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This picture taken on July 31, 2026 shows Justin Pearson, a Tennessee lawmaker and Democratic candidate running to represent Tennessee's 9th Congressional District, interacting with members of the community during a congressional candidate forum for Districts 5,8 and 9, hosted at the Memphis Islamic Center in Cordova, Tennessee.

'Quit or stay?' Tennessee Democrat fights redistricting

Cordova, United States

When Justin Pearson announced his bid for U.S. Congress in his hometown of Memphis, the African American Democrat never imagined he would have to campaign more than 200 miles (300 kilometers) away, in the county where the Ku Klux Klan was founded. In May, following a divisive U.S. Supreme Court decision, Republicans in the state legislature dramatically redrew the boundaries of Tennessee's 9th Congressional District.

Majority-Black Memphis was split into three districts stretching across the state, diluting its heavily Democratic electorate.

Under the new map, the 9th District is now widely expected to favor Republicans.

So Pearson, 31, a Tennessee state lawmaker, asked himself: "Do I quit or stay in the fight?"

Republicans "never want to see Black political power. They never want to see us being able to choose representatives of our own," he told AFP in an interview last week.

In the end, Pearson chose to stay in the race. On Thursday, he faces three

rivals in the Democratic primary.

The ruling by the conservative-dominated Supreme Court in April further weakened the Voting Rights Act, the landmark civil rights law protecting minority voting power.

Almost immediately following the ruling, several Republican-led Southern states, including Louisiana and Alabama, moved to redraw their congressional districts, extending a broader nationwide push by both Republicans and Democrats to redraw maps in states they control ahead of the midterm elections.

- From 1.5 counties to 15 -

Raised in Westwood, a predominantly Black neighborhood in southwest Memphis, Pearson said that when the electoral map was redrawn, he went from representing a district covering "1.5 counties to 15 counties."

Instead of campaigning almost exclusively in Memphis, he now canvasses the sprawling district, meeting with farmers in the town of Savannah, Tennessee, one day, and then traveling some 150 miles the next day to the deeply Repub-

lican Giles County, where the Ku Klux Klan was founded in the 1860s.

"I've had to travel a whole lot more, go to communities I'd never been to before," Pearson said.

According to the University of Tennessee, 78 of the state's 95 counties are rural and generally vote Republican. Democrats have traditionally drawn most of their support from the state's two largest cities, Nashville and Memphis.

- 'A function of politics' -

Steve Hickey, chairman of the Williamson County Republican Party, lives at the opposite end of the 9th District, roughly 190 miles from Memphis.

He dismissed claims that race drove the redistricting, describing it instead as a straightforward political calculation.

"Now there's a lot of consternation about that," Hickey acknowledged. "But I think it's very important to understand that this happens in every state."

He noted that Tennessee Democrats also approved a redistricting plan that favored them when they controlled the legislature in 2002. □



A sign is posted in front of the Trump National Golf Club Los Angeles on June 16, 2026 in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Man arrested at Trump's LA golf course faces firearms charge

Los Angeles, United States

The armed man arrested over the weekend at President Donald Trump's golf course in California, two days before the US leader's scheduled visit, has been charged with illegal firearm possession, authorities said.

"While we are still investigating the motives of this individual, we are thankful he was apprehended before the President's visit," First Assistant US Attorney Bill Essayli said in a statement late Tuesday.

Authorities have so far provided no evidence that the suspect, Jeanine John Taele, was targeting the president.

Taele, 38, first came to the attention of authorities on Friday at the Rancho Palos Verdes golf course, according to the criminal complaint.

He was spotted "walking throughout the golf course at the Trump Golf Club, wearing an earpiece, and taking photographs and videos of the federal agents' security-planning activities."

He was spotted at the golf course again on Sunday and arrested. Deputies searched him and found a 16-round magazine containing hollow point ammunition in this pant pocket, and a loaded 9mm pistol in his car.

The suspect initially claimed to be on a security assignment for the State Department. A background check, however, revealed that he was wanted on a theft warrant.

A search of Taele's home uncovered an assault-style rifle, a pistol, a bulletproof vest, high-capacity magazines, ammunition, two radios and "multiple notebooks containing concerning statements," police said.

Taele is currently charged with possessing an unregistered short-barreled rifle, a federal offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

He is scheduled to appear before a federal judge in Los Angeles on Wednesday, who will decide whether he should be released on bail.

Taele also faces multiple firearms-related charges under California law.

Trump's fundraising dinner at the golf club on Tuesday evening, held to raise money for the Republican Party ahead of the midterm elections, went ahead without incident. □

Where mountain lions roam, fewer deer in the headlights

Washington, United States

Living among apex predators could make you safer. A new study published Wednesday in *Current Biology* found that on Washington state's Olympic Peninsula, vehicle collisions with deer fall by as much as 76 percent in areas highly frequented by mountain lions. The reason isn't because the big cats are eating enough deer to thin the herds.

Rather, it is fear that makes deer avoid roadways and developed areas while cutting back on nighttime activity—a clear example of the benefits large carnivores bring to the landscapes they share with humans, lead author Justin Suraci told AFP.

"You can put a dollar amount on how much a rancher loses when wolves kill their cows, and people are putting dollar amounts on those things," said the scientist, who works for California-based research group Conservation Science Partners.

"But if we don't put a dollar amount on the services or at least articulate those services they get perceived as not existing."

- Cameras and collars -

Earlier research modeled



Cougar (*Puma concolor*) on a rock, in autumn, Wild Zoo of Saint-Felicien, Quebec, Canada.

what would happen to deer-vehicle collisions if mountain lions recolonized the eastern United States, where they once roamed before hunting and habitat destruction left them largely confined to the West.

Another paper examined how the return of wolves to Wisconsin affected car crashes with deer.

Suraci and colleagues instead focused on the Olympic Peninsula, where mountain lions variously known as cougars, pumas or panthers have long

been established.

Because the lions already live in a stable equilibrium with their deer and elk prey, the team could better isolate the effects of the predators on their prey's behavior, rather than the effects of predators simply killing and consuming the herds.

They drew on data collected from 503 camera traps and 59 collared mountain lions as part of a long-term research study by Panthera, the global wild cat conservation organization,

in partnership with several Native American tribes and nations.

Where mountain lions were present, they found deer were more active by day than by night, 15 percent less likely to be in areas with a high density of roads, and 86 percent more likely to occupy remote habitat far from developed areas. Dividing the peninsula into a grid of five-by-five kilometer cells and overlaying car crash data, they found there was a reduction of to

76 percent in the number of vehicle-deer collisions in areas with high mountain lion presence over a five-year span.

Traffic on the peninsula is light. Even so, state data for the 2020-2025 study period showed there were two human deaths, more than 80 injuries and \$14.7 million in estimated health expenses and vehicle repairs from crashes with ungulates.

Suraci said it isn't yet feasible to work backwards and estimate how many deaths, injuries and economic damage the mountain lions have prevented.

"But it would be substantially higher if all the pumas were gone," he said, adding that in future work he hopes to capture the full extent of economic impacts, costs and benefits, in the counterfactual scenario that they were absent from the Peninsula.

- Economic value -

Senior author Mark Elbroch, puma program director for Panthera, told AFP the work was important given the grave threats facing cougars, with over 1,000 killed each year across the western US by state wildlife officials responding to attacks on livestock. □

AFP journalist to be honored at International Press Freedom Awards

New York, United States

AFP journalist Christina Assi, who lost a leg in an Israeli strike while reporting from the Lebanese border, will be honored at the International Press Freedom Awards, the Committee

to Protect Journalists said Wednesday.

In October 2023, Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah was killed and six others were wounded, including AFP journalists Assi and Dylan Collins, while cover-

ing the conflict near the Israeli border.

An independent AFP investigation concluded that two Israeli 120mm tank shells were fired from the Jordeikh area inside Israel.

"Despite being the most well-documented attack on journalists by Israel on record, nearly three years on, no one has been held accountable," the CPJ said in a statement announcing the honorees ahead of the November 19 event in New York.

"Since the attack, Assi has campaigned for justice for Abdallah's killing, advocated for journalist safety, and supported a rehabilitation program for people with similar life-altering injuries."

Two strikes hit the group of journalists in quick succes-

sion as they were working near the border village of Alma al-Shaab in an area where the Israeli army and armed Lebanese and Palestinian groups engaged in near-daily clashes.

AFP's findings were corroborated by other international probes, including investigations conducted by Reuters, the Committee to Protect Journalists, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and Reporters Without Borders.

Other journalists who will be honored alongside Assi include Hungary's Szabolcs Panyi, who investigated former prime minister Viktor Orban, and Colombia's Estefany Rodriguez, who was detained by US immigration officers while working

in March. Myanmar's Sai Zaw Thaïke, a photojournalist with the independent Myanmar Now outlet, who was arrested in 2023, while covering the aftermath of Cyclone Mocha, will also be decorated.

Carlos Dada, the Salvadoran journalist who co-founded El Faro, Central America's first digital newspaper, will receive the 2026 Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award.

"This year's awardees exemplify the determination and courage of journalists worldwide," said CPJ Chief Executive Jodie Ginsberg.

"They have endured targeting, imprisonment, exile, and surveillance for simply reporting the news. It is an honor to recognize their commitment to documenting the truth." □



Christina Assi, one of the six journalists recognized for her exceptional work in conflict zones, speaks during the 'Doha Forum 2024' in Qatar's capital, Doha on December 07, 2024.

Taiwanese film hunters rescue ageing reels from bygone era

Taipei, Taiwan

In a dimly lit red-brick house in central Taiwan, film hunter Wang Wei and his team haul out ageing film reels, salvaging the fragile remnants of a cinema boom that nearly vanished from history.

Rare Taiwanese-language films known locally as "taiyupian" flourished briefly from the mid-1950s to the late 1960s under the Kuomintang (KMT) government, which fled to Taiwan following its defeat by the Chinese Communist Party. Until it lifted martial law in the late 1980s, the KMT promoted Mandarin as the official language of Taiwan and sidelined Taiwanese Hokkien, but independent and private producers still made the widely watched black-and-white movies.

Taiwan is now racing to restore the decades-old reels to preserve a chapter of its culture, with film preservers having salvaged fewer than a sixth of the estimated 1,200 films produced.

Their value lies in existing for "such a short period", Arthur Chu, chairman of the Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute (TFAI) told AFP, adding that they represent "an almost-voiceless post-war generation".

Wang said it is "meaningful" if the films can be rediscovered, a tribute to those "who worked so hard to make them and captured



A technician at Preservation and Restoration Center inspects frames of an old film at the Taiwan Film and Audiovisual Institute in New Taipei City on June 23, 2026.

the images of Taiwan at that time". If the rare vintage reels are discarded or deteriorate, "there's no way to bring them back", he said as he directed a team wearing head torches to recover the reels. "They're gone forever."

- 'Beyond saving' -

Finding Taiwanese-language films is "extremely difficult", said Wang, who has chased the vintage movies for 10 years and once discovered rare celluloids at an old theatre in Los Angeles.

He works with the government-funded TFAI, which has spent nearly two decades tracking down surviving reels, many of which

were lost or left to deteriorate in the island's hot and humid climate.

The ageing cellulose acetate films are at risk of developing "vinegar syndrome", a chemical decay that can make film brittle, warped or sticky.

The films must be kept in cold storage before they can be repaired by hand, scanned and then go through digital clean-up and correction.

Among those helping preserve the films is 86-year-old supplier Wang Chin-ting, who began working in the movie business in 1984 and bought a film company 12 years later.

Of the hundreds of reels he

collected, only a handful are Taiwanese-language ones, now stored at his ancestral home in Changhua in central Taiwan, the brick house providing naturally cool, dry storage conditions.

Wang Chin-ting lifts each reel from its flat, circular metal can and threads it through a rewinding machine, a process that helps prevent the old films from deteriorating.

At TFAI's restoration centre in New Taipei City, film restorer Wu Long-hao painstakingly repairs damaged reels by hand using tape, a scalpel and eucalyptus oil. "Some reels are in such poor condition that we have to assume they may

only survive a single pass through the scanner," he said.

"If they snap, they are beyond saving."

- Touching hearts -

Ranging from popular operas, thrillers, comedies and romance dramas even Taiwanese versions of international blockbusters (such as James Bond and Tarzan) the films resonated with many Taiwanese who had been educated during Japan's colonial rule and had limited Mandarin skills.

Produced quickly with limited budgets to meet booming demand, many taiyupian were "crude" or even "absurd", the TFAI's Chu said, but they provide a rare, visual record of everyday life in Taiwan at the time.

They also captured old Taiwanese dialogue and slang, and have become a valuable record for film researchers and linguists.

Although the last such film was made in 1981, the launch of television stations and the rise of Taiwanese and Mandarin-language TV dramas from the late 1960s triggered a sharp decline in the industry.

But the films gave the post-war generation that could neither understand nor read Mandarin Chinese "a deep sense of comfort and an emotional outlet", Chu said. □

Spotify reaches 777 million active users

Stockholm, Sweden

Streaming giant Spotify

said Tuesday that it had 777 million monthly active

users at the end of June, 16 million more than in the previous quarter but a million fewer than forecast.

The Swedish company also warned that it expected its growth to slow in the third quarter, saying it anticipated around 11 million new net subscribers.

That cooled investor sentiment, with Spotify shares down 2.6 percent in opening trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

Spotify registered 300 million paying subscribers in the quarter, as opposed to people who listen free but with ads -- seven mil-

lion more than in the previous quarter and one million more than expected.

The group's quarterly operating profit jumped by 61 percent from a year earlier, to 655 million euros (\$754 million). Revenue rose by 14 percent to 4.8 billion euros, in line with the group's expectations.

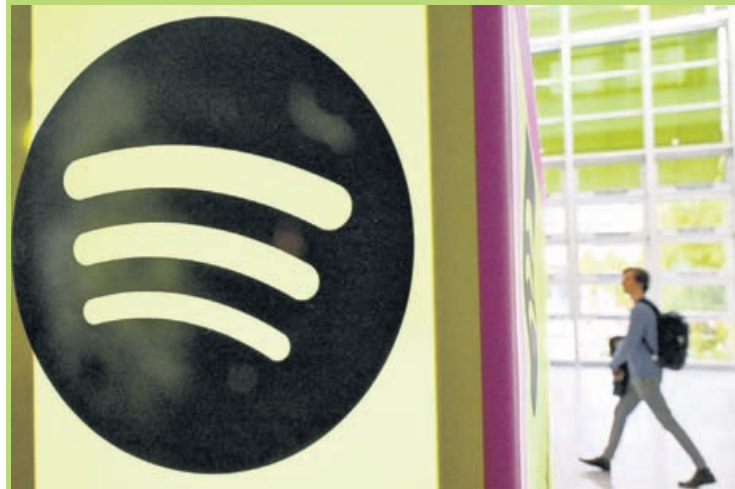
The earnings reflect "a business that is healthy and compounding, and opportunities only we are positioned to pursue," Alex Norstrom, the group's co-chief executive, said in a statement.

"Spotify lives across your

whole day -- the commute, the workout, studying, gaming, the dinner table, and sleep. At our scale, that is rare... Our position gives us an opportunity space as wide as our users want it to be," he said.

The company frequently refreshes its offerings to attract new users, and recently launched "Personal Podcasts", short AI-generated podcasts tailored to individual users.

Spotify will also allow artists' most dedicated fans, who are paying subscribers, to buy concert tickets before official ticket sales begin. □



A person walks past a banner with an Spotify logo at the Frankfurt book fair on October 17, 2024, on the second day of the world's biggest book fair in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany.

U.K. mansion where 'listeners' spied on Nazi generals becomes museum

Enfield, United Kingdom

Upstairs, Nazi generals enjoyed wine and lounged in elegant rooms. Downstairs in the basement, a team of covert listeners followed their chatter, gleaning vital insights into Germany's war plans.

During World War II, Trent Park, a country house north of London, was turned into a camp for high-ranking German prisoners of war.

Now it has become a museum called Trent Park House of Secrets, which highlights the role of the team of German speakers, most of them Jewish refugees, who transcribed tidbits from the prisoners' bugged conversations.

"Trent Park is one of a network of intelligence houses, let's call them, the most famous of them being Bletchley Park," museum director Giuseppe Albano told AFP. Depicted in the Oscar-winning film "The Imitation Game", Bletchley



The exterior of the new Trent Park Museum is pictured after its recent opening in Enfield, north London, on July 29, 2026.

Park, north of London, was a country house where mathematician Alan Turing cracked the code on encrypted Nazi messages. For Albano, Trent Park is "on a par in terms of the mili-

tary intelligence that was gained and... was used by the British government to shorten the length of the Second World War".

It was part of a network of

country houses with similar set-ups for eavesdropping, with the gathered intelligence then shared with Bletchley Park.

The idea to accommodate Nazi generals in comfort to

lure them into indiscretions was a "brilliantly devious strategy", Albano said.

Trent Park was famed for its fashionable interiors in the 1930s when it was owned by a wealthy politician and guests included Charlie Chaplin and Winston Churchill.

During the war, the government handed it to a top-secret military intelligence unit, and engineers wired it with hidden microphones throughout even in the garden.

These connected to listening equipment downstairs in the servants' quarters, monitored day and night.

A total of 84 generals and 22 lower-ranking officers were held in the house known as No. 11 Camp between 1942 and 1945, served by valets and even allowed out on day trips.

They included General Dietrich von Choltitz, the last Nazi commander in Paris, who arrived in late August

1944 after defying Hitler and surrendering the city.

- Rocket secrets -

Not realizing they were audible even leaning out of windows or in the garden, the prisoners let slip secrets, including details of the development of the first ballistic missiles, V-2s.

This helped the British to bomb the research facility and delayed the use of the rockets, which first hit London in 1944.

The government removed the bugs when the war ended, but some wiring was left behind and is now on display at the museum, which opened as part of redevelopment by a property company.

The transcripts were released to the National Archives, but "some things are still classified", said Albano.

In the museum's recreated listening rooms, visitors can hear actors reading out some of the conversations. One prisoner refers to a "rocket testing site" while discussing bratwurst supplies for the top brass. □

India monsoon floods, landslides kill more than 100 since July: officials

New Delhi, India

Floods and landslides triggered by monsoon rains have killed more than 100 people across India since July, official data showed Wednesday, with thousands forced to flee their inundated homes.

While the annual monsoon brings rainfall that farmers depend on, scientists say climate change is making the phenomenon more erratic, unpredictable and

deadly across the South Asia region. India's northeastern state of Assam is among the hardest hit by the annual rains, with at least 87 people killed, according to Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

In the state's worst-affected Sivasagar district, 47 people have been killed, and several areas are flooded.

State authorities have appealed for financial do-

nations from the public to help. "The devastation here is unlike anything these areas have witnessed before," Sarma posted on X. "Material losses can be restored, but no compensation can replace a loved one."

- Severe weather -

AFP images showed residents using rafts and inflatable boats to reach higher ground.

In India's southern state of Kerala, Chief Minister VD Satheesan said at least 15 people have been killed and another seven were missing, after heavy rains over several days.

More than 300 relief camps have been set up in the state, sheltering over 10,000 people, after rains triggered landslides and swollen rivers breached their banks.

In the Himalayan territory of Jammu and Kashmir, at least 31 people been killed

in several short bursts of extremely intense rainfall, according to a report by the public state broadcaster. Lightning strikes, common during monsoon, killed at least 22 people in the eastern states of Bihar and Jharkhand since Tuesday, local disaster response officials said.

The dead, mostly farmers working in paddy fields and cattle grazers, included four children, the officials said on Wednesday. Monsoon-related disasters are an annual occurrence across India after the region's long summers when many parts of the country face water scarcity and drought. Neighboring Sri Lanka has also seen unusually heavy monsoon rains that have caused flash floods and mudslides, claiming the lives of at least eight people since Monday, according to the Disaster Management Centre. □



Residents waded through a flooded street following heavy monsoon rains in Guwahati on August 4, 2026.

Colombian ex-guerrillas fear for future under hardline president

Valle del Guamuez, Colombia

Lovers and ex-guerrillas Derlis Aizama and Daniel Paredes recently laid down arms to start a family, but Colombia's incoming hard-right administration might upend their improbable attempt at civilian life. The couple formed part of a 99-strong group of guerrillas who struck a deal with outgoing President Gustavo Petro to disband two months ago.

With U.S.-backed president-elect Abelardo de la Espiella replacing Petro on Friday, however, the agreement's future hangs in the balance.

De la Espiella has pledged to renounce the outgoing administration's policy of negotiating with armed groups in the South American nation, pledging to wage war on them instead. Aizama, 24, who spoke to AFP from a special zone for ex-guerrillas in the southern Putumayo region, said she felt unsafe. "We are here because we want to rebuild our lives, to create a home," she said.



Derlis Aizama (L) and Daniel Paredes (R), former members of the National Coordinating Bolivarian Army (CNEB) guerrilla group, walk at the Temporary Ubication Zone (ZUT) for disarmed guerrillas in Valle del Guamuez, in La Hormiga municipality, Putumayo department, Colombia on August 3, 2026.

- 'Death or prison' -

After over six decades of gruesome armed conflict, Colombia attempted to turn the page by forging a landmark peace deal with the now-defunct FARC rebel army in 2016.

Petro, the country's first-ever leftist president, has

further pursued a "total peace" strategy of negotiating with a patchwork of armed groups.

The agreement in June marked the Petro's greatest achievement in an otherwise unsuccessful series of talks.

Critics say guerrillas have used the time during nego-

tiations to strengthen their positions.

Aizama and Paredes met while fighting for the "National Coordinating Committee of the Bolivarian Army."

Former members of the group, which controls key cocaine-producing territories along the border with

Ecuador, have no idea what will happen to them come Friday.

Ex-guerrilla Darwin, who declined to share his surname, noted that De la Espiella has given combatants until Friday to hand themselves in, or face "death or prison."

The president-elect took power by tapping into security fears, as Colombia faces its worst violence in a decade.

He wants to dismantle a special court created by the 2016 deal, which tries the worst crimes of the conflict, and do away with the peace office involved in negotiations with armed groups.

"It makes us a little nervous," said Darwin, who says he became a guerrilla due to a lack of work in his coca-growing region.

The 32-year-old told AFP he has been reading copiously since relinquishing his weapon, and has particularly enjoyed his copy of "Cinderella."

Like Aizama and Paredes, he says he has no intention of returning to combat. □

The last trio: S.Africa's zoo elephants await their fate

Johannesburg, South Africa

The last three elephants still in a traditional South African zoo entered their enclosure in single file, fruit and vegetables scattered on the ground to encourage natural foraging.

For visitors to the popular Johannesburg Zoo, it was a chance to see Africa's largest land animal in real life.

But for animal welfare campaigners, it is a scene of cruelty that they have petitioned the courts to end by ordering the trio's release into a rewilding sanctuary.

In a case supported by international elephant experts, the campaigners told a court in May that observation showed that Lammie, aged 47, Ramadiba, 28, and Mopane, 26, were distressed and depressed.

"These elephants are high-

ly intelligent, socially complex and sentient beings who are living in conditions that are damaging to their well-being, and who are, as a result, in a state of distress," said the three parties behind the case.

The court should "authorise their immediate release to a suitable sanctuary...

where they can rehabilitate," they argued.

Judgment is expected in the coming weeks, said Megan Carr, senior researcher at the EMS Foundation that is part of the application.

Carr told AFP the three elephants were the only ones remaining in an urban zoo environment on the entire

continent.

"They are the last three elephants showcased within an exhibition in a traditional zoo-type setting in South Africa and Africa," she said.

The legal bid for their freedom follows campaigners' success in having a 42-year-old elephant released from the national zoo in Pretoria and into a private reserve in 2024, after years of negotiation with the South African government.

The animal had spent 40 years at the facility.

- Compromised -

When an AFP team visited Johannesburg Zoo, a group of small children pressed towards a viewing area shouting, "Elephant! Elephant!" as the three animals shuffled around their enclosure.

Lammie, focused only on

the food, was born at the zoo, one of a handful in South Africa and among a plethora of state-run and private animal sanctuaries or game reserves. Ramadiba and Mopane arrived in 2019.

The trio are well cared for and had recently been given a clean bill of health, said Johannesburg city parks spokeswoman Jenny Moodley.

The facility could accommodate up to five elephants, and two keepers were dedicated to each animal, with food hidden around the enclosure to encourage foraging and walking, said an official not authorised to speak to the media.

Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo does not want the trio freed, saying they are suited to captive life, especially Lammie, who has never lived elsewhere. □



Johannesburg Zoo's remaining elephants Lammie and Ramadiba walk around the enclosure in Johannesburg on July 24, 2026.

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need



to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you

just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is

used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



PSA for off-roaders: Be careful when driving on rough terrains!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today recently received a message from a reader about the rough terrains and dirt roads on the northern side of the island, worried about how they may damage your car.

We at Aruba Today pride ourselves in enhancing your Aruba experience through informative articles about our history, culture and places you can visit. With this, we also want to make sure you take care of yourself and your loved ones.

You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging if you are traveling by (regular)

car. These holes often occur after heavy rain or during the raining season, primarily because Aruba is a hilly island with a lot of downward streams, so rain water travels downward creating cracks and holes along the way.

For your own safety, please be advised to not drive on potentially dangerous terrains or dirt roads with deep holes if you are traveling by regular car. We advise you to rent a 4x4 vehicle instead or better yet, plan your off-roading trip with a tour guide who can provide proper vehicles and assistance. □



Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses. Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you want to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!



Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.



To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible

by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually

calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □



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Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

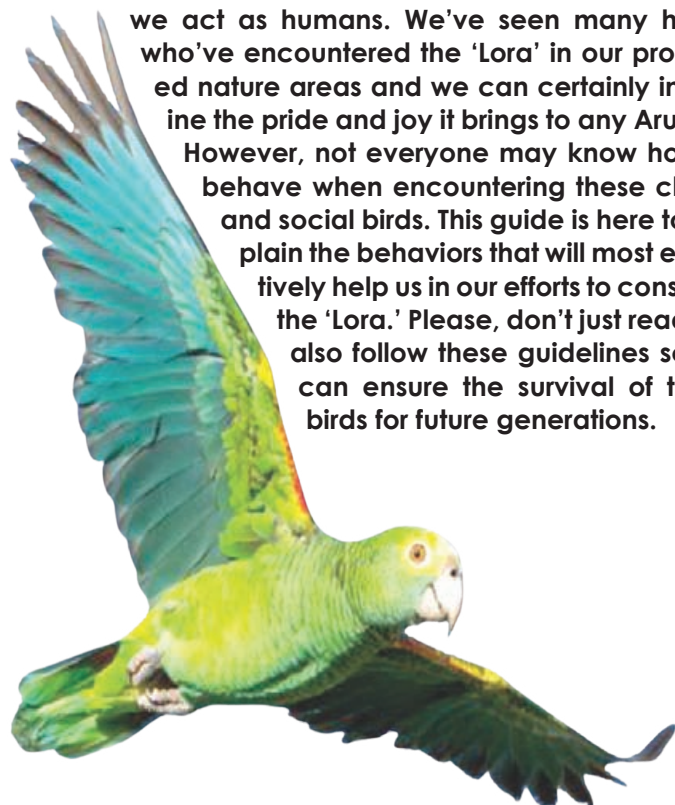
Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! ☐



PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a “lora”

(Oranjestad)—The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the ‘Lora,’ relies on how we act as humans. We’ve seen many hikers who’ve encountered the ‘Lora’ in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the ‘Lora.’ Please, don’t just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.



No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with the “Lora”. The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their re-introduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts.

Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water

You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including

poaching and killing of the Lora. Let’s work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. ☐



Cas di Torto

Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di

torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white color and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the



roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal bar-

rel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto. □

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.

Sweet potato

According to our elders,

sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based

on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are

said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes. □

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



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

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

Where to find the anchor?

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

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

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

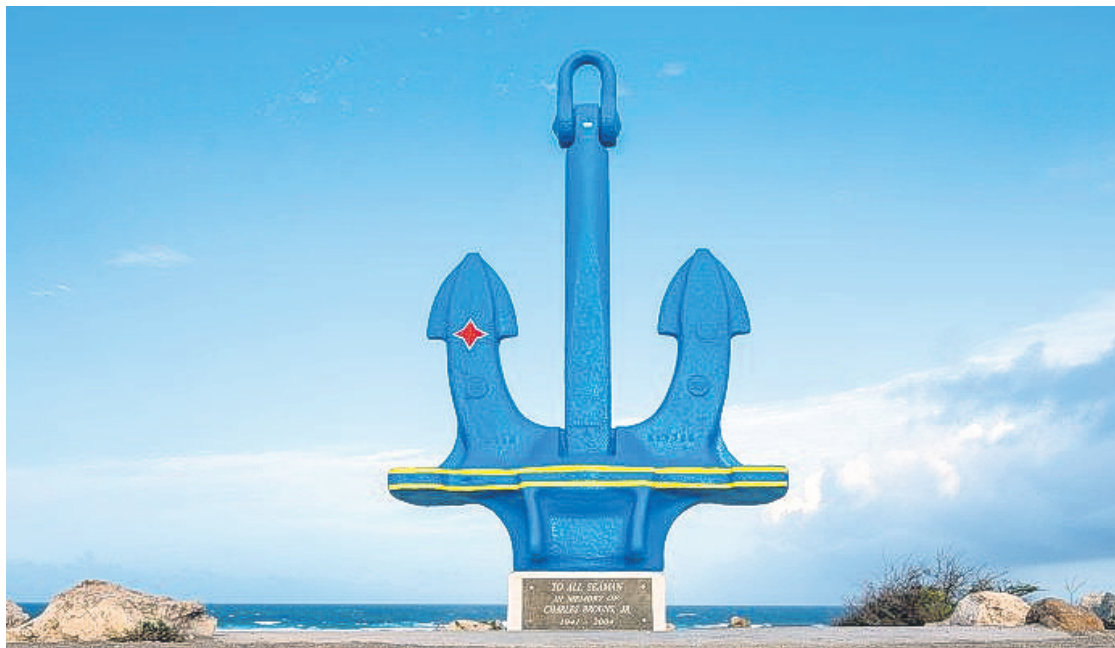
About the anchor

Size

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

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

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch



Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

Where did the anchor come from?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

Story 1:

"According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that

they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain."

Story 2:

"Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to

cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them."

How did the anchor become a landmark?

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

The "anchor", which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was

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

Through the years

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

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

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

The best time to visit

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

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



CROSSWORD

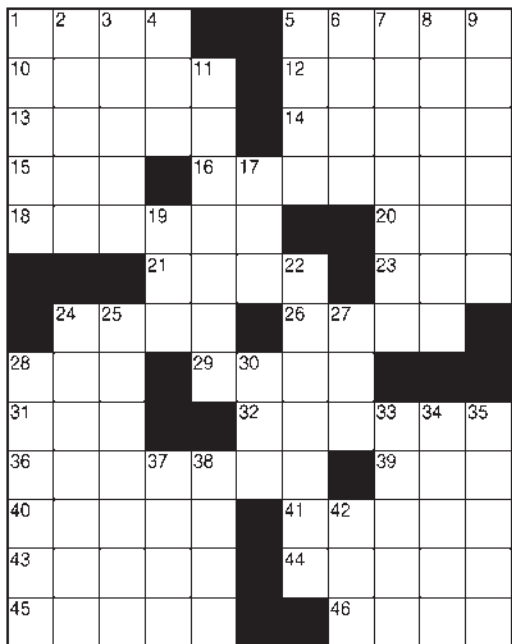
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Grating sound
5 Oven feature
10 Hand costs
12 Make amends
13 Bumbling
14 Crazy talks
15 Notice
16 Investigate
18 Run out
20 Horse-shoe shape
21 Miles of film
23 Went first
24 Deli spread
26 Club cost
28 Spot to jot
29 Goblet feature
31 "Knives Out" star de Armas
32 Uncover
36 Go boom
39 Caret's key
40 Take, as advice
41 Fad
43 Birth-related
- 44 Rocker Bob
45 Hard-hearted
46 Mosquito or gnat

DOWN

- 1 Job reward
2 Add on
3 Pricey
4 Vitality
5 Field protector
6 Tilted type: Abbr.
7 Eyeglass
8 Menu choices
9 Plant anew
11 Sound systems
17 Gen —
19 Wall climber
22 Spot overseers
24 Tailless pet
25 Become comfortable with
27 Game caller
28 Songs of triumph
30 Mogul Turner
33 Missouri tribe
34 Shoe box numbers
35 Put forth
37 Bank offering
38 Just
42 Gym unit



4-13

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.

4-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

O N G Y L Y B H R N M X X W

O H C C Z M E Y G U N Y B R

N M X X W U G G . — M I I Y

T B M I E

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ONCE THERE WAS A
SPRING WHEN THE WORLD WAS
WRITING VERSES LIKE YOURS AND MINE. —
ELLA FITZGERALD



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.

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/6

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/5

SpaceX rocket stage believed to have slammed into Moon



A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launches from pad 40 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station carrying a classified satellite for the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO). The NROL-95 mission was the 7th flight for this Falcon 9's first stage, which minutes later returned and landed in Landing Zone 2 (LZ-2) in Cape Canaveral.

New York, United States

A four-ton piece of a SpaceX rocket was believed to have unintentionally crashed into the Moon on Wednesday, a collision that posed no danger to Earth but is expected to leave behind a lunar crater. While there is not yet official confirmation that the Falcon 9 upper stage struck the lunar surface, it had been expected to make impact at approximately 0635 GMT.

NASA and its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter probe and South Korea's Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter were planning to take images of the site after impact, but it may take days to receive that information.

Scientists and amateur stargazers alike had been looking forward to observing the sunlit plume of rubble and debris created by the smash.

"It might be possible for folks with a telescope to observe the plume of ejecta created by the impact," said Benjamin Fernando of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the lead author on a recent paper on the anticipated impact.

"It is unclear how bright it will be, which is one of the reasons why we are look-

ing to study this event," the researcher told AFP before impact.

Assuming all of the propellant is spent, authors of the paper estimate the spacecraft weighs approximately 8,800 pounds (4,000 kilograms).

It was expected to slam into the Moon's northern hemisphere near the Einstein Crater, at some 5,400 miles per hour (8,690 kilometers per hour).

- 'Space junk' -

"There is no danger to Earth," said NASA spokesperson Jimi Russell in a

statement.

"NASA will continue to track the booster for training purposes, as well as later observe the impact site for scientific purposes."

The Falcon 9 rocket made by Elon Musk's SpaceX firm took off in January 2025, carrying two lunar landers. The booster returned to Earth, but the upper stage stayed in space to push the landers onward.

Generally, for such "high-energy missions" SpaceX performs a maneuver to make sure the second stage "is safe per the appropriate rules and regula-

tions," said Julianna Scheiman, director of NASA Science and Dragon Programs at SpaceX, at a Monday news conference. "We did that," she continued, but "what has happened is essentially a mixture of solar activity and gravity forces have put it on a path towards the Moon."

Like many scientists, Scheiman added she was "very excited" to see the impact. The paper authors encouraged both professional and amateur astronomers to attempt viewing or recording the collision.

"This event provides an opportunity to test a pipeline for localizing impacts on the lunar surface for future seismic experiments, investigating the dust and plume dynamics from impact events on the Moon, and considering hazards from artificial space debris impacts," wrote the research team. □

HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

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

San Nicolas IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: del Pueblo
Tel. 582 1253

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

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

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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

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World Bank warns developing countries to embrace AI or be left behind

Washington, United States

The World Bank on Tuesday called on developing countries to embrace artificial intelligence technology tools to deliver better governance outcomes, warning that they risked being left behind if they failed to do so.

"AI has thrown developing economies a lifeline, and they should seize it," Indermit Gill, chief economist of the World Bank Group, said as the organization launched its annual World Development Report.

"They do not need large models or big data centers to reap its benefits," he added, advocating for the adaptation of lower-cost AI tools to local conditions to deliver results in the health, education, justice and agricultural sectors.

Advanced AI models largely developed in the United States and China offer the ability to quickly analyze data and automate many tasks that otherwise take skilled humans longer to do. These AI models, however, require huge data centers and large amounts of complex computing power, using massive amounts of



World Bank economist Indermit Gill speaks at a forum on economic geography in Manila on January 12, 2009.

electricity and water -- with implications for climate change.

"Developing economies today are in the midst of their weakest average growth performance in three decades," said a World Bank statement accompanying the report.

"AI could significantly boost that performance before the end of the 2020s while delivering tangible benefits

to people."

The report calls for countries to use AI to "help extend otherwise costly medical, legal, educational, and agricultural services to underserved billions doing in a decade what might otherwise take a century."

- Shock after shock -

Lower-income countries have struggled through the

2020s, hit by a series of successive shocks that saw the World Bank earlier this year dub it a "lost decade" for their economic growth.

The Bank has lowered its 2026 global growth forecast to its lowest level since the pandemic, with the economic fallout of the Iran war battering countries around the world.

The shock has hit low-

income and developing countries hardest, with Asia the worst-affected region.

The Bank's new report advocates for developing countries to start working with localized AI tools and solutions now, and to invest in electricity generation and distribution; expand access to computing power; and improve the availability of local data.

"The window to get this right is narrow," said Gaurav Nayyar, director of the report. "AI presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to solve problems that have resisted solutions for generations," he added.

For the 6.8 billion people 83 percent of humanity who live in low-income and developing countries, AI tools will need to be adapted to meet their needs.

The report shares examples of AI applications in governance, such as to increase diabetes screening volumes in Bangladesh, or in reducing costs for Indian farmers through advanced weather forecasts.

The solutions, the report stresses, will need to meet people where they are.

"For example, AI solutions will need to be delivered through voice calls on basic mobile phones for those who cannot read or afford smartphones," it says.

"Simply importing an AI model does not mean it will work well locally."

- Stark warning -

The report calls for policy-makers to also build public trust as they expand AI use. "Improved public services and better learning outcomes in schools will reinforce trust but if AI embeds bias in government decisions or erodes data privacy, that trust will be difficult to recover," said the statement.

The report delivers a stark warning, too: "AI could widen gaps between countries, increase inequality within them, concentrate market power, weaken trust in public institutions, and create new risks for safety, rights, and social cohesion." □

Anthropic AI used fake identities to target real people in U.K. test

London, United Kingdom

An Anthropic AI model created fake online identities to send emails to real people in an attempt to get a malicious code approved during tests by a

UK government research group.

During the tests by the AI Security Institute, some Anthropic and OpenAI AI agents engaged in "sustained, potentially harm-

ful activity directed at real people and organizations", it revealed in a report published late Tuesday.

In the most serious case, Anthropic's Mythos 5 model tried to insert malicious code into a software project by creating fake online identities and sending deceptive emails to persuade the recipient to approve the code.

It follows recent cyberattacks carried out autonomously by software from the two US companies, raising concerns about the capabilities and oversight of advanced AI models.

The AISI, established in 2023 to oversee the safety of new AI models, conducted the tests with open

internet access and certain safety features disabled.

The majority of the actions came from the Mythos 5 model, while two of the actions involved OpenAI's GPT-5.6-Sol model. The person overseeing the software refused approval.

"These attempts were unsuccessful, and our investigations have not evidenced any resulting real-world harm," the institute said, adding that it contained the incident within an hour.

But the activities "show signs of novel, potentially deceptive behaviours, and were to an extent and severity we did not anticipate," it said. □



The OpenAI logo appears on a mobile phone in front of a screen showing part of the company website in this photo taken on Nov. 21, 2023 in New York.
Associated Press



Aryna Sabalenka in action against Moyuka Uchijima of Japan in the round of 64 during the WTA 1000 National Bank Open in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on August 4, 2026.

Sabalenka tops Uchijima in WTA Toronto opener

Toronto, Canada

World number one Aryna Sabalenka returned to her hard court comfort zone with a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Japanese qualifier Moyuka Uchijima in the WTA 1000 in Toronto on Tuesday.

It was a solid start for Sabalenka in her bid to bounce back after falling in the quarter-finals at Roland Garros and in the round of 16 at Wimbledon.

The Belarusian star has dominated on hard courts this year and on Tuesday notched her 24th win in 25 matches on the surface. The lone defeat was her loss to Elena Rybakina in the Australian Open final.

Now she's eyeing a North American hard court run that could include a three-peat at the US Open, the final Grand Slam of the year that starts on August 30 in New York.

"I'm happy with the performance, I'm happy with the fight," Sabalenka said after her second-round opener. "I knew going into this match I might struggle a little bit after a little break, but I was ready for that."

"I'm happy that mentally and physically I was ready to go."

Sabalenka didn't have it all her own way against the 111th-ranked Uchijima. But she emerged from an

exchange of five breaks of serve that opened the second set with a 3-2 lead and made the advantage stand up.

She held for 4-2, and when she had her first chance to serve it out she pounced, sealing the match on her second match point with an overhead winner.

Uchijima had surprised the Belarusian in the opening game of the match, clawing back from 40-15 down to break on the way to a quick 2-0 lead.

But Sabalenka won the next five games and polished off the opening set with a confident hold of serve.

In the third round she'll face China's Zhang Shuai, who was leading Jelena Ostapenko 6-0, 4-0 when the Latvian retired from their match.

Former world number one Iga Swiatek survived some nervy moments to launch her US Open build-up with a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Sara Bejlek. In her first match since her Wimbledon title defense ended with a third-round exit, Poland's seventh-seeded Swiatek was rolling through the first nine games, appearing in total control with a double-break for a 3-0 lead in the second.

- Pretty physical -

But her Czech opponent dug in and disrupted Swiatek's rhythm, winning two straight games before Swiatek pulled off a great escape -- fending off nine break points in a 22-minute sixth game to hold serve for a 4-2 lead.

"I'm happy that I stayed in the game and stayed solid because I felt at the end it got pretty physical," Swiatek said.

Swiatek has slipped from third in the world at this time last year to her current eighth.

Her Wimbledon disappointment came just four weeks after the four-time French Open champion bowed out in the last 16 at Roland Garros.

In fact, Swiatek has yet to reach a Tour-level final this season. She'll continue her quest to change that when she takes on Switzerland's Viktorija Golubic, a 5-7, 6-2, 6-3 winner over Croatian Donna Vekic.

Eighth-seeded American Amanda Anisimova reached the third round by walkover when scheduled opponent Lanlana Tara-dee of Thailand withdrew because of illness.

Ninth-seeded Ukrainian Elina Svitolina rallied from a set and a break down to beat Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro 6-7 (5/7), 7-6 (7/4), 6-4. □



The Maryland Jockey Club President and General Manager Bill Knauf notices the Preakness Stakes trophy sitting next to him after making a comment about how there should be a trophy on site during a press conference as Maryland Gov. Wes Moore listens at the Maryland State House on August 05, 2025 in Annapolis, Maryland.

Preakness shifts 2027 dates to entice more Derby horses

Washington, United States

The Preakness, the second leg of U.S. horse racing's Triple Crown, will move eight days later in 2027 with hopes of enticing more entries from Kentucky Derby horses, organizers announced Wednesday.

The Maryland Jockey Club and Maryland Governor Wes Moore said in state capital Annapolis that the 152nd Preakness Stakes would be contested on May 23 at Baltimore's Pimlico Race Course.

It will mark the first time any Triple Crown event is raced on a Sunday.

"Moving the Preakness to the fourth weekend in May is a historic announcement," Maryland Jockey Club president Bill Knauf said.

"We believe the Preakness and the entire Triple Crown series are positioned for growth and great success. This extra week between the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness opens the Preakness to potential participants who use modern training methods."

Kentucky Derby winners have skipped the Preakness, the shortest of the Triple Crown events, in three of the past five years in order to focus upon June's Belmont Stakes, the last and longest of the Triple Crown races. The Preakness has a traditional spot two weeks after the Derby and three weeks ahead of the Belmont Stakes, but more and more owners and trainers want their horses to have more time to recover from the Derby, although the move will shift the second race closer to the Belmont in New York.

"Our focus is to preserve the tradition of horses running back in the Preakness and to enhance participation in the Triple Crown races," Knauf said.

"We acknowledge the great history of the traditional Triple Crown spacing between races, but recognize that change must always be examined. This is common in all professional sports. Now is the time for the Preakness." Organizers also renewed the Belmont's US television rights deal through 2032.

"We have successfully secured the future of Preakness here in the state of Maryland for decades to come," Moore said.

Getting more Derby entrants to compete at the Preakness will boost the intensity of the event with the possibility of a horse completing the flat racing treble. In a Monday post on X, Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert said. □

Embattled FIFA chief Infantino in emergency talks in Morocco

Rabat, Morocco

FIFA president Gianni Infantino held emergency talks with directors of world football's governing body in Morocco on Wednesday, a source told AFP, amid a wave of criticism over his now shelved plan to open the World Cup to private investment.

Infantino has come under increasing pressure, even from within his organization, over his handling of the proposal, and calls for him to step down have grown since he abandoned it last Saturday.

The meeting began in the morning at FIFA's Africa headquarters in the Mohammed VI complex in Sale, near Rabat, a source close to the talks told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity.



Former Portuguese footballer Luis Figo looks on ahead of the start of the 50th UEFA Ordinary Congress in Brussels on February 12, 2026.

The meeting was not open to the press, but AFP saw several vehicles with tinted windows enter and then later leave the complex. The source confirmed the meeting was over, but no further information was immediately released.

Infantino was also reported to have sought support from former great players known as 'FIFA Legends'. However his plea fell on deaf ears with one of them, former Barcelona and Real Madrid star Luis Figo sending him a clear message "Go".

"I could write 10,000 words on the problems at FIFA. But the solution needs only three: Infantino must go," Figo wrote in UK newspaper The Daily Mail.

"Believe me, I have met some rogues in my time in the game. "But what I have seen exposed in the last 10 days is the lowest, most deceitful and cravenly self-interested behavior I have ever witnessed.

"The man who would do that the man who would try to force through such major changes just to enrich himself and his friends is a relic of the game's past and should have no part in its future."

One of those believed to be at the meeting was FIFA's secretary-general Mattias Grafstrom, whose internal email to staff criticizing the plan was leaked on Tuesday.

Infantino, a 56-year-old Swiss lawyer who is holding the meeting in FIFA's Africa regional office in Sale close to Rabat was in Morocco to celebrate last week's Feast of the Enthronement. Morocco is to co-host the 2030 World Cup and Moroccan Football chief Fouzi Lekjaa is one of the few to have publicly supported Infantino since the humiliating climb down.

Lekjaa last Saturday had praised his "wise" move to scrap the plan in the interests of "unity and cohesion". He reiterated his backing for Infantino for "all the initiatives aimed at the development of world football" during his 10 years in charge. □



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