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Trump's secret plane swap triggers questions and confusion

Washington, United States

A secret operation that reportedly smuggled Donald Trump off Air Force One in a catering truck before the plane departed carrying journalists and top aides at apparent risk of an Iranian strike has raised questions over U.S. security practices. The Washington Post reported Monday that Trump covertly exited the presidential plane while it was on the ground in Turkey on July 8 as his security team deployed a scheme to evade an assassination threat.

Some traveling media expressed anger at having unwittingly served as decoys, while others complained about deception and lack of communication from the White House. Trump boarded the presidential jet in full view of video cameras and photographers, with AFP pictures showing two supply containers on hydraulic lifts at the front and rear of the aircraft.

But he then reportedly quickly left the plane, stepping inside one of the cargo containers, to board a



U.S. President Donald Trump gestures in front of Air Force One after disembarking from the older VC-25A Air Force One at Royal Air Force (RAF) Mildenhall in Mildenhall, eastern England on July 8, 2026, before continuing his journey to the United States while returning from a NATO summit in Turkey.

smaller U.S. Air Force aircraft positioned nearby. About a dozen journalists traveling in a separate section of Air Force One with no access to the president were unaware of the switch and flew out of Turkey on the plane despite the apparent threat from Iran, which is at war with the United States.

- **Shoulder-to-air missile**

threat? -

"When you sign up to work at the White House, even as a civilian, part of your job is to defend the president," one unnamed White House reporter told the Post.

"That's not my job. I cover the president. Reporters take risks as part of the job, but not on behalf of the president."

The Wall Street Journal reported Israel had briefed

the U.S. about a possible shoulder-to-air missile strike on Air Force One, adding that Secretary of State Marco Rubio was among senior officials and staff who remained on the plane.

Dispatches sent by pool media on board noted a Secret Service order that window shades be lowered during takeoff an unusual instruction outside of com-

bat zones.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer on Tuesday called for Congress to be briefed "on the Iranian threats against the president, the extraordinary measures taken to get him out of Turkey."

Trump's trip to the NATO summit had already raised eyebrows after he arrived on a luxury Boeing 747 gifted by Qatar and retrofitted to carry the U.S. president. But it was reportedly not fitted with anti-missile security systems and the old Air Force One was called into action.

Trump claimed at the time that the new plane was being sent ahead for U.S. troops in Britain to tour, as a treat.

At a stopover in Britain, he returned to the Qatar-gifted plane for the flight to Washington.

Asked at the time why journalists had been asked to lower window blinds he said "because you're probably on a dangerous flight because of the sleaze bags that we have to deal with." "If I go, you go. Right?" Trump told reporters.□

Mangione health CEO murder trial jurors to receive anonymity



Luigi Mangione, accused of the murder of United Healthcare CEO Brian Thompson, appears for a pre-trial hearing at Manhattan Criminal Court in New York, on August 11, 2026.

New York, United States

Jurors in the highly anticipated murder trial of Luigi Mangione, charged with gunning down a health insurance executive, will receive anonymity, a judge said on Tuesday.

At the last pretrial hearing before jury selection begins on September 8, which will mark the start of the trial, New York state Judge Gregory Carro did not give reasons for the decision.

In highly publicized cases, it is common for judges to protect jurors' identities to shield them from the risk of harassment or intimidation. Mangione, 28, is accused of killing chief executive of UnitedHealthcare Brian Thompson, 50, in New York in December 2024, in protest at the US insur-

ance system.

Mangione has been charged with murder and faces life imprisonment without the possibility of parole in the state case. A second trial in federal court is scheduled for January 2027 on two counts of harassment relating to stalking the victim. Judge Gregory Carro also dismissed concerns raised by the defense about limited public access to the trial, even though more than 80 media outlets and many supporters of the defendant are expected to attend.

"There has never been a discussion or decision by this court to exclude the public for these proceedings," the judge said, attacking Mangione-backers for "reckless mischaracterization."□

Memphis AI data center fuels pollution fight in Black neighborhood

Memphis, United States

The stench of rotten eggs and burning debris fills the air in Boxtown, a predominantly Black neighborhood in Memphis. Just a few miles away, a power plant fuels one of SpaceXAI's data centers, which are popping up all over Tennessee.

Hastily built to meet skyrocketing demand for computing power required by the global artificial intelligence race, these data centers are facing opposition across the United States.

Teenager Jasmine Bernard, who lives in a neighborhood bordering Boxtown, has been fighting for two years against the gas turbines that power the data center and spew emissions into the air. The people of South Memphis have suffered through years of pollution from factories in Boxtown, founded by freed slaves after the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

The risk of developing cancer here is four times higher than the national average. "This community of Boxtown and South Memphis as a whole historically just has been the subject of environmental neglect," the 17-year-old Bernard told AFP. "It's deeply tied to the history... it's been a Black community for centuries."

KeShaun Pearson, co-founder of Memphis Community Against Pollution, has been criss-crossing the country to raise awareness about the environmental dangers of data centers and speak about Boxtown, which he says has been abandoned by local officials.

Pearson says Colossus I, the name of SpaceXAI boss Elon Musk's first mega AI supercomputer facility is "a textbook case of what it looks like when elected officials make promises about economic mobility."

"They don't listen or involve the community or the people who are going to be directly impacted," he said. Behind him, a sign on a fence reads "Private Property." In the distance lie, about 10 turbines and vast warehouses filled with Nvidia graphics processing units (GPUs).



KeShaun Pearson, environmental co-founder of Memphis Community Against Pollution stands in front of spaceXAI's data center Colossus I on July 31, 2026 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Anthropic is now leasing the entire facility for more than \$1 billion a month. SpaceXAI, which did not respond to a request for comment, said in a statement that it is working to make sure that its mobile turbines are "equipped with advanced emission control technologies."

"Current monitoring shows that local air quality continues to meet or exceed EPA standards," the company said, referring to the Environmental Protection Agency's rules.

- Noise pollution -

But air pollution is not the only issue.

Every day, Colossus I pumps 1.2 million gallons (4.5 million liters) of groundwater from the aquifer that supplies Memphis with drinking water to cool its supercomputer, warns Sarah Houston from the group Protect Our Aquifer.

SpaceXAI promised that it would build a water reuse facility, but that project has been suspended.

It only took four months to build Colossus I, which generated \$12 million in tax revenue, according to 2026 data.

Memphis Mayor Paul Young recently announced a project that would redirect \$3.35 million of that money to affected communities.

A similar strategy has been adopted in neighboring Mississippi.

There, in Southaven, 69 turbines are constantly in mo-

tion to fuel Colossus II, built to train SpaceXAI's AI-powered assistant Grok. But the pine trees lining Krys-

tal Polk's home, in her family for generations, don't protect her from the data center's deafening drone,

which sounds like a jet that never takes off.

"The noise is 24/7," Polk told AFP. "If you're out here too long, the vibrations -- that wave sound makes you nauseous."

- 'Illegal turbines' -

Advocacy groups and experts say that by erecting turbines without a permit or any public consultation, SpaceXAI has disregarded existing legislation such as the Clean Air Act.

Under that law, "before you even start constructing the plant, you have to have the permit in hand that ensures the health and safety of the surrounding communities," says Laura Thoms, from the nonprofit Earthjustice, which is representing the civil rights group NAACP in its suit against SpaceXAI. □

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Euros to showcase new TV guidelines on non-sexualization of women athletes

Birmingham, United Kingdom

New guidelines to prevent broadcasters sexualizing coverage of women athletes will come into place when the European championships start in Birmingham on Monday.

The new guidelines have been drawn up by the Geneva-based European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the world's leading alliance of public service media, with 115 member organizations in 57 countries and an additional 33 associates in Asia, Africa, Australasia and the Americas.

The EBU said it had worked with women athletes to develop the guidelines, "which aim to avoid sexualizing the action with unnecessary camera angles". Several women athletes have been called in to best advice the EBU, among them British Olympic pole vault bronze medalist Holly Bradshaw, ahead of the August 10-16 European



Marie-Julie Bonnin (FRA) reacts after winning in Women's pole vault final during Athletics French Championships 2026 at Municipal Stadium in Albi, France, on July 25, 2026.

champs.

"How our sport is displayed during live broadcast can be incredibly powerful, yet sometimes harmful to the women competing, and the women and girls watching," Bradshaw said. "I first-hand have received

social media abuse and witnessed inappropriate videos online of myself and colleagues when slow-motion content of us competing is captured.

"Many athletes, myself included have been in competitive scenarios where

they are more focused on the cameras instead of their own performance.

"On too many occasions cameras are zoomed in, showing super slow-motion action replays of athletes in undignified positions."

French pole vaulter Marie-

Julie Bonnin added: "I'm doing sport and I don't want them to film my bum!"

- Acceptable camera angles -

Following talks with the athletes, the EBU drew up a roadmap for acceptable camera angles.

Those avoided included low camera angles underneath athletes in events such as the high jump or pole vault for fear of generating images of the athletes which could be considered compromising.

"The sexualization of women athletes through selective camera angles and editing choices continues to be a significant concern across many sports broadcasts," said EBU sport executive director Glen Killane.

"Lingering shots on bodies, low-angle cameras that capture revealing views, and excessive slow-motion replays that serve no technical or storytelling purpose are among the issues observed in the media cover-

age of women's athletics competitions today."

British sprinter Amy Hunt said the issue was "definitely a conversation that we need to be having".

"As technology progresses people want to get closer to the sport," she conceded.

"When we were in London or Doha we had cameras in the blocks and women flagged it as a potential issue."

Hunt added: "The thing is for me, having women in those positions as athletes or in broadcast, is to flag it and being like 'maybe it's not a good idea for female athletes to have cameras in the blocks'.

"It's definitely a really welcome change. Also we shouldn't have to change what we are wearing in order to feel comfortable.

"I want to feel fast and powerful. I don't want to feel like in any way I'm inhibited by my clothing. So I think it's a very good step forward." □

Jamie Lee Curtis takes charge in new comedy 'Newlyweds'

Los Angeles, United States

Oscar-winning actress Jamie Lee Curtis fulfilled two wishes with her new television project, "Newlyweds": being the boss and returning to the set of a sitcom. Starring Tea Leoni and Tim Daly, the comedy, which premieres in October on NBC, centers on an impul-

sive romance between a middle-aged couple who tie the knot after just a few days together.

Curtis, who has an extensive film and television resume, said the multi-camera sitcom appealed to her to the point of having previously "begged" her

agents for such an opportunity.

"It was my favorite job. I love... every aspect of it. The dance with the cameras, the idea that you actually get to rehearse something and work it and learn a joke and play it," she told reporters.

"And I just never got to do it. And so I just decided to basically kind of create my own job and met Gail," she added, referring to "Will & Grace" screenwriter Gail Lerner.

The comedy, in which Curtis plays an ex-wife, also allowed her to take the reins of a project as a producer, something she had long desired.

"I've wanted to be a boss my whole life," she said. "I've been waiting my whole life, literally, to be able to manifest ideas and bring what I love about what I do into the work-

place.

"I like to refer to myself as the HBIC -- head bitch in charge," she laughed.

For Leoni and Daly, who are married in real life, the series also marked a return to the small screen as a couple, after working together in the political drama "Madam Secretary."

"We've done this, this particular medium, and loved it, and we wanted to spend our days together," said Daly, 70.

"Newlyweds" is part of the lineup for the coming months that NBCUniversal revealed to the media this week in Los Angeles at its "Backlot Pass" presentation.

The event also offered glimpses of "Crystal Lake," the prequel to the "Friday the 13th" horror franchise, starring Linda Cardellini, which will arrive on Peacock in October. □



Jamie Lee Curtis attends the Prime Video's "Scarpetta" New York Premiere at Regal Union Square on March 03, 2026 in New York City.

Pakistan brickmakers scorched by sun above and fire below

Sheikhupura, Pakistan

As dark plumes billow from overhead smokestacks, brickmakers at a kiln in Pakistan's Sheikhupura district crush coal through small holes beneath their feet into the fiery chambers below.

Workers already have to endure extreme conditions at traditional brick kilns, which burn at over 1,000C and demand constant monitoring to ensure they remain hot enough.

But they are becoming almost unbearable as climate change makes summers even hotter in a country already used to temperatures well over 40C.

Abid Hussain, a 35-year-old labourer whose clothes were covered in dark soot, told AFP the work felt like being trapped between fire below and, increasingly, above.

He is one of hundreds of thousands working in an industry that labour advocates say is poorly regulated, badly paid and becoming more dangerous as temperatures rise.

"The heat is undoubtedly extreme but when you think about the financial pressures at home, you



A worker pushes a wheelbarrow at a brick kiln in Sheikhupura, in Pakistan's Punjab province on July 20, 2026.

have no option but to keep working," Hussain said.

Fast-growing Pakistan's construction boom is increasing the demand for labour in the sector, in which workers earn around \$3 a day.

Despite the scorching sun and dust filling the air, workers stay on the heated kiln surface for hours at a time.

"I would describe these

brick kilns as places of confinement," said Syeda Ghulam Fatima, the General Secretary of the Bonded Labour Liberation Front Pakistan.

"Workers endure relentless heat from the blazing sun overhead while the intense heat radiating from the kiln rises beneath them."

The workers remain trapped in a cycle of debt, extreme heat, and deterio-

rating health, Fatima told AFP, adding rising global temperatures amplified the risks. Sheikhupura is at the heart of Pakistan's massive brick kiln industry. Nationwide, more than 18,000 brick kilns employ a total of over a million people, according to 2018 data in a Climate and Clean Air Coalition report.

Pakistan is ranked among the countries most vulner-

able to the impacts of climate change globally, according to experts.

Fatima said many workers receive advance payments, making them unable to decline to work in dangerous conditions without falling into burdensome debt.

Hussain, who earns roughly 25,000 Pakistani rupees (\$90) a month, said the money barely covers rent and his children's basic needs.

"No matter the situation, whether we are ill or there are family matters, we still have to work," he said. "If I take time off, we'll be in trouble."

- Breaks 'not possible' -

There is some hope of improved conditions from the Punjab provincial government's push to convert the industry to more modern technology known as zig-zag kilns, which reduce air pollution and respiratory hazards. Health experts warn that, especially at traditional kilns, prolonged heat exposure makes brick workers more vulnerable to illnesses including skin disorders, respiratory problems, and kidney disease. □

Bunker under Hitler's chancellery at centre of housing row

Berlin, Germany

A bunker underneath the site of Adolf Hitler's chancellery building in central Berlin could be lost to a new housing project, a heritage association warned Tuesday.

The Berliner Unterwelten association, dedicated to preserving the city's rich underground history, says that the bunker in question is one of four which have survived out of the many built by the Nazis in the district around the Brandenburg Gate.

Covering an area of around 1,250 square meters (13,450 square feet), the bunker is "a historic site that absolutely must not be destroyed," Dietmar Arnold, president of Berliner Unterwelten, told a press conference Tuesday.

Its immediate neighbor, the

Fuehrerbunker, was part of the same complex where the German dictator committed suicide at the end of the war together with his wife Eva Braun.

That bunker has been partially destroyed and is not accessible.

The city government says building new housing has to take precedence in the German capital, with residents frequently complaining of soaring rents and the difficulty of finding accommodation.

The issue has been become a key campaign theme in the run-up to next month's election for the city's state assembly.

"We are not going to oppose the construction of new housing in order to preserve a bunker that could then become a site

of pilgrimage," Berlin's deputy construction minister Christian Gaebler recently told the Bild daily.

The newspaper reported that the proposed construction project at the site involves building 66 new apartments but would require the destruction of what remains of the bunker.

Arnold on Tuesday stressed that his association is "not blocking the construction of new housing".

"The remaining part of the bunker can quite easily be built over," he said.

Arnold dismissed the claim the site could become a site of pilgrimage for Hitler's admirers, calling it a "spurious argument".

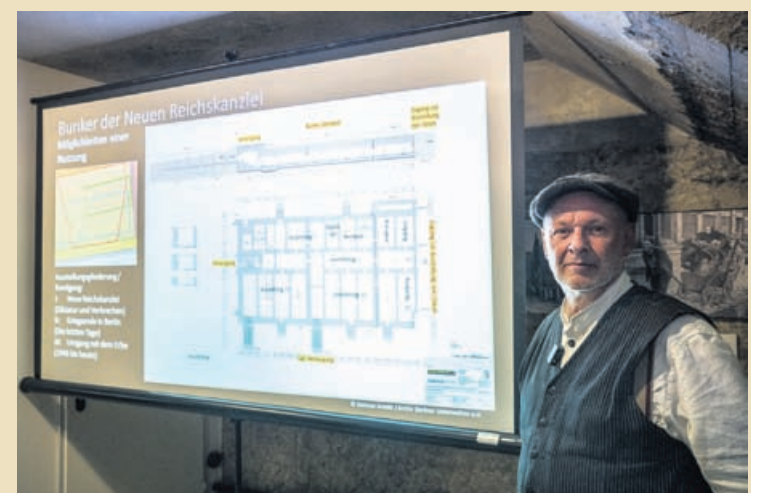
Berliner Unterwelten organizes tours of underground historic sites and welcomes 330,000 visitors a year, in-

cluding to a former Nazi bunker, he said.

"We've never seen this sort of pilgrimage site in this city," he went on.

Built by architect Albert Speer for Hitler in the 1930s, the New Reich Chancellery

-- which also served as a shelter for women and children during the war -- was destroyed above ground by the Soviet military administration in the years after the Nazis' defeat. □



Dietmar Arnold, chairman of the "Berliner Unterwelten" (Berlin Underworlds) association, poses next to a map showing the underground bunker of the New Reich Chancellery in Berlin's Mitte district, during a press conference in Berlin on August 11, 2026.



An aerial view shows the shows Deka beach, where legend has Odysseus landing when he finally returned home, on the island of Ithaca, on August 3, 2026.

Ithaca bets on hometown hero Odysseus for tourism boom

Ithaca, Greece

Standing on the ferry as it waits to dock on the Greek island of Ithaca, Giorgia Ongarato is only too keen to talk about the "Odyssey" the epic poem that inspired Christopher Nolan's blockbuster film.

The Italian lawyer said it was her dream to come to Ithaca, widely believed to be the same island as the home of Odysseus in the poem.

Dressed in a T-shirt emblazoned with the word "Odyssey" in ancient Greek alongside a line from the poem, she enthused: "I studied Greek when I was a child, and I studied the Odyssey."

While she stressed that the film was not her entry point into the tale of the hero battling his way back home from the Trojan war, the 50-year-old said she was also a fan of the film describing it as "wonderful". The island's businesses and officials now expect the film to inspire many more to follow in her footsteps.

Ithaca, in the Ionian Sea off the west coast of mainland Greece is far from the country's tourist hubs, and despite limpid waters and spectacular bays, it has never been a regular stop for travellers.

Its interior is rugged, carpeted with olive and cypress trees, and strikingly calm

even at the height of the tourist season.

Although the movie has undoubtedly piqued the interest of many, it has also been slightly controversial in Greece -- although some Greek locations were used, not a single scene in the blockbuster was actually shot on Ithaca.

- Homeric monuments abound -

That decision has left some crestfallen on the island of roughly 3,000 inhabitants where the film has been shown twice in open-air screenings since its July 16 worldwide release.

Xhimi Xoxha, who runs a restaurant in Ithaca's capital of Vathi, said he was content that the movie was already "generating publicity for the island". He predicted the positive effects would continue.

While Ithaca mayor Dionysis Stanitsas agreed that the publicity was "tremendous", he could not hide his disappointment that the island itself did not feature.

"We had reached out to the production team and asked that some scenes be filmed here on the island," he said. "Unfortunately, that wasn't feasible."

He is, however, counting on rising demand next year, and the island was already fully booked for this season by the time the film came

out.

"As more people see it, they will begin planning trips to visit the island," he said.

Visitors will not find a palace of Odysseus or any spectacular archaeological site likely to confirm the existence of the Homeric hero.

But village squares and the town hall are dotted with statues of Odysseus and Homer.

And there are other pointers to the island's rich literary heritage.

In the small sun-drenched port, boats bob in the green water bearing names like "Telemachus" (son of Odysseus) and "Calypso" (a goddess and nymph who imprisoned him).

Trinket shops offer busts of Homer and Penelope, Odysseus's wife.

T-shirts can be found amid the jumble featuring the Cyclops Polyphemus -- one of the many monsters vanquished by Odysseus.

And the truly devoted can splash out for a wall plate decorated with a Trojan Horse.

Archaeologist Spyros Couvaras is among those expecting a dramatic upsurge in visitors, saying it was clear that visitors wanted more than just sand and sea -- they wanted the history and the mythology. □



This handout picture released by the Lebanese presidency shows Lebanese Justice Minister Adel Nassar after the first meeting of the new government at the presidential palace in Baabda, east of Beirut, on February 11, 2025.

Lebanon abolishes death penalty in Middle East first

Beirut, Lebanon

Lebanon's parliament on Tuesday abolished the death penalty, making the country the first in the Middle East to formally end the practice.

Lebanon had not carried out an execution since 2004, but sentences were still being issued, the latest being on Monday, and Amnesty International said at least 85 people were still on death row by January.

Capital punishment typically applied to major crimes like murder, terrorism and espionage, among others.

The most severe crimes will now be given life sentences with hard labour, according to Lebanon's state-run National News Agency.

Justice Minister Adel Nassar, who was at the parliament, called the abolition "historic", and said the spectre of capital punishment had previously prevented Beirut from obtaining the extradition of suspects from countries where it has been outlawed.

Independent lawmaker Firas Hamdan celebrated the move in a post on X, thanking "everyone who contributed, for over more than two decades, to reaching this moment".

The move was also hailed by the United Nations, with rights chief Volker Turk calling on Lebanon's neighbours in the Middle East "that still maintain the death penalty to follow its lead in ending this inhumane practice".

He said the move represented a "powerful and principled commitment to the right to life" in a country racked by war.

The European Union said Lebanon was "setting a powerful example for other countries in the Middle East and beyond".

Former colonial power France called the decision "historic and courageous".

French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot wrote on X that the vote showed Lebanon "remains an example through its ability to uphold the democratic values and freedoms that lie at the foundation of its existence".

- 'Dignity, fairness and respect' -

The passing of the law follows years of campaigning by activists and rights groups.

Ramzi Kaiss, Lebanon researcher at Human Rights Watch, told AFP the move was "a monumental step for human rights in the country, representing a clear break from a cruel and arbitrary sentence that should never be imposed".

Amnesty International also welcomed the move. □



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SETAR

Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.

SS Antilla

Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

SS Pedernales

Like the Antilla, the story



of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the north-west coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

Jane Sea Wreck

The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-foot ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane

was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.

The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went

out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nickname Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature. □



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Aruban snacks and where to find them



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

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that

is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bitterbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be

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

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



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

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

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

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

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

Fun facts about the "transhi" hedges!

(Oranjestad)—When off-roading, you may encounter some houses that have rock hedges, aligned perfectly and held together

by cement or sometimes nothing at all.

These hedges are called "transhi," and have a his-

torical and cultural meaning on the island. Used by cunukeros* around the island back when agriculture played a more dominant role in day-to-day life and survival, these stone hedges represent the resilience of our great-grand parents, who had to make do with what nature gave them.

These stone structures are traditionally placed carefully on top of each other. No cement or other binding mixture was used to hold the structure together. Though not commonly used for modern homes,



the few structures that remain around the island stood the test of time, some completely intact even after decades of rain, wind and urbanization. These stone hedges are a representation of the Aruba's unique farming

culture which valued durability, sustainability and resilience.

*cunukero: Aruban farmers.

Pictures extracted from the 'Plantage Zorg en Hoop' collection on Coleccion. aw □



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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting

neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi". This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breathtaking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer and more accessible to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way! □

***Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!**

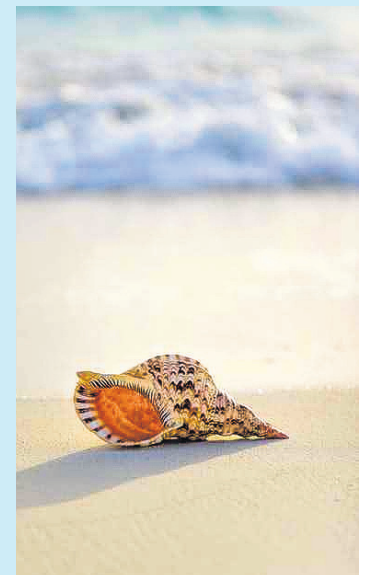
Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

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

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

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by pro-



tecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

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



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode CCCLXV - 365

“The Voyage That Changed Aruba”

Through this cultural column, Island Insight, Etnia Nativa invites readers to discover Aruba from a different perspective by exploring the island's rich intangible cultural heritage—the traditions, knowledge, and practices passed down from generation to generation. This edition looks back at how tourism began on our island, and how the arrival of the Trade Wind in 1955 marked the beginning of a new chapter in Aruba's economic history.

In the mid-1950s, Aruba faced a serious economic challenge. The island was heavily dependent on the Lago Aruba Refinery, but automation led to mass layoffs and rising unemployment.

Seeking a more stable economic future, the government turned to tourism. Caribbean tourism had been growing since 1950, and plans were made to welcome cruise ships at Paardenbaai (Horses' Bay) in Oranjestad.

Then, in February 1955, the Trade Wind arrived, becoming the first cruise ship of Aruba's new tourism era.

Its arrival was celebrated with festivities and a special welcoming committee of young Aruban women dressed in elegant gowns. Crowds and cars filled the harbor, creating traffic jams as locals gathered to see the visitors.

The arrival of the Trade Wind opened the door to a new era for Aruba — one increasingly driven by tourism.

As Grace Line cargo ships had called at Aruba in the early 1950s, the company later began sending its luxury cruise ships to Horses' Bay, and other shipping lines soon followed.

During the cruise season, some of the largest tourist vessels in the Caribbean began anchoring in Aruba's harbor.

The numbers told the story. In 1956, 3,002 foreigners visited Aruba; by 1960, that number had risen to 13,125. Hotel overnight stays increased just as dramatically, from 31,936 to 94,607. Aruba was attracting visitors faster than its hotels could accommodate them.

Recognizing the opportunity, Ch. J. Neme, who had previously built the Strand Hotel, opened the Basi Ruti Hotel in Palm Beach in February 1957.

But Aruba's tourism ambitions were about to grow

even larger.

The construction of Aruba's first high-rise hotel in Palm Beach, the Aruba Caribbean Hotel and Casino, signaled that the island was ready to welcome not only ordinary vacationers but also the rich and famous.

The project was expected to create a major new source of income for Aruba and strengthen the island's position as a Caribbean tourist destination.

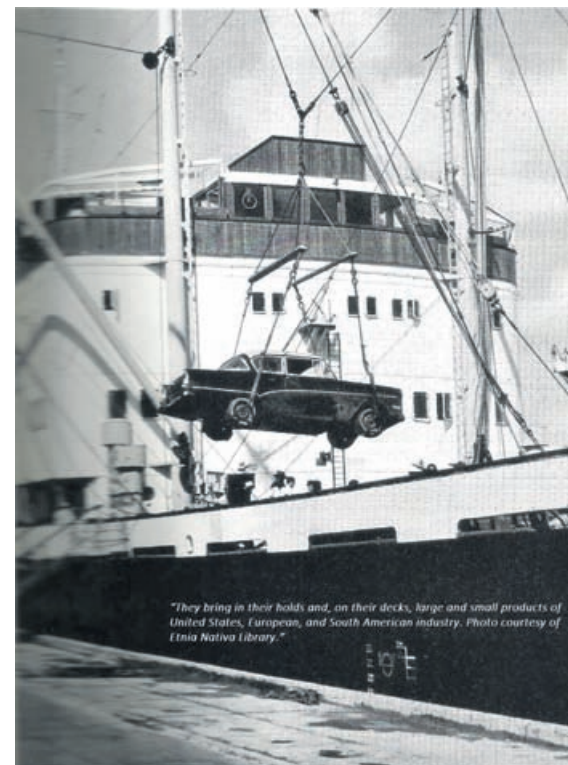
To finance the ambitious hotel, Aruven Company Inc. was established, with the island government as its largest shareholder. In Venezuela, the Venaruba Company Inc. was created to raise funds, while banks, companies and members of the business community also became shareholders. The investment was substantial.

The Aruban Caribbean Hotel and Casino cost approximately 8 million Antillean guilders to build and officially opened in July 1958.

But building a luxury hotel was only part of the transformation. Aruba also needed to make Palm Beach more accessible.

Until then, Palm Beach could be reached only by secondary roads. A new boulevard was constructed to connect the area with Oranjestad and the airport. It opened on May 1, 1958, making the coastal resort far easier to reach.

Palm Beach was no longer a remote stretch of coastline. As the resort area continued to develop, Aruba's tourism



ism landscape gained another distinctive landmark.

In 1961, the quaint restaurant “De Olde Molen” was established at Palm Beach: a genuine windmill purchased in the Netherlands and transported across the ocean to Aruba.

It was an unusual sight in the Caribbean, but perhaps an appropriate symbol of the island's transformation—something old, brought from afar and given a new life in Aruba.

Within just a few years, Aruba had moved from an economy heavily dependent on oil toward one increasingly shaped by tourism and a new Aruba was starting.

The arrival of the Trade Wind, the growth of cruise traffic, the construction of hotels, the development of Palm Beach and the opening of new attractions all formed pieces of the same story.

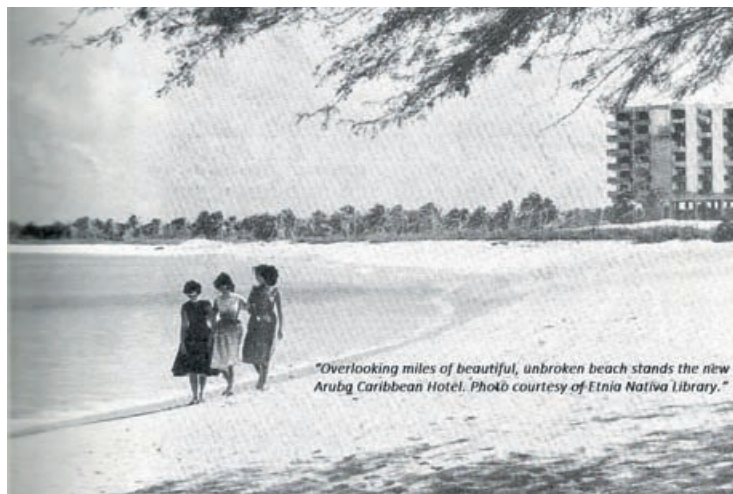
What began as a response to unemployment created by industrial automation became something much larger.

Aruba discovered that its greatest new economic asset was not beneath the ground, but above it — its beaches, its sunshine, its hospitality and its ability to welcome the world.

And it all began with a ship entering Paardenbaai in February 1955. □

Don't just visit Aruba—discover its soul. Reserve your mystical cultural experience with Etnia Nativa today and immerse yourself in the island's ancestral heritage before your trip ends.

Book your visit today:
WhatsApp+297 592 2702
etniana03@gmail.com.



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.

Pineapple



Pineapple has more uses than topping it on your Christmas ham. According to elders, the skin of a pineapple is great to use to refresh your body. Clean the skin thoroughly and make tea or warapa* with it. It is said that this tea can also be drank after an operation on the ovaries or



uterus. This gets rid of irritation and inflammation.

Arrowroot

Arrowroot is native to tropical America and can be sold as a powder or whole. It is said that you can take arrowroot powder and make a “shalup” (porridge) for stomach pain or when you’re feeling weak. You can make it with milk too, but it is advised to best use just water. You can also add prunes for a bit of sweetness. Arrowroot shalup is also good to treat an unhealthy gut or for diarrhea.

To make arrowroot shalup, boil a bit of water and add one tablespoon of arrowroot powder and stir continuously until you reach porridge consistency. If you make a shalup with milk, add a pinch of salt. Raw arrowroot powder can be used to powder babies.

Eggplant/Aubergine

Eggplants, or aubergines, are easy to find in supermarkets around the world and can be



grown all year round on the island. Related to potato and tomato, eggplants are good to calm nerves. It can also be used to lower blood pressure, by steeping its leaves in boiled water and drinking it. You can also make eggplant juice to help purify your blood. However, do make sure to drink slowly; let it mix with your spit and then swallow.

Eggplant kataplan* can also be used to treat skin tumors, abscesses and hemorrhoids. Eggplant kataplan can also be used externally to treat arthritis.

*warapa: term referring to a water and sugar solution, a.k.a simple syrup.

*kataplan: porridge-like mixture used externally for wounds or parts of the body that are painful or swollen. □

Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)—If you’re ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger’s Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger’s Beach, you’ll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, “Sero Colorado” translates to “Colored Hill”. Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, ad-



opted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok National Park. Recognizable sites within this area include the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can’t forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts. In the literal sense, “San Nicolas” translates to “Saint Nicolas”, leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as “Shon” by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas. □

Source: “Aruba: Short History” by Dr. J. Hartog.

CROSSWORD

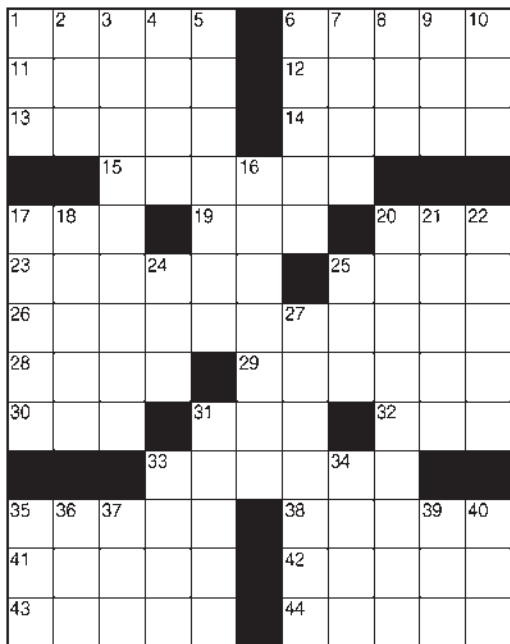
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 44 Scatter
- 1 Move borders, perhaps
- 6 Common eye color
- 11 Fragrance
- 12 Banish
- 13 Show uncertainty
- 14 Bona fide
- 15 Tooth layer
- 17 Outdated
- 19 Brooch
- 20 Get-up-and-go
- 23 Untie, perhaps
- 25 Titled woman
- 26 Asked to one's home
- 28 Julia Louis-Dreyfus show
- 29 Astaire's partner
- 30 Mess up
- 31 Traffic snarl
- 32 Do fabric work
- 33 Quilt cloth
- 35 Fable fellow
- 38 Fit for the fleet
- 41 George W.'s wife
- 42 Musical drama
- 43 Hog the mirror

DOWN

- 1 Bitterly cold
- 2 Pitching stat
- 3 Made way, in a way
- 4 Choir word
- 5 Fort feature
- 6 Daughter of Leda
- 7 Skating jump
- 8 Make a sharp turn
- 9 Yale rooter
- 10 Rent out
- 16 Geo-logist's concern
- 17 Martini garnish
- 18 Solitary sort
- 20 Made a lot
- 21 Abrasive powder
- 22 In itself
- 24 Cautious taste
- 25 Pound choice
- 27 Spotted game pieces
- 31 Kyoto setting
- 33 Heart
- 34 Lt.'s superior
- 35 The Mat-terhorn, for one
- 36 Lobe spot
- 37 Take to court
- 39 "You — Here"
- 40 Statute



4-20

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.

4-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

PIMSTPC JTEE MLVP G YGP'Q
SIYB TPMI G FGQMEB YIVB
ALTFHEN GPK BWBFBMTDBEN
MSGP G KGFSQSLPK. — ALBBP
DTFMIVTG

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TRUST ME THAT AS I
LAW TO HELP THE SLAVE, SO WILL
I IGNORE IT ALL TO PROTECT AN ENSLAVED
WOMAN. — SUSAN B. ANTHONY

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 occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/12

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

8/11

Solar eclipse sparks scramble for protective glasses across Europe

Madrid, Spain

The scramble for protective glasses has reached fever pitch across Europe ahead of Wednesday's rare total solar eclipse, as pharmacies, opticians and other shops struggle to keep them in stock.

In Spain, where parts of the country will be in the path of totality, finding certified protective glasses has become increasingly difficult, with many distribution points reporting they have run out.

A notice posted at the entrance of Madrid's National Museum of Natural Sciences said its supply of protective glasses was exhausted.

The museum was among 30 science institutions across the country taking part in a campaign organised by the government to distribute two million pairs of glasses for free.

Some pharmacies in central Madrid still had supplies Tuesday, generally selling certified glasses for safely viewing the Sun for between three and four euros (\$4.60) a pair.

But Carles Sisquella, who runs an optical shop in Barcelona, said his store had been out of stock for 10 days.

"There are now a lot of people who obviously won't be able to get glasses," he said.

Doctors warn that looking directly at the Sun during a solar eclipse can damage the retina, potentially harming the cells responsible for sharp central vision. "I've been asking around since Friday, but they're nowhere to be found," a woman named Mabel told AFP in Barcelona after another fruitless search.

- 'Gone in 30 minutes' -

The rush is being repeated across Europe.

In Brussels, where about 90 percent of the Sun will be covered by the Moon, people were also racing to find glasses.

With a seeming majority of opticians and pharmacists out of stock, pastry chef Arno Dossogne, 37, struck



Solar eclipse glasses are displayed for sale at an outlet within Old Spitalfields Market in east London on August 11, 2026, ahead of the total eclipse of the sun expected in parts of Europe the following day.

gold at a small opticians' store that received a last-minute shipment Monday afternoon.

"I got some for me, my boyfriend and a couple of friends whose online order got cancelled!" he told AFP.

"It was this or nothing. You can't mess around, or you'll burn your eyes."

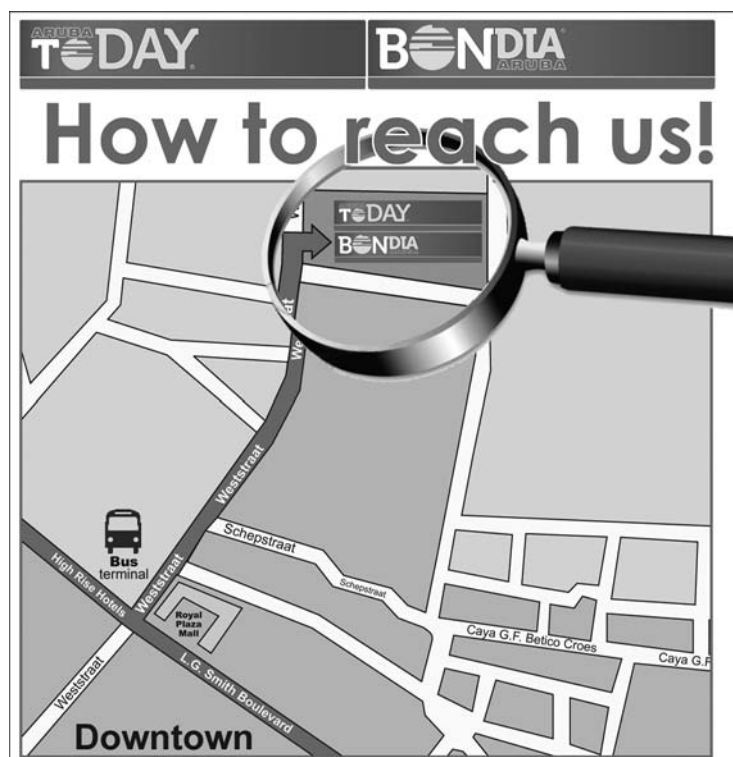
The opticians' manager Fouad Mehdaoui told AFP he acted on a tip from his pharmacist wife, placing large orders of glasses early on, but even then was outrun by demand and had to order more.

"Two boxes just came in with 100 pairs in total they were gone in 30 minutes," he told AFP as a stream of eclipse enthusiasts filed in the store, by chance or word of mouth, and an employee fielded non-stop phone enquiries.

In France, where the eclipse will be partial, some pharmacies have been stripped of their supplies while others were still receiving shipments -- and charging significantly more.

Customers lined up outside La Pharmacie du Soleil in Paris on Monday afternoon

to buy glasses for 5.95 euros a pair, only to be disappointed when staff displayed an empty box. □



ARUBA TODAY

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

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figueroa
Oriana Geerman

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

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

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Oranjestad Hospital
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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

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Narcotics Anonymous
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Child Abuse Prevention
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

AI firm Manus to resume 'independent' operations after China blocks Meta deal

Beijing, China

AI startup Manus said Tuesday it would resume "operating as an independent company," months after Beijing blocked Meta's multi-billion-dollar acquisition of the Chinese-developed, Singapore-based company.

Some data going back to late December will be deleted as a result, and Manus urged users impacted by the change to back up their data.

"This is part of our separation from Meta; we must take this step to comply with regulatory requirements in specific parts of the world," Manus said in a blog post.

Meta agreed to acquire Manus, an artificial intelligence (AI) agent developed by the startup Butterfly Effect, in a deal reportedly worth around \$2 billion.

AI agents are software programs that are designed to perform tasks without human intervention.

Meta pursued a deal with Manus to "bring a leading agent to billions of people and unlock opportunities



for businesses across our products, the social media giant said in December when it announced the deal. However, China's top economic planning body blocked the deal in April and ordered them to "withdraw the acquisition."

At the same time, Beijing also reportedly restricted travel for two of Manus' co-founders, preventing them from leaving China.

Meta previously told AFP in a statement that "the transaction complied fully with applicable law".

China has been cracking down on a practice known as "Singapore-washing," which is when companies leave the country to take advantage of looser regulations, global customers or funding opportunities.

Beijing "tolerated" it for a while, but "the Manus case marks a major turn-

ing point" as the US-China AI race heats up, Wendy Chang at the Mercator Institute for China Studies told AFP in April.

The crackdown is a signal "to its own tech leaders, more than to anybody else, that attempts to bypass national regulation will not be tolerated," Chang continued. Many of Manus' former investors are in discussions to retake stakes in the startup at a \$2 billion

valuation, including Tencent which would become its largest shareholder, the FT reported.

- Meta Manifesto -

In the United States, the unwinding of the Manus deal may be a temporary setback for Meta, which is racing to strengthen its position in AI.

In a long essay published Monday about the future of artificial intelligence, Meta Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg called for the United States to compete against China, prevent "government tyranny" over AI and ensure that "superintelligence" technology will become available to everyone.

Superintelligence is a theoretical point when AI's capabilities exceed human intelligence.

On Monday, Meta also announced a new model called Glimmer, which it developed in part from Muse Spark, a closed-source model it announced in April and updated last week.

Glimmer is an open weight model, meaning users can download and modify the underlying rules that govern the AI system.

French newspapers target Google over AI summaries

Paris, France

A federation of nearly 300 French newspapers said Tuesday that it filed a complaint with the country's competition authority over Google's new AI-generated summaries of search results, fearing the feature will erode traffic to their own websites.

It is the latest salvo by media companies against the U.S. tech giant's use of their articles and other content as they grapple with ad revenue declines. Google launched its AI Overviews in France in late July, which appear above regular links to search results and compile informa-

tion from a wide array of sources.

But the APIG association of newspapers wants the country's competition regulator to ensure "Google's respect of commitments made in 2022" as part of a compensation deal with French media groups.

Information "has considerable value", APIG president Marc Feuillie, also managing director of the centre-right Le Figaro newspaper, said in a statement.

"The editors are not seeking to halt innovation. They are asking for this value to be shared, and for compensation of the use of their content," the association said in its statement.

It said Google had sprung the new artificial intelligence summaries without their consent, an alleged

violation of the 2022 deal. The competition authority had already fined Google 250 million euros (\$290 million) in 2024 for not respecting parts of the agreement.

Many media groups have seen their revenue dwindle over the past two decades as advertising moved increasingly online, where tech firms take a big share of the profits.

Critics say AI summaries cause further harm by leading to a drop in internet traffic to newspapers' articles with many users no longer clicking through to read the original source of the information.

Google contends they let people ask more complex questions and discover new content, and says it provides controls to help publishers manage their content. □

"Rather than centralizing superintelligence, we should distribute it widely and give every person the ability to direct it," Zuckerberg wrote, arguing that open models are a key part of a global AI ecosystem. Competitors like OpenAI and Anthropic largely focus on closed AI models, which are considered black boxes that users cannot inspect themselves.

Leading AI developers have met with the Trump administration in recent months, including OpenAI, Anthropic, Google, Nvidia, Microsoft and Meta, according to reports.

In June, President Donald Trump signed an executive order that called for major AI developers to submit new models to the government for review 30 days before they are publicly released. □



France, Clonas, July 1, 2026. Illustration on a phone showing Google AI Overviews arriving in France this summer, alongside French magazines.



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Jaylen Brown #7 and President of Basketball Operations Mike Gansey of the Philadelphia 76ers pose for a picture at Francis J. Myers Recreation Center on August 6, 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

LeBron's Sixers hope to spoil Knicks party on NBA opening night

New York, United States

LeBron James and the Philadelphia 76ers will try to spoil the New York Knicks' celebration of last season's crown when the NBA tips off its 81st season on October 20.

The NBA announced several key games on Tuesday ahead of the 2026-27 campaign, which begins with a three-game slate featuring James with his new club to launch his record 24th NBA season.

The schedule begins with an afternoon contest sending Boston to Detroit, matching last season's Eastern Conference regular-season champion Pistons (60-22) against runner-up Boston (56-26).

James, whose wait in selecting a new club last month in free agency delayed assembly of the schedule, then takes the stage at Madison Square Garden against Jalen Brunson and the reigning champions. James, the NBA all-time scoring lead-

er, is a four-time champion and four-time NBA Most Valuable Player.

The 41-year-old forward has sparked the Miami Heat, Cleveland Cavaliers and Los Angeles Lakers to NBA titles and hopes to bring the Sixers their first crown since 1983.

Philadelphia also landed 2024 NBA Finals MVP Jaylen Brown from Boston in the off-season and with holdovers Joel Embiid and Tyrese Maxey have given the 76ers new hope of ending their title drought.

Knicks players will receive their championship rings and hoist their first championship banner since 1973 before the contest.

New York defeated San Antonio four games to one in last season's NBA Finals in the first playoff run for French superstar Victor Wembanyama, whose Spurs will host Oklahoma City in the third game of opening night in the NBA. Oklahoma City, powered

by two-time reigning NBA MVP Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, beat the Spurs for the Western Conference regular-season title last season but lost in seven games in the West playoff finals.

The 76ers will play their first home game with James on the roster on October 22 when Cleveland, the hometown team for James, visits. James played 11 seasons for the Cavaliers and brought the first NBA title to "The 'Land'" in 2016.

- LeBron's LA Christmas -

James, who announced in June he was leaving the Lakers, will make an emotional return to Los Angeles to face his former club as part of five NBA games on December 25 in the 79th year of league Christmas clashes.

After delivering an NBA title in 2020 during his eight-season run with the Lakers, "King James" will play his first game in Los Angeles since departing for the 76ers. □



Tim Anderson #7 of the Miami Marlins throws to first base during practice before the game against the Seattle Mariners at loanDepot park on June 23, 2024 in Miami, Florida.

Anderson retires after 10 MLB seasons after 'too much pain'

Chicago, United States

Tim Anderson, a two-time All-Star shortstop and 2019 American League batting champion, announced his retirement from Major League Baseball on Monday at age 33, saying he no longer enjoyed playing.

The 10-season MLB veteran played for the Chicago White Sox from 2016-2023, Miami in 2024 and for the Los Angeles Angels last year until being released in May 2025.

"The game brought a lot of good moments but also brought a lot of pain," Anderson said in a phone call with reporters. "Throughout playing, there definitely were a lot of dark moments. I lost a lot of people. It got to the point where I really couldn't enjoy being in that setting. It just wasn't the same."

In 2017, Anderson's best friend was shot and killed in Alabama.

"Even as I sit here and try to have an open conversion to be more calm and comfortable to talk about baseball, it's not really there no more. I still love the game, but it has just brought too much pain to me, so going back to play is probably not for me right now."

He finished with a .276 career batting average, 1,088 hits including 98 home runs and drove in 350 runs as well as stealing 122 bases.

Anderson will retire as a member of the White Sox, who will pay tribute to him and other players on September 17.

"I'm getting emotional now because we're talking about something that I worked my whole life to get there," Anderson said.

"Nobody knows what I sacrificed and what the body felt every day, what I was leaving at home from my kids to my wife, through some of the decisions I made. I still kept going and I had my moments where it bothered me.

"But I couldn't show it and it got to a point where it started showing out loud and I couldn't control it.

"I'm kind of happier, waking up and being able to be around my kids and really living a real life, because life is bigger than trying to make people happier with a bat and a ball." □

Hodgkinson, Werro sail through Euro 800m qualifying



Britain's Keely Hodgkinson crosses the finish line to arrive first in the women's 800m heat 1 during the European Athletics Championships at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham on August 11, 2026.

Birmingham, United Kingdom

Olympic champion Keely Hodgkinson safely negotiated the heats of the 800m in Birmingham on Tuesday as she seeks a third consecutive European title.

Home favourite Hodgkinson, who previously won continental crowns in Munich in 2022 and Rome two years ago, timed 1min 57.28sec to win her heat.

"The championship is a fresh start. It felt good. The standard has gone up. That was one minute 57 in the heats!" said Hodgkinson.

"We are dragging the best out of each other and the standard keeps getting higher and higher, but it brings out the best in me."

Hodgkinson added: "I felt really good. I'm so glad the race was a bit quicker. I felt it was at a similar rhythm to when I train. I'm glad because sometimes a slower race can feel awful.

"I just got back from Portugal so I feel great. I got a nice tan there and had some relaxation time, which is always needed. That has prepared me to be here today."

World championships finalist Eloisa Coiro of Italy set a national record of 1:57.56 in finishing second behind the Briton, while three-time European silver medallist Renelle Lamote of France could only finish fifth but qualified as one of the fastest finishers outside the automatic spots.

Also qualifying with ease for Thursday's semi-finals, with the final a day later, was Switzerland's Audrey Werro, who won her heat in 1:57.83.

Werro this season clocked the third fastest time ever in the two-lap race and the rivalry between her and Hodgkinson has set the 800m as one of the must-see races at the Birmingham Euros.

The pair last met at the Stockholm Diamond League in June, when Werro outpaced Hodgkinson, timing 1:53.98 for the victory to become the first woman to dip under 1:54 since 1983.

The Swiss runner then bettered that with a blistering 1:53.80 to win at the Paris Diamond League.

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

- Don't care about noise -

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

"I don't really care about the noise about me," said Hodgkinson. "I haven't got time for that. I just focus on myself and do what I can do."

Never to be ruled out is Dutchwoman Femke Broeders-Bol, the former two-time world 400m hurdles champion who has transitioned into a 800m specialist.

She, too, won her heat with ease in 1:59.96.

"Those were my very first 800m heats at a major championships so it's nice to get through to the semis," said Broeders-Bol.

"I feel very strong and have posted very good times earlier this season, but I do have to admit it was quite exciting and nerve wracking going into this race this morning."

Given it will be championship racing, which tends to be more tactical and not a pacesetter-led time-based event, it would be a brave pundit to overlook Broeders-Bol, known in her hurdling days for her devastating turn of pace with the finish line in sight.

"It's nice to just surprise myself, to be the underdog instead of the favourite," said Broeders-Bol.

"It's also a bit about finding out how things work and getting used to doing these type of races. I am not too experienced with the tactical part of the 800m. Not being a clear favourite, it means I'm not the one controlling the race this time around. □

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