand and spectacular films of Akira Kurosawa.

A film adaptation, written and directed by Matsushige and partially shot in France, was released in Japan last year.

- Lifetime of experience -

The series also aims to support the family-run restaurants that host the shoots, which are never too chic or trendy, so as not to clash with Goro's character, noted producer Shiori Kojima. But often the eateries brought into the spotlight subsequently see long lines forming at their doors

Kenji Kamagata, 71, who has run his tuna restaurant for nearly three decades, admits he had previously refused any television appearance for that reason, changing his mind only because he is a "huge fan" of Matsushige. □

People 'disdain' AI, says director Christopher Nolan

Paris, France

Oscar-winning director Christopher Nolan told AFP he believed the kind of movies he makes big-budget action films shot mostly on location would survive the spread of AI, a technology he says many people "disdain".

The "Oppenheimer" and "The Dark Knight" director is promoting his latest blockbuster, an adaptation of the Greek epic "The Odyssey".

"The interesting thing with AI is I've never seen a technology that's been so successfully adopted by Wall Street and by investors and by tech companies that the public has so thorough-

ly rejected," he told AFP in Paris.

"It's just sort of an odd thing. Young people in

particular, they coined this term 'AI slop'," he added.

"There's a sort of disdain for things AI."



U.S. actress Anne Hathaway, U.S. actress and singer Zendaya, British film producer Emma Thomas and British-US film director Christopher Nolan pose during a photocall ahead of the premiere of the film 'The Odyssey' at the Grand Rex in Paris on July 8, 2026.

AI has been infused into business applications and online search services, and chatbots such as ChatGPT have been widely adopted, but the technology faces major pushback in the creative industries such as music, cinema and art. "AI slop" refers to the flood of AI-generated text, video and audio content that has inundated social media in recent years.

- AI claims are 'nonsense' -

"The Odyssey" has a reported budget of \$250 million, which enabled Nolan to travel to locations throughout the Mediterranean with a stellar cast that includes Matt Damon in the lead role as Odys-

seus, supported by Zendaya, Tom Holland, Robert Pattinson and Anne Hathaway.

Nolan has been attacked by Elon Musk and other far-right figures for casting black actress Lupita Nyong'o as Helen of Troy, who in Greek mythology was the most beautiful woman in the world.

The British-American director, who once again makes use of spectacular special effects in "The Odyssey", added that he expected AI to result in some useful "imaging tools".

"But I think the idea that it replaces human beings wholesale and human creativity, to me it's a nonsense," he added. □

Chinese repairwomen smash stereotypes with power tools

Hangzhou, China

The sound of pliers clicking filled a workshop in eastern China's Hangzhou as a group of women practised stripping wires, their female instructor moving around the classroom to offer advice.

DIY and maintenance work is a male-dominated field in China, but an increasing number of women living alone with a desire for self-sufficiency has led to a growing appetite for courses to learn such skills.

Nationwide there are now multiple all-women repair groups, including the organisers of the Hangzhou workshop, Mulan Build.

"People are moving away from the traditional mindset that certain jobs must be tethered to a specific gender," Chen Ning, the 27-year-old founder, told AFP.

Absorbed students carefully threaded wires into junction boxes to make circuits connected to lights, bulbs flickering on one by one to signal a job well done.

Student Zhang Xuefen said a lot of her friends have been "incredibly hands-on since they were kids", proving it was not "just a guy thing".

"This kind of empowerment can be passed on to the many women living alone today, helping them han-



This picture taken on June 28, 2026 shows a woman practicing during an electricity course at the Mulan Build workshop in Hangzhou, in eastern China's Zhejiang province.

dle minor household fixes completely on their own," the 42-year-old said.

The single-woman household is no small demographic in China, with marriage rates falling and women more likely to be financially independent than before.

Student Xu Leran, 26, said that inviting a man into one's home can raise "safety concerns", but with a woman technician "I would definitely feel much more at ease, and communication would be smoother too".

Instructor Wu Shuang said the challenges facing

women living alone are "a very real, objective issue". "For a long time... their voices have been ignored, and their needs have been overlooked."

- 'Where were all the women?' -

The popularity of such courses was clear last month at a Shanghai workshop run by another all-women company, 38fix named for the March 8 date of International Women's Day.

Noise and sawdust filled the room as dozens of students tried their hand at drilling through bricks and wood.

Founder Kale Li told AFP she first became interested in the industry after becoming tired of dealing with inconsistently priced and unreliable handymen in southwestern Chengdu, where she lives.

She signed up for an electrical engineering course, only to find her classmates were almost entirely men.

"I thought it was very strange," Li said. "Where were all the women?"

Her company now has a monthlong backlog of orders, with workshops consistently fully booked.

One participant, who gave her nickname as Yiling, told

AFP she had jumped at the chance to attend.

In regular classes full of men, "you might experience a lot of microaggressions", she said.

Despite the growing interest, barriers remain.

"It is incredibly difficult for women to break into the (industry)... and many who are already in it don't get the respect they deserve," Mulan Build's Chen said.

Li of 38fix said her team often faces heightened scrutiny from customers -- including women -- who don't believe they are as competent as men.

- 'Break free' -

Some job platforms explicitly state they do not accept female technicians, Mulan Build's Wu said, while women face more barriers to promotion.

Mulan Build "sends a message: if these platforms choose to discriminate against us, we do not need to rely on them", she said.

It's important women have the option to enter the profession, said Yang Mengchen, who leads another all-women repair and appliance cleaning team.

"It would make it much easier for women especially those from rural areas or small towns to come to the city and secure a viable career," she said. □

Hundreds of Peruvian newborns named after Norway striker Haaland

Lima, Peru

Droves of Peruvian football fans have named their newborns after Norway's star striker Erling Haaland ahead of his team's World Cup quarter-final against England, Peru's identity registry said Friday.

Norway's scoring machine Haaland has been coasting on a wave of popularity during the 2026 edition of the world's biggest football extravaganza.

The sports sensation, who has scored seven times in four appearances so far in this World Cup, made both goals in his team's historic victory against Brazil and

has helped ensure their first-ever quarter-final appearance, against England on Saturday.

His fans in Peru have gone as far as naming their children after him, with 468 bearing the 25-year-old's surname, according to the national identity registry.

Another 91 infants carry the full name Erling Haaland, it said.

"Different football stars serve as inspiration for Peruvians to register their children with these names," registry spokesperson Ivan Torres told Panamericana Television.

Most newborn Peruvians named after Haaland were registered in the weeks following the World Cup's kick-off, Torre said, with numbers soaring when Norway advanced to the quarter-finals.

"Haaland is also Peruvian," he said.

Football fever has inspired new parents in Peru in the past, with 3,402 people born in the country bearing the name Messi -- 292 of whom bear Argentine star Lionel Messi's full name.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo has 1,185 Peruvian namesakes, while 1,241 are called Yamal after Spain's

prized player Lamine Yamal.

A whopping 33,809 are

named after Brazil's Neymar. □



Braut Haaland, Norwegian player, during a match against Brazil at MetLife Stadium for the 2026 World Cup.

Teeth bared in Greece's bear-human showdown

Kastoriá, Greece

Living in a mountain village in northern Greece, retired furrier Dimitris Despas is no stranger to brown bear encounters -- the latest one in his garden just weeks ago. "The bears have surrounded us. They come into the house yards, cause damage, eat the fruit off the trees," the 65-year-old told AFP at his home in Kleisoura, just east of the city of Kastoria.

The population of brown bears in Greece's mountainous Western Macedonia region has grown steadily in past decades due to hunting bans and other conservation efforts. The 900 bears counted in a 2025 survey by Greek authorities was almost twice the figure of the previous survey six years ago.

There have been increasing complaints from farmers about damaged crops and residents over bear incursions into inhabited areas, sparking angry social media exchanges with those who defend the animals' protected status.

"A few days ago, a bear was roaming here in the village's central square at dusk. Another animal injured a fellow villager, thankfully only lightly. We're now afraid to leave our homes," Despas said. Just in Kastoria prefecture,



This photograph shows a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) at the Arcturos Bear Sanctuary in Nymfaio, northwestern Greece on June 22, 2026, a refuge for bears rescued from captivity or found injured in the wild.

forestry services received over 300 complaints from citizens reporting bears in residential areas between 2025 and last month.

- 'We are in danger' -

More than 2,000 people in the Kastoria area have joined a Facebook group titled 'Not living with bears'. It shares stories of encounters and pressures state authorities to take action.

"We are in danger," said one group administrators, Dimitris Mitsopoulos. Bears have been photographed outside schools at times when children are inside, he added.

The bears "are in the wrong place. They are wild beasts; they are not pets for us to be able to say that we live together," the 53-year-old graphic designer said.

The showdown became radical in June when three bears were found dead in two days Western Macedonia, according to the leading wildlife groups Arcturos and Kallisto. One was a recently rewilded young female.

Two had gunshot wounds, while the third named Circe when she was rescued and nurtured for a year by Arcturos apparently ate poisoned bait, the

organisation said.

In the town of Grevena further to the south, 48-year-old Lefteris Zioutis regularly posts images of intruding bears on social media.

"There are more than 10 bears moving about around our town, frequently entering urban areas," the works contractor and self-styled nature lover told AFP.

"A few days ago, they were wandering near the city's library and cinema," said Zioutis, who estimates that he has photographed more than 100 different bears since early 2025.

"Because of the increase in the population, people are now very disturbed. Damage is being done to farmers, livestock breeders and beekeepers," he said.

- 'Longstanding issue' -

Iason Bantios, spokesperson for the Callisto wildlife group, said animal damage to crops and livestock "is a longstanding issue".

"We understand the concerns of residents in affected areas, but what we tell them is that, with proper information and preventive and deterrent measures, the phenomenon of bears approaching inhabited areas can be drastically reduced," he said.

"Under no circumstances, however, can this concern serve as a vehicle for promoting views that call for the adoption of lethal and illegal methods against bears, as we recently saw in Western Macedonia," he said.

The Arcturos sanctuary in Nymfaio, 1,350 meters (4,450 feet) up the slopes of Mount Vitsi, about 600 kilometers (375 miles) northwest of Athens, hosts 20 bears.

Originating from Greece and other countries, most were dancing bears in captivity, or animals that lived in zoos. Some were orphaned cubs. □

N. Macedonia pigeon fanciers find calm in lofty pursuit

Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

Tucked between rows of apartment blocks in North Macedonia's capital, Skopje, a flock of striking speckled pigeons burst from a loft for their morning exercise.

Ahmet Ogun and Bonco Lazarevski watch their flock of around 80 eye-catching birds dip and dive before settling on the plaza in the shade of the buildings.

"The pigeons give us peace of mind, tranquillity that relaxes us in this jungle of buildings and cars," 76-year-old former steel mill worker Lazarevski told AFP. As traffic and pedestrians

hustle past the plaza on their way to work, Ogun scattered feed for the birds.

"This is a way to calm my

nerves," said the 67-year-old jeweller.

Among his pampered sports pigeons is the Macedonian Spinner, which is



Pigeon keeper Toni Karamacovski, 53, gathers his pigeons in their dovecote in Skopje on June 11, 2026.

known for its aerial acrobatics.

"I see them as my children," he said, admiring the birds.

- 'Feathered diazepam' -

Pigeon fancying has a long tradition in the Balkan nation dating back centuries and today's keepers often inherit the hobby down generations.

Famed for their ability to travel long distances and sharp sense of orientation, the birds are also well-adapted to the blistering Balkan summer, according to their owners.

"They just need more water and frequent opening of the cages," Ogun ex-

plained.

But their appeal also comes from connecting with other hobbyists.

Many recount phone calls from other keepers in separate neighbourhoods or even distant towns to return a wayward bird that has arrived at their coop.

Although the popularity of pigeon fancying has faded in recent years, the birds' neighbours agree that the men's hobby brings the community together.

"This is our 'relaxation', our diazepam," said civil servant Dejan Gjosev, 52, who lives in the buildings nearby, as he came to chat with the men. □

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they



were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side

are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are

able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen!

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.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyraena barracuda, Greater Barracuda

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyraena 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.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or cone-fish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey



gets close.

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 (Santa Rosa).

2,000,000 Summer Point Giveaway – 20 Winners Daily

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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

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. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)**
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)**
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)**

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Dottie Fontaine from

Portland, Maine, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott Stellaris bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- The people of Aruba.
- Exploring the beautiful island.
- The culture.
- Restaurants, shopping, beautiful beaches and weather.
- Aruba's casinos.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

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- Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
- Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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- Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors!



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

- The three levels of honor are as follows:**
- Distinguished Visitor** (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 - Goodwill Ambassador** (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
 - Emerald Ambassador** (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Goodwill Ambassadors
 Mr. Alvin and Mrs. Louise Johnson from El Paso, Texas,

United States. At the residence of the Johnson family, Ms. Key-tin Silva had the privilege of honoring Mr. and Mrs. Johnson for their many years of visiting Aruba. The special morning was shared with their local family. Mr. Johnson spoke about his book, From a Shack to the Plaza. Several gifts were presented during the ceremony in appreciation of their loyalty and love for Aruba.

- The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:
- "It's wonderful people.
 - It's beautiful weather.
 - It's great food.
 - It's history.
 - It's carnival and safety."

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

It's Tern season, and ACF is calling for their protection

(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba has begun to see terns arriving along its coast to start their breeding season once again. An event that happens every year, the migration of terns to our island normally begins in March, but this year it was observed that they were already present as early as January.

In Aruba, there are ten different species of terns that normally breed from March to September every year. However, ACF has noted that this year their arrival came earlier, and by the end of January a presence of terns was already being seen in their breeding areas. During this season, ten different species breed at different times. This is the reason why the season lasts for more than half a year.

The terns breed mainly in the Baby Beach area and along the north coast of Aruba. Baby Beach is a particularly special site for terns, since this is where they carry out their reproduction rituals. Referred to as a "discotheque" by Natasha Silva, the point of Baby Beach near the open water is where a large group of terns spends the season searching for their partner—for life—to reproduce.

Terns are very fragile and easily disturbed, especially during their reproduction rituals. Their nests are divided into



two specific sites on our island. The first is the reefs near the refinery in San Nicolas. These reefs become home to the terns, where they lay their nests either on the sand or in the small bushes around the reefs. These reefs are "off-limits" to the public; one of the only areas in Aruba that is completely protected by law.

The terns also lay eggs along the north coast of our island, between cliffs and rocks throughout the area. This is where they are vulnerable to greater danger, according to ACF. Among these cliffs, everything is well camouflaged and cannot easily be seen, even by people who are walking or driving vehicles over the rocks.

The chicks have a natural behavior to "freeze" in place when they sense danger. This puts them at risk of being stepped on. For this reason, ACF is making a call to the community and authorities to help pro-

tect our historic birds. As general advice, ACF says to keep distance and be cautious when passing through areas where terns are breeding. "If a tern starts screaming at you, that is a sign that you are too close to their nest and eggs," Silva explained. These are the types of signals the Aruba community needs to be aware of.

So once again, a call goes out to the entire community of Aruba: Let's protect our terns during an important season for them. Educate yourself and others about the birds, stay alert to harmful activities near nests, and share information with ACF if you notice anything unusual in nature. Together we can care for and strengthen our nature, and that begins with education.

Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF) can be reached by phone at 585-1234 or by email at info@acf.aw □

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 Anaiboia, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the



best and Iboa; 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 it-

eration 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 Mariniers (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.□

Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations



Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs



rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory. English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect.□

Picture credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub-



existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928, that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie the-

ater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for

and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963,

and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gay (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



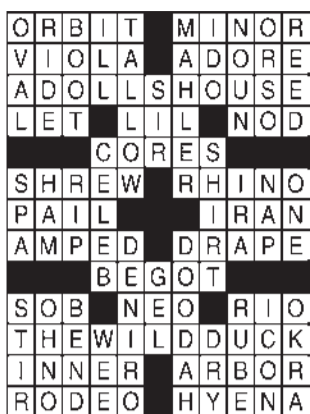
Help **FUDA** with a last wishambulance for Aruba!

Donation: **CMB#65550908**

All beneficiary will receive a Teddy Bear!

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

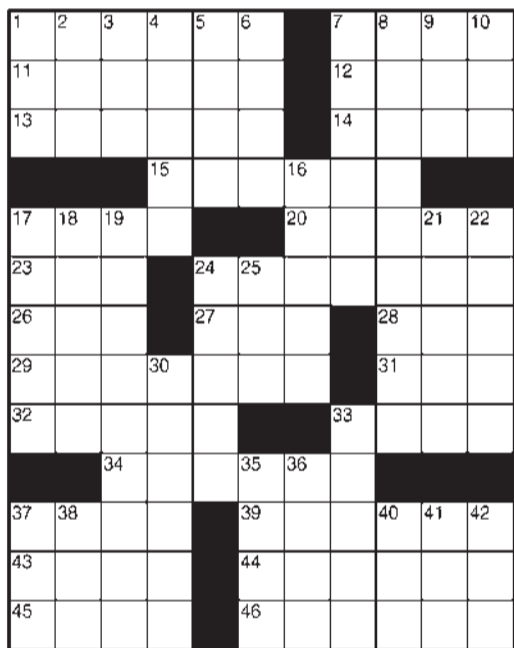


ACROSS

- 1 Wage conflict, maybe
- 7 Basics
- 11 Relaxed
- 12 Detective's find
- 13 Nasty fellow
- 14 Gift-wrapping need
- 15 Pesto ingredient
- 17 Luggage
- 20 Egyptian crosses
- 23 Mess up
- 24 Typographical symbol
- 26 Sheltered side
- 27 Hole in one
- 28 Compass dir.
- 29 Infant outfits
- 31 Cut off
- 32 Declines
- 33 Singer Redding
- 34 Texas university
- 37 Smooth
- 39 Soft wool
- 43 Powder base
- 44 Egyptian beetle
- 45 Poker payment
- 46 Principles

DOWN

- 1 Grier of "Jackie Brown"
- 2 Had a nosh
- 3 Supporter's vote
- 4 Sides in turf wars
- 5 China setting
- 6 Jury member
- 7 Stage work
- 8 Karate award
- 9 Recipe unit
- 10 Notice
- 16 Bowling spots
- 17 Submerged
- 18 Concert site
- 19 Parks around a city
- 21 Asian capital
- 22 Dance units
- 24 Dagwood's dog
- 25 Sculpting medium
- 30 Spooky gathering
- 33 Heart, for one
- 35 Ultimate
- 36 In the past
- 37 Greek vowel
- 38 Moving truck
- 40 Iron source
- 41 Mob pariah
- 42 Crunch targets



3-15

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.

3-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

UJG FTX K CKOO NKJF VPG

EKBPV CUEFD, TJF VPGX

CKOO RG DKSAOG. — ITHW

WGEUZH

Cryptoquote: WE LOVE BECAUSE IT'S THE ONLY TRUE ADVENTURE. — NIKKI GIOVANNI

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.

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.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the



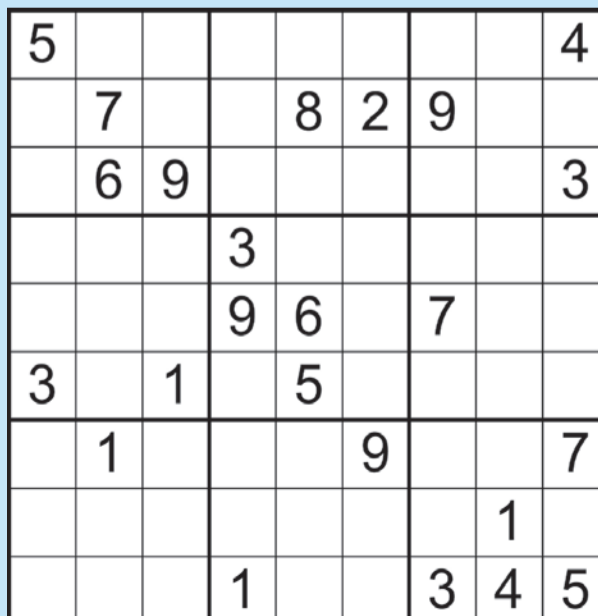
JULY CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

07 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
08 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
12 SUN	FREEWINDS Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
14 TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 11:30 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
15 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: I FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
19 SUN	FREEWINDS Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
21 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 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: ★★★★★

7/11

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/10

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What a tiny mouse teaches us about the resilience of life

Washington, United States
At first glance, it's just a rodent.

But the Andean leaf-eared mouse is, in fact, a natural marvel.

The small mammal is capable of living at altitudes exceeding 6,700 meters (21,982 feet) in the Andes, and its capabilities challenge our understanding of physiological limits.

Six years after discovering the animal living on some of the world's highest peaks -- places where mammalian life was previously considered impossible -- a team of international researchers is beginning to unravel the secrets of this extraordinary animal.

The mouse that can fit in the palm of a hand holds several world records, said Zachary Cheviron, a biology researcher at the University of Montana and co-author of a new study on the mammal published this week in the prestigious journal Science.

"They have literally the world's record for the highest dwelling mammal on the planet," the researcher told AFP, saying that it can live in areas where mountaineers can barely venture for more than a brief period.

The species was found hundreds of meters above dwellings of Himalayan pika, the small animal that had previously held the title.

But on top of that, the little mouse has range.

The same species that can survive atop Chilean peaks has also been found at sea level: they "have the broadest elevational distribution of any mammal on the planet," Cheviron said. The animal's vast range is made possible by a resilience and adaptability that is phenomenal in several respects, wrote the team of researchers, who believe their findings could offer valuable insights for human medicine.

- Superpowers -

The study shows that the mice living both down low and up high are genetically similar, not so different from humans who have



This undated handout photo obtained on July 9, 2026, from Marcial Quiroga-Carmona shows an Andean leaf-eared mouse.

evolved to life in deserts, tropical regions or at high altitudes. "It's kind of a nice model of humans in a lot of ways," Cheviron said.

Mice living in snowy heights were found to have a handful of distinct genes, including one already known to be linked to adaptation to hypoxia oxygen deprivation in populations of Tibetan people. But the bodies of these mice respond differently. They "have gained these superpowers to be able to survive in a low oxygen environment," said Jay Storz,

an evolutionary biologist at the University of Nebraska, who is also a climber. Experiments conducted in a cold-chamber setting reveal that these mountain mice are particularly adept at maintaining body heat. Initial findings also suggest that the rodent does not produce extra red blood cells to capture oxygen more efficiently as other mammals do but instead breathes more rapidly.

In order to counteract any harmful effects stemming from such accelerated breathing, the animal relies

on a modified enzyme. Other mechanisms are likely at play but scientists say the preliminary findings could prove useful for future research.

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

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Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas:
Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
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Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
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Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Humanitarians look to put the AI in aid

Geneva, Switzerland

From remote-controlled trucks delivering life-saving aid in dangerous settings to mobile phone data analysis flagging mass displacement, humanitarians are eyeing ways in which artificial intelligence can speed up and improve their operations.

There have been plenty of warnings about the dangers of AI for aid agencies, who face growing challenges of securing often extremely sensitive data and swelling misinformation about their operations and beneficiaries.

But at the AI for Good summit in Geneva this week, a handful of humanitarian-focused displays emphasized the technology's positive potential.

Parked in one corner of a vast hall at the Palexpo conference centre was a giant white SHERP vehicle, resembling a hulking Martian rover, decked out with cameras and sensors and a drone landing-pad on the roof.

Made in Ukraine, SHERPs are amphibious vehicles that can float on water, drive through swamps and flooded rivers with their giant wheels, and climb over obstacles up to one meter (3.3 feet) high.

The UN's World Food Pro-



A humanoid robot developed by Geneva-based technology company RB Labs stands through the exhibition aisles during a showcase at the AI for Good Global Summit, a United Nations flagship event aimed at shaping the future of artificial intelligence, in Geneva on July 7, 2026.

gram is preparing to begin field-testing a version of the AI-enabled truck that can be steered remotely through the most dangerous and difficult terrain to reach people in need.

"I think this could be a game-changer," Bernhard Kowatsch, head of WFP's global accelerator and ventures innovation division, told AFP.

The technology, he said, "should allow us essentially to reach people that otherwise never would have been reachable".

- Not possible without AI -

WFP already has drivers using SHERPs to deliver aid in Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda.

But after numerous heartbreaking losses of drivers, it tasked the German Aerospace Center (DLR) to help equip the vehicles with AI and other technologies, making it possible to control them remotely through particularly dangerous terrain. The idea is to set up a shipping container control room in a safe area, where

a human can remotely control the vehicle on the last, most treacherous leg of its journey.

Tests have been conducted in Germany, and will be tried out in the field in Uganda in 2028, said Armin Wedler, who is coordinating DLR's Autonomous Humanitarian Emergency Aid Devices (AHEAD) project. Standing next to the 2.8-metre high vehicle, he told AFP that the team had used "remote-control technologies which are based on mathematics and old-

school... research", but stressed: "We would not be able to process everything without using also AI".

It would be possible to make the vehicle fully autonomous, Wedler said, but stressed that in complex humanitarian settings "we have to have a human in the loop".

"We're not talking about driving on clear streets with clear lanes. There are no streets," he said, also describing scenes where aid trucks are suddenly swarmed by desperately hungry people.

"There's no AI autonomous algorithms ever capable to handle that safely."

- 'Life-saving' -

Among more than 200 exhibitors at the summit showing off everything from humanoid robots to bionic prosthetics and emotional companions the other humanitarian displays were more discreet, with pamphlets detailing how AI tools are boosting and streamlining operations.

Among them, the UN refugee agency detailed a new Legal Virtual AI Assistant for lawyers and legal officers representing refugees, enabling them to swiftly determine the rights available within country-specific legal frameworks. □

OpenAI number two Simo steps down to focus on health

San Francisco, United States

Top Silicon Valley executive Fidji Simo announced Wednesday she is leaving her full-time role at OpenAI to go part-time as an advisor

and focus on recovery from a chronic illness.

Simo, who joined the ChatGPT-maker in mid-2025 as CEO of Applications and became one of chief ex-

ecutive Sam Altman's top lieutenants, said in a post on X that three months of medical leave had made clear her recovery would take far longer and be more complex than expected.

"I am only making this decision now because I failed to make it many times before," she wrote, revealing that over seven years of illness, she had repeatedly ignored advice to slow down.

The 40-year-old French-American executive had been on medical leave since April due to a severe flare-up of postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), a neuro-immune condition she has lived with since 2019.

Her departure is the latest in a string of senior leadership changes at OpenAI, which has weathered significant executive turnover in recent years and has filed for a high-stakes IPO.

Simo said that what propelled her career -- from a fishing family in the Mediterranean port of Sete to the top ranks of Silicon Valley -- also made stepping back extraordinarily difficult.

"I grew up believing that opportunities were precious and that when they appeared, you grabbed them with both hands," she wrote.

"OpenAI in particular felt like a role that my entire career had been building

toward."

Prior to her leadership role at OpenAI, Simo steered grocery delivery platform Instacart to profitability after joining as CEO in 2021. Before that she spent a decade at Meta, where she championed the company's pivot to video.

Despite leaving her full-time position, Simo signaled she remains deeply invested in AI's potential to transform healthcare. She said she would continue contributing to OpenAI as an advisor.

"I am really sad about this and very grateful for all Fidji has done for OpenAI, and even grateful for her friendship and who she is as a person," Altman wrote on X. □



CEO of Instacart Fidji Simo arrives at the 11th Annual Breakthrough Prize Ceremony 2025 held at the Barker Hangar on April 5, 2025 in Santa Monica, Los Angeles, California, United States.



Soudal Quick-Step team's Belgian rider Tim Merlier cycles to the finish line to win the 7th stage of the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 175 km between Hagetmau and Bordeaux in southwestern France, on July 10, 2026.

Merlier wins Tour de France seventh stage in sprint finish

Bordeaux, France

Belgian Tim Merlier won the Tour de France seventh stage in a sprint finish at the end of a 175km run from Hagetmau to Bordeaux on Friday.

Norwegian Soren Waerenskjold took second place with Eritrean Biniam Girmay third as reigning champion Tadej Pogacar held onto the race leader's yellow jersey.

In a relatively uneventful day in the sweltering southwest of France, when the temperatures reached 38C in Bordeaux, Merlier timed his effort to perfection, reeling in compatriot Jasper Philipsen and Girmay to secure a clear victory.

Asked if it was a perfect sprint, Merlier said: "I don't know, because I launched my sprint with, I don't know how far it was.

"It was a mess to be in position, but I made it, thanks to the team, it was great work from them."

This was the 33-year-old former European champion's fourth stage win in his third Tour participation.

Philipsen's Alpecin-Premier Tech team seemed to have set up the 10-time Tour stage winner perfectly for his dash to the line but he simply did not have the straight line speed to hold off Merlier.

Philipsen was fifth behind German Max Kanter in fourth, while Dane Mads Pedersen retained his lead in the sprinters' green jersey points competition after finishing eighth.

The overall contenders all finished safely in the peloton.

- 300km in breakaways -

It was another day with a breakaway doomed from the start, and few riders showed an interest in being a part of it.

Frenchman Baptiste Veistroffer escaped from the chequered flag for the second time in three days.

Having ridden 144km alone on Wednesday, this time he had Czech Jakub Otruba for company.

The sprinters' teams were not prepared to take any risks and never let the duo get more than a minute and a half up the road.

They were caught with 18km left after 157km out in front meaning that Veistroffer had spent 301km in breakaways over the last three days.

"I had good company... at least I had company," said Veistroffer, whose nickname is the Wild Boar of Fouesnant, the Breton town where he was born.

"It's a shame that they only gave us a minute, so we

held back a bit, but there you go, that's the Tour.

"We're lucky to be here and today I had the same feeling (as two days ago) of paying my respects to the race and to my team," added Veistroffer, who is a Tour debutant.

Uno-X Mobility, whose rider Torstein Traeen had worn the yellow jersey for two days before a crash on Thursday forced him out of the race, repeatedly launched attacks to try to escape off the front of the peloton, but to no avail.

"After all the work two days ago and today, we were the only team with Alpecin who were riding to bring the breakaway back so I'm happy that it's not another team who won," said Merlier of the Soudal-Quick Step team.

Stages to Bordeaux the heart of perhaps the most famous wine region in France are renowned for ending in bunch sprints.

Great former sprinters such as Mark Cavendish, Jean-Paul van Poppel and Djamolidine Abdoujapparov have won stages in the city. Philipsen had won in Bordeaux, beating Cavendish into second in 2023, the last time the Tour had a stage finish in the city. □



Scottie Scheffler of the United States walks off the 18th green in a playoff during the continuation of the final round of the Travelers Championship 2026 at TPC River Highlands on June 29, 2026 in Cromwell, Connecticut.

Scheffler misses first cut in four years as McIlroy leads at Scottish Open

London, United Kingdom

Scottie Scheffler's four-year run of 78 successive made cuts finally came to an end as the world number one crashed out of the Scottish Open on Friday.

One consolation for Scheffler is his exit gives him more time to become familiar with the Royal Birkdale course near Liverpool where he will begin the defence of his British Open title, the oldest of golf's four major championships, next week.

The four-time major winner arrived in North Berwick, near Edinburgh, bidding for a first win on Scottish soil but a second-round 72, two over par, finished a sequence of made cuts that had lasted for 1,428 days.

By contrast, Rory McIlroy posted 66 to retain a share of the lead.

The Northern Irishman, who became just the sixth player in golf history to complete a career Grand Slam of major titles with victory in the U.S. Masters in April, is tied at the top of the leaderboard with Englishman Jordan Smith who posted an impressive 63 on Friday and South Korea's Tom Kim.

Scheffler bowed out on level par, two strokes shy of the cut. He needed a chip-in birdie on the last to have any hope of reaching the third round, but ended with a bogey instead.

The 30-year-old American's departure meant he failed to make the weekend of a PGA Tour event the Scottish Open is a co-sanctioned tournament for the first time since the 2022 FedEx St Jude Championship.

"A little different to what I was planning," said Scheffler. "I'll figure how to get down to Birkdale and kind of go from there.

"This week I really wanted to play well and this is a golf course I feel like I can play well on I just haven't for some reason.

"It could be one of those things where you just get over jet-lag, get used to a new style of golf, and maybe I just haven't adjusted as quick or this golf course just doesn't suit my eye much," he added.

Jon Rahm, in his first PGA Tour event outside the majors since his controversial move to LIV in 2023 shot a second-round 65 to get to two under and make the cut, having been five over after 11 holes on Thursday. □

Sinner, Zverev power into Wimbledon final

London, United Kingdom
Jannik Sinner and Alexander Zverev swept into the Wimbledon final in ruthless style on Friday, leaving broken dreams in their wake as Novak Djokovic and Arthur Fery fell short in their bids to make history.

Sinner is within touching distance of a second successive Wimbledon title after ending Djokovic's latest attempt to win a record 25th Grand Slam triumph with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 demolition of the seven-time champion.

The Italian world number one will meet French Open champion Zverev in Sunday's title match following the German second seed's 7-6 (7/0), 6-2, 6-4 rout of British wildcard Fery.

The Centre Court crowd hoped to witness the latest chapter in Fery's fairytale run, as well as another demonstration of the 39-year-old Djokovic's age-defying heroics.

But instead they were left to applaud the brutally efficient combination of power-hitting and lethal serving that carried both Sinner and Zverev into the final.

Sinner will be appearing in his second Wimbledon final as he chases a fifth Grand Slam crown, while Zverev, in search of a second major title, is through to his maiden showpiece at the All England Club.

Sinner goes into the final as



Italy's Jannik Sinner returns to Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their men's singles semi-final tennis match on the twelfth day of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 10, 2026.

the firm favourite, having won his last nine meetings with Zverev, including four this year.

While Sinner is on a 13-match winning streak at Wimbledon, Zverev has won his last 13 matches at Grand Slams.

The Italian can notch his 100th Grand Slam match win by repeating his 2025 Australian Open final victory over Zverev.

"It means a lot to me to play one more final here. It's the most special tournament we have," said Sin-

ner, who crashed out in the second round of the recent French Open.

- 'Had to raise my level' -

Sinner, 24, will be competing in his seventh Grand Slam final and his first since losing to Carlos Alcaraz at the US Open last year.

Sinner and Zverev have dropped just two sets each in this year's tournament, with the Italian coming from two sets to one down in a first-round scare against Miomir Kecmanovic.

"I knew mentally I had to raise my level, which I have

done so I am very happy," Sinner said.

"I'm happy where I am, happy to be back in the final and we hope for a good final on Sunday."

Zverev will be in his fifth Grand Slam final after finally shedding the unwanted tag as the most talented player of his generation never to win a major.

The 29-year-old can become the seventh man in the Open era to win Roland Garros and Wimbledon back to back.

"Jannik has won Wimble-

don last year. Again, I think the serve-return patterns are going to be very, very important," he said.

Just 12 months ago, Zverev suffered an embarrassing Wimbledon first-round exit against Arthur Rinderknech. Now he is on the brink of becoming the first German man to win Wimbledon since Michael Stich in 1991. He is the first male German finalist at Wimbledon since Boris Becker in 1995.

Asked if he felt liberated by his French Open final win over Flavio Cobolli, Zverev said: "Yes, one thing, for sure, once you win a major you know how to do it and you feel like you can do it again. You have this feeling inside of you."

Djokovic will be 40 by the time he has another chance to draw level with Roger Federer's record eight Wimbledon titles, but he is planning to be back for another tilt.

"I would like to, at least one more time," he said when asked if he would return to Wimbledon next year.

Djokovic's last Grand Slam title came at the 2023 US Open, since when he has lost six major semi-finals.

For Fery, the frustration of failing to become the first wildcard to reach the Wimbledon final since Goran Ivanisevic in 2001 was tempered by his unbelievable run. □

Alfred trumps Thomas in battle of Olympic sprint champions

Monaco, Principality of Monaco

Julien Alfred emerged with

bragging rights in a battle of women's Olympic champions when she beat

American Gabrielle Thomas for victory in the 200m at Friday's Monaco Diamond League.

Alfred, who had the worst reaction time out of the blocks of the field, produced a devastating final burst through the line to win in a stunning meet record of 21.51 seconds, bettering her own personal best by 0.20sec.

It left St Lucia's Olympic 100m champion third in the all-time list for the 200m. Only American world record holder Florence Griffith Joyner (21.34) and Jamaica's Shericka Jackson (21.41) have gone faster.

"It's not about the reaction time, it's about how you finish," said Alfred, whose 100m gold in Paris in 2024 was the first of any color for her tiny Caribbean island homeland.

"I don't care about my reaction time, I was first, that's all that matters. I have been preparing for this for such a long time, to finally see it pay off, I am just happy."

Alfred added: "I didn't realise how fast it was, until I crossed the line.

"I looked at the clock and saw my time and that's why I was screaming like at the Olympics. Because

I have been looking forward to this for such a long time.

"I am just so happy to see that time. There are no limits right now. Today, I was actually hoping to see 21.6, I got 21.5, so I am happy." Olympic 200m gold medalist Thomas, in lane seven, with Alfred in six and Adayah Hodge in five, made a good start.

But she was reeled in by the fast-finishing Alfred down the home straight. Hodges of the British Virgin Islands nabbed second in 21.76 and Thomas, in her first Diamond League meet in two years, rounded out the podium in 21.84. □



Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi celebrates after setting a new World Record in the men's 1000m during the Diamond League athletics meeting at the Stade Louis II in Monaco on July 10, 2026.