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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:

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U.S. senator and Trump ally Lindsey Graham dies aged 71

Washington, United States

Senator Lindsey Graham, an influential ally of President Donald Trump and advocate of hawkish US foreign policy, has died unexpectedly aged 71, his office said on Sunday.

Graham was a staunch supporter of the Iran war, and in recent years urged both the Trump and Biden administrations to back Kyiv's fight against Russia's invasion.

He bitterly opposed Trump a decade ago, but came around to support him.

Graham did so even after the 2021 Capitol insurrection in which lawmakers feared for their lives as a pro-Trump mob ran amok at the seat of US democracy.

The Republican senator from South Carolina's office



U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina questions US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dan Caine during a Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense hearing to examine the 2027 budget for the Department of Defense on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on May 12, 2026.

said in a statement on his official X account that he

had "passed away from a brief and sudden illness."

NBC News reported that emergency services responded to a call for cardiac arrest at Graham's Capitol Hill home on Saturday night, according to police scanner audio obtained by NBC and other outlets.

Graham had been scheduled to appear Sunday morning on the NBC news talk show "Meet the Press."

Trump paid tribute to Graham on that same show, calling him a natural-born, hard-working politician skilled at dealing with people from both major U.S. parties.

"He's a tough one to lose. He was great. He was unique in every way, actually," Trump said by telephone.

Trump said they had spoken only just Saturday evening as Graham returned from a trip to Ukraine sounding tired, and they made tentative plans to meet on Sunday.

"It could have been his last call," Trump said.

Later, Trump ordered on his Truth Social platform that American flags across the country be lowered to half-staff in mourning.

Graham made a failed bid for the presidency in 2016, warning at the time that Republicans should not back Trump because he was a "race-baiting, xenophobic, religious bigot."

Their relationship was again strained by the insurrection

on January 6, 2021, but Graham later reconciled with Trump and backed his reelection bid.

- 'A great friend of Israel' -

Graham was also a strong supporter of Israel and the Iran war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Lindsey is a great friend of Israel and a cherished friend of mine."

"Lindsey understood that the security of Israel and America are inseparable. He devoted his life to defending America, strengthening our alliance and standing up for the free world," Netanyahu said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was deeply saddened by the death of Graham, whom he met in Kyiv as recently as Friday.

"He visited Ukraine ten times during the years of Russia's full-scale invasion and was here with our people when it was most needed...America and the world have lost a determined leader," Zelensky said in a Facebook post.

Graham had recently won a primary election to seek a fourth Senate term in the November midterms.

South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster will have to appoint a successor for the remaining months of Graham's term while another primary will need to be held.

- Foreign policy hawk -

Graham's death comes as the weeks-long hospitalization of former Republican Senate leader Mitch McConnell rattles the party. Republicans hold a narrow 53-47 majority in the Senate, with little room for missing votes or defections. McConnell was admitted to hospital last month and has not voted since June 11.

Graham was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1994, before being elected to the Senate in 2002.

He was reelected to the Senate in 2008, 2014 and 2020, most recently serving as the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. □

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Democratic pastors run to reclaim Jesus from Trump's Republicans

Washington, United States

A band of white Democratic pastors have a striking message ahead of November's US midterm elections: Republicans have hijacked Jesus for political gain, and we're not going to stand for it.

For decades, it's been a truism that Republicans have cornered the Christian market -- at least when it comes to white voters.

But these ministers are so fed up with President Donald Trump, and particularly his policies against immigrants, that they're running as Democrats in November to rein him in.

"The Christians we're hearing in Washington don't reflect the Jesus of the Gospels," one of the insurgents, Adam Hamilton, told AFP.

As the head of a 24,000-member Methodist megachurch in a deeply conservative, rural area of Kansas, Hamilton would typically fit the profile of a right-wing Republican Christian.

However, along with support for fiscal responsibility and a strong military, the 62-year-old Hamilton backs legal access to abortion and protecting LGBTQ rights in his campaign for the US Senate. Citing the "crassness and mean-spiritedness" of Trump's presidency, he said what's happening in Washington is "inconsistent with the values that I've preached for 36 years."

"I want to stand up and be heard saying: 'This is not OK.'"



Democrat candidate for U.S. Senate James Talarico speaks during a rally in San Antonio, Texas, on May 29, 2026.

- What insults Jesus? -

Democrats have a long tradition of clergy in politics, but predominately among African Americans.

In Congress now, there's Senator Raphael Warnock, who leads Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church, where Martin Luther King Jr was pastor. But the last white, Democratic pastor in Congress was Bob Edgar, a Methodist minister representing Pennsylvania from 1975 to 1987. Now, in these midterms, no fewer than seven white clergy or ministers-in-training representing the Democratic Party are vying for congressional seats.

From Iowa, Texas, Alaska, Arkansas, Kansas and Tennes-

see, they're mostly political newcomers. Three of them are women.

But they're united in aiming to reclaim the Bible from Republicans and using Christian teaching to support more liberal policies on immigrants and the poor.

Perhaps the most prominent is James Talarico, a 37-year-old Presbyterian seminarian running for a Senate seat in Texas.

In a staunchly conservative, Republican-led state, his Scripture-laden speeches have helped him make deep inroads.

"You want to know what insults Jesus? Kicking the sick off health care while cutting the taxes of billionaires," Talarico said in one speech.

- Religious Democrat? It's OK -

One reason Republicans have dominated the white Christian electorate is that Democrats have gradually shifted from being identified as the party of the working class to a secular elite where religion can be unfashionable.

Indira Duggirala, co-chair of the Democratic National Committee's Interfaith Council, acknowledged that there has been a "vacuum in that religious space in Democratic politics."

The emergence of these faith-oriented candidates -- which she said happened organically -- "is not an unwelcome change."

"It's OK to be a Democrat and be religious," she told AFP, while emphasizing that government must be secular. For many Democrats, as well as many Christians, Trump's MAGA movement and the rise of Christian nationalism have been alarming.

There's been particular revulsion at the way Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth holds Pentagon prayer meetings and uses stridently religious language to justify the U.S. war against Iran.

"Christian nationalism is one of the biggest threats to democracy in the United States," said Robb Ryerse, an evangelical pastor who is vying for a congressional seat in Arkansas, another predominantly red state.

But Ryerse, 51, and others in the Democratic Christian pushback say they are ready to right wrongs.

"We need people of faith to stand up and say the United States has a separation of church and state," Ryerse said, describing one aspect of his mission as helping to "clean up the mess" made by fellow white Christians on the right.

If he wins, Hamilton would be the first Kansas Democrat elected to the US Senate since 1932 -- and he says he's ready to make that history. "It's time," he said. "I think we're going to do it. There are a lot of people out there who are saying we need change." □

U.S. housing bill set to become law despite Trump snub

Washington, United States

A landmark bipartisan housing bill is set to become U.S. law on Saturday without President Donald Trump's signature, after he said he would refuse to sign one of Congress's rare victories on the cost of living in protest over a stalled voting restrictions package.

The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act cleared both chambers by overwhelming margins, giving the majority Republicans and opposition Democrats a significant affordability achievement to promote

ahead of November's midterm elections.

But Trump abruptly cancelled a planned signing ceremony last month and dismissed the measure as "a yawn," demanding that senators instead approve his election legislation.

He doubled down on Friday, posting on social media: "I will not sign the Housing Bill...in protest over the fact that the United States Senate is not capable of passing the SAVE America Act."

Trump's bill would require proof of citizenship to regis-

ter to vote and photo identification at polling places, while imposing new limits on mail-in ballots.

Democrats call it an assault on voting rights, noting that foreigners voting is already illegal and almost never happens, while Senate Republican leaders have acknowledged it lacks the support needed to advance.

The housing bill's quiet enactment would mark an unusual conclusion to months of cross-party negotiations, as a significant congressio-



In an aerial view, construction workers stand on the roof of homes under construction at a new housing development on June 24, 2026 in Valencia, California.

nal accomplishment that the president declined to celebrate, but chose not to stop.

Under the U.S. Constitution,

legislation becomes law after 10 days if the president neither signs nor vetoes it while Congress remains in session. □

EU tells Meta to change Facebook, Instagram's 'addictive design'

Brussels, Belgium

Meta must change Facebook's and Instagram's "addictive design" or face a heavy fine, the EU warned on Friday.

Brussels accused the U.S. tech giant of failing to limit the risks the platforms posed to users, especially children and vulnerable adults, because of features designed to keep them on Facebook and Instagram.

Of particular concern are those like endless scroll, highly personalised feeds and the automatic playback of videos.

"Protecting the physical and mental health of Europeans must be a priority for social media platforms," EU tech chief Henna Virkunen said in a statement. The European Union has in recent months stepped up its efforts to force Big Tech to better protect users online, especially children.

In a preliminary view on Friday, the European Commission said it "considers that Meta needs to implement design changes to both Instagram and Facebook" after concluding the platforms broke EU content rules.

Changes could include



The Meta AI logo is displayed on a smartphone screen with the Meta logo in the background, in Creteil, France, on July 9, 2026, following Meta's announcement of the launch of Muse Image, its first proprietary image-generation model.

"disabling key addictive features such as 'autoplay' and 'infinite scroll' by default, implementing effective 'screen time breaks', and adapting its recommender system to make it less engagement-oriented", it added.

Meta said it disagreed with findings but would continue to "engage constructively" with the EU.

If the regulator's views on Meta are confirmed, the EU can slap a fine of up to six percent of the com-

pany's total worldwide annual turnover.

A senior EU official insisted Brussels did not want to punish companies.

"We want to bring about change, and if we can get that change via commitments then we would be most happy," a senior EU official said.

- Inadequate tools -

The findings come before an expert panel tasked by EU chief Ursula von der Leyen delivers its recom-

mendations on Monday on how the EU can better shield children online from inappropriate content.

Von der Leyen faces pressure to act, with some EU states including France pushing for bloc-wide bans on social media for minors following Australia's groundbreaking ban for under-16s.

The EU delivered a similar warning to TikTok in February this year, telling the company to change its design or risk massive fines.

But the official said there was a "slight difference" with TikTok since "Meta has indeed always tried to address minor protection online".

The EU began its probe into Meta in 2024 under the Digital Services Act (DSA). The content law is a major weapon in the EU's bolstered armoury adopted in recent years to curb what Brussels describes as Big Tech's excesses.

In Friday's findings, Brussels said Facebook's and Instagram's time management tools can be easily dismissed while parental controls are only effective if parents have some technical knowledge, the commission said.

Meta also disregarded information about the time children spend on the apps at night "and how the optimisation of its different formats -- such as reels and stories -- could lead to excessive or compulsive use of the services".

But Meta said the EU's findings "don't accurately take into account the significant steps we've taken to protect teens", pointing to a type of account launched since the probe began. □

Music industry launches AI-generated content labels



The Spotify logo is displayed on a smartphone screen placed on a reflective surface onto which a streaming catalog homepage is projected, in Creteil, France, on May 22, 2026.

New York, United States

Several major music industry organizations on Friday unveiled a labeling system for content created with generative artificial intelligence that they would like to see widely adopted.

The International Federation of the Phonographic Indus-

try (IFPI) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) announced the voluntary labels alongside six other groups including the Grammys.

"Fans want to know whether and how generative AI has been used," the chief executives of IFPI and RIAA said in

a prepared statement.

"These labels will provide an immediately understandable and easily scalable approach to transparency." They unveiled two labels. The first would indicate music that is primarily "AI-generated" -- cases where artificial intelligence "was used to generate the entirety or the primary portion of the creative elements of the recording."

This includes tracks generated "entirely" from AI prompts, as well as lead vocals and "key" instrumental tracks that are AI-generated, according to the statement.

The second label applies to "AI-assisted" music recording which are still "created substantially by humans and expresses human creativity" but contain "some expressive elements" that were generated with AI.

However, humans must perform the lead vocals and primary instrumental tracks. This voluntary labeling system is designed for "broad, global adoption," including on streaming services.

Music streaming site Deezer systematically flags tracks generated with AI, which the company recently said appear in close to half of new uploads. In June, it launched an "AI music detector" which it said is 99.8% accurate.

Earlier this year, an Apple Music executive told Billboard that more than one third of new uploads were entirely created with AI.

The Digital Media Association, a trade group representing streaming companies including Apple Music, Amazon and Spotify, said it was following the labeling announcement closely and

looks forward to receiving more detailed and accurate AI metadata as a way to "strengthen our ability to give fans the transparency they deserve."

"DIMA has long advocated for the creators, owners, and distributors of music to provide accurate and timely metadata on all music released and distributed to streaming services," the association's CEO Graham Davies said in a statement. In April, Spotify launched a "Verified by Spotify" label to signal that users can "trust the authenticity" of an artist, and last year the company announced new efforts to support AI disclosure and combat impersonation.

Spotify declined to comment on Friday. Apple Music and the Digital Media Association did not respond to requests for comment. □

In Sicily, drones at work to predict volcanic eruptions

Vulcano Porto, Italy

Hovering over the volcano, a buzzing drone pauses in front of a laser beam on the crater's edge, as researchers test whether the devices can measure gases to predict eruptions.

On the Aeolian island of Vulcano, off the coast of Sicily, German researcher Marius Schaab, from the Technical University of Munich (TUM), stands next to a gas sensor mounted on a tripod, waiting for the drone his colleague has just launched to draw closer.

In this remote lunar landscape, where hot volcanic gases and steam smelling of sulphur rise eerily from the earth, the small propeller-driven device catches the eye.

The last eruption of the island's Grand Crater occurred in the late 19th century but the volcano continues to show intense degassing activity -- to the awe of the visitors who are allowed to walk around the rim.

Soon, the drone positions itself along the axis of the sensor, which transmits an invisible laser beam that passes through the volcanic gas emissions before being reflected by the drone, and travelling back.

The sensor works by "sending a laser beam through some gas and then onto some reflector that measures the intensity of the driving light", Schaab said,



This aerial view shows the crater of La Fossa, on Vulcano Island, with (from left) Lipari, Panarea and Stromboli islands in the background, in the Aeolian Archipelago of Sicily, on 9 July 2026.

The drone can move around and switch angles to take full measurements.

Using a laser allows the sensor to avoid the gas plume, the researcher told AFP.

"Our drone flies behind the plume and also our ground unit is not in the plume," said Schaab, noting that the corrosive nature of the plume would require any sensor inside it to be constantly recalibrated.

Based on the signals sent back to the sensor, an algorithm calculates a map of gas concentration in the 10 or 15 minutes it takes for the drone to follow a predefined path at a distance of up to 60 meters (nearly 200 feet).

- First tries -

Although drones have been used in monitoring volcanoes for about 15 years, scientists are now looking to develop gas measurement tools that are increasingly accurate and risk-free.

Further around the crater, another team of German scientists from the University of Mainz is using sensors carried on a drone to measure concentrations of chemical substances in the air.

"One reason for measuring gases and particles is to better understand the impact of volcanic eruptions and volcanic emissions on the atmosphere," said Tjarda Roberts, a researcher at the National Centre for Scientific

Research (CNRS) in Paris, who is collaborating with the Mainz team.

"Another reason is to anticipate volcanic eruptions, because the gas composition can change before an eruption occurs," she said. The greater the pressure exerted by lava rising from inside the Earth towards the surface, the larger the amount of gas released. It is the first time the team from TUM has tested its drone system -- which can work at altitudes up to 3,000 metres -- on a volcano.

- Great flexibility -

A checklist in hand, Jonas Krajewski, a student at the Johannes Gutenberg Uni-

versity Mainz, checks that "Tina" -- the name given to the drone -- is ready to fly safely.

Soon, the drone weighing 2.5 kilograms (5.5 pounds) lifts into the air and heads towards the rising gases.

This time, following a predefined flight path lasting up to 40 minutes, the drone flies into the heart of the fumaroles, or vents where the gases and vapour escape and where temperatures range between 100 and 140C.

"Tina" is equipped with a series of sensors measuring gases, particles and halogens, elements like chlorine, bromine and others.

"We have a very constant output of gas... so we can have very reliable sensor data," said Krajewski.

For Roberts, one of the biggest advantages of the drone is its great flexibility and ability to move around more diluted parts of the plume and quickly switch direction if the plume suddenly changes angles.

With the drone, researchers no longer need to carefully enter the area of the gas emissions, a dangerous activity which requires the use of masks and other protection.

"Here we don't have a major risk of an imminent eruption but there are volcanoes where you can't reach the summit on foot," Roberts said. □

Archaeologists uncover 3,000-year-old tomb near Egypt's Luxor

Cairo, Egypt

Archaeologists uncovered a 3,000-year-old tomb near the southern Egyptian city of Luxor, authorities said on Sunday, the latest in a series of discoveries that officials hope will boost tourism.

The tomb, identified as belonging to a man named Paser, was found by a Dutch archaeological mission from Leiden University in the Sheikh Abd el-Qurna necropolis on Luxor's West Bank, according to Egypt's tourism and antiquities ministry.

Specialists believe the tomb dates to the Ramesside period, which spans Egypt's 19th and 20th dynasties, based

on the artistic style of its inscriptions.

Located east of a previously known burial site, the tomb follows the traditional layout of private Theban tombs from the New Kingdom (1570-1069 BC), they added. It consists of an open courtyard leading to a rock-cut chapel shaped like an inverted "T", with burial chambers carved beneath ground level.

Archaeologists found several well-preserved architectural elements in the courtyard, including a mudbrick bench designed to hold a funerary stela and a staircase flanked by sloping ramps leading to

the entrance.

Inside, inscriptions bearing Paser's name depict him worshipping various deities inside shrines, as well as seated with his wife before an offering table.

The excavation team said further documentation and study will continue in order to determine who was buried in the tomb and to better understand its historical and archaeological context. The discovery comes as Egypt seeks to promote new archaeological finds to support tourism, a key source of foreign currency for the country.

Luxor is home to some of the world's most significant



Seated statue of Ramesses II (c.1279-1213 BC) in the Peristyle Court, New Kingdom (photo).

Artist: Egyptian 19th Dynasty (c.1292-1187 BC). Location: Temple of Luxor, Luxor, Egypt.

ancient monuments and archaeological sites. □

Bhutan battles 'existential' population crisis with birth drive

Thimphu, Bhutan

Bhutan is offering families cash incentives to have more children as the tiny Himalayan kingdom grapples with a nose-diving birthrate and a growing exodus of young people seeking opportunities abroad.

Annual births have dropped by more than a quarter over the past decade, compounding the country's loss of youngsters to migration. Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay has repeatedly rung the alarm over the population slump, calling it an "existential" crisis, according to the state's Bhutan Broadcasting Service.

"The evidence is unambiguous -- Bhutan's fertility has declined to near or below replacement level," Tobgay wrote in the introduction to the government's "Third Child Plus" program, launched in June.

The scheme provides monthly payments of \$105 for each third or subsequent child until they turn three.

Khandu Wangmo, a 35-year-old civil servant, welcomed the incentive but questioned whether cash payments alone would persuade families to have more children.

"It is a good initiative because it encourages families to have three or more children," she said.

"However, its impact may be limited if the cost of raising children, housing, and childcare remains high."

- 'Difficult decision' -

For the landlocked kingdom



Bhutanese school students rest at the Royal University of Bhutan in Thimphu on August 23, 2018.

of fewer than 800,000 people, wedged between India and China, the issue carries particular weight.

Births of third or more children, the focus of the new scheme, have fallen 27 percent since 2020, according to the report.

Bhutan's fertility rate has fallen to about 1.8 children per woman, below the replacement level, while the share of people aged 65 and over is projected to rise from around six percent to 17 percent by 2050, according to U.N. estimates.

"These are not abstract statistics," Tobgay said. "They represent real and compounding pressures on Bhutan's workforce, fiscal sustainability, and the social fabric of communities across the country."

The government fears that falling births, combined

with sustained outward migration, will leave too few working-age people to support the economy and an ageing population.

More than 71,000 Bhutanese were abroad, as of May 2026, with 39,000 -- about 55 percent of the overseas population -- in Australia, according to the report.

"While migration brings remittance benefits, its concentration among prime working and reproductive ages further constrains labor force participation, domestic fertility, and long-term population momentum," the program briefing note warned.

Experts say the reasons behind smaller families are complex, ranging from rising living and childcare costs to changing priorities.

Preeti Nirola, 34, who has

one child, said she would like another but finances remain a major obstacle.

"I would like to have one more child if my financial situation allows," she said.

"However, the high cost of childcare and household expenses makes it a difficult decision."

The U.N. Population Fund, which supported the program, advocates to "expand choices for everyone" through affordable childcare and supportive social policies, rather than simply raising birth numbers.

- 'Access to education' -

Bhutan's demographic worries mirror trends across much of Asia.

Bhutan once promoted family planning through its "Small Family, Happy Family" campaign launched in 1974, helping drive fertility

down over several decades. The 1990s saw an exodus of more than 100,000 ethnic Nepali-speakers -- around one sixth of Bhutan's population at the time -- as the kingdom tightened immigration policies.

Now, policymakers are seeking to reverse that trend.

Tobgay, addressing parliament in June, cited overseas migration as Bhutan's "most pressing challenge", saying that strengthening the economy, creating quality jobs and improving living conditions were essential to slowing the exodus.

Anthropologist Shawn Rowlands, who teaches in Thimphu, said Bhutan's demographic transition had been unusually swift.

"Given the fact that it has gone from a high of about 6.6 in the 1990s, to about 1.8 today, this is quite a remarkable demographic shift," he said.

"It has been exacerbated by the large-scale trend of young Bhutanese emigrating overseas for work."

Yet Rowlands questioned whether a declining population should automatically be viewed as a crisis -- in a country known for prioritizing "Gross National Happiness" over economic growth, and for its green credentials, as a rare carbon-negative nation.

"Higher access to education and job opportunities lead to fewer women having children," she said.

"I do not see that as a bad thing at all." □

Till death do us bark: Pets serve as witnesses at Ecuador weddings



Andres Alquina and Diana Tupiza with their pet Luna, show the symbolic marriage certificate with their pet's "signature" after their wedding at the central civil registry office in Quito on July 7, 2026.

Quito, Ecuador

When Diana Tupiza and

Andres Alquina decided to get married, they selected a rather unusual witness for the civil wedding ceremony: Luna, their Pekingese pup who stamped her paw print on the marriage certificate.

With recently authorized "pet friendly" weddings, Ecuadoran officials are embracing the role of furry friends in modern families. Elsewhere in Latin America, only human witnesses are allowed, although Argentina and Mexico have made a few exceptions.

While Luna's paw print

has no legal standing, the gesture holds sentimental value, and more than 50 Ecuadoran couples have elected to get married in front of their dogs and cats since May.

"That she (Luna) is here is really spectacular," Tupiza told AFP after their ceremony in the capital Quito.

The 38-year-old engineer said it was her husband's idea to bring Luna -- who dressed for the occasion in a pink tulle gown.

Alquina, a 31-year-old programmer, said animals "may not be able to speak

to us, or give us advice, but they are there to give us all the love that they have."

- 'Current, modern needs' -

The move came as a shock to the bride's mother, Luz Lima, who nevertheless took it upon herself to make Luna's dress.

"It's better to choose someone...who knows what they're signing," Lima recalled telling the couple.

But eventually, she came around to the idea.

"These are modern times," she told AFP during the fitting for Luna's dress. □

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Aruba's first Ombudsman and what she can mean for you



(Oranjestad)—Ombudsman Mrs. Jurima Bryson, appointed on October 1st 2024, is proud to represent Aruba and is prepared to help both locals and tourists with their concerns.

What is the role of the Ombudsman?

In a nutshell, the Ombudsman is the middle man between you and government or semi-government agencies. This means that as a local or as a visitor of

Aruba, you can file a complaint to the bureau of the Ombudsman against government and semi-government agencies. Already left the island? No problem. The Ombudsman of Aruba can still receive

and handle your complaint even from abroad. You only have to provide a way for them to reach you.

To contact the Ombudsman, you can visit the office located at Caya G.F.

Betico Croes 149, Oranjestad, Aruba. You can also call at +297 281 6800 or email @ombudsman.aw. for more questions or complaints.

Opening hours

The Ombudsman office is open to the public with no appointment from Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 am.

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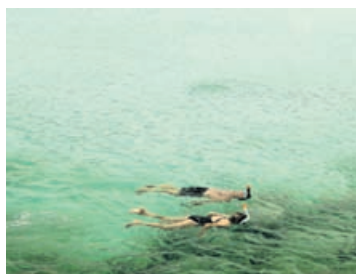


Aruba's underwater wonderland

(Oranjestad)—Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating underwater spots you can explore. So take your snorkeling gear and visit some of these top places for underwater exploration.

Tres Trapi

'Tres Trapi' means three steps in Papiamentu. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-western side of the island, an approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropi-



cal fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it

had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach is a lagoon with crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in



the lagoon, you'll find a lot of people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go under water exploring—but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to reach the beach is through a small bridge that takes you through the



mangrove trees. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, accompanied with wooden stairs built to allow easy access to the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you'll find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is snorkel heaven. □

Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're out and about on the island and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Aruba is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Aruba.

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in Mainstreet Oranjestad, check out the wooden swing on Plaza Daniel Leo. This is another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram.

Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be careful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is sure to pop!

Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of



the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!

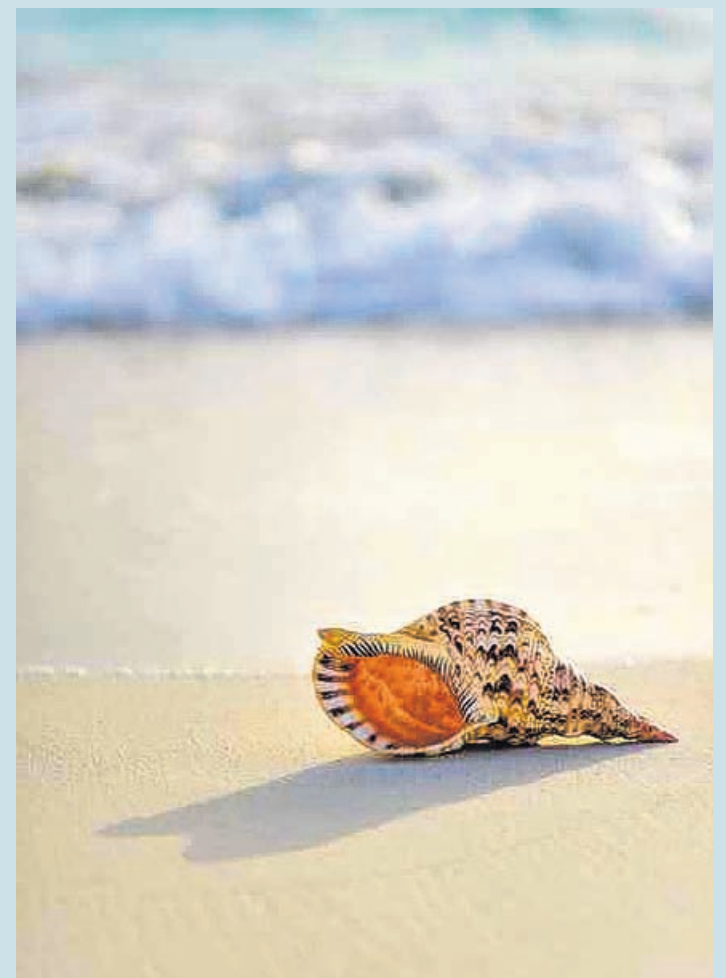
"I LOVE ARUBA"

While you're in the area, check out the 'I LOVE ARUBA' sign is a great first stop for a quick shot with the family. This spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way! □



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



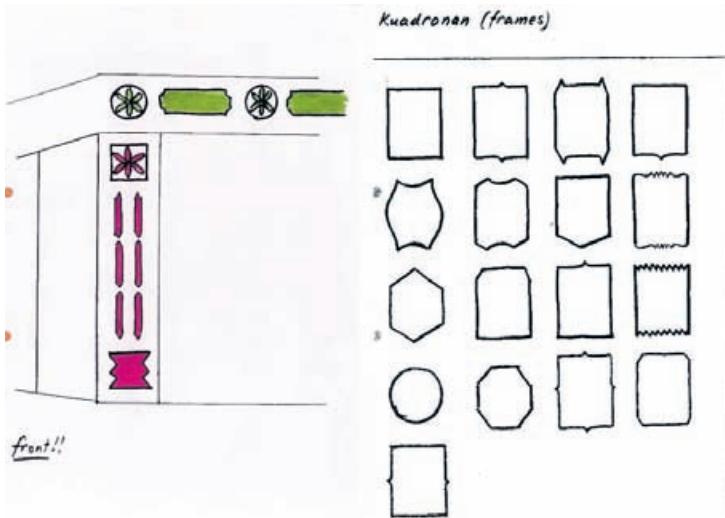
(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □

Cas Floria: The Decorated Houses of Aruba



(Oranjestad)—There may be as many as 200 to 300 houses in Aruba that have beautiful decorations, including curtains, stars, flowers, half-moons, etc., placed on the corners or the upper parts of the house.

These houses can be found everywhere, in nearly every district of Aruba. People always thought that these designs came from an Indigenous culture; possibly, the star design resembled the way it was shown, similar to the "God Sun" of the Indigenous people. However, the history of this decorative system does not go very far back in time.

In his book *Millefiori di Aruba*, Father Nooyen declares that the first house to receive this type of decoration was the home of Mr. Bernardo Eman Croes in Pos Chikito. Julien (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer built this house in 1920 and created the decorations on the upper corners of the house. Other people in Pos Chikito, who saw this beautiful work, also wanted their houses decorated in the same way.

Leoncio (Joonchi) Henricus of Pos Chikito learned the work from Janchi Christiaans and, together with his son Bonifacio (Bonny) Henricus, continued decorating houses in Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora.

Janchi Christiaans, Goy Semeleer, and others from Noord, such as Hilario Christiaans, Victor Tromp, Gerardo Jacobs, and Cornelis Rosa, brought the same

decoration to houses in Noord and Paradera. In 1927, Janchi Christiaans built a house for Julian Tromp in Buguruy.

This was the first house in Noord to receive this type of decoration. Later, those in Paradera, Santa Cruz, and Savaneta copied the house decorations. They practiced these systems up until 1944.

Even today, the patterns are well preserved and protected, but they are no longer used.

Janchi Christiaans began cutting the patterns out of zinc plates and cardboard. He also had his own creations and systems, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus produced their own fantasies. This is what made these decorations popular: many people could turn their imagination into expressive art.

However, the decoration of houses was not originally Janchi Christiaans's idea. Janchi was a disciple of his father, Hose Christiaans, and of the Donati family, from Italian ancestors. They



also made these decorations, though without using any patterns, simply designing and applying them with common plaster as the material.

Using Dr. Johan Hartog's *Aruba, Breve Historia* as reference, I noticed that he also writes that these designs are not indigenous symbols, but only decorative fantasies. One point of disagreement is that he wrote that in 1820 someone from Curaçao began this type of decoration in Aruba.

This means that, according to Father Nooyen, who declared that it began in 1920, it would have actually started 100 years earlier. As part of his research, Ito Tromp also interviewed Mr. Julio Maduro of the Department of Labor at that time, who told him that around 1880 Johannes (Janchi) Wolff began with house decorations. And as Janchi himself said, he learned this from his grandfather, who in earlier times had built the first lighthouse at California

Point.

After comparing his information, Ito Tromp wrote that Hartog was right concerning the period when decorated houses began in Aruba in 1820. However, it was not people from Curaçao who started it. Victor Tromp, who was 87 years old at the time of writing, was a member of Janchi Wolff's family.

Julio Maduro said that in 1920 they began again with this type of decoration. In general, there is no specific year (up to now) when Arubans first began with this decorative artistic expression. It is interesting to know that these decorations are a kind of symbol for several generations.

For example: Decorations that appear on the house of the Arends family could

also be seen on the houses of the Bermudez or Croes families. This was because parents always gave a specific sign to their sons or daughters when they were getting married.

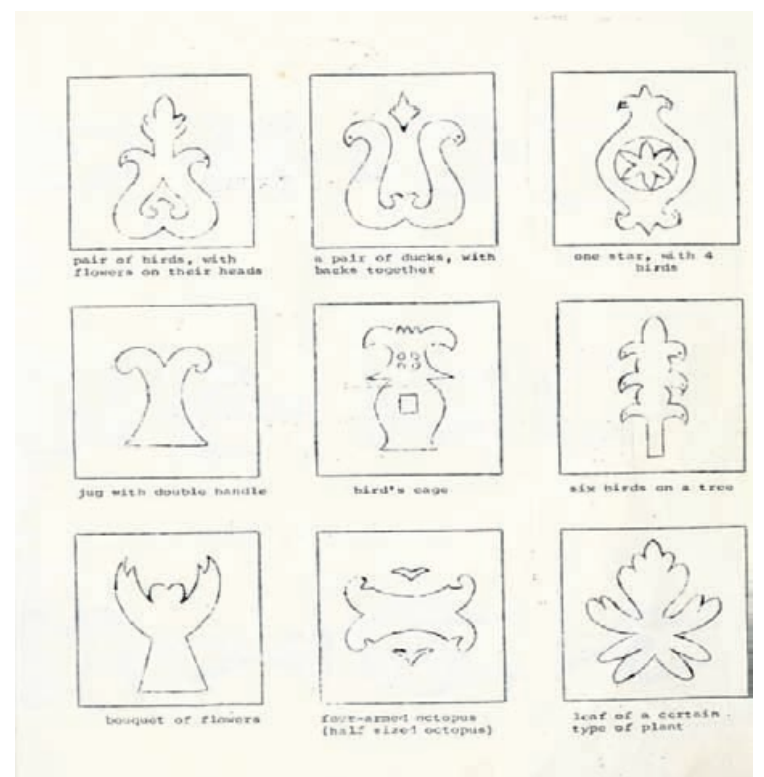
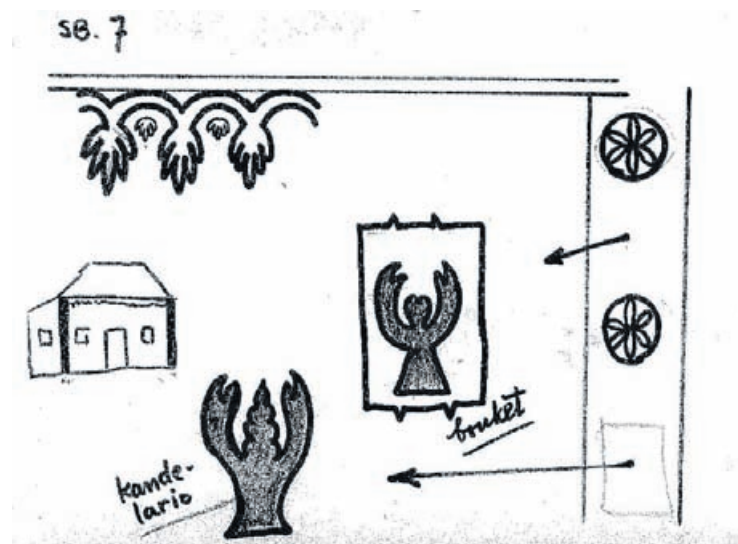
It was also said that these designs had a certain kind of voodoo purpose, to keep away the spirits of the Indigenous people who were buried in the neighborhoods where the houses now stand. However, this has almost completely disappeared.

As for the continuation of these designs from family to family, this is a cultural heritage that is no longer established. For this reason, in earlier times, every young man who married had to have his own house; otherwise, there would be no marriage.

The designs were created according to the individual's imagination. If he saw, for example, six pairs of birds on a tree, he would then paint six pairs of birds on a tree. If he wanted to express his love for his twin children, then he designed a twin.

Nowadays, if you want to use these designs for your house, don't worry—you can simply copy them and paint them. □

Source: E casnan Decora na Aruba (1976) by Ito Tromp.



Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: “Corobori,” Arua said. “Don’t come back without news. It’s in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you.”

“Don’t worry,” Corobori replied. “As



soon as we have any information, we will let you know.” Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: “Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that’s not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt.”

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son’s findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety

of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: “My children, many years have passed, and I’ve asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation.”

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island. □

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock.

Fun facts about cacti hedges “Trankera”

(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called “trankera” and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several ‘cunucu’ (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less common,

and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don’t play that big of a role in Aruba’s agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures. □



CROSSWORD

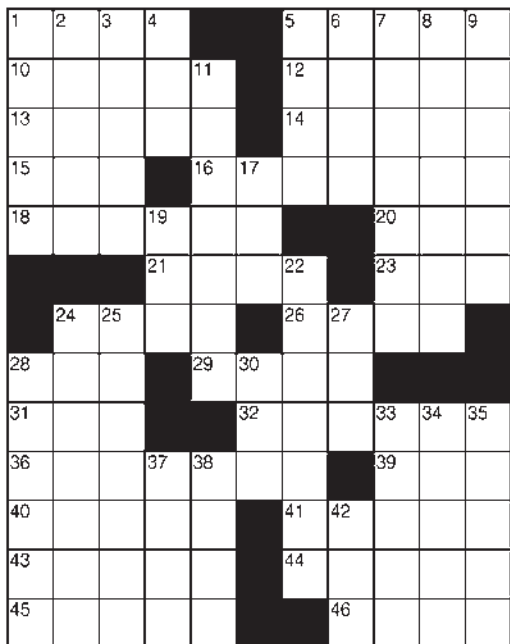
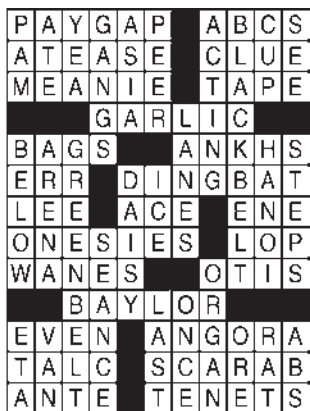
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Storage site
5 Duel count
10 "The Taming of the Shrew" city
12 Before, in Bordeaux
13 Star in Orion
14 Half of deca-
15 Mamie's mate
16 Flattery, Irish-style
18 Wheeled stretcher
20 Mine yield
21 Son of Hera
23 Went ahead
24 Captivated
26 Bill stamp
28 Krazy —
29 Indian gown
31 Qty.
32 Bamm-Bamm's dad
36 Competition, for short
39 Log chopper
40 "Tomorrow" singer

DOWN

- 41 Writer Jong
43 Can't live without
44 Reef visitor
45 Useful skill
46 Some tooth-pastes
9 Didn't budge
11 Einstein and Sabin
17 Caustic stuff
19 Catch some z's
22 Used an aerosol
24 Punk pioneers
25 Harmonizes
27 Melody sword
28 Samurai
30 Justice Fortas
33 Too trusting
34 Shine
35 Age units
37 Carousel, e.g.
38 Comfy home
42 Equip



3-16

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.

3-16

CRYPTOQUOTE

GLQ ASBX KWGL Y GDFQ

XSI WR YR NYRGWBI YR GLQ

GWQR SZ GLWR QYDGL KWNN

QTQD AQ. — CSBDYX NSDQBJ

Cryptoquote: ONE DAY I WILL FIND THE RIGHT WORDS, AND THEY WILL BE SIMPLE. — JACK KEROUAC

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power

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

Drinking water



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

store.

Supermarket hours

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

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

Safety

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



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

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

Difficulty: ★

7/13

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/12

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Dust in the wind: intense storms struck China, U.S. in 2025, says U.N.



A sandstorm affected daily life in Jerusalem, causing disruptions across the city on April 17, 2026.

Geneva, Switzerland

China and the southern United States were hit last year by some of their worst sand and dust storms in decades, the United Nations said Friday.

The U.N.'s weather and climate agency said the episodes affected public health and the environment, and disrupted economic activity.

The World Meteorological Organization said that every year, around 2,000 million tons of dust enters the atmosphere, and can travel for thousands of kilometers across continents and oceans.

The main dust sources are major deserts such as the Sahara in Africa, the Gobi in Asia, and the Arabian Desert in the Middle East.

Though it is a natural process, poor water and land management, drought and environmental degradation "are increasingly to blame", the WMO said.

"Sand and dust storms affect air quality and human health," WMO chief Celeste Saulo said in a statement.

"They reduce agricultural productivity; disrupt transport and aviation, strain water and energy systems, and damage ecosystems. No country is immune to their impacts."

In its 10th annual Airborne Dust Bulletin, the WMO said that globally, overall average dust concentrations

last year were 12.1 micrograms per cubic meter of air -- slightly down on the 12.5 recorded in 2024 -- though with big regional variations.

The highest annual mean dust concentrations worldwide were again in the Bodele Depression in Chad, one of the planet's most active dust source regions, at around 800 to 1,100 micrograms.

- Texas takes a hit -

The desert border region of Mexico and the United States saw exceptionally frequent, intense and prolonged dust storms in 2025. The number of dust storms, 12, was the highest since 1935, when the United States was in the midst of

its "Dust Bowl" disaster, the WMO said.

El Paso in Texas experienced 50 days with dust weather -- more than double the annual average.

The problem peaked on March 18, with a daily average concentration of PM10 particles at 2,064 micrograms per cubic meter of air.

PM10 is particulate matter with a diameter of 10 micrometers.

The highest hourly peak hit 8,142 micrograms -- the highest measured in Texas since hourly PM monitoring began around 27 years ago.

The World Health Organization's recommended air quality guideline average annual level for PM10 is 15 micrograms, or 45 in a 24-hour period.

"The season in the United States was really extreme," Sara Basart, scientific officer at the WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch, told reporters.

The impact on breathing and on visibility, and the sand "scratching your eyes or your skin", means the recommendation is "you have to stay at home" during such events, she said.

- AI prediction potential -

In April 2025, China suffered its worst dust and sand storm in a decade, in terms of its intensity, duration and influence.

As dust swept in from Mongolia, hourly PM10 concentrations reached 3,000 to 4,000 micrograms in some places.

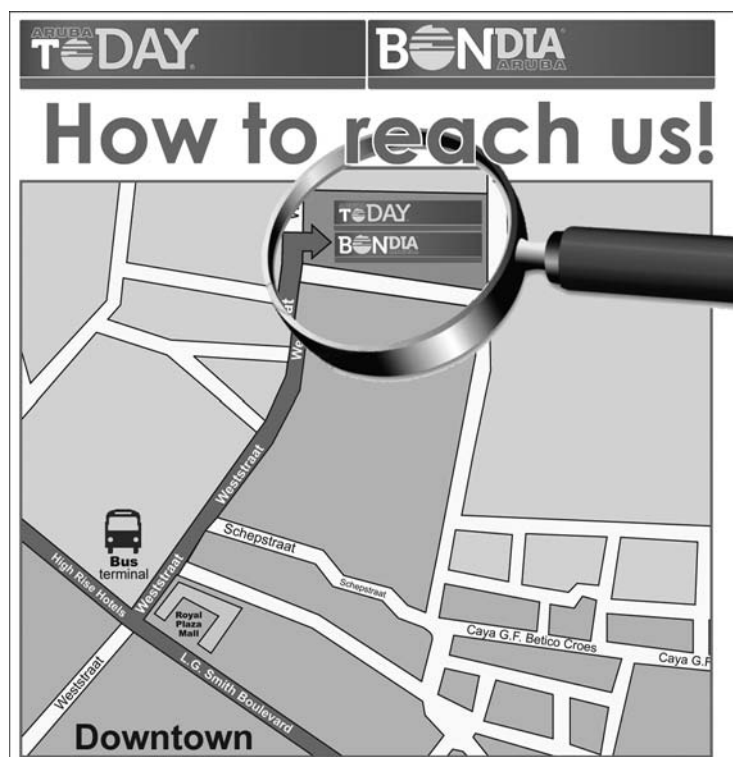
North Africa and the Middle East also suffered a series of major dust storms between March and May 2025.

Parts of Iraq and Kuwait saw greater dust activity than the year before, as did central Asia.

Saulo said because sand and dust storms cross borders, countries needed to share early warning data.

The agency said artificial intelligence had the potential to improve sand and dust forecasts, but more research was needed at this stage.

Currently, some AI systems are better at forecasting short-lived, rapidly-developing local dust storms, while others are more consistent on large-scale events that develop and travel over several days. □



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HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
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
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
Police San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Irrepressible Sinner outlasts Zverev to win second straight Wimbledon title

London, United Kingdom

Jannik Sinner was at his clinical best as he successfully defended his Wimbledon title with a bruising four-set victory over French Open champion Alexander Zverev in Sunday's final.

The world number one recovered from losing the first set in a match largely dominated by serve, eventually wearing Zverev down to secure a 6-7 (7/9), 7-6 (7/2), 6-3, 6-4 win.

"You can feel the nerves on Sunday morning, it is a very special place," said Sinner, who saved the only break point he faced on Centre Court.

"You never know how many times you are going to come back. I never take it for granted."

The Italian was rewarded for his perseverance in an attritional contest with his first Grand Slam title since lifting the trophy at the All England Club 12 months ago.

Sinner's fifth Slam crown is just two behind the majors tally of his injured rival Carlos Alcaraz after notching his 100th match win at tennis' four biggest events.

He hit 58 winners against only 25 unforced errors in three hours and 46 minutes on Centre Court, refusing to buckle against an in-form Zverev who brought a 13-match winning streak at the Slams into the final.

"It has been an amazing fi-



Italy's Jannik Sinner reacts to beating Germany's Alexander Zverev during their men's singles final tennis match on the fourteenth day of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 12, 2026.

nal once again. It takes two players," added Sinner, who banks the winner's prize of \$4.8 million.

"I'm very happy about the win but I'm mostly very happy about the level we played."

Sinner has banished the memories of his shock second-round exit from the French Open at the hands of Juan Manuel Cerundolo when he blew a two-set lead last month.

The closest Sinner came to crashing out of Wimbledon was in the first round when he had to come from behind to beat Miomir Kecmanovic in five sets.

It was plain sailing from then on for Sinner, who has become a fearsome force on grass.

The 24-year-old now boasts a remarkable 44-3 win-loss record this year after winning his sixth title of the season.

Zverev had never even reached the quarter-finals in nine previous visits to Wimbledon.

He managed to take a first set off Sinner in seven meetings, but could not kick on to snap a now 10-match losing streak against a seemingly unbreakable rival.

Zverev, who was bidding to become the first Ger-

man man to win the trophy since Michael Stich in 1991, will climb above Alcaraz to second in the ATP rankings on Monday.

"At 29 years old, it's the first time I actually believe I can win this trophy," said the second seed.

- Zverev left frustrated -

Zverev saved the only break point of a tight first set dominated by serve as it went to a tie-break.

The first 15 points of the breaker went with serve, with both men saving set points, before Zverev clinched it with a fizzing forehand winner.

There were no break points in the second set as the players again efficiently bludgeoned their way to 6-6, but this time Sinner stepped it up in the tie-break to level the match.

Zverev finally created his first break point in the seventh game of the third set, but slipped when Sinner dinked over a drop-shot winner.

He clutched his knee and Sinner crossed the net to check on his opponent as the crowd held its breath, but was helped to his feet by the Italian.

Sinner made his move in the next game as Zverev's serve finally broke down.

Zverev threw his racquet angrily across the turf after looping a forehand long on a break point which had seen Sinner lying flat on the turf earlier in the rally.

The top seed immaculately served it out to love, sealing a two-sets-to-one lead with an ace.

Zverev gamely tried to prolong the contest but his race was run when Sinner broke for a 4-3 advantage in the fourth set.

He wrapped up the title on serve despite a dramatic final game featuring arguably the two best rallies of the match, falling to the turf in celebration after slapping away a forehand winner on his first match point. □

Phillies' Wheeler turns down belated All-Star invite



Pitcher Zack Wheeler #45 of the Philadelphia Phillies throws a pitch during the first inning of the baseball game against the Cincinnati Reds at Great American Ball Park on July 07, 2026 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Washington, United States

Philadelphia pitching ace Zack Wheeler says he turned down a late invitation to Major League Baseball's All-Star Game after multiple snubs for Tuesday's

game at the Phillies' home park.

"Because they disrespected me, so I'm not going to participate in it," Wheeler said. "I'm not going to be disrespected."

Wheeler has built a 9-1 record this season with a 2.28 earned-run-average, and his Phillies teammates have made it clear they were surprised that he wasn't named to the National League roster for the mid-season showcase when it was announced last weekend.

He was also not among several replacement additions announced on Tuesday.

He told reporters he was invited Friday by MLB as an injury replacement but declined because he was "not going to be the fifth option." Wheeler's initial exclusion was likely the result of a Phillies rotation that had him scheduled to pitch on

Sunday in Detroit.

Usually pitchers who start the final game before the All-Star break cannot appear in the All-Star Game.

Wheeler said that after he wasn't included in Tuesday's round of replacements the snub was on his mind as he pitched in Cincinnati -- where he matched his career-high with 14 strikeouts over seven innings.

"I feel like that's kind of a reminder," Wheeler said, "for whoever needs to be reminded."

Wheeler has again emerged as one of the best pitchers in the National League this season after

missing the first month of the season recovering from thoracic outlet surgery.

He had a rib removed last September to treat the condition in which a vein is compressed between the collarbone and rib, obstructing blood flow and affecting the arm.

Phillies catcher Garrett Stubbs told the Philadelphia Inquirer on Friday that Wheeler deserves to be an All-Star.

Last week Stubbs had T-shirts made featuring Wheeler's "That's a reminder" quote, with multiple teammates and even interim manager Don Mattingly wearing the during their media sessions on Friday. □

Van der Poel stays calm in the heat to win Tour de France stage nine

Ussel, France

Cobbled classics specialist Mathieu van der Poel claimed his third Tour de France win on Sunday with victory in the ninth stage, which was shortened due to intense heat.

The 31-year-old Dutchman, a former world champion, won a sprint amongst his three breakaway companions with Tobias Johannesen taking second and Tom Pidcock third.

"It was a super hard day. The start of the Tour was not great for our team, but I think, like always, we stayed calm," he said.

"We have a really nice group here and we kept believing that it will turn around... but it's really nice to go to the first rest day with a win."

Having worked as a sprint lead-out man for his Alpecin Premier Tech team-mate Jasper Philipsen -- who had finished fourth and fifth in the sprint stages -- in the previous two days, Van der Poel finally had a chance to go for a stage win for himself. Reigning champion Tadej Pogacar came home in the chasing peloton six seconds behind the winner to maintain his lead in the overall standings ahead of Monday's first rest day.

The four-time champion leads two-time winner Jonas Vingegaard by 2min 42sec with Mexican Isaac del Toro a further 45sec back.

Van der Poel, a three-time winner of both the Tour of Flanders and Paris-Roubaix -- the two most important one-day cobbled classics -- had previously won Tour stages in 2021 and 2025.

And although he won a record eighth cyclocross world title earlier in the year, this season had not gone to plan.

It was the first year since 2021 that Van der Poel had failed to win one of the prestigious Monument one-day classics, although he did claim the Omloop Het Nieuwsblad and E3 Saxo Bank classics. "It's only my third victory so it shows how hard it is for me to win a stage in the Tour," said Van der Poel.

"It will always be special to win one. Sometimes, it looks



Alpecin - Premier Tech team's Dutch rider Mathieu van der Poel sprints to the finish line to win the 9th stage of the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 154,6 km between Malemort and Ussel in central France, on July 12, 2026.

really easy because in the past seasons we (Alpecin) always succeeded in win-

ning a Monument or winning sprints in a Tour, but we know that it will not always come

that easy.

"That's also why we just keep working and keep believing

in it and we do our best -- that's all we can do."

- 'Horrible' roads -

This stage was shortened by around 30km due to a "red alert" weather warning in the central Correze region.

Temperatures once again reached close to 40C, although in parts on the stage it was nearer 30C.

There was a furious battle from the beginning of the 154.6km run from Malemort to Ussel to make it into the day's breakaway.

It was not until about half-way through the stage that an eight-man breakaway finally went clear on the steep 3.8km-long Suc au May climb.

The group never eked out a lead of more than a minute and a half but they worked well together. □



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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

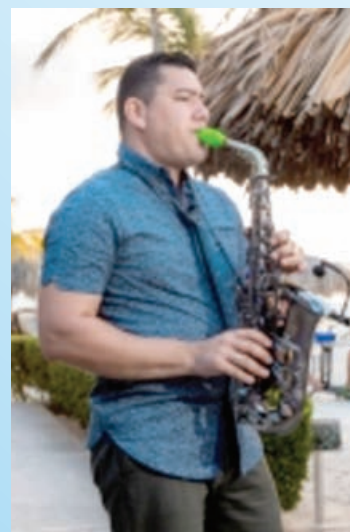
Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com