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Angers mounts in U.S. over vast network of car license plate cams

Washington, United States

In only a few years, the surveillance start-up Flock has installed more than 100,000 license plate reader cameras across the United States. But a grassroots movement upset over privacy concerns is fighting back -- even going so far as systematically vandalizing the equipment.

The first time he decided to trash one of the cameras, a self-styled vigilante wearing all black and known as Nomark says he was "super nervous."

Now, after disabling about 30 of the devices near his home in the Minneapolis area, he told AFP: "I'm not really as scared anymore."

Flock cameras are installed by police departments, homeowners' associations and businesses, ostensibly



A sign warns drivers of surveillance cameras being used along Rodeo Drive on August 03, 2026 in Beverly Hills, California.

to catch criminals in the act. Data is uploaded to

cense plate data and other distinguishing features such as bumper stickers.

And unlike classic surveillance cameras, which are not networked, this data is stored for up to a month and shareable, sometimes across state lines.

Opponents say this gives police an overwhelming look into the private lives of law-abiding Americans.

Jon Bridges, a police official in Virginia's state capital Richmond, says that for "practically any crime that has a connection with a vehicle or a vehicle involved, we will at least query the database to see if there's anything there."

His department has used Flock since 2023.

Bridges gave an example of how useful the technology can be: during the investigation of a domestic-related double homicide in May, police quickly identified a suspect who fled the scene in his pick-up truck.

Detectives retrieved his license plate data and entered an alert in Flock's system. When he appeared on another camera, officers in a neighboring county arrested him.

- Potential abuses -

Detractors fear that this allows officers to track vehicles without warrants, opening the door to a host of possible abuses of power. According to an investigation done by The Washington Post, at least 50 police officers have been accused of misusing the Flock system, most of them to spy on the comings and goings of their romantic partners or exes.

In other cases reported in US media, cops used Flock to track women who had abortions -- illegal in several US states. Some illegally sent data from the system to immigration agents.

Flock CEO Garrett Langley has accused some opponents of being "terrorists," stoking the fire.

"There is really an incredible grassroots movement against Flock," said Chad Marlow, senior policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, calling its growth "stunning."

Flock's cloud and can be shared with subscribers.

But opponents are outraged at what they say is a dangerous tool that can be used to infringe on American privacy and civil liberties.

At just 20 years old, Nomark offers his 500,000 Instagram followers a how-to guide for rendering the cameras useless, raising awareness about the devices.

His detractors point out -- correctly -- that his actions are illegal, but like-minded individuals have followed suit nationwide over the past few weeks.

Instead of being dismissed as a radical fringe outfit, the anti-Flock movement is taking hold.

Its proponents have been active online for months, creating crowdsourced maps of cameras, sharing ways to block their lenses, and hailing the "heroes" who are arrested for destroying them.

The Facebook group De-Flock America has more than 600,000 members, and is gaining thousands more by the day.

- Massive database -

Flock cameras differ from traditional surveillance cameras in that they do not record video footage. Instead they take still images of vehicles, capturing the make, model, color, li-

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Black voters in U.S. South struggle for political voice under new maps

Memphis, United States

For Jadu Bin Ahmed Bin Hassan, a 76-year-old African American who grew up in segregated Memphis, a move by Republicans to split the majority-Black city among three US congressional districts smacks of the racist policies of the last century.

"As a child, you couldn't even go to certain stores... because they would not sell to you. You see, it was so prejudiced and so racist here," he said of the southern state of Tennessee.

"And it still is, and it's not changing, right? It's not changing."

Dressed in a beige suit and a silk scarf, Bin Hassan spoke to AFP at the Memphis Islamic Center as it hosted a candidate forum, during which voters could also learn about the new districts.

Tennessee's Republican-controlled legislature redrew the congressional map in May, days after the US Supreme Court rolled back civil rights protections that had ensured at least one of the state's nine districts remained majority Black.

That district had been Tennessee's 9th, which encompassed Memphis and was reliably won by Democrats. The new map splits Memphis up among three districts stretching far out into rural Tennessee that are all



Members of the Black Clergy Collaborative go door-to-door canvassing to increase voter participation in Memphis, Tennessee on August 1, 2026.

expected to be won by Republicans.

Many African Americans like Bin Hassan worry that under the new maps, their voices will not count in the November midterm elections, in which President Donald Trump's Republicans are battling to retain control of Congress.

- Black vote 'diluted' -

In late April, the US Supreme Court weakened protections under the Voting Rights Act, a landmark law passed in 1965 at the height of the civil rights movement, designed to prevent former segregated Southern states from undermining the voting

rights of African Americans. After Tennessee redrew its maps, several other Republican-majority Southern states followed suit.

"There's definitely some angst because (people) know that the black vote has been diluted in Memphis," said Reverend Earle Fisher, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church and founder of the advocacy group, Up The Vote 901.

Black clergy in the city, where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968, are redoubling their efforts to mobilize voters.

"There is chaos because some people don't even know what district they

might be in now," said the pastor, who organizes civic education sessions for congregants.

"There was confusion," confirms Brenn Scott, who was going door-to-door with her daughter to inform residents of the Black neighborhood of Whitehaven.

She said information disseminated by local organizations and churches has helped to clarify things.

- 'Test of resiliency' -

Another church pastor, Reverend Lawrence Turner of Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church, said that historically with the ninth district, "we've been able

to choose" our representative, but that appears set to change.

"With our interest being coupled in with persons and counties whose realities are much different than what we face in Memphis, it makes that a whole lot more difficult than has been in the past," he said.

He founded the Black Clergy Collaborative in 2020, at the height of the Black Lives Matter movement. The organization brings together dozens of Black churches on social justice issues, including voter education.

On the last day of early voting for the primary elections ahead of the midterms, many Whitehaven residents who opened their doors to volunteers from the group had already cast their ballots.

One resident wore a T-shirt that read, "Voting is my black job."

For Lee Kendrick Harris, who had just voted at a polling station at a Whitehaven church, the redistricting "is a test of resiliency in how we can come together and survive."

"I think we have an uphill battle," said the 34-year-old, wearing a "Memphis" t-shirt.

"But as it is coming for those who came before me, our elders and ancestors, we know how to roll up our sleeves and fight. So that's what we're gonna do." □

The humble burrito causes indigestion for Trump's party

Washington, United States

Debate over the price of a burrito is causing indigestion for President Donald Trump's Republican Party, which fears being punished for the high cost of living in November's midterm elections.

The Mexican specialty -- rice, beans, meat and other toppings wrapped in a tortilla -- is beloved by many Americans as a comforting, filling and inexpensive meal. Not anymore, argues Andrew Kolvet, a spokesperson for the conservative youth organization Turning Point USA.

"One of our TPUSA college students gave me his take

on affordability: 'A burrito shouldn't cost \$20.' Yeah, a lot of this is a hangover from Covid and Biden-era inflation, but the lived experience is the same: It just feels like basic things cost too much," Kolvet said in a viral X post this week.

Some conservatives questioned the cited price and accused American youth of having expensive tastes while others came to their defense -- and warned of political fallout.

"Stop whining, get a job, eat Ramen like the rest of us did in college, on a budget with

4 roommates. The market doesn't care what you think something 'should' cost," Dan Crenshaw, a Texas Republican congressman wrote on X. In Washington, the price of a takeout burrito at two popular fast-food chains ranged between \$6.50 and \$13.50, depending on the ingredients.

Similarly, Marc Thiessen, a former advisor to president George W. Bush turned columnist, criticized students on the same platform for being lazy and paying higher prices for food delivery services. "When I graduated I lived on ramen noodles," he wrote. "I didn't whine about af-



Andrew Kolvet, producer of The Charlie Kirk Show, speaks during the public memorial service for right-wing activist Charlie Kirk at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, on September 21, 2025.

fordability, I worked hard so I could one day afford a better life."

That prompted a sharp rebuke from Vice President JD Vance, who called the

comment surprising because "If you've ever met him in person, it's quite obvious the man has never missed a burrito," referring to the columnist's physique. □

Apple and OpenAI escalate legal battle over devices

San Francisco, United States

A legal battle between Apple and OpenAI over the ChatGPT-maker's secretive device project escalated this week when the artificial intelligence (AI) developer called the iPhone-maker's allegations "baseless" and asked for the lawsuit's dismissal.

Apple sued OpenAI last month in San Jose, California, accusing the AI company of orchestrating a campaign to steal the iPhone maker's trade secrets via former employees as it tries to develop its own consumer hardware device.

In a new court document filed Monday, Apple described OpenAI's actions as "repeated instances of deliberate theft."

"OpenAI should not be permitted to use Apple's secrets to gain an unjust head start in its hardware ambitions," the iPhone-maker says.

OpenAI hit back on Wednesday and called for the case to be permanently dismissed, which would bar Apple from filing another lawsuit on the same grounds.

"Apple built its reputation by paying close attention to the smallest details. This lawsuit does the opposite," OpenAI's lawyers say in their filing, which continues to describe Apple's complaint as "rotten to its core."

Federal judge Edward Davila will consider both requests at a hearing on October 1.



- Partners and rivals -

Meanwhile, the two companies remain partners, since ChatGPT has been integrated into Apple products since 2024.

"Apple should not be permitted to use a baseless and pretextual lawsuit to make up for its shortcomings in the market for talent and retaining its employees, and its failures to integrate AI into its products," OpenAI's lawyers say.

They invoke California laws that "encourage" employees to take new jobs – policies that are "credited with powering the tech revolution that has made companies based in this state the envy of the world."

More than 400 former Apple employees currently work at OpenAI, according to the initial complaint.

"The harm is happening now," Apple's lawyers say, and "every day that passes without an injunction allows OpenAI to embed their knowledge of Apple's stolen information into its hardware development efforts."

- Smart speaker -

To convince the judge of the urgency, Apple's lawyers submitted a TechCrunch article describing leaked details about OpenAI's highly anticipated first device: a screenless smart speaker designed in collaboration with LoveFrom, a studio founded

by Jony Ive, Apple's famed former head of design.

On Thursday, Bloomberg reported that the device would be circular like a donut, about the size of a hockey puck, and cost between \$300 and \$400, with a launch planned for 2027. OpenAI has never confirmed these leaks.

"OpenAI has no use, need or desire for Apple's trade secrets," the creator of ChatGPT says in a court document, which continues that Apple hasn't named any specific products, such as an iPhone, that has allegedly been copied. "OpenAI is building something entirely new and different."

Apple, for its part, accuses

OpenAI's head of hardware Tang Tan, a former vice president of design at Apple, of using his knowledge of unreleased Apple products to extract information from job candidates.

OpenAI asked candidates to bring "prototypes" and design files to interviews for "show and tell" sessions, an American classroom exercise where students present objects to their classmates, Apple alleges.

In its response, OpenAI says it follows standard industry practices.

According to his lawyers, Tan "repeatedly instructed recruits and his team not to bring or disclose former employers' confidential information."

OpenAI also defends itself by accusing Apple of failing to properly protect its own data, claiming that the Cupertino company has "encouraged employees to use personal iCloud accounts for work, intermingling company and personal data, while failing to manage access cleanly across multiple Apple systems when employees departed."

The case comes at a sensitive time for OpenAI, which is worth a reported \$852 billion as it works towards a potential IPO. The lab is also locked into a fierce competition with Anthropic, a rival AI lab in San Francisco that was founded by a group of former OpenAI employees. □



Migrants gather along the fence close to the site of clashes near Fnideq, on the Morocco-Spain border, on July 31, 2026.

Brussels, Belgium

The EU's tech chief called on Meta and TikTok to "act decisively" to stem disinformation at times of crisis, saying the European Commission held talks with both

platforms Friday following last week's Ceuta migrant surge.

A wave of social media disinformation is believed to have played a large part in the deadly rush of tens of

EU tells Meta, TikTok to boost monitoring, fact-checking

thousands of men, women and children into Spain's north African territory, after a rumour that the Ceuta border was open spread on social media.

"Platforms must act decisively in keeping the integrity of the digital space, in particular during crisis situations," said Henna Virkkunen, commissioner for tech sovereignty, security and democracy.

"Monitoring must increase, cooperation with fact-checkers to be strengthened," said Virkkunen, adding the EU would be "follow-

ing up on Monday".

Spain moved swiftly to send people back from Ceuta, announcing Tuesday that of 72,000 people who entered the enclave from Morocco on July 30-31, all but 2,000 had returned. Spanish authorities said 80 people died in the crossings.

The incident was pounced on by right-wing voices as evidence Europe is under siege from uncontrolled immigration. It has caused a diplomatic rift between Spain and fellow EU mem-

ber Italy, which pushes a tough line on migration.

The EU's migration chief Magnus Brunner on Tuesday described the Ceuta episode as a "test" of the bloc's border security and "resilience to disinformation".

The crossings were "fueled by criminal smuggling networks and also disinformation," Brunner said, while cautioning it was "too early" to say who was behind the online "instrumentalization" of the situation -- whether smugglers or a foreign power such as Russia. □

ZXMoto leads China's charge to dominate the global motorbike market

Chongqing, China

Zhang Xue wept with joy and furiously waved a Chinese flag as he watched his company's superbike scream across the finish line four seconds ahead of competitors in only its third world championship race.

That victory at the Supersport World Championship in March saw orders for ZXMoto's two-wheelers skyrocket and provided a boost for the firm as it battles for an edge in the highly competitive Chinese motorbike market. The company was founded just two years ago but already rivals leading manufacturers such as Europe's Ducati and Japanese giants Yamaha and Honda with a bike retailing for a fraction of their prices.

"You have this dream you've been thinking about for many years, and when it finally comes true... I was so happy," Zhang, 39, told AFP at his company's headquarters in Chongqing.

ZXMoto has doubled its workforce since March and its factory runs 24-hours a day to meet demand, but customers still wait months for orders.

"Chinese brands are very clear about where our future lies," said Zhang, a former mechanic who claims he can assemble an engine with his eyes closed.

"It has to be global."

The firm's flagship 133-horsepower 820RR motorbike -- which accelerates from



This picture taken on July 20, 2026 shows a worker assembling a motorcycle at the ZXMoto factory in Chongqing, southwestern China.

zero to 100 kilometres and hour in 2.8 seconds -- sells for around 43,000 yuan (\$6,370) in China, at least 30 percent cheaper than foreign rivals. "Compared to imported ones like Kawasaki, it's very good value," said 28-year-old rider Yang, who owns an 820RR.

"First off, we support domestic production, and second, if the product is truly good, we'll choose it."

Sales have soared from 25,000 bikes in 2025 to a projected 100,000 this year, with plans to double that figure by 2027 -- a target on par with BMW's scope.

However, it faces a shrinking domestic market, vicious competition and squeezed profits.

- Fan loyalty -

"Twenty years ago, as long as you produced a motorcycle, even if it didn't start, people would line up to give you money," Zhang said. "Now... If you don't get serious, you will be eliminated by the market."

China's motorbike sales fell 3.4 percent in 2025, and slid again this year as consumers increasingly favour cars or less regulated electric bikes. In China, Zhang can rely on loyal fans who see him as a symbol of the country's manufacturing prowess, drawn by his rags-to-riches background.

"Zhang Xue has brought glory to China, so I want to support him," said Hu Zhao-

meng, picking up his gleaming red 500 model from a Chongqing dealership. But weakening domestic sales are pushing manufacturers like Zhang to seek fatter margins abroad, where consumers have more purchasing power.

Half of the 22 million motorcycles produced in China last year were exported, and nearly all brands are looking overseas.

Zhang hopes to export 40,000 bikes to Europe in 2027, while rival manufacturer Shineray sells 90 percent of its low-end models to South America, Southeast Asia, and Africa. "The domestic market situation is very 'juan'," said Shineray's overseas marketing

head Nie Jianwei, using a Chinese buzzword for extreme competition.

"We are constantly reducing the price of our products to make them more competitive."

In Chongqing, more than 50 manufacturers and hundreds of component suppliers are able to leverage the booming industry of China's "motorbike capital".

"Companies like ZXMoto are emerging from one of the world's most competitive industrial ecosystems, where rapid iteration, integrated supply chains, and relentless competition yield world-class products rapidly," said Bill Russo, an expert in China's automotive industry.

- Prestige and heritage -

Zhang told AFP the city's cheaper production costs offer Chinese brands "a greater advantage" over Japanese or European rivals. "They have reached a (technological) ceiling, so they can only wait for me there... the speed of their progress is limited."

For Russo, "the motorcycle industry today reminds me of where China's passenger car industry stood roughly a decade ago".

Chinese auto giants like BYD and Geely eventually out-competed established foreign rivals on price and are increasingly at the industry's technological forefront.

However, two-wheelers may prove a more resilient market to break into. □

U.K. PM Burnham vows to end 'subscription traps' amid cost-of-living crisis

London, United Kingdom

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham has vowed to crack down on hard-to-cancel subscriptions and fake discounts as part of measures to tackle the cost-of-living crisis, Downing Street said Sunday.

The announcement came as the new Labour leader was set to return to work after a vacation and begin a tour of the country to talk to people about their financial pressures, his office said.

Burnham said in a statement that "people are sick and tired of rip-off discounts and subscription traps", where subscriptions are hard to

cancel or automatically renew at a higher cost.

He said his government would be "making it as easy to leave a subscription as it is to join".

Currently British consumers are "spending an estimated £1.6 billion (\$2.2 billion) a year on (subscriptions) they don't actually want", Downing Street said.

New rules will come into force in January next year, it said, forcing businesses to give customers "clearer upfront information, regular reminders and a much easier exit to contracts".

There will be a new 14-day cooling-off period to let

consumers cancel after a trial or a long-term contract renews, the government announced, without describing how this would be implemented.

Burnham also promised to tackle "misleading claims to customers about discounts" based on inflated full-price figures.

After nearly a decade as a regional mayor in northern England, Burnham has stressed his desire to move politics outside Westminster. The Mirror newspaper reported his "cost of living tour" this month would cover all the United Kingdom's constituent regions and include



Britain's Prime Minister Andy Burnham speaks to members of the media during a visit to HM Coastguard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, in Dover, southern England, on August 2, 2026.

places such as Port Talbot in Wales, an economically de-

pressed former steelworking town. □

Rising Kenyan lakes push crocodiles closer to homes

Baringo, Kenya

A crocodile basks in the sunshine on the roof of a submerged conference hall at a holiday resort in central Kenya, in a visible sign of how rising lake waters are endangering thousands of families and local businesses.

Lake Baringo and other lakes in Kenya's Rift Valley have risen to levels not seen in at least half a century, with scientists attributing the surge to extreme rainfall linked to climate change. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced to higher ground, according to official data, yet many victims say the lakes keep following them.

In 2011, when the lake recorded its first significant surge, Mary Milka Tiren, 40, lost her husband after a hippo attacked him on his way home from his job at a popular tourist resort, which is now completely submerged.

A decade later, her nine-year-old son spent three months in hospital after a crocodile attack, leaving a scar on his right arm.

"It wanted to rip off his whole arm from the shoulder... but he was rescued by his peers after a long struggle," Tiren said.

"We've seen a rise in crocodile attacks not because there are more crocodiles, but because the lake is now close to the homesteads," Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) senior warden Jackson Komen told AFP.



A crocodile rests on the edge of a domestic compound now almost completely inundated in the rising waters of the Lake Bogoria in Marigat sub-county, Baringo county on July 27, 2026.

"We also have hippo attacks because when the lake expanded, the riparian ecosystem -- where we used to have pasture -- was lost."

- 'Ecological disaster' -

An AFP analysis of Copernicus Sentinel and NASA Landsat satellite imagery shows Lake Baringo's surface area has expanded by 70 percent since 2010, from about 138 square kilometres (53 square miles) to 234 square kilometres.

Neighbouring Lake Bogoria, which is notable for its high sodium levels, has also grown by 21 percent over the same period, increasing from 34 to 41 square kilometres.

As the waters of the two

lakes -- one freshwater and the other alkaline -- rise, the distance between them has narrowed.

"If the two lakes mix, then the fish, crocodiles and hippos may not survive... we may have an ecological disaster that we don't know how to deal with," said Komen.

Lake Baringo provides vital drinking and irrigation waters, and supports a thriving fishing industry.

"It may trigger a complete change... I don't know whether human beings will still be able to live here," Komen said.

The distance between the two lakes is now estimated to be about 10 kilometres (six miles).

Scientist Mathew Herrneg-

ger, of Austria's University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, said "the overflow is already happening".

"Satellite altimetry shows that the lake level of Bogoria is high enough that it overflows towards Baringo," he said.

But how much water will reach Baringo and what impact it will have is unclear, he added.

- Tourism decline -

The expansion of the two lakes has also dealt a major blow to tourism.

"We lost 80 percent of our community wildlife conservancies," Komen said, with giraffes, ostriches, warthogs and impalas all moved to safety.

AFP saw at least four holiday

resorts engulfed by Lake Baringo's waters, another stranded and abandoned on an island.

At Lake Bogoria, known for its flamingoes and hot springs, rising waters have driven away a significant number of the birds and submerged some of the springs.

Michael Baimet, the director at the local disaster department, said tourism earnings had dropped from roughly \$1 million annually to \$200,000.

Google reviews show visitors complaining about dwindling flamingos at Lake Bogoria and impassable roads caused by rising water levels.

- 'Risky' -

Schools have not been spared the devastation.

Official records show roughly 12 institutions around Lakes Baringo and Bogoria have been affected, some completely submerged.

About 240 students and staff at Kokwa Island Primary and Junior School in Marigat must now cross crocodile-infested Lake Baringo, with the lone ferry's multiple trips cutting into learning time.

Most exposed is the girls' dormitory, inches from the lapping waves.

"It is too risky for the girls who board as hippos and crocodiles come into the school at night," said one school official.

"We've been forced to employ two security officers to keep the students safe." □



This handout photo taken on August 7, 2026, and released on August 8 by the BC Wildlife Service shows firefighters battling the Bald Range wildfire near Summerland in Canada's western British Columbia province.

Victoria, Canada

Canadian officials declared a state of emer-

gency Saturday after a fast-moving wildfire in the western province of British

Wildfire forces 20,000 evacuations in western Canada

Columbia forced the overnight evacuation of more than 20,000 people, including some who were airlifted to safety.

Winds fanned the Bald Range wildfire to grow rapidly late Friday, pushing flames into the Summerland area and affecting communities throughout the surrounding valleys.

"We know there have been significant losses of homes and property. We also know that some people became trapped as condi-

tions changed quickly," British Columbia Premier David Eby said in a statement Saturday.

"Air evacuations are underway for people who remain isolated behind the fire perimeter," Eby said.

The Bald Range fire covered an estimated area of 10,341 hectares (25,552 acres) as of early Sunday and was considered out of control, according to the BC Wildfire Service website. Kelly Greene, the province's Minister of Emergen-

cy Management and Climate Readiness, declared a state of emergency.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said it was "investigating to confirm" a possible fatality reported by a Meadow Valley resident. Officials have yet to provide figures on casualties or damage.

CTV News reported more than 50 people had to be airlifted out of the community of Faulder as flames advanced. □



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Fun facts about cacti hedges “Trankera”

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

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

Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those

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

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



Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Cas-



tilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all

originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and “slaves of arms” in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Por-

tugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

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Aruba's underwater wonderland

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

Tres Trapi



'Tres Trapi' means three steps in Papiamentu. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-west-

ern side of the island, an approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just enjoy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its port-side in Malmok bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical

fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

Baby Beach

Baby beach is a lagoon with crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in the lagoon, you'll find a lot of people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go under water exploring—but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to



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



Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

How to make "pan bati"



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

Ingredients:

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

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

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

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

2,000,000

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Aruba to me

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Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none



have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group

landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

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The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to

the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

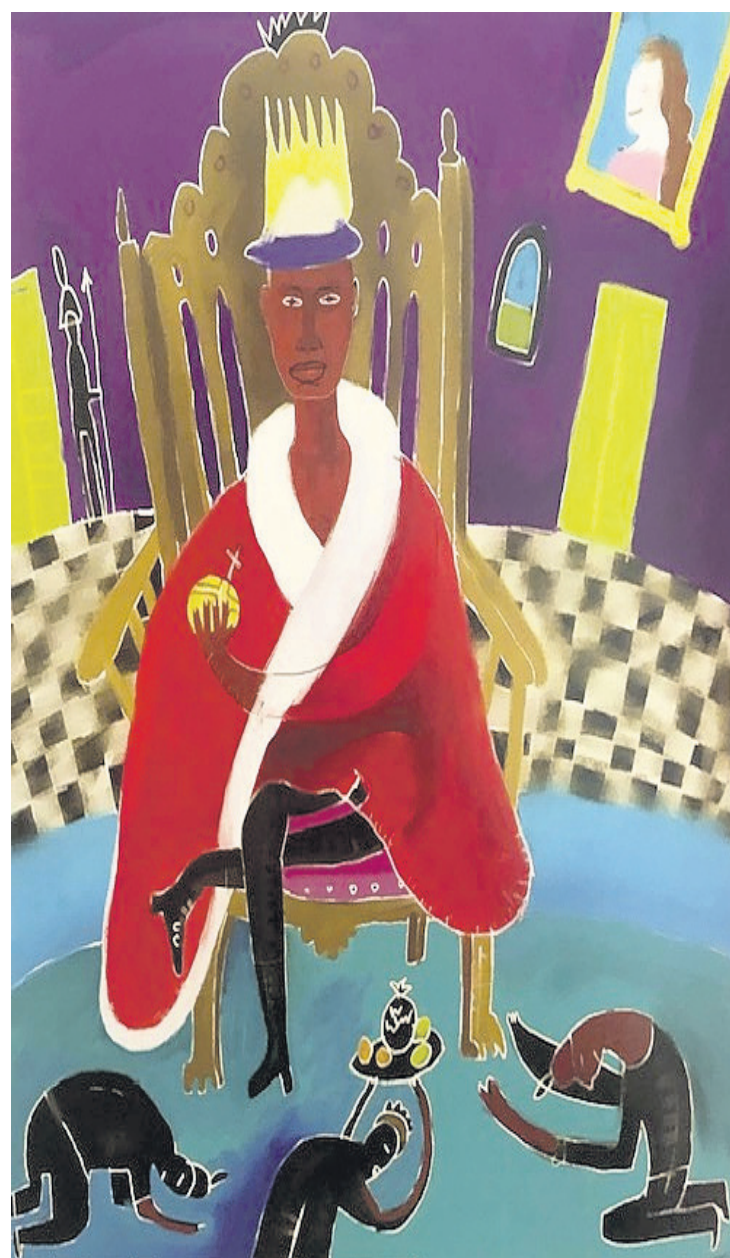
Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!”

The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

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



Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury



(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aru-

ban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime,

but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings

on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities.

Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjestad" prison in



Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being sold out by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old. Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

The Bali Restaurant: A touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located by the yacht dock in front of the Parliament building, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence,



during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership

of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban mu-

sician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be a part of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

CROSSWORD

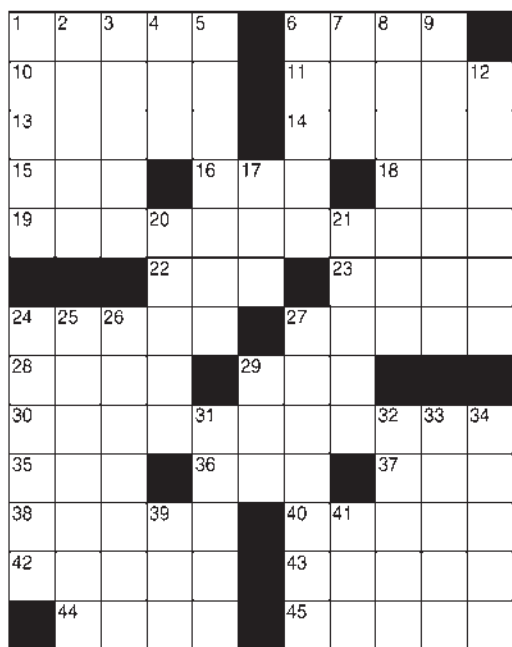
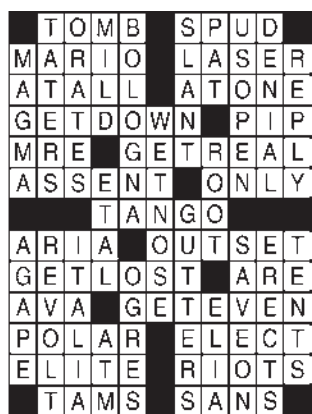
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 43 Make blank
44 "Edward Scissor-hands" star
45 Wise ones
- 1 "To — own self be true"
6 May honorees
10 Arrested
11 Regions
13 Lent a hand
14 "Divine Comedy" writer
15 Mamie's husband
16 Online address
18 Play division
19 Fancy boat
22 View
23 Lively folk dance
24 In the future
27 Move like a crab
28 Musical number
29 Gorilla, for one
30 Fancy car
35 Cry of discovery
36 Tiny
37 Period
38 Find another purpose for
40 Fashion-ably dated
42 Spud

DOWN

- 1 Hike route
2 17-syllable poem
3 Almanac section
4 Never, in Germany
5 Lasted
6 One way to be in love
7 Singer Rita
8 Threatened
9 Big bag
- 12 End a lawsuit
17 Reuben base
20 Grammar topic
21 Disney's mermaid
24 Classify name
25 Impetuous one
26 Between travel points
- 27 Balls
29 Star pitcher
31 Annoying fellow
32 Luggage clip-on
33 Code name
34 Sioux tribe
39 Fall mo.
41 Stretch of years



4-17

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.

4-17

CRYPTOQUOTE

RESC IKQGCP TBAS, SHSC JES
VBWIS IKQGCP, JESQS RSQS
CD KQDFWSAI SOTSKJ RESQS
JD FS EBKKGSIJ. — SQCSIJ
ESAGCPRBN

Cryptoquote: IN A GENTLE WAY,
YOU CAN SHAKE THE WORLD. — MAHATMA
GANDHI

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

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

Difficulty: ★

8/10

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/9

U.K. observatory nervously watches growing space junk threat



This photo taken on July 30, 2026 shows the antenna dish installation at Chilbolton Observatory in the village of Chilbolton, south-west of London.

Chilbolton, United Kingdom

In the sweeping shadow of a satellite dish, staff at the Chilbolton Observatory in southern England track a growing number of objects in Earth's orbit, providing data that underpins Britain's space monitoring efforts.

As the hulking antenna swivels into action, screens inside the control room light up with the names of objects the radar system detects: stars, satellites and abandoned rocket bodies.

Experts at Chilbolton Observatory, operated by the U.K.'s national space laboratory RAL Space, monitor UK-licensed satellites and fast-multiplying fragments of space debris swirling around them.

The space junk includes defunct man-made objects like rocket bodies, dead satellites and fragments from launches, explosions and collisions that threaten to re-enter Earth's atmosphere or crash into functioning satellites.

According to the European Space Agency, there are more than 46,000 pieces of debris weighing a total of 17,000 tons currently in orbit. "Most of those don't collide with anything, most of the time," Matthew Archer, deputy director for launch and space domain awareness at the UK Space Agency told AFP on a visit to the observatory.

"But any of them can cause significant damage or even destroy potential satellites." On Wednesday, part of a SpaceX rocket about the size of a bus slammed into

the Moon, unleashing a stream of debris. Researchers warn the growing density of space junk could trigger the so-called "Kessler syndrome" cascade of collisions.

- 'Look at everything' -

Chilbolton Observatory feeds data to the National Space Operations Centre (NSPOC) -- led by the UK Space Agency and UK Space Command -- that works around the clock to prevent orbital collisions and track debris re-entering Earth's atmosphere.

"Our role is to look at everything that happens and is in space," said Archer.

Space infrastructure underpins some 20 percent of the UK economy, said Archer. The growing "number of objects is making space far more congested, so the need for this capability is

growing all the time."

As he speaks, multiple Starlink devices -- part of the constellation of thousands of internet satellites launched by US tycoon Elon Musk's SpaceX -- float by on the control room screens.

There are currently 14,000 satellites orbiting Earth, with some 1.7 million satellites planned in coming years. SpaceX alone has unveiled plans to begin launching more than one million satellites in 2028.

The UK has pledged to invest £85 million (\$114 million) in the NSPOC, which issues around 3,000 monthly collision warnings to satellite operators.

The researchers also monitor to ensure satellite operators are complying with their licences and track foreign "adversaries".

"We see examples of countries that have demonstrated the ability to get close or to fly by certain objects," said Archer. "We do have to track ... threats regularly from a military perspective." And when space debris re-enters the atmosphere, scientists are on stand-by to issue alerts for objects which may not burn up before landfall.

In January, Britain and European countries closely watched the re-entry of a Chinese rocket, amid fears fragments could land in Britain. The rocket eventually splashed down in the

Pacific Ocean.

- Asteroids -

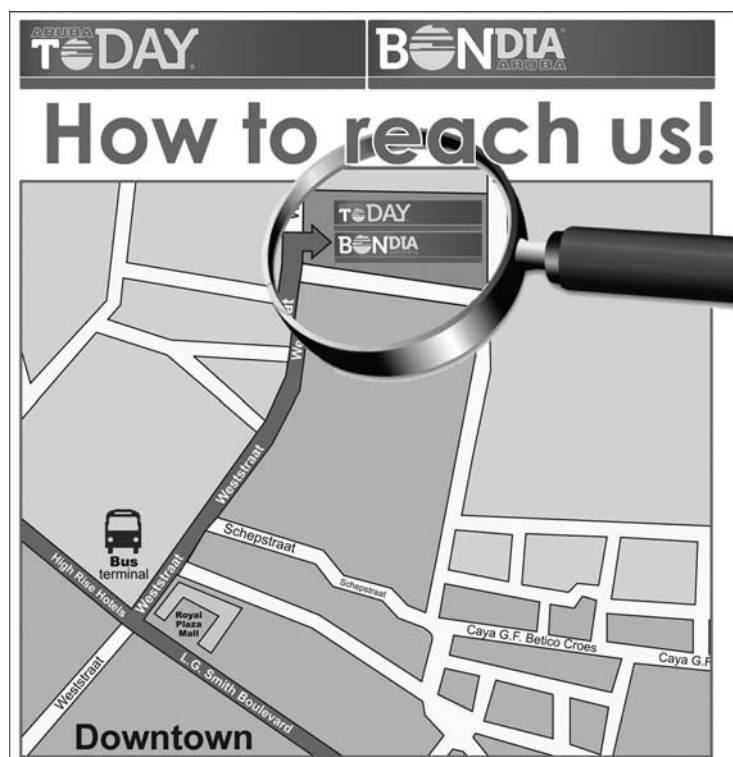
"The whole environment is changing," said Chilbolton Observatory's facility leader Sarah Nash. "It really is a multinational environment and there are so many objects that are not controllable."

"The only way that all of this can continue to operate safely is by keeping track of where everything is," Nash told AFP.

Another branch of their work is planetary defense, which involves identifying threats like comets and asteroids.

Last year, the UK Space Agency became a member of the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), which monitors the movement of asteroids including those that could hit Earth.

"We work in partnership with NASA and others in the US to effectively give a percentage chance that (it) might hit the Earth and when that might happen," said Archer. □



HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

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

San Nicolas IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
Police Noord 527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
Police San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

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

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Olympic weightlifter hoists debris for Venezuela earthquake recovery

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Venezuelan Olympic weightlifting silver medalist Julio Mayora hoisted 151 kilograms (330 pounds) to win two gold medals this weekend at the 2026 Central American and Caribbean Games in Santo Domingo. Not so long ago, he was using his superhuman strength to lift up concrete blocks to rescue victims from the double earthquakes that devastated his home country. Mayora hails from La Guaira, the northern coastal Venezuelan state that was hit hardest by the June 24 double earthquakes, with respective magnitudes of 7.2 and 7.5 on the Richter scale.

The powerful earthquakes killed over 6,000 people and reduced dozens of buildings to rubble -- including people and places known to Mayora.

He dedicated his two gold medals to the victims of the earthquakes.

"In truth it broke my heart, to see so many friends buried under the rubble, and it's something that I never thought I'd live through," Mayora told AFP in an interview a day after his victories in the snatch and clean and jerk competitions.



This handout picture released by the press office of the organizing committee of the XXV Central American and Caribbean Games shows Venezuela's Julio Mayora competing in the men's 79kg weightlifting event in Santo Domingo on August 6, 2026.

The day after the earthquakes, Mayora flexed his skills to carry beams, concrete blocks and other debris from collapsed buildings.

"We were helping out, clearing the debris to help people. It was my turn to help, there are videos of me on social media helping all those people, saving lives," he said.

He recalled seeing "people crying shouting, desperate" amid the crisis.

Not far from La Guaira is the

capital Caracas, also hit by the earthquake, where fellow weightlifting Olympian Keydomar Vallenilla resides. While he did not have first-hand experience of the immediate aftermath of the earthquakes, he suffered losses that weigh on him as well.

"We had a kid from our gym, where I trained, lose his life," Vallenilla said.

"He seemed like he was going to be a future athlete in (weightlifting). He was going to be, I'm one hundred percent sure, a great ath-

lete. A great guy."

- 'Lost everything' -

Like his compatriot, Vallenilla also claimed a gold medal in the Central American and Caribbean Games, motivated by a goal of "setting an example" for thousands of Venezuelans to keep moving forward despite the tragedy.

"We are athletes, we are an example of what the Venezuelan people are: a determined people who will always go out and give it their all and make the

country proud," he told AFP. Government data from the earthquakes say more than 40,000 homes were damaged, leaving thousands of Venezuelans homeless.

"There are people who truly lost everything," the weightlifting champion said.

"I only hope that this kind of joy can reach their hearts so they can have a little something to smile about amidst all the bad things that have happened," Vallenilla added.

"This medal is as much mine as it is for them and the country," he said.

In the same vein, Mayora promised his family would do everything they could to bring some joy to La Guaira. "These two medals are for the state of La Guaira, with much love for them," he said.

The two weightlifting champions, who both received silver medals during the 2020 Tokyo Games, now have their sights set on the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"I always hold my Venezuela in the highest regard...I have this faith and this strength that, in the name of God, we will make a great showing at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games and go for that gold medal," Mayora said. □

Vollering wins Tour de France Femmes after war of nerves



(FROM L) Second place Canyon//SRAM zondacrypto's Polish rider Katarzyna Niewiadoma, winner FDJ-SUEZ's Dutch rider Demi Vollering and third place UAE Team ADQ's Italian rider Elisa Longo Borghini celebrate on the podium at the end of the 9th and final stage of the fifth edition of the Women's Tour de France cycling race, 99.2 km from Nice to Nice, southeastern France on August 9, 2026.

Nice, France

Dutch rider Demi Vollering took the Tour de France

Femmes overall title in style on Sunday, winning the hilly final stage to extend her

lead on nearest rival Kasia Niewiadoma, who finished second overall after a tense struggle.

The 29-year-old also won the 2023 title and earned her second one by timing the nine-day slog to perfection, carving out solo wins on the final two stages, which both ended in Nice. "It's a dream to live this life," Vollering said after hoisting her bike above her head at the finish line.

"I knew my level and even when Kasia won on Mont Ventoux I was still confident," added Vollering, who has also finished second on this race three times in its five editions since being relaunched in 2022.

Vollering's FDJ-United Suez are the first French team to

win the race, earning her high praise from team boss Stephen Delcourt.

"Through her high standards, sensitivity, authenticity, and the way she brings others along with her, she is redefining what it means to be a modern leader," he said.

"She inspires her teammates, she inspires the fans, she inspires an entire generation ... She doesn't just win races; she shows the way forward."

Vollering had to carve out this win.

Niewiadoma took the yellow jersey on Friday's climb of Mont Ventoux, setting up a pulsating finale.

Vollering then edged into the overall lead on Satur-

day, attacking late on a small hill and edging into an eight-second overall advantage over 2024 winner Niewiadoma.

A furious Niewiadoma, however, complained she had been blocked by a teammate of Vollering's at a crucial moment, but no action was taken.

Vollering said her team had been both "honest and humble" after Sunday's race, adding that her teammate Celia Gery, the alleged blocker, had received death threats on social media.

"Celia had a really bad night. I'm sure deep down that Kasia knows these kind of things can happen in a race," Vollering said. □

Lion queen Werro focused on Euro medal, not 800m world record

Birmingham, United Kingdom

In-form Swiss athlete Audrey Werro said she was focused on winning a medal in a loaded 800m field at the European championships and not on Jarmila Kratochvilova's 43-year-old world record.

Werro has run the world's fastest time this year, becoming the first woman to dip under 1:54 since 1983, when Kratochvilova, of the then-Czechoslovakia, timed 1 min 53.28sec.

The Swiss clocked 1:53.98 to win at the Stockholm Diamond League, ahead of Olympic 800m champion Keely Hodgkinson.

Werro then bettered that in Paris to 1:53.80, edging ever closer to Kratochvilova's long-standing and often-contested mark.

When asked if the record could be broken, Werro replied: "I don't know."

"Now it's the European championships, and I don't think it's the best place to do a world record because the goal is to win a medal."

"So I don't know if the race will be fast or it will be a tactical race."

"I don't have the world record now in my head. My goal for the European championships is to do a po-



Audrey Werro of Switzerland competes in the women's 800m during the Meeting of Paris, part of the Wanda Diamond League, at Stade Charlety in Paris, France, on June 28, 2026

dium. So this is just my goal for now."

Britain's Hodgkinson, the darling of British media after storming to Olympic gold in Paris two years ago, leads a stacked field in the two-lap race.

Also competing will be Dutchwoman Femke Broeders-Bol, the two-time 400m hurdles world champion busy transforming herself into a 800m specialist.

If the race is a tactical one, it would take a brave pundit to rule out Broeders-Bol,

known for her devastating turn of pace with the finish line in sight.

- Great density -

"Right now we really have a great density on the 800m," Werro said Sunday on the eve of the August 10-16 champs in the English city of Birmingham.

"For me it's really cool because it's better when we are a lot of athletes."

"It pushes us to be great every day. I really like that because, like that, I think it's

easier to achieve a really fast time because we can push each other until the end of the race."

Werro also revealed what was behind her roaring celebrations in victory.

"When I was younger, like maybe 12 years old, my father used to tell me before the race, I have to be a lion, and I should not be shy because I was really shy as a child," she said.

"So it was from there... the sign of a lion." The 800m will undoubtedly

be one of the most hotly-contested events in Birmingham.

Hodgkinson improved her own British record to 1:54.33 behind Werro in Stockholm in June. She then went on to win the London Diamond League.

Hodgkinson had broken the 24-year-old world indoor record in Lievin in February before claiming a first world indoor title in March.

Two weeks later, Hodgkinson pulled out of the 400m final at the British championships, complaining of "a little twinge" moments before the race.

After Werro improved her best time to 1:53.80 in Paris, Hodgkinson went to Eugene, but came in second to world champion Lilian Odira having sustained injuries to both knees in a heavy training fall. But the English runner also played down expectations of a tilt at the world record, saying it would be a blank slate in Birmingham, with the final scheduled for Friday at 2046 GMT.

"It'll probably be three rounds in three days, which is completely different," Hodgkinson said.

"There's be no pacing, times don't matter, it's all about championship racing and handling pressure." □

NBA champion player and historic coach Nelson dead at 86

San Francisco, United States

Don Nelson, the second-winningest coach in NBA history and a five-time champion as a player with the Boston Celtics, died on Sunday, his family announced. He was 86.

Nelson was a member of five NBA championship teams with Boston from 1966 to 1976 and the Celtics retired his jersey number 19.

As a coach, Nelson finished with a record of 1,335-1,063 -- what had been an NBA record until Gregg Popovich passed him in 2022 -- in stints with Golden State, Milwaukee, New York and Dallas from 1976 to 2010.

"Don Nelson revolutionized NBA basketball through his fearlessness, ingenuity and deep conviction," NBA commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement.

"He spent nearly 50 years in the NBA -- winning five championships as a player with the Boston Celtics before building one of the most successful and pioneering coaching careers in league history."

"He brought an unmistakable personality to everything he did, and his impact on our sport will continue to be felt for generations."

Nelson, who was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2012, never reached the NBA Finals as a coach but was remembered as a historic figure among bench bosses.

"The Golden State Warriors mourn the passing of Hall of Fame head coach Don Nelson," the team said in a statement.

"Nellie" was one of the most

innovative and influential coaches in NBA history and an iconic figure in Warriors history...

"More than anything, Don Nelson will be remembered for his authenticity, larger-than-life personality, and incredible passion for basketball and his influence on the Warriors franchise will endure for years to come." Steve Kerr, the current Warriors coach, recalled Nelson as a visionary whose influence remains with the modern era of the league. "Don Nelson was a true innovator whose influence on the game of basketball is still felt today," Kerr said.

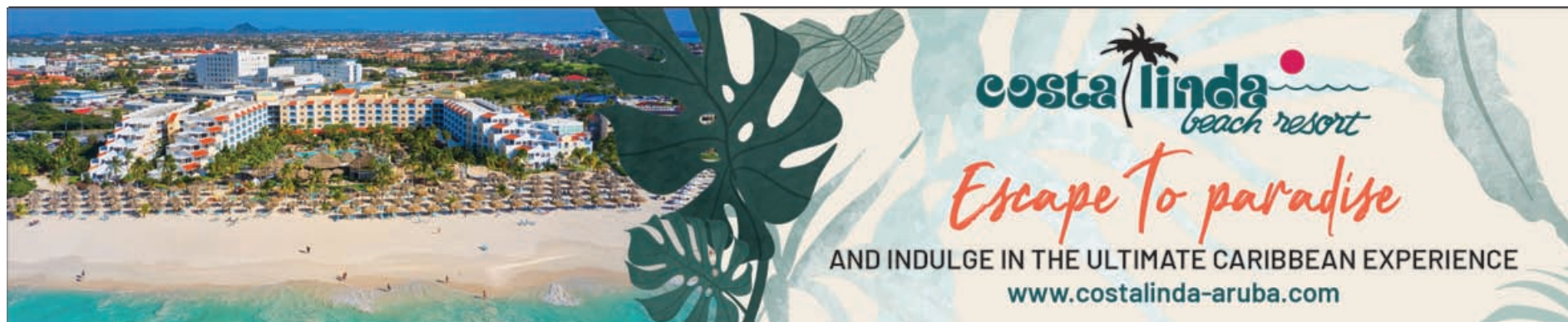
"He consistently challenged conventional thinking, experimented with different lineups and styles of play, and saw possibilities in the game that others often did



Head coach Don Nelson of the Golden State Warriors in the second half against the Minnesota Timberwolves during a basketball game at Target Center on April 7, 2010 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

not. "So much of what is now commonplace in the mod-

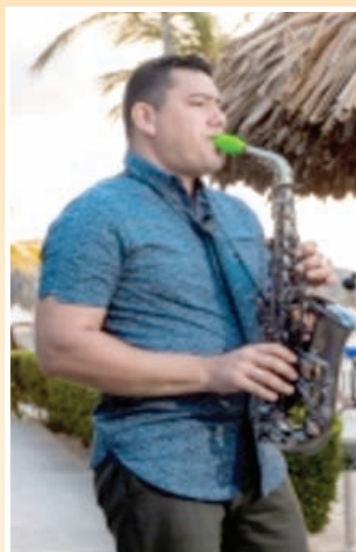
ern NBA can be traced back to the way Nellie approached the game." □



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

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

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



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

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

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

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with



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

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

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

Live entertainment

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

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

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

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

