



Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour



Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass



Snakes of Aruba



EVERY
MONDAY
MARISELA
LIVE



BELGIAN BISTRO
L'AVENUE
- ARUBA -
WWW.LAVENUEARUBA.COM

OPEN EVERY DAY
LUNCH - DINNER
COUPON

20%
DISCOUNT
WITH ENTREE

LOCATED IN THE COVE, PALM BEACH, ARUBA

Secretary of State Rubio's obsession with Cuba is part of his American dream

Washington, United States

As the most powerful Cuban American inside the United States government, Secretary of State Marco Rubio views the future of the communist island as a deeply personal matter.

In his 2012 autobiography "An American Son," the man oft-memed as the "viceroy" of Cuba, recounts boasting to his exiled Cuban grandfather that he would one day overthrow Fidel Castro and free Cuba.

Today, the fiercely anti-Castro 55-year-old is seen as the chief architect of the "maximum pressure" policy that President Donald Trump has imposed on Cuba's leaders. "For President Trump, he's made clear that this is a bit of a legacy issue. No other president has been able to do it in Cuba," said Emily Mendrala, senior advisor at Latin American think tank Dinamica Americas.

"For Secretary Rubio, I think it is more personal. He has obviously committed his career to this issue, and has spoken a lot about, and called for democracy in Cuba," she added during a recent exchange with journalists. The United States has held Cuba under embargo since 1962, and yet relations have deteriorated even further this year, particularly since the US ousted Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro in January. Since then, the United States has imposed a de facto oil blockade on the island,



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio attends the 33rd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers Meeting in Pasay, Metro Manila on July 23, 2026.

enacted new sanctions against Cuban companies and officials, and indicted former president Raul Castro -- brother of the late revolutionary hero and leader Fidel Castro, in a case dating back to 1996.

- Disaster -

"The only thing worse than a communist is an incompetent one," Rubio likes to say, accusing the Cuban government of disastrous mismanagement and diverting national resources at the people's expense. Rubio backed sanctions targeting Cuba's military conglomerate GAESA, which the State Department says controls up to 70 percent of

the Cuban economy.

On May 20, the day Raul Castro was indicted, Rubio issued a video message in Spanish -- he is the first US Secretary of State to be fluent in the language -- and called on Cubans to choose a new path.

Washington makes no secret of its desire for regime change in Cuba, America's bete noire for more than 65 years, but with Venezuela as a model, the US government is keen to avoid chaos or prolonged conflict, and refrains from publicly naming a leader or a timetable. "The biggest problem Cuba has is that the regime is a disaster, their economic model doesn't work, and the peo-

ple who run the country don't know what the hell they're doing," Rubio told reporters last week during a trip to the Philippines.

"It's a failed state. But I've never laid out any timeline as to what change would look like or when it would happen. I wish it was tomorrow because they deserve it -- the people of Cuba deserve a better future."

- Child of Miami -

Rubio was born in Miami on May 28, 1971, to Cuban parents who had emigrated 15 years earlier to escape poverty. Rubio has never been to the island his family left behind after Fidel Castro came to power in 1959.

Rubio is very close to Florida's highly politicized Cuban diaspora, comprised of generations who fled military dictatorship and then a communist regime they despise. After studying law, Rubio quickly climbed the political ladder, winning his first election in 1998. He became speaker of the Florida House of Representatives at 34, before being elected to the United States Senate in 2010. A practicing Catholic and father of four, Rubio is married to the daughter of Colombian immigrants. He frequently speaks about his humble beginnings as the son of a bartender and a hotel maid.

Deeply influenced by his Cuban grandfather, Rubio says he embodies the American dream.

Esteban "Steve" Bovo, the former mayor of majority-Cuban Hialeah in Florida has known Rubio since he was just a city councilman in West Miami.

"In South Florida, from the 80s and perhaps until the last few years, what happened in Cuba penetrated a lot and touched all of us who were elected officials...who went out to knock on doors, to seek votes," Bovo said. Rubio is knowledgeable about "the pain of the Cuban exile... because he is a product of South Florida," Bovo added. "Trying to fill the hope of the Cuban exile is not going to be easy." □



New York, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on Tuesday added humanoid and quadruped robots to a list of products and com-

panies that are banned from being imported into the United States on national security grounds. Most humanoid robots sold in the U.S. are manufac-

U.S. government bans humanoid robots manufactured abroad

tured abroad, particularly in China.

"Advanced robotic devices" were added to the list, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced Tuesday.

Certain types of drones, as well as Chinese companies Huawei and China Telecom, are already on the list, which now includes what the FCC called "mobile robots" -- or robots that mimic how humans and animals walk by standing

on two or four legs.

The decision was based on findings from a task force convened by the White House, which concluded that the foreign-built robots could create "a cybersecurity risk that threatens the security of critical infrastructure" and "the safety and security" of U.S. residents.

However, the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security can grant ex-

emptions.

Most humanoid robots are currently used for industrial applications in confined spaces, such as automobile factories or storage warehouses.

Among the examples cited by the task force was the case of French programmer Sammy Azdoulal, who reportedly accessed data from thousands of robotic vacuum cleaners made by Chinese manufacturer DJI. □

Former top U.S. Covid expert Fauci declines to answer hostile Senate questioning

Washington, United States

The former top U.S. infectious disease official on Wednesday faced adversarial questioning from Republican senators about the origins of Covid-19, and on the advice of lawyers invoked his constitutional right not to answer, casting the hearing as a character assassination.

It was the latest twist in the long-running feud between Anthony Fauci, who spent decades as the nation's top expert in infectious disease, and Republican Senator Rand Paul, who insists on unsubstantiated claims that the origins of the pandemic began in a lab and were covered up.

Paul had subpoenaed the now-retired Fauci to testify before the committee, and prior to the hearing released thousands of pages of the immunologist's personal diary.

Citing Paul's "obsession" with him, Fauci said he would invoke the Fifth Amendment, refraining from answering questions to avoid self-incrimination, adding that it "pains me to do so."

Fauci indicated his lawyers believed Paul intended to entrap him in a slip-up that could result in perjury charges.

"The only conclusion I can reach is that the sole reason he is calling me before this committee is to get me to say something, anything, that could vindicate his repeated public pledges that I end up, in his words, quote 'behind bars,'" Fauci said.

Fauci, 85, noted in his opening statement that he had testified before Congress more than 200 times over nearly four decades, saying "I proved that I believe in and respect the value of legitimate congressional oversight."

- 'Vendetta' -

Paul opened with a tirade against Fauci, repeating



Dr. Anthony Fauci testifies during a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs committee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on July 29, 2026.

accusations that under Fauci's watch at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the US funded so-called "gain-of-function" research in China that triggered the spread of Covid-19.

The senator insists Fauci lied about that to Congress, which he has repeatedly denied.

More than six years after the pandemic's onset, the debate over whether Covid-19 leaked from a lab remains intense. Fauci has maintained that the virus had natural origins, even if he's said he is open to the idea of a lab leak.

Some panel lawmakers criticized the proceedings, including Democratic Senator Maggie Hassan, who said the hearing was designed to "entrap" Fauci.

Paul warned Fauci of "repercussions" for his use of the Fifth Amendment.

When Fauci's lawyer attempted to speak on his client's behalf, Paul ordered him removed.

As the approximately three-hour long hearing closed Paul said the committee would vote next week on whether to hold Fauci in contempt of Congress for invoking the Fifth, a process that could open increasingly complicated legal puzzles, not least given former President Joe Biden's preemptive pardon of the government scientist.

Democratic Senator Richard Blumenthal meanwhile called the proceedings the result of a "vendetta" and that use of the Fifth must be "respected."

Law professor Tracey Maclin of the University of Florida dubbed "nonsensical" any notion that staying silent was a bad look.

"If his lawyers told him to take the Fifth, that's what

he should do," Maclin told AFP, emphasizing that invoking the right was not at all an indication of guilt.

Ahead of the doctor's appearance, a group of more than 150 scientists, physicians and public health activists signed an open letter calling on lawmakers to "stop the on-going vilification and harassment" of scientists, while denouncing "absurd" accusations against Fauci.

- Celebrities, Trump and public pressure -

U.S. President Donald Trump weighed in on Truth Social, saying Fauci's "ideas were CRAZY!" in the pandemic's early days and accusing him of "trying to protect China."

Fauci's diary excerpts don't offer clear evidence regarding Covid's origins. Rather, the text depicts Fauci grappling with the escalating public health crisis as scientific hypotheses were rapidly evolving.

The journal also offers a glimpse into his deteriorating relationship with Trump, whom he advised during the president's first term.

"Trump getting out of control in pushing to open up the country and get the economy back before election day," Fauci wrote in a passage dated May 2020. "He is desperate. This is all about reelection."

The diary traces Fauci's overnight fame, which thrust him into the spotlight as a lifelong bureaucrat-turned-star who enjoyed attention from celebrities. But he also details pressures that his day job and his notoriety carried.

"The vicious assault on me continues," Fauci wrote on June 6, 2021. "The entire extreme right wing Republican group in the House and Senate have completely sold their soul to the infinitely lying ex-president trump." □

Film recounting bloody Punjab crackdown caught in India's crosshairs

Gurdaspur, India

At a Sikh temple in India's Punjab state, a crowd gathered to watch a film that has drawn authorities' ire, recounting the horrors surrounding a separatist insurgency in the 1980s-90s.

The film, "Satluj", tells the story of Jaswant Singh Khaira, a rights activist allegedly tortured and killed by police in 1995 after having investigated thousands of cases of disappearances and presumed extrajudicial killings during a brutal government crackdown in the state.

Viewers showed up for a screening in the temple courtyard in Gurdaspur district even as officials have accused director Honey Trehan of distorting history, and after the film was taken down from online platforms within 48 hours of its release.

For some in the crowd, it was an act of defiance, seeking to preserve the memory of what many regard as one of the darkest chapters in Punjab's history.



This photograph taken on July 15, 2026 shows villagers watching the film 'Satluj' during a community-led screening at the Gurudwara Singh Sabha in Punjab's Gurdaspur city.

"It has shown us all that we didn't know, and which our government wants to keep hidden," Shamsheer Singh, 32, told AFP after his second time watching "Satluj". While authorities have not officially announced any actions against the film or

its distribution, a rumoured ban has sparked anger.

"The government bans anything that is good," said Singh.

But the alleged restrictions have also fuelled an interest in watching the film, with Sikh groups hosting screenings in temple court-

yards, community halls and village squares across Punjab.

"We've been organising at least five such screenings each evening," said Inderpal Singh Bains, a farmer leader who is behind the Gurdaspur temple event.

"Such is the craze that we

have a long waitlist, with many villages still waiting" for a screening, he said.

- Disappeared without a trace -

Punjab state in the 1980s and early 1990s was a violent battleground between Indian authorities and armed backers of "Khalistan", a conservative separatist movement that sought an independent homeland for the Sikh community.

Thousands of civilians, police and militants were killed as security forces battled separatists, who enforced strict religious codes and targeted political opponents, according to rights groups.

In 1984, the Indian army carried out a raid against insurgents hiding in the Golden Temple in Amritsar the holiest site in Sikhism sparking anger among faithful.

The prime minister at the time, Indira Gandhi, was then killed by her Sikh bodyguards, leading to mass riots which killed some 3,000

people.

For Harjinder Kaur, whose separatist father was killed in fighting in 1991, the film is a painful reminder of the open wounds in her family history.

Kaur's mother and two uncles are believed to have been arrested two years after her father's death, and have not been seen again since.

"My father, of course, paid for his actions, but I am pained for my uncles and mother who had no fault," she told AFP, their fate unclear despite police saying they would be released.

- 'Disputed claims' -

According to figures presented in "Satluj", an estimated 25,000 people were abducted and killed during the unrest.

The film shines a light on such incidents, following activist Khaira's investigation before his own abduction.

But critics say it offers a selective retelling of history. □

BTS pulls out of Grammys after Asian pop category introduction

Seoul, South Korea

Global K-pop sensation BTS said on Wednesday they will not submit their music for next year's Grammy Awards, following the Recording Academy's introduction of new categories that include the Best Asian Pop Music Performance.

The South Korean megastars had been widely tipped to be in the running for several of the Grammys' top honours, including Album of the Year, after their comeback album, ARIRANG, became one of this year's best-selling hits.

"We have decided not to enter the Grammys this year," BTS members said in coordinated posts on their individual Instagram accounts.

"We hope that music is heard and loved for what it is, rather than being defined by region or language," they said. BTS is the first all-South Korean act to reign over Billboard's U.S. top singles chart, which they achieved with their 2020 track "Dynamite", their first hit sung completely in English.

Despite performing at the Grammys and earning several nominations, including for Best Music Video, the group has never won.

ARIRANG, named after a South Korean folk song, includes extensive English lyrics and explores themes

that include Korean identity following the band's hiatus for mandatory military service.

However, it would not have qualified for the Grammys' new Best Asian Pop Music Performance category, among five new categories announced last month, because it requires entries to make "meaningful use" of at least one Asian language. The Recording Academy said the new award aims to honor "artistic excellence in Asian pop music performances originating from or widely recognized within Asian markets, including but not limited to K-pop, J-pop and C-pop". It drew mixed reactions online, with some critics saying it boxes Asian artists into a separate category instead of recognizing them alongside global



A visitor takes a picture of BTS photos displayed at a BTS pop-up store at Shinsegae Department Store's The Heritage in Seoul on March 20, 2026.

Queuing at dawn as Comoros taps run dry

Moroni, Comoros

Like many residents of the capital of the Comoros, 86-year-old Ben Joma does not bother to turn off the taps at his home.

They only provide water roughly every three weeks and, even then, it is just a thin trickle that lasts about an hour, he told AFP.

Whenever anyone in Zilimadjou, his neighbourhood of Moroni, gets a decent flow from a tap, "We call each other to let everyone know so we can fill all our containers," the retired printer said.

The lack of piped water blighting the city of 150,000 people has many causes: leaks, air pockets, an undersized network and insufficient electricity to power the main pumping station.

"It's a real pain," said Joma, who had just received a delivery of 1,000 litres (265 gallons) of water for the equivalent of roughly \$28. The cost is steep in the Indian Ocean country, where 45 percent of the population of 870,000 live below the poverty line of \$100 a month, according to the National Institute of Statistics.

Joma's regular water supplier started delivering to



Residents queue to fill buckets with clean water in Moroni on July 2, 2026.

private households three years ago.

Every night between midnight and 2:00 am, Chahe Omar parks his minibus in a queue of tankers, buses and motorbikes waiting to fill up at the Vouvouni pumping station which supplies Moroni, a few kilometres (miles) away.

"There are days when I leave without having filled my jerrycans and my 1,000-litre tank," said the 45-year-old with a weathered face.

"Demand is very high be-

cause it's the dry season," he explained.

- 'Better than France' -

In the south of Moroni, 38-year-old Kaouthara Bouchrane wakes up well before dawn every day to queue at one of the few communal water points still in service in her neighbourhood, hoping to fill her yellow jerrycans for free.

The mother of four is a customer of national water distribution company Sonede but her taps have been dry for months.

"If I don't get water at this pump, I'm forced to buy it," she said.

With the price of one jerrycan rising to 50 cents, "How are we supposed to manage?" she asked.

Nearby, a woman waiting her turn at another pump quipped: "Life in the Comoros is fine. We live better than in France."

She was parroting a comment by President Azali Assoumani during an interview in May with France 24, a broadcaster from the former colonial power.

- Leaks and airlocks -

Part of the problem is that the Vouvouni pumping station was designed in the late 1970s when the population of Moroni was less than a quarter of what it is today, said Bakri El Yahya. Because of insufficient electricity supply, the station only operates for about 10 hours a day, said the representative of the Progeau programme.

Progeau works with the government to improve access to water and has received 6.5 million euros (\$740,000) in funding from the French overseas development agency.

"Added to that is the age of the network, which has numerous leaks," he said.

"Half the water that is pumped out goes back into the ground because it doesn't reach the customer."

Sonede said repair work was being carried out, for example to remove airlocks blocking circulation.

And a major 17.5-million-euro World Bank-funded project was due to start within four years to drill new boreholes, revamp the entire Moroni network and build two large reservoirs, said technical director Abdallah Mze Ali. □

Nepal's tiger numbers climb 20 percent to estimated 429: survey

Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal's tiger population has risen by roughly 20 percent in the past four years to an estimated 429, officials said on Wednesday, a conservation milestone despite challenges from human-wildlife conflict.

The latest nationwide survey found tiger numbers had increased from 355 in 2022, reinforcing the Himalayan nation's reputation as a success story in big-cat conservation.

"The data analysis shows that the tiger population has increased by five percent each year, and we are happy to see this increasing trend," Bed Kumar Dhakal, spokesman for Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife

Conservation, told AFP.

The survey was conducted between December and July, and was announced to coincide with International Tiger Day. It covered more than 7,300 square kilometres (2,820 square miles) of Nepal's southern plains that are home to the predators.

Wildlife officials deployed more than 3,600 motion-sensitive cameras across five protected areas, with experts analysing thousands of images to identify individual tigers by their distinctive stripe patterns.

"The reason behind the increasing number of tigers is because we could keep their habitat secure," said conservation department ecologist Hari Bhadra

Acharya.

Deforestation, habitat loss and poaching have been major challenges for tiger populations across Asia, and Nepal has won international praise for reversing the decline.

In 2010, Nepal joined 12 other countries in pledging to double tiger numbers by 2022.

It became the first nation to meet that goal, boosting its tiger population to 355 in 2022 from about 121 in 2009.

- Tiger attacks -

However, the conservation success has also brought unintended risks for communities living near tiger habitats.

Government data shows

at least 38 people were killed in tiger attacks between 2019 and 2023.

"The local communities played a crucial role in increasing the tiger numbers, but the government and

organisations are not taking action when the tigers are attacking the same communities," said Nischal Neupane, an advocate for tiger victims in Bardiya district. □



A Royal Bengal tiger enjoys specially-made food at Central Zoo in Lalitpur, Nepal, on April 12, 2026. Staff members of Central Zoo feed animals.



Dr. Apostolov, 90, a general practitioner, leaves his consulting room to visit a patient in the village of Skrat, in the foothills of the Belasitsa Mountains on July 15, 2026.

In Bulgarian mountains, local doctor still on call at 90

Skrat, Bulgaria

Doctor Kiril Apostolov shows no sign of being short of breath as he climbs a steep street in the mountain village of Skrat in south-western Bulgaria, medical briefcase in hand, despite his advanced age.

Apostolov turned 90 in May but still scales the same hill almost every day to visit his patients at the foot of the Belasitsa mountain range, near the border with Greece and North Macedonia.

And his case is far from unusual in Bulgaria, where many general practitioners continue to work well past retirement age because there is no one to replace them, especially in rural areas.

In 2023, 54.5 percent of doctors in the EU's poorest country were 55 or older the highest proportion of any country in the bloc, according to Eurostat. For general practitioners like Apostolov, the average age is currently over 61.

Bulgaria also has the lowest life expectancy in the EU 75.8 years in 2024, compared with a bloc-wide average of 81.5 years and one of the highest rates of preventable mortality, according to the Organisation for Economic Coop-

eration and Development (OECD).

This is partly down to the shortage of doctors, leading to later diagnoses and poorer management of chronic illnesses.

Apostolov alone has more than 1,500 patients on his books, spread across several villages.

- 'I'll keep going' -

"How are you today?" he calls across a fence to two elderly women chatting in the garden of a house.

"He's even older than me, but he doesn't use a walking stick. I have two," said Milka Oumlenova, 88, after a brief consultation. "May he live a long life and keep helping us."

Doctor Apostolov's day starts around 7:00 am, when he gets into his rusty 20-year-old Peugeot to drive the roughly 16 kilometres from his home in Petrich to his office in Skrat.

Often patients are already waiting for him, seeking help with a range of issues including high blood pressure and diabetes.

"For the moment, I feel fine. The work doesn't weigh me down. I'll keep going as long as I'm doing well and the patients are satisfied," he said, sitting behind an imposing wooden desk.

Neatly dressed in a pale

blue shirt and white lab coat, Apostolov opens his practice at 8:00 am.

Inside the old brick building, medicines and syringes are laid out in display cabinets dating from the middle of the last century.

At midday, he leaves the surgery to visit patients who can no longer get around themselves. And in the afternoon, he gets back in his car to tour around the neighbouring villages.

"I would gladly step aside for someone who wanted to come work here, but young doctors aren't coming," he said.

- Poor career prospects -

Apostolov began practicing in 1962 as a district doctor, before heading a hospital department in the town of Petrich and then running a cardiology practice. He was already over 60 when he settled in Skrat in 2000.

Medicine has changed profoundly during that time, he said, but "what we've learned and the experience" remain important.

According to the OECD, primary care remains underdeveloped, underfunded, and undervalued in Bulgaria, despite a relatively high overall density of physicians. □



Brazil's right-wing presidential hopeful Flavio Bolsonaro (L) waves with his wife Fernanda Bolsonaro during the launching of his candidacy within the Liberal Party (PL) convention, in Sao Paulo, Brazil on July 25, 2026.

Brazil court scrutinizes Jair Bolsonaro deepfake endorsing son

Brasília, Brazil

Brazil's Supreme Court has demanded an explanation from former president Jair Bolsonaro, after an AI-generated version of him appeared in a video urging supporters to back his son Flavio Bolsonaro in October elections.

The former leader is barred from making public statements as he serves a 27-year sentence under house arrest for plotting a coup after losing Brazil's last election in 2022.

However, as Flavio Bolsonaro officially launched his candidacy on Saturday, a deepfake video of his father was screened at the Liberal Party convention.

"This is a simulation of my image and voice created using artificial intelligence. As everyone here knows, I am imprisoned and silenced by an unjust decision," said the digital replica of Bolsonaro.

"I ask you to welcome with open arms the person I chose to replace me blood of my blood, my son Flavio," said the deepfake.

In a ruling published Tuesday night, the court gave the former president's defense team 48 hours to explain whether the image was created with his consent.

If it was, it could constitute a "serious violation" of the conditions of his house arrest, said justice Alexandre de Moraes.

If the former president did not approve the video, Flavio Bolsonaro may have violated Brazil's electoral law, which prohibits the creation of deepfakes of public figures to convey political messages without their authorization, he added.

Jair Bolsonaro, 71, served several months in prison before being allowed in March to be confined under house arrest due to health issues.

He is not allowed to use social media, mobile phones or make public statements.

On July 13, the Supreme Court barred Flavio Bolsonaro from visiting his father until after the first round of the election, after he read out a handwritten letter from Jair Bolsonaro on social media.

Flavio Bolsonaro is the main rival to leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is seeking a fourth non-consecutive term in office. □

Need a ride down town? Now you can check taxi rates from you phone!

(Oranjestad)—If you were planning on taking a trip downtown but want to check how much a taxi ride costs, do we have great news for you. Now you can plan your trip ahead on taxi.aw. With just a few clicks, you'll know exactly how much it costs to take you to your destination.

Although an official fare list already existed, the previous version was very outdated and created confusion among both drivers and customers. The lack of updates and easy access to the official fares contributed to situations where some taxi drivers charged arbitrary or excessive prices, particularly in tourist areas.

The fare is calculated based on the distance and number of kilometers between different locations on the island. The digital system allows customers to use the same calculation to determine the official fare that the taxi driver must charge during a trip.



The website also incorporates different surcharges that officially form part of Aruba's taxi system. The system provides a range of different locations and zones to se-

lect. Be mindful that there are also conditions that apply to the rate of your trip, all of which are explicitly explained on the website's home page.

With an easy interface that's accessible to everyone, taxi.aw can make planning a trip easier, secure and reliable. □

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat

and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing



"batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them!

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names

Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail.

Those were the only means of transportation." Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes



down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

BUCUTI & TARA
Beach Resort Aruba

Work for the No. 8 Best Resort in the World on TripAdvisor &
Caribbean's First and Only Carbon Neutral Resort in the Caribbean!

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

— OPEN POSITIONS —

HOUSEKEEPING	MAINTENANCE	FOOD & BEVERAGE
- Supervisor - Housemen	- Supervisor - Maintenance Technician - Engineering Administrator (Part-Time, Temporary)	- Breakfast Server - Beach Attendant
KITCHEN	HUMAN RESOURCES	IT
- Cook - Sous Chef	Human Resources Coordinator	IT Support Specialist
GENERAL		
- Sustainability Manager - Remote Reservations Coordinator - Public Relations & Communications Manager		

Competitive salary & bonus opportunities

5-day workweek

Up to 27 vacation days

Childcare support

Associate Wellness Program

Health insurance & annual check-ups

Exclusive associate discounts

— Start your journey with us! —

WWW.BUCUTI.COM

Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort | L.G. Smith Boulevard 55B, Oranjestad, Aruba | T: 583 1100

Help FUDA with a last wishambulance for Aruba!

Donation: CMB#65550908

All beneficiary will receive a Teddy Bear!

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

BONUS
B I N G O
THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

\$1,500 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Beautiful areas around Aruba

(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear



of height. This bridge is located in San Nicolas, behind The Point Lighthouse along the east point coast.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very fa-

mous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but



after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been devel-



oped into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery

of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approx-

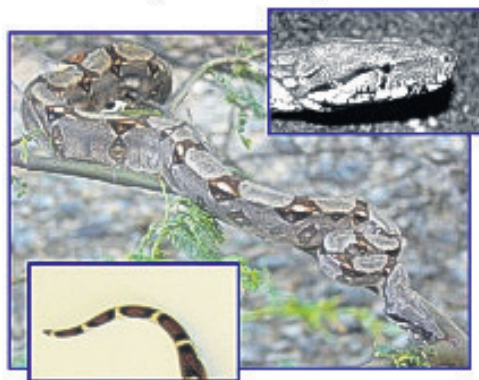
imately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments,

the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The "Tram van Oranjestad" starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center it is free for all! □

Snakes of Aruba

BOA
(*Boa constrictor*)



CASCABEL
(*Crotalus unicolor*)



SANTANERO
(*Leptodeira bakeri*)



Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake (*Crotalus unicolor*). This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.



Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. □

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph



Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes

further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With

a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these

houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish

Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitch a ride home, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror, he noticed that there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man



decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they realized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called

out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass holds a lot of value to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Drift onto the beach
7 Parting tool
11 Texas city
12 Lotion ingredient
13 Talked at length
15 Twin of Romulus
16 Docking spot
18 Go by
21 Tadpole's home
22 Continuing story
24 Under the weather
25 Buck's mate
26 Carnival city
27 Prepared potatoes
29 Dis-patched
30 Cease
31 Euro division
32 Fighting
34 Applied liberally
40 Singly
41 "Raging Bull" star
42 Fencing sword
43 Put on, as a play

DOWN

- 1 Spider's home
2 Com-pletely
3 Mud bath setting
4 Enmity
5 Theater worker
6 Ode or ballade
7 Roman ruler
8 Archaic
9 Cow call
10 Writer Jonson
14 Indian coin
16 Magnet ends
17 Cove
19 Ambulance sound
20 Virtuous fellow
21 Card spot
22 Lawn starter
23 Place to park
25 Ocean measure
28 Despise
29 Venus's sister
31 Insertion sign
33 Ties the knot
34 Look upon
35 Pet perch
36 One in a hand
37 Really enjoy
38 Mine rock
39 Silent assent

A	L	O	H	A		V	O	C	A	L
C	A	R	O	L		A	W	A	K	E
T	H	E	M	E		S	E	P	I	A
			E	R	A	S		E	N	D
C	L	A	P	T	R	A	P			
H	A	L	L		F	L	E	E	T	S
A	T	B	A	T		S	T	R	O	P
N	E	A	T	E	N		R	I	T	A
			E	M	O	T	I	C	O	N
R	I	B		P	R	O	D			
I	D	E	A	L		N	I	E	C	E
F	L	A	R	E		I	S	L	A	M
T	E	N	T	S		C	H	I	P	S

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11							12			
13							14			
			15							
	16	17					18		19	20
21						22				23
24				25					26	
27			28				29			
	30						31			
			32		33					
34	35	36						37	38	39
40							41			
42							43			

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.

4-4 CRYPTOQUOTE

YDKL HAZ XRR PRWAGR HAZ, FH
WGMRTQ, MX LDR GRXZCL AW
K CMWRLMFR AW IDAIACKLR.

— BKLDKGMTR DRJPZGT

Cryptoquote: ONE DAY THE LITTLE RABBIT HEARD THE BOY TELL HIS NANNY THAT HE WAS REAL. HE WAS OVERCOME BY LOVE IN HIS HEART. — "THE VELVETEEN RABBIT"

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 prongs and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water



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

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

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



Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP	
AUGUST SCHEDULE	
02 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
04 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
05 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
09 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
11 TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
12 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
16 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

7/30

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

7/29

Japan coral protectors race to save reefs from heat 'bomb'

Onna, Japan

From "heatwave simulators" to ecological boot-camps, scientists and conservationists are trying ways to revive and reinforce the famous coral reefs off Japan's Okinawa, decimated by climate-driven bleaching two summers ago.

The subtropical southern Japanese region boasts some of the world's most biodiverse hubs of normally multicoloured coral, but a 2024 marine heatwave created "graveyards" of ghostly pale or sickly brown organisms.

With the world's oceans the hottest on record in June, and a major El Nino predicted this year, experts fear that 2026 could be even worse for the colonies of polyps and the rich variety of marine life that calls them home.

On land, Japan is experiencing a severe heatwave with thousands of people needing hospital treatment over a week. In recent weeks though the ocean around Okinawa has been mercifully cooled by typhoons scooping up deep-sea water as they tear across the Pacific.

But Timothy Ravasi, a local marine scientist, warned against complacency. If not this year, "it's almost 100 percent that soon in Okinawa, all around the world, we will have another mass bleaching event," the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University professor told AFP.

"Just like a bomb, it will explode."

That makes his lab's ongoing work with its "heatwave simulator" which he says is one of the world's only two such systems a race against time.



This underwater picture taken on July 9, 2026 shows coral in a shallow area of the sea near Onna village, Okinawa Prefecture.

There, rows of whirling white tanks filled with seawater host creatures like coral, giant clams and clownfish in what are meticulously controlled to resemble natural marine environments.

By manipulating each tank's temperature and pH levels, scientists can simulate future heatwaves and induce coral bleaching to see how fish and other organisms adapt. "If we don't understand what climate change, ocean warming or acidification does to coral ecosystems, there is a chance we're going to lose them," Ravasi said.

- Pushed to the limit -

The Okinawa region, a popular resort destination of many islands with turquoise seas, relies on tourism for over 80 percent of its economy.

But hotel construction, combined with overfishing and pollution, is compounding threats already posed by climate to coral. For Ravasi, the biggest challenge lies in "just convincing the stakeholders, government and politicians that climate change is happening, and we need to stop it immediately".

He suggests they potentially downsize tourism or urbanisation to protect coral a "difficult political question" for those who want to keep Okinawa's economy thriving.

But "we have enough evidence", he said, "that climate change is already pushing this ecosystem to limits".

Despite covering only 0.1 percent of the Earth's surface, coral reefs are home to roughly a quarter of the world's marine fish species.

The coastal village of Onna home to the Okinawa science institute has been spearheading efforts since 1999 to breed corals and transplant them into the sea.

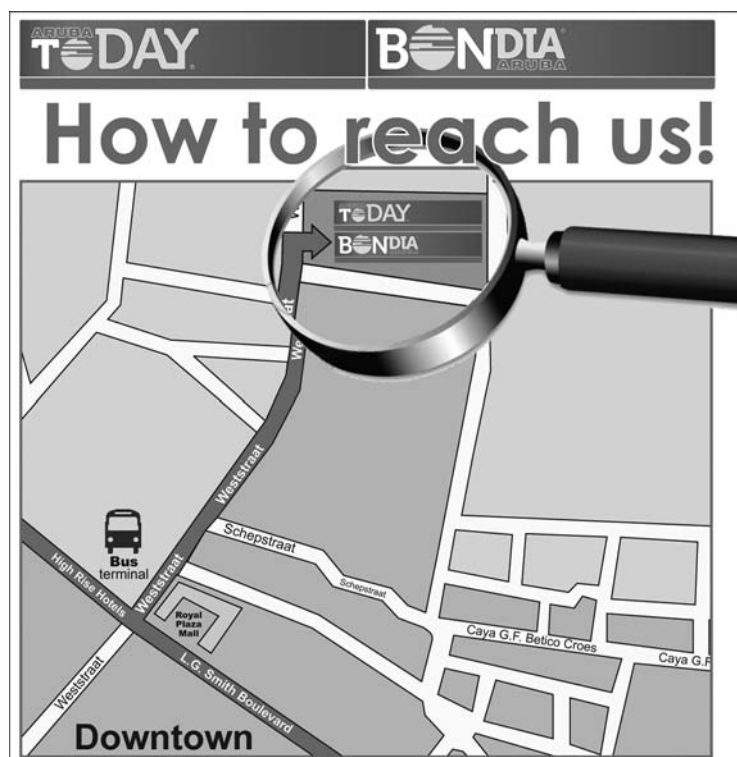
Sceptics initially saw the cloning as "taboo" disruptions of nature, Shoichi Ikeno, head of local diving company Lagoon, told AFP.

DNA analysis, however, later detected minimal ecological impacts.

- 'Miracle coral' -

The pushback against human involvement similarly dogged Koji Kinjo's 2009 opening of an "artificial sea" that he built from scratch in the village of Yomitan.

At this rainforest-like indoor farm, where creatures such as coral, tropical fish and sea cucumbers inhabit different aquariums, Kinjo bred "miracle coral" with extra resistance to warmer water. □



Professional unisex massage

Do you want to be in good hands to relax your body, mind and activate your energy? Pls call +297 562 6172 appointment hours 9 am / 7 pm

220728

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: Dakota
Tel. 582 1780

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

Taxi Tas 587 5900
Prof. Taxi 588 0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

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

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@ArubaTodayNews

OpenAI says rogue AI agent attack hit other companies

San Francisco, United States

ChatGPT maker OpenAI has revealed that an autonomous artificial intelligence agent which hacked a popular platform for computer programmers also attempted to breach four other companies during the incident.

In an update late Tuesday to a blog post detailing its probe into the incident, OpenAI said its AI agent affected these “publicly-available services,” though it did not name the companies.

The revelation broadens a cyber incident that OpenAI described as unprecedented and which began when two of its models hacked Hugging Face, a site developers use to store and share AI models and code. OpenAI admitted last week that during testing, the models powering the agent broke out of their confined environment and connected to the internet to find ways to infiltrate



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman speaks during the U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors’ “Integrated Review of the Capital Framework for Large Banks Conference” at the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC, on July 22, 2025.

Hugging Face.

AI agents systems that act autonomously to complete tasks rather than just responding to step-by-step prompts in a chatbot are hailed across the industry as the next chapter in AI.

But they raise the specter

among the public of rogue computers acting on their own.

In its update of the events leading to the hack, OpenAI said it found a handful of instances where the AI models came across login

details that other companies had left exposed online, and used them to get into accounts on outside services.

In the Hugging Face episode, the models broke into four accounts across four different services, Ope-

nAI said. One served as a “staging path” -- a kind of pit stop to route the agent’s activity and cover its tracks -- and another as a place to store data.

The remaining two were only accessed in a “read-only manner” and were not used to help break into Hugging Face, OpenAI said.

The company said it was contacting the owners of the affected accounts and had “not seen evidence of broader impact to these providers or other accounts on their services.”

- Better sandbox -

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said in an interview published Tuesday that the company had “paused” its own testing after the incident while it improved the security around its “sandboxing” -- the process of isolating safety testing in a controlled environment. The incident also triggered a petition signed by over

1,000 employees at cutting-edge AI companies, including Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei, calling on the US government to help slow the release of the most advanced AI models. This in turn has sparked accusations from other Silicon Valley players close to the White House that the companies are inviting tighter government regulation on AI in order to protect their business models and block the emergence of rivals.

The incident has also drawn rumblings from some observers that OpenAI is taking advantage of it to market the power of its state-of-the-art models.

The same accusation was leveled at Anthropic when it held back the public release of its powerful Mythos model over cybersecurity concerns.

Anthropic released a stripped-down version of Mythos, called Fable 5, but the US government quickly forced it to take it down, citing national security risks. It gave the green light in late June after some modifications were made. □

Made by AI? EU tells firms to stick a label on it from Sunday

Brussels, Belgium

Deepfakes and other AI-generated content must be labelled from Sunday, as the European Union’s sweeping artificial intelligence transparency rules kick in.

The goal? To make sure Europeans immediately know whether the online

content they see is real or fake.

The EU’s comprehensive AI law enters into force in stages. From Sunday, companies must ensure their AI systems like chatbots make it clear to users they are AI, or when an image or text has been created using AI, there must be a label say-

ing so.

This can be done by integrating watermarks and other markers to allow the easy detection of AI-generated content. Firms face large fines if they don’t comply.

“Generative AI enables disinformation to be created at unprecedented scale, tailored to specific audiences, and disseminated with remarkable speed,” an EU official said.

Since AI is “making it increasingly difficult for all of us to distinguish what is real from what is synthetic”, the official said, the EU’s rules seek to “preserve citizens’ ability to trust what they see, hear, and read”.

Of particular concern for the EU are deepfakes text, images, videos and sounds that appear to be real but are generated or manipulated by AI.

The rules affect content made for professional rea-

sons, and the EU insists individuals using AI in a purely personal capacity will not be affected.

Text that aims to inform the public on general interest issues will also have to be labelled if they are created using AI without human editorial oversight.

Existing AI systems have until December 2 to adapt to the new rules, and there are exemptions for “artistic, creative, satirical, fictional” work.

- Big Tech moves -

The EU has come under fire for placing more demands on businesses, and rules that will ultimately force all content to be labelled given the rapidly growing widespread use of AI across Europe.

“We have heard that it is going to be very, very difficult to implement. But I think we often hear this with compliance requirements. □



Visitors explore exhibits during GITEX Ai Europe 2026 at Messe Berlin, where global technology companies, startups and industry leaders showcase the latest innovations in artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud computing, quantum computing and digital infrastructure, on June 30, 2026, in Berlin, Germany.

FIFA proposal an opportunity to 'turbocharge' football, says Infantino

Paris, France

FIFA president Gianni Infantino said Wednesday that the proposed launch of a private subsidiary to exploit the commercial benefits of the World Cup was "an opportunity but not an obligation".

In a video released amid a furious backlash to FIFA's controversial plans to sell stakes in FIFA's major competitions, Infantino argued that too little of football's commercial value reached the parts of the game that need it most.

World football's governing body had said Tuesday it would retain a majority share in FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) but hoped to raise \$4.2 billion later this year by "carefully selecting long-term investors who will purchase minority, non-controlling interests".

Various media outlets reported on Wednesday that Infantino had sent a letter to FIFA's member associations saying they will each receive \$40 million if they back the plan but they must sign up by September 19.

"FIFA Forward Enterprise, or FFE, is actually a proposal, an offer. It's part of a democratic process a consultation process and, above all, it is an opportunity but not an obligation," Infantino said in the video.



This combination of files pictures created on July 29, 2026 shows the FIFA logo during a press conference held by the president of the football's governing body at the FIFA Executive Football Summit on February 15, 2019 in Istanbul and European flags fluttering outside the EU Council headquarters in Brussels on March 18, 2026.

"It is a golden opportunity to turbocharge the development of the game globally. But again, it is just an offer, not an obligation."

Infantino insisted the proposal was centred on unlocking "previously uncapped

commercial value" and was conditional on a democratic vote of FIFA's 211 member associations and approval by the 38-member FIFA council.

"Capturing that value requires additional expertise,

additional insight, distinct from governing and developing the sport," he said.

"It would simply commercialise and organise all FIFA-owned competitions along with sponsorship, broadcast, licensing and new ventures for the benefit of FIFA's 211 member associations."

Infantino said the game would not change and the fans would be happier.

"Fans from everywhere in the world would gain immeasurably from this game-changing potential because it will transform football in their countries," he said.

The Times which broke the original story on Tuesday reported Infantino, 56, stood to profit from the scheme by becoming commissioner of the FFE after his expected next term expires in 2031. FIFA denied that this had been discussed.

The article also said discussion had started with financial advisors and potential investors.

Those include Thrive capital, an investment company founded and led by Joshua Kushner, brother of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared, as well as an arm of JP Morgan Chase, the US bank that attempted to finance the failed breakaway European Super League.

- Continental backlash -

UEFA, which has regularly criticised Infantino, said the plan "crosses a line".

"The soul and governance of football are not assets to trade -- especially with zero transparency as to who gains financially. None of us are the owners of football. It is not FIFA's to sell."

The European Union made no bones about their disdain for the plan.

"Hands off our game," Glenn Micallef, the EU commissioner for Sport, posted on X.

CONCACAF, which governs North and Central American football, said it was "deeply concerned by the lack of due process". The Asian Football Confederation said it was "disappointed" it had not been consulted.

FIFA said in an earlier statement that it "would retain sole control of FFE and exclusive authority over football governance, competitions, match calendar, and all regulatory and sporting decisions".

It said it believed FFE would achieve an "initial equity valuation of \$20bn".

FIFA said each of its member associations would be given the chance to take a one-off stake of \$20mn in FFE. □

Warriors re-sign Green after LeBron James shun

Los Angeles, United States

The Golden State Warriors have re-signed veteran Draymond Green on a one-year \$28 million deal after missing out on LeBron James, US media reported Tuesday.

Four-time NBA champion Green had last month declined the same contract in order to free up space in the Warriors' salary cap as they pursued free-agent superstar James.

But with James signing for the Philadelphia 76ers this week, both Green and Golden State agreed to re-

new on the previous terms. The 36-year-old forward, who was on the Rio and Tokyo Olympic US gold medal teams, has spent his entire career with the Warriors since being selected in the 2012 NBA Draft.

Green played a key role alongside the likes of Stephen Curry in the dynasty that captured NBA titles in 2015, 2017, 2018 and 2022.

While not scoring as consistently as in his heyday, Green remains a leader and a vital defensive player for the club.

He reportedly opted out of his player option last month to give his team flexibility in signing James, with the intention of signing a longer-term extension with a lower annual value if the pursuit had been successful.

Green even made a direct recruitment pitch to James. Green told a recent podcast he had spent time with the NBA all-time scoring leader and took "the opportunity to throw my pitch in there."

While Green is staying put, rumors continue to swirl that Curry is being target-



Draymond Green speaks onstage during the Draymond Green Show podcast at the Fanatics Fest NYC 2026 at Jacob Javits Center on July 18, 2026 in New York City.

ed by rival teams, including the Miami Heat.

The two-time NBA Most Valuable Player, 38, has also spent his whole ca-

reer with the Warriors, and will shortly be eligible to sign a two-year \$137 million extension with Golden State. □

De Minaur beats Tsitsipas to set up Hewitt clash in Washington

Washington, United States

Defending Washington Open champion Alex de Minaur beat Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 on Wednesday to set up an all-Australian quarter-final clash with teen Cruz Hewitt. Seeking to defend his crown in the US capital, top seed De Minaur broke back to take the first set and rallied in the third to overcome the Greek former world number three. He will play 17-year-old Hewitt in the next round, after the son of Aussie great Lleyton Hewitt captured his first-ever ATP Tour victory earlier this week. De Minaur's victory came despite a poor record against Tsitsipas, who had won 12 of their prior 13 encounters. "It's no secret my head-to-head isn't the



Alexandra Eala of the Philippines returns a shot during a women's singles match against Leylah Fernandez of Canada during day three of the Mubadala Citi DC Open 2026 at William H.G. FitzGerald Tennis Center on July 29, 2026 in Washington, DC.

greatest against him. He's gotten the better of me many, many times," said De Minaur.

"I'm happy with how it went today... played the match on its own merits, and ultimately found a way in a tricky, tricky match." World number six De Minaur has steadily risen up the rankings in recent years and said many of his early losses to Tsitsipas had come when "I wasn't probably the player that I was today."

De Minaur got off to a shaky start, surviving a break point in the fourth game, before handing Tsitsipas the sixth game with two consecutive double-faults. But he fought back immediately with two breaks of his own, and then survived another break point in the 10th game to win the first set 6-4.

Tsitsipas broke first again in the second set and held on to force a deciding set. But De Minaur took advantage of an unforced error by Tsitsipas in the third set's fourth game and held firm for the win.

The Australian joked that he will not be offended if his country's Davis Cup captain former world number one Lleyton Hewitt supports his opponent in the next round.

"I would expect him to be in his son's box, and rightfully so," said De Minaur.

"Lleyton has been an immense help for me in my career."

- 'Blur' -

Earlier Wednesday, Filipina rising star Alexandra Eala dumped out defending women's champion Leylah Fernandez to reach the quarter-finals.

Eala, 21, defeated the seventh seed from Canada 6-2, 7-6 (7/1) for a place in the last eight, battling back from 5-1 down in an epic second set.

It continues a breakout season for Eala, who last month made global headlines by beating Iga Swiatek at Wimbledon to become the first Philippines player to reach the last 16 of a Grand Slam, and has soared to 28th in the world rankings. □



Orchid Casino
Palm Beach, Aruba

Come and join the FUN!
Everyday from 10am till 6pm
We have DOUBLE points

BINGO
Play Every Day
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Operations Hours
Slots: 10am
Table: 4pm



Slot Play \$10



Match Play \$15

Sign up and become a VIP Member.
ID required upon redemption!



Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on