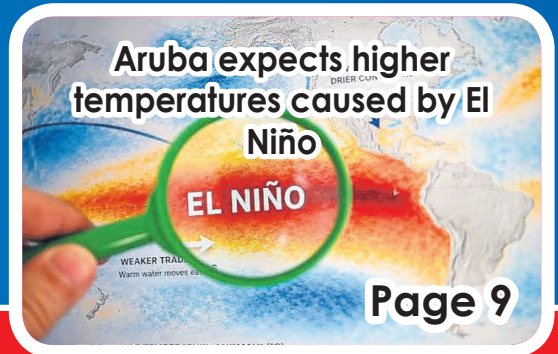




Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

Papiamentu words and phrases you may want to know!



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:
ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:
JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:
MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:
MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:
RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

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U.S. takes risky bet on private 'pirates' to combat cybercrime

San Francisco, United States

The United States will allow private companies to hack foreign cybercriminal groups, a seemingly unprecedented measure that is dividing experts who say it has potential to succeed or spiral out of control. President Donald Trump signed a memorandum on Wednesday that directed the departments of Justice and Homeland Security to allow certain US companies to spy on and attack transnational criminal organizations. The White House justified the approach by citing the damage caused by ransomware, "sextortion," and online fraud, which it said cost Americans more than \$20 billion in 2025.

The memorandum calls for authorizing private partners to take down hackers' serv-



Illustrative image of a phone lock to protect the device against cyber scams, online data fraud, or identity theft.

mission. You can't hand out obedience," University of Surrey cybersecurity professor Alan Woodward told AFP.

"History's verdict on privateering wasn't that it was immoral. It was that it became more trouble than it was worth," he continued.

- Unexplained reversal -

The effort marks a reversal for the White House, after a senior US official indicated in March it was "not interested in fighting pirates with pirates," according to The Record news site.

National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross also previously ruled out using the private sector for such efforts, according to another site called CyberScoop.

It's unclear what prompted this U-turn in the span of five months.

However, the program appears to have some guardrails, Jason Healey, a Columbia University researcher and former cybersecurity official under President George W. Bush, told AFP.

"They're backing this by the rule of law, and so I don't feel like this is something crazy," Healey said.

His concern lies elsewhere. "This administration has systematically weakened those organizations that might provide oversight, like the Office of the Director of National Intelligence," Healey said.

U.S. tech giants are already heavily engaged in cybersecurity efforts to defend their own products.

The White House program would allow them to go further, and operate without judicial oversight, under government oversight alone.

Microsoft declined to comment, and Google didn't respond to an AFP request for comment.

Any company that participates in government-sanctioned hacking "stops being a neutral defender and becomes a target" itself, Woodward said.

The Trump administration has 60 days to finalize the program's details, though some aspects will remain classified. □

ers or to infiltrate their machines with spyware.

Each operation will require prior government approval, and companies will have to post a bond of at least \$1 million.

Any action that could cause death or injury is excluded, as is anything that would meet the threshold of "use of force" under international law.

The effort has parallels with 18th century "privateering," when governments would authorize private ships or sailors to carry out raids on enemy vessels.

"The private sector holds the data. The public sector holds the authorities," and the new memorandum "puts them together," Ari Redbord told AFP.

A former federal prosecutor, Redbord is now head of policy and government affairs at TRM Labs, an analytics firm that works with US authorities.

He embraces the historical comparison to maritime privateering.

"Privateering broke down because there was no way to watch a ship once it left port," Redbord said. "We live in a very different world than 1812...Oversight that used to end at the dock now runs alongside the operation from start to finish." Other experts are not convinced.

"You can hand out a com-

Paseo Herencia

WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS

8PM

MON	LATIN DANCE SHOW <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

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Trump says U.S. scaling back military drills with South Korea

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump said he was "not happy" about U.S. participation in joint military exercises with close ally South Korea and is scaling back the drills aimed at deterring rival North Korea that start Monday.

Trump's comments on Sunday, ahead of the annual "Ulchi Freedom Shield" exercise in South Korea, underscored his willingness to challenge long-standing military alliances, as he harked back to his negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during his first term that failed in the goal of tackling its nuclear program.

"Based on my very good relationship with Kim Jong Un, of North Korea, I am not happy with the fact that the United States has, long ago, agreed to participate in Joint Military Exercises with South Korea," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform.

"These exercises are not only costly, with much of these costs paid for by the United States of America (as usual!), but send a signal that is totally inappropriate and hostile, to a Country that, as long as Donald J. Trump has been President, has been unthreatening



U.S. President Donald Trump boards Air Force One at Morristown Municipal Airport in Morristown, New Jersey, on August 16, 2026.

and respectful," he continued.

Trump added that it was too late to cancel the drills so he had ordered Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth to "substantially reduce" them.

The exercise, which runs for 11 days, is a regular summer fixture for South Korea's armed forces and their U.S. allies, designed to steel them for defense against the nuclear-armed North. Pyongyang has always been angered by the drills, decrying them as dress rehearsals for an invasion.

The U.S. stations about 28,500 troops in South Korea to bolster the country's defenses against military threats from Pyongyang. That's a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean War that ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

American forces typically hold regular military drills with their South Korean counterparts.

Trump has proved willing to challenge long-standing alliances, as he has done with NATO, criticizing Western partners for refusing to support his war against

Iran, now in its sixth month and without progress on reaching a negotiated settlement.

In Sunday's post, Trump also took aim at South Korea on that count, writing: "I recently asked the President of South Korea if they would like to join us in the Denuclearization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and they said, 'No thanks!'"

- Battle-hardened -

Experts say that North Korea has expanded its nuclear and missile capabilities since the breakdown

of Trump's negotiations with Kim, whom he last met in person in 2019.

Since then, North Korea has also deepened its ties with Russia since the Kremlin commanded the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Pyongyang has sent troops and munitions for Moscow's faltering war in exchange for financial support, food, energy and military technology, according to analysts.

Last Monday, Colonel Ryan Donald, spokesman for the US and South Korean Combined Forces Command, said the Ulchi Freedom exercise would simulate combat against North Korean troops battle-hardened by deployment in the Russia-Ukraine war.

The exercise -- enlisting 18,000 South Korean troops and counterparts from US forces in the country -- will have a heightened focus on drone warfare, GPS disruption and the role of cyber attacks, he said.

South Korea's dovish President Lee Jae Myung has reversed the stance of his hawkish predecessor since taking power in June 2025, offering Pyongyang talks without preconditions.

But the leadership of North Korea has yet to respond to his repeated offers. □

Hawaii's Big Island begins recovery efforts as Hurricane Lala downgrades, moves west

Honolulu, United States

Damage assessments and clean up efforts began Sunday as Hurricane Lala, which was downgraded to a tropical storm overnight, rolled past Hawaii's Big Island and kept dumping heavy rain across the US Pacific state's archipelago. At a news conference Sunday, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green said officials are still investigating whether any storm-related deaths had occurred.

"We're praying that there are essentially no fatalities. The question is a difficult one to answer in some ways," Green said, noting that there was a "terrible car accident" that could have been storm-related,

and "we often have a person found every couple days that may be houseless on the street, who may have passed away."

Additionally, Hawaii Emergency Management Director Randy Collins warned the storm may have passed but there were still dangers to face in coming hours.

"Many casualties often happen after the disaster," Collins told reporters. "As people are cleaning things up, they're working with heavy equipment, chainsaws, generators. They're working around downed power lines and so forth. That's when the casualties come."

Lala was downgraded from a hurricane to a tropical

storm in the early morning hours of Sunday, according to the National Hurricane Center's update at 2:00 am local time (1200 GMT).

It had strengthened into a Category 1 hurricane on Saturday, generating winds of up to 75 miles per hour (120 kilometers per hour).

"The hurricane could maintain its intensity for a few more hours, but weakening is expected by early Sunday as Lala continues to pull away from the Big Island," NHC officials said.

Aside from the Big Island, tropical storm warnings were issued for the state's seven other major islands: Maui, Molokai, Kahoolawe, Lanai, Oahu, Kauai and Nii-



Workers cut a fallen tree into pieces in front of the Hawaii Convention Center, knocked down from rain and wind from Hurricane Lala, in Honolulu, Hawaii, on August 16, 2026.

hau.

A maximum storm total of 30 to 35 inches (76 to 89 centimeters) of rainfall was expected over the wind-

ward Big Island.

The heavy rain and flood risk spread westward across the island chain on Sunday, according to the NHC. □

Gabonese artist Naila Opiangah's quest to redefine black representation

Accra, Ghana

Gabonese artist Naila Opiangah, whose paintings of black female nudes have been showcased at the Met Gala, believes artists have a key role to play in forging Africa's future.

"When we talk about the development of Africa, we also need to think about how we preserve who we are," she told AFP from her seaside studio in Accra, Ghana, where she lives when she is not in New York. Her own exploration of identity comes through her depictions of naked black women -- a blend of the figurative and the abstract -- painted in sober shades of brown, green and muted blue.

Addressing female nudity is a "rather rebellious act given my origins, the way I was brought up, the people I depict and the community to which I belong", the 31-year-old from Gabon said.

"I found myself thinking: 'Why am I ashamed? It doesn't make sense. Why have I grown up in a system where I have to hide my nudity? Why not simply look at the body for what it is?'"

The question became an obsession.



Gabonese artist Naila Opiangah poses for a photograph in her studio in Accra on May 15, 2026.

"The relationship we have with the naked body today is a legacy of colonisation," she said.

She was referring to the straitjacket of modesty imposed by 19th-century European colonial powers on the traditional African societies of the time, and the Europeans' stereotypical view that African women were hypersexualised.

"We didn't have such a sexualised relationship with the human body before we were forced to cover ourselves up."

Opiangah left Gabon aged 18 to study architecture in Chicago.

After graduating, she joined the New York studio of renowned Ghanaian-British architect David Adjaye.

The experience, she later said, was "traumatic". In 2023, detailed allegations surfaced in the Financial Times newspaper, accusing Adjaye of sexual harassment, sexual assault and toxic management. Adjaye has denied his female accusers' versions of events.

Opiangah found solace in the ARTNOIR community of artists, collectors and patrons promoting black, African and diaspora art.

- Seizing opportunities -

Encouraged by her contemporaries and influential figures in the art world, she turned what had previously been a self-taught hobby into a career as a painter. Her meeting with acclaimed Ghanaian painter Amoako Bofo -- her mentor -- cemented her status as an artist.

Opiangah began catching the attention of collectors and celebrities.

They included US actress and singer Zendaya and Hollywood stylist Law Roach, who wore a jacket Opiangah painted with her signature black female figures to this year's Met Gala -- fashion's biggest night out.

She also won over Chance the Rapper. When he asked to buy one of her works, she refused to sell it until the star committed to collecting more art.

That eventually led to "Child of God", a music video in which Chance raps while Opiangah paints a huge canvas inspired by the song.

The artwork went on display at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago.

Opiangah is aware she is a role model for other African women.

"I have what I have because I've seized opportunities. For an African woman, self-confidence is a rare commodity," she said.

But she believes she had to leave central Africa to find those opportunities.

In her home country "art is viewed as useless", she sighed. □

Disney reveals 'X-Men' cast, slate of sequels at D23 fan event



Jake Schreier, Maya Boyd, Sadie Sink, Christopher Abbott, Samara Weaving, Kit Connor and Inde Navarrette at the Disney Entertainment Showcase at D23: The Ultimate Disney Fan Event on August 14, 2026 in Anaheim, California.

Anaheim, United States

Adam Driver, Inde Navarrette and Sadie Sink will be among those joining the

cast of Marvel's next "X-Men" movie, Disney announced at its biennial D23 fan gathering in California on Friday.

Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige took to the stage at Honda Center on the first night of the three-day convention to give more than 10,000 fans a sneak peek of the so-far untitled film, which is slated for a May 2028 release.

Sink will reprise her role in "Spider-Man: Brand New Day" as Jean Grey, while Navarrette will play Rogue. The cast also includes Kit Connor (Cyclops), Samara Weaving (Emma Frost), Christopher Abbott (Professor Xavier) and Maya Boyd (Storm).

Driver, who joined the event via video, will play the villain Nathaniel Milbury.

"Kevin and I have been talking for years about maybe joining the Marvel Cinematic Universe. And I think we finally found the perfect film

at the perfect time," Driver said.

Feige also showed footage from "Avengers: Domsday," set to be released in December, which will bring together the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, X-Men and Wakandan warriors in an epic clash against the evil Doctor Doom, played by Robert Downey Jr.

Another highlight was the first look at Ryan Gosling in Lucasfilm's "Star Wars: Starfighter," which will hit the big screen in 2027 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of "Star Wars."

- Sequels announced -

Disney CEO Josh D'Amaro, who took over in March, kickstarted this year's D23 event, which has become a platform for studios to show-

case their latest projects alongside stars, creatives and directors.

Pixar offered previews of its Italian fable "Gatto" and supernatural tale "Ghost Market," as well as "The Incredibles 3" and "Coco 2." Other sequels unveiled include "Lilo & Stitch 2," "Ice Age: Boiling Point" and "Frozen 3," promoted by stars Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel and Josh Gad.

"Everything's a sequel here," said attendee Gary Aurin, who came to D23 with his son.

"That's Disney, so you just gotta get used to it."

Director Jon Favreau took to the stage to introduce "Oswald the Lucky Rabbit," a mini-series to debut next year on the Disney+ platform. □

Afghan students divided over smartphone ban at universities

Kabul, Afghanistan

Forced to leave their smartphones off campus, Afghan university students are divided over whether the new anti-tech rule has disrupted their studies or done wonders for their concentration.

Soon after Supreme Leader Hibatullah Akhundzada ordered government workers to stop using smartphones in June, the ban was also imposed in the world of academia.

A 29-year-old student in the capital Kabul said a staffer had "visited the classrooms and announced that from now onwards, we are not allowed to bring smartphones to the university".

In the western city of Herat, notices posted on the walls of a university and its dorm warned that anyone caught with a smartphone on campus would face "legal action".

No reason was given to students who spoke to AFP, some of whom requested anonymity for security reasons.

At Kandahar University in southern Afghanistan, spokesman Nazir Ahmad Qadari said the move aimed to ensure students "pay attention to their lectures, studies and practical work".

Fifty-eight percent of countries ban mobile phones in schools, citing classroom distraction and risks to wellbeing, according to a March report by UNESCO which



A Taliban security personnel stands guard at an entrance gate of Kandahar University in Kandahar on August 12, 2026.

made no mention of university bans.

The Taliban authorities have ruled for nearly five years, according to a strict interpretation of Islamic law, and have taken steps to control Afghans' access to technology without saying why.

Last year, broadband access was restricted in several provinces for weeks, before the government unexpectedly cut off the internet and phone networks nationwide for two days.

Despite this, smartphones are widely used and billboards in cities advertise the latest internet deals.

- 'Can't study properly' -

At universities, the ban has restricted access to online research and course materials, with one Herat student saying he had used his phone to help with about half the syllabus.

"If the explanation was not good, we used our phones to take photos and videos of the slides or the writing on the board, so we could review them later," the 21-year-old said.

That view was shared in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif, where a 22-year-old journalism student told AFP: "We can't study properly without smartphones".

The human rights director for

the United Nations mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Fiona Frazer, said there "may be sound reasons to manage students' use of technology". However, UNAMA had concerns about government restrictions that limit "access to information, freedom of expression" and the ability to participate fully in daily life. Back in Kabul, the 29-year-old student said time-saving artificial intelligence tools are now out of reach, while people now have to carry dozens of physical books around campus instead of using e-books. There is no ban on laptops, but many students cannot afford one.

The student, who is also a freelance translator, has also found it hard to concentrate on lectures knowing he could be missing out on work opportunities.

"I need to check my emails and WhatsApp every other minute, because I receive messages from my clients... if I don't answer, I can lose the offer," he said.

Although he can pay the 10 Afghanis (\$0.15) fee to store his smartphone at the university entrance, he said it's difficult for others "because most of the students are not financially stable".

- Improved grades -

A second Kabul student, 28, said he had bought a basic phone which he was allowed to use on campus to make calls.

But he complained of the extra expense and being "deprived of the current technology".

However, not everyone opposes the ban.

In Kandahar, home of the supreme leader, medical student Sanaullah Yousufzai said the rule had improved relations between teachers and students.

"We can better focus on the lessons and lectures; there are no more interruptions due to calls," said Yousufzai. But the 25-year-old remained worried that he might not be able to reach his family in an emergency. □

Wildfire threatens Canada wine region

Toronto, Canada

Canadian winemakers have been forced to evacuate their land due to a fast-spreading wildfire that has engulfed parts of British Columbia, with some still awaiting word on whether their crops were impacted by the blaze.

John Glavina, who owns the Giant Head Estate Winery in the community of Summerland, told AFP he got an evacuation order just hours after the Bald Range fire ignited on August 7.

He got in the car with his wife, dog, passport and laptop, but left behind 20 barrels of red wine in a

cellar, three tanks of white wine and 14 tonnes of grapes on the vine.

"We have CAD\$45,000 (US\$32,000) worth of crop that we could lose," he said.

Officials have said the Bald Range blaze spread at a terrifying pace, forcing some 20,000 people to flee their homes and killing an 80-year-old woman.

The fire has ravaged parts of western Canada's Okanagan region, one of the country's highest-regarded wine areas.

The varied soil types surrounding Okanagan Lake allow producers to make a range of wines, from Merlot

to Chardonnay. Glavina, who previously worked in software, bought a patch of land in Summerland in 2002, converting an old apple orchard into a winery. His pinot noirs and sauvignon blancs have received international acclaim, even as he has become increasingly touched by the threats climate change poses to both his community and the wine-making industry.

- 'Huge hit' -

While this summer marked Glavina's first evacuation, he recalled how wildfire smoke in previous summers left the berries and flow-



Howling Bluff Estate Winery owner Luke Smith inspects wine grapes and grapevines damaged by wildfire smoke in Naramata, British Columbia, on August 14, 2026.

ers in his vineyards smelling "like an ashtray" and when British Columbia's 2021 heat dome imperiled a range of crops.

He said Summerland farm-

ers who did not evacuate have sent him encouraging reports indicating limited impact to his property, but businesses across the region are suffering. □

Viennese woman sues city over 'discriminatory' toilet fees

Vienna, Austria

A Viennese woman is suing the city council for discrimination over access to public toilets, complaining that women must pay to use cubicles while men can use urinals for free.

"I was in a park with a friend and we both needed to use the bathroom. He could go for free, but I had to pay 50 cents. I thought to myself: How is that possible?" Melanie Gradik, 27, told AFP in the Austrian capital's Augarten park.

"I want everyone to be able to use the bathroom on an equal footing. Either we all pay 50 cents or no one pays 50 cents," she said.

It's not about the money, Gradik added: "It's a small thing, but it's also an example of how women are treated unequally in everyday life."

Gradik has filed a legal complaint against the municipality, arguing that exclusively charging women for access to public toilets violates the city's anti-discrimination laws.

According to her lawyer, Petra Laback, the fact that some public facilities offer free urinals for men creates inequality between the sexes.

"Men have an additional free alternative, women do not," she said.

If Gradik wins her case,



Austrian activist Melanie Gradik, 27, and her lawyer Petra Laback are pictured in the Augarten, a historic Baroque park in Vienna, Austria, on August 12, 2026.

it could set a precedent across Austria, the lawyer said. "This will certainly have an impact on other municipalities."

- 'Objective justification' -

Vienna currently has 168 publicly managed toilet facilities, 139 of which are free to use.

According to the city authorities, the 29 facilities that charge a fee do so because they employ toilet attendants.

"In very busy locations with intensive use it is necessary for organisational reasons to ensure supervision in or-

der to guarantee proper use and cleanliness," Sandra Holzinger, a spokeswoman for the municipality, told AFP.

"In these 29 facilities, a usage fee of 50 cents must be paid for the use of cubicles by people of all genders," she said, adding that urinals were additionally provided "in order to prevent fouling caused by urinating in public spaces".

But for law professor Anna Gamper of the University of Innsbruck, this system raises serious questions about equality.

Under Austrian law, "a dis-

inction between men and women may only be made if there is a special, objective justification for it", she said.

In the case of public toilets, such a justification "does not appear to exist" since the cost of building, maintaining and cleaning cubicles and urinals is basically the same, the professor said.

Even if cubicles were slightly more expensive to maintain or consumed more water, this would not necessarily be enough to justify a price difference compared with urinals, she added.

- Free for everyone -

The argument that men also have to pay to use a cubicle does not hold up because they still have a free option that is not available to women, she added.

In Gamper's view, women should not be financially disadvantaged because of their anatomy or because they need cubicles for safety reasons, for example.

Women in Austria face several extra costs compared with men in everyday life, such as having to pay for menstrual products and more expensive cosmetics, according to a spokesman for Elke Hanel-Torsch, the city of Vienna's representative for women's issues.

In their coalition agreement for governing the city, the Social Democrats and liberals pledged to expand public toilet provision and examine whether public toilets could be made free for everyone.

In the Augarten park, new public toilets opened in 2025 provide a possible blueprint for the future.

Designed to blend into the historic Baroque park, they are notable for their curved ceramic facades, daylight from skylights, accessibility features, drinking fountains -- and free use. □

Stolen Matisse works tied to infamous art thief in Brazil



Eight art pieces by French artist Henri Matisse are displayed at Mario de Andrade Public Library in Sao Paulo, Brazil on August 14, 2026.

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Phone logs of a notorious art and rare-book thief in Brazil proved to be the key for police to recover eight stolen engravings by famed French painter Henri Matisse, after they were

pilfered from a library exhibition in Sao Paulo last December.

The pieces from Matisse's limited-edition 1947 art book "Jazz," valued at around \$200,000, were found at a home in the town of Sao

Bernardo do Campo.

Brazilian authorities accused 53-year-old Laessio Rodrigues of masterminding the theft. A former library science scholar, Rodrigues has a criminal history with similar cases.

The works were stolen on December 7, 2025, from the Mario de Andrade library in Sao Paulo, where they were part of a rare-book exhibition.

Police say the thieves overpowered a security guard and an elderly couple, grabbed the engravings and other items from a glass dome where they were kept, and fled.

- Big reputation -

"Laessio has already been convicted in other cases,

he keeps going in and out of jail for stealing books and works of art," Ronald Quene, the Civil Police commissioner in charge of the investigation, told AFP. Rodrigues was arrested in April and is awaiting trial for multiple crimes, including the Matisse theft.

His notoriety is in part due to a 2017 Brazilian documentary about him, "Cartas para um Ladrão de Livros" (Letters to a Book Thief).

"He's a narcissist who tells everyone that he's the biggest art and rare-books thief in Brazil," Quene added. Shortly after the theft, police identified the two suspects with the use of surveillance cameras.

One was arrested and the

second fled. Further investigation of their communications revealed contacts with Rodrigues.

"We found several audio recordings of Laessio coordinating the thefts with his accomplices," Quene said. "There are conversations about everything: dividing the money, how much each person would get."

The investigation led to the arrests of Rodrigues's husband and a woman.

Eventually, a forensic analysis of Rodrigues's phone cracked the case of where the stolen artwork could be found.

Police searched a residence in Sao Bernardo do Campo, near Sao Paulo, and found the eight pieces in a closet. □



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Snakes of Aruba

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

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

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

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

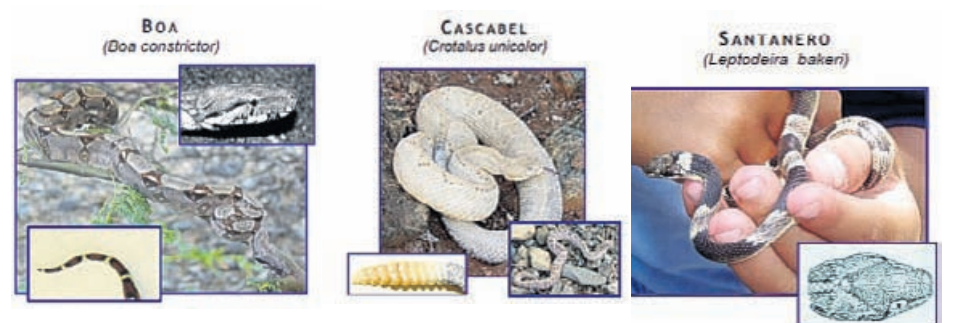
Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

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

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

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





infini
by Urvin Croes

f Infini Aruba
www.infiniaruba.com
J.E. Irausquin Blvd

ig infiniaruba
+297 699 3982
reservations@infiniaruba.com



Infini Unveils Menu XVI: Journey Through Time



Chef Urvin Croes and the team at Infini debut Menu XVI: Journey Through Time, a new tasting menu exploring the cultures, traditions, and ingredients that shaped the Caribbean. True to Infini's "Limitless Possibilities" philosophy, the menu blends history, storytelling, and modern technique into an immersive dining experience unlike anywhere else on the island.

Served chef's table style, each course unfolds as a chapter in a story that carries through the night, with every dish

drawing on Caribbean heritage through a contemporary lens.

The journey opens with Limpia Man, a hibiscus cleansing oil, followed by Batata (sweet potato, coconut, tuna, mango, jerk spice) and Kachá & Bada (T2Pan chocolate sourdough, tomato, avocado). Ikpiki brings amberjack with honeydew and jalapeño, while the returning signature dish Jambo showcases turbot, okra, and Caribbean seafood. A Mojito Bonbon palate cleanser leads into heartier courses: Keshi Yena, a reimagined Caribbean classic, and the centerpiece Merchants and Mangroves, featuring sirloin with harissa and Creole spices. Mosaic bridges savory and sweet before



dessert arrives with Carnival, Cos Dushi, and the signature farewell gift, the Bahama Mama Cupcake.



Chef Urvin Croes rose from apprentice cook to Chef de Partie and Sous Chef at top Aruba restaurants, trained in Europe at the Michelin recognized Grand Hotel Karel V, and returned home to elevate the island's culinary scene. He works closely with local farmers and producers and became the first ever winner of Iron Chef Aruba.

Menu XVI is more than a tasting menu. It's an evening of storytelling, connection, and discovery, celebrating the people, cultures, and flavors that shaped the Caribbean while pushing the boundaries of modern fine dining. □



Aruba to me

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

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CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



(Oranjestad)—CAYA, one of Aruba's most beloved dining destinations, continues to celebrate the vibrant essence of Latin Caribbean cuisine with an exciting new menu that beautifully balances tradition and innovation.

Nestled in a beautifully restored traditional Aruban Cunucu house, surrounded by lush tropical greenery, CAYA offers guests a dining experience that feels both authentic and contemporary. The restaurant's philosophy is simple yet profound: to create a space where the warmth of island hospitality meets the creativity of modern gastronomy.

The new menu reflects this vision with a series

of inspired dishes that showcase the diversity of Caribbean and Latin American flavors. From Cuba to Colombia, and from Aruba to Mexico, each plate tells a story rooted in heritage and reimagined through CAYA's modern lens.

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind leche de tigre, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfec-



tion and served with *chimi-churri espuma*.

The main courses bring equal excitement. Highlights include the **Chilean Sea Bass**, pan fried and served with a smooth carrot and *ají amarillo* sauce, creamy garlic mashed potatoes, grilled paksoi and broccoli, hearts of palm, toasted cashews, and a fragrant lime leaf vinaigrette. Another showstopper is the **Duck and Rice**, a Caribbean interpretation of a Peruvian classic, featuring pan fried duck breast with aromatic green rice infused with local herbs, kombucha, and *ají amarillo*, finished with a pan fried egg and *sarsa criolla*.

Dessert lovers are in for a treat as well. The **Caribbean Black Forest** reimagines the classic with a tropical twist, featuring a rich brownie served with red fruit, coconut mousse, chocolate, and banana rum ice cream. The **Merengon Tropical** delights with sage panna cotta, mango and pineapple compote, mango sorbet, and citrus meringue.

Guests can also enjoy CAYA's new *Sabor Experience*, a limited time three course menu priced at \$79, allowing diners to explore an appetizer, main course, and dessert of their choice.

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts live music every Sunday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., setting the perfect backdrop for an evening of island charm and culinary artistry.

CAYA continues to invite locals and visitors alike to experience the heart of Aruba, where Latin Caribbean heritage comes alive in every dish, every note of music, and every heartfelt welcome. □

Aruba expects higher temperatures caused by El Niño

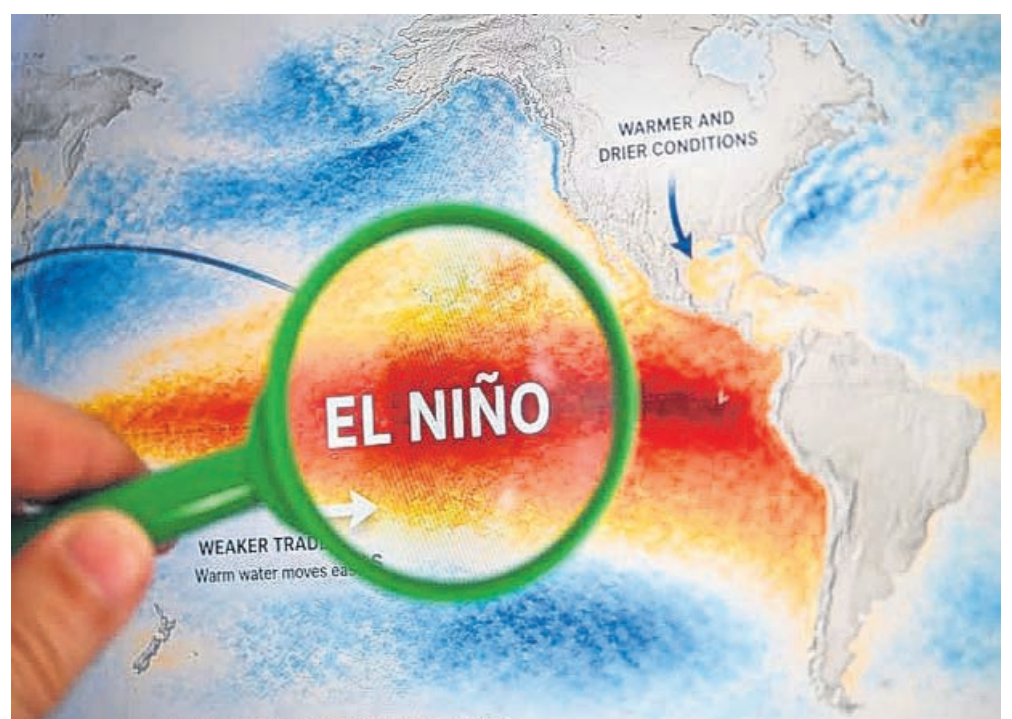
(Oranjestad)—In June 2026 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced the presence of El Niño in the Pacific region. Since then, the climactic phenomenon has become stronger and is now expected to reach "Super El Niño" status. For Aruba, this means hotter and drier days with less tropical activity than usual.

For this reason, it's important to take care of yourself and your loved ones, especially the elderly and those with chronic illnesses. The national directorate for public health (Directie Volksgezondheid, DVG) cautioned back in June that these groups are especially at risk of suffering

from dehydration, fatigue, as well as other health complications including heat stroke.

The DVG advises everyone to drink more water—even when you're not thirsty. Extreme heat causes our body to sweat more than usual, so make sure you keep your body hydrated. It's also recommended to stay in the shade as much as possible, wear light clothes, use sun block and reapply consistently during the day.

For more information on how to take care against extremely hot weather, contact the DVG at (+297 522-4200) or email them at servicio@dvg.aw. □



Planning on visiting Aruba? Make sure you have your ED card!

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to any country, it's important to make sure you have the right documents with you. For Aruba, one document that always seems to confuse people is the ED card. Scammers have taken advantage of the confusion, with dozen of fake and identical website overcharging visitors. To avoid this happening to you, here's a brief guide on how to obtain the ED card the right way: What website to use and how much it actually costs.

The Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. The ED Card has been in a requirement for visitors for decades and in 2020 it was digitalized. In 2024, the government of Aruba implemented a sustainability fee for all visitors of the island, which include a \$20 contribution for the improvement, updating

Aruba Online ED Card

The Aruban Government welcomes you and your family to Aruba.

The online Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. As per the country's immigration policy, all incoming tourists must fully complete the online ED card application. It's an essential entry requirement that you can complete quickly and easily online. Simply enter your details into the relevant fields, and upon a successful submission you'll receive an affirmation by email. A passenger that claims to be exempted from completion of the ED Card application due to citizenship, must provide basic information to confirm his status. Pursuant to his status he will receive a confirmation by email.

What you'll need:

1. A valid passport
2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) ⓘ

What you should note:

1. The online ED card is not a visa.
2. The successful submission of your online ED card does not guarantee entry into Aruba. On arrival to Aruba, your eligibility for entry will be assessed on its own merits. It is crucial that all information you provide, or on your behalf by a designated third party, must be true and correct, as this is a key factor in your entry assessment.

START

and maintenance of the local waste water plant. First things first, make sure you have the right website. The official website for the ED card is www.edcarda-ruba.aw. It is important to note that there are NO alternatives for this website; this website is the ONLY way you can obtain an official

ED card. Other website that may look similar are not official and may possibly be a scam. Be careful not to fall for the trap! Next up, make sure you have the right information with you when you apply for an ED card. You should have on hand:

1. A valid passport

2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)

We mentioned a \$20 contribution mandatory for every visitor. Keep in mind that this is a YEARLY fee; so if you

plan on visiting Aruba more than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

We should clarify that the ED card is not a substitute for a visa. Visitors who need a visa for Aruba must apply for both a visa and an online ED card. You can also start applying for the ED card 6 days before your flight.

If you extend your trip, you don't have to reapply for or edit your ED card. However, you must reapply if you missed your flight and/or your flight got canceled and your traveling to the island on another flight.

For more info, visit the official website for ED card of contact the immigration office of Aruba at (+297) 523 7404 or email them at info@dga.aw □

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our lan-

guage? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since

Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened ver-

sion of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!



(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 "Picuda", a very common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Picuda.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative

article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

Picuda, Sphyrna barracuda, Greater Barracuda Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name

is Sphyrna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

Description

The Picuda is a long fish, with a round body like a tor-

pedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or cone-fish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

In Aruba:

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island

throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).



Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theaters. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American

blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne

(Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a drive-in theater. A popular

American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi. □



Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Miniature

1 One of the map
Deadly 41 Pound
Sins part

5 Church 42 Calls for
fixture 43 Low digits

10 Pays to
play

12 "Cheers"
barmaid

13 South
America's
north
coast

15 Bar bill

16 Quaker's
pronoun

17 Not pos.

18 Sand
substance

20 Skin woe
21 Home
design

22 Reduced
amount

23 More than
sufficient

25 Pack tight

28 Salon
jobs

31 On this
spot

32 Hun
leader

34 Swearing-
in vow

35 That guy's

36 Tote

37 Deluge

DOWN

1 Survives

2 Like some
debts

3 Horse
house

4 Wallet bill

5 Needing
aspirin

6 Hurried
flight

7 Somno-
lent state

8 Sci-fi
threat

9 Mountain
chains

11 Half-hour
show,

14 Twinge
channel

19 Start of
a Caesar
quote

20 Watchful
songs

24 "Get a
move on!"
color

25 Contribute
39 Tire track

26 Made over
27 Incite
29 La Scala
city
30 Water
channel
33 Dance's
de Mille
35 Top Ten
songs
38 Cardinal
color
39 Tire track

4-25

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.

4-25 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

B L N B N Q Y V S B N K S J R H N K

B N B N Y , X L G B L G J Y V H S S .

V L Y V K Y I S J G V Y E Q Y C V .

B L N B N Q Y V S G J J Y Q Y T .

— Y C N C O K N Z J

Cryptoquote: I ASK YOU TO ENSURE
THAT HUMANITY IS SERVED BY WEALTH AND
NOT RULED BY IT. — POPE FRANCIS



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	
16 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
18 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
19 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
23 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
25 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
26 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
30 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

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

Difficulty: ★

8/17

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/16

Japan aims for the moons of Mars



Propulsion Module (L) and Exploration and Return Modules (R), making up the Martian Moons eXploration (MMX) spacecraft, are seen at the Tanegashima Space Center in Minamitane, Kagoshima prefecture on August 13, 2026.

Tanegashima Space Center, Japan

Japanese scientists are readying a mission to Mars' moons to retrieve samples that may unlock the origins of the Solar System and life on Earth, although a rival Chinese mission aims to make it back first.

The unmanned Martian Moons eXploration (MMX), set to blast off from Tanegashima Space Center in the coming months, could also lay the groundwork for humans visiting the red planet.

The spacecraft, revealed to media last Thursday, will stay in Mars' orbit for around three years and will attempt to land on Phobos.

It will collect at least 10 grams (0.35 ounces) of material from the surface of Phobos, while the IDEFIX rover -- the French name for comic hero Asterix's dog -- will conduct surface observations.

The spacecraft will also observe Demios, the other of Mars' moons -- but without landing -- before a return capsule heads back to Earth to land in Australia in around 2031.

- Impact or capture -

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) hopes that the mission will reveal how Mars and its moons formed, a key piece of knowledge in working out how the Solar System was born.

One theory for the origin of the Martian moons -- the "giant impact" hypothesis -- is that they formed after a celestial body collided with Mars.

The "capture" hypothesis meanwhile postulates that the moons are asteroids from the outer Solar System that were captured by Mars' gravity.

Determining which is right will help reveal "how a habitable environment for life might have arisen on the terrestrial planets", JAXA said, referring to the four rocky worlds closest to the Sun -- Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars. "MMX will shed light on the transport mechanisms that delivered water, volatiles, and organic compounds from the outer Solar System to the inner rocky planet region -- processes that may have played a key role in making these worlds habitable," said Patrick Michel, a French astrophysicist working on IDEFIX.

"If Phobos and Deimos are indeed remnants of these early delivery systems, they may hold clues to the origins of life itself, or to be more

correct, to the transport of the materials that were key to the emergence of life on rocky planets," he told AFP. JAXA said that the mission will also explore the possibility of using Phobos as a "natural space station" by establishing the technology required for a round trip to Mars -- something "essential for crewed Mars exploration".

- Martian legs -

MMX is a collaboration with France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES), the German Aerospace Center (DLR), NASA and European Space Agency (ESA) as well as a score of universities and tech companies.

The development of the spacecraft's landing legs was particularly difficult as gravity on Phobos is extremely low, according to Akinari Uehara, a Mitsubishi Electric engineer.

"We have to prevent the (probe) from falling down, by having the legs cushion the impact of landing," Uehara said.

Japan's unmanned Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) -- the "Moon Sniper" -- tipped over after touching down on Earth's Moon in 2024, but still transmitted data and survived several two-week lunar nights.

Japan also has experience in bringing back samples from space, including JAXA's unmanned Hayabusa-2 which returned 5.4 grams of rock and dust collected

from an asteroid several hundred million kilometres from Earth in 2020.

- Perseverance -

But MMX is not the only Mars mission trying to bring back material.

NASA's Perseverance rover, which has been roaming the red planet since 2021, has already collected samples ready to be taken back to Earth.

However the mission has effectively been cancelled by the administration of President Donald Trump following a US Congress vote in January.

China has also announced its Tianwen-3 spacecraft is scheduled for launch around 2028 and will return Mars samples to Earth around 2031 -- potentially earlier than MMX's sample return.

China's Tianwen-1 mission already landed a rover named Zhurong on the surface of Mars in 2021, in one of the most spectacular successes of Beijing's space program. □

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: Oduber
Tel. 582 1680

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

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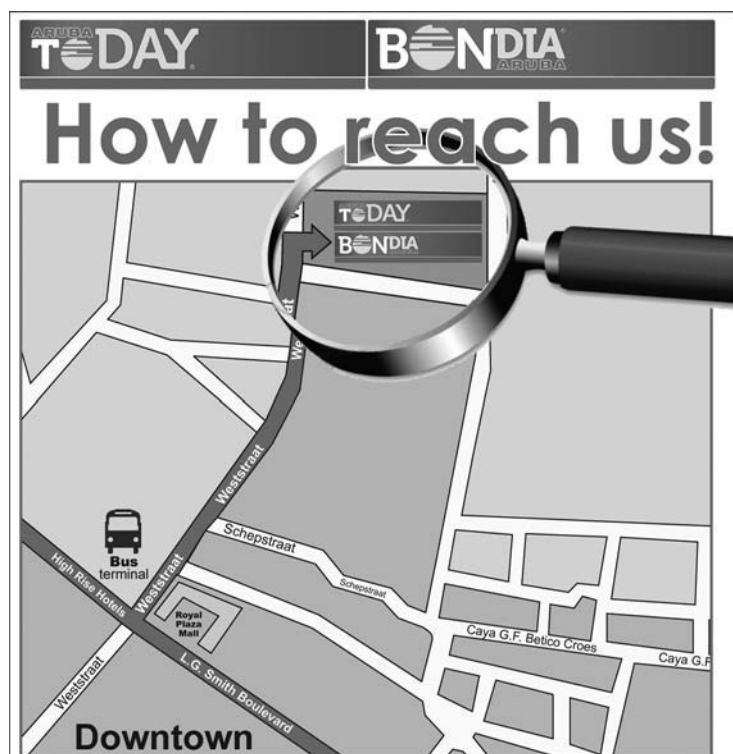
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Editor

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



Sweden's Armand Duplantis competes in the men's pole vault final during the European Athletics Championships at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham on August 16, 2026.

Birmingham, United Kingdom

Serial world record setter Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis claimed a fourth successive European title in Birmingham on Sunday, while home heroine Amy Hunt bagged a record fourth gold of the championships in the 4x100m mixed relay.

Hunt's relay teammate Dina Asher-Smith made history with a record-breaking eighth European gold. Her continental total of 11 medals established the 30-year-old as the most-decorated European athlete of all time.

A sell-out crowd of 23,000 was treated to a heady night

of track and field at Alexander Stadium, with a wealth of global stars on show. They don't come any larger than Duplantis, who has dominated his discipline since winning a first European title in Berlin back in 2018.

The U.S.-born Swede soon found himself in a predictable duel with Greek rival Emmanouil Karalis in Birmingham, but kept his nerve as the bar continued to be raised.

Duplantis dominant, Hunt hits four and Asher-Smith makes history

Karalis in the end crumbled and couldn't nail a clearance beyond 6.00 metres. The imperious Duplantis bettered his own championship record by 5cm to win with 6.15m. The 26-year-old's fourth European gold adds to a tally that already includes two Olympic titles, three world outdoor and four world indoor golds -- as well as 15 world records. "Another medal, I can't complain," said Duplantis.

- Hunt on roller-coaster -

On the track, it was four golds from four events for the impressive Hunt, who went into the final having already won golds in the 100, 200 and women's 4x100m relay.

She anchored a dominant foursome starring Jeremiah Azu, Asher-Smith and Zharnel Hughes as they won in a European record of 39.97 seconds, ahead of Germany and Spain.

"When you're queueing for a roller-coaster, and you're seeing the drops, but when you get off you want to do it all again. I loved it," Hunt said.

There was a third major gold medal of the season for Hunt's teammate Georgia Hunter Bell, whose victory in the 1,500m followed

successes at the world indoors in Torun in March and Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last month.

Hunter Bell said she felt like a "caged animal", chomping at the bit to get going in Birmingham, having won 13 of the 15 races in which she's competed this season going into the final.

The 32-year-old Briton went one better than her training partner Keely Hodgkinson, who was beaten into 800m silver by Audrey Werro, by dominating the 1,500m for an impressive gold in 4:07.78.

"I did feel really calm and really confident. I have been on a win streak and I have had lots of failures before when I have been the favourite," Hunter Bell said.

"It was nice to come down the home stretch and know I had it. It is just special. Another gold. I am hoping to make it four in September," at the World Athletics Ultimate Championships in Budapest.

Italy's Larissa Lapichino won a thrilling women's long jump with just 6cm separating the top five jumpers. Lapichino managed a winning best of 7.00m on her first effort, Britain's Jazmin

Sawyers taking silver, 1cm adrift, and France's Hilary Kpatcha yet another centimetre back in bronze.

Germany's reigning champion Malaika Mihambo of Germany could only finish fifth.

- Gold for Broeders-Bol -

There was more luck for Mihambo's teammate Frederik Ruppert, who made history this season by becoming the first European in history to break the 8min barrier and won the men's 3,000m steeplechase in 8:25.33.

Croatia's Sara Kolak won gold in the women's javelin with a winning throw of 62.43m, remarkably her first major title since a shock victory at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The 13th and final session of a gripping week of athletics finished with the 4x400m relays.

Femke Broeders-Bol, the two-time former 400m hurdles champion who won 800m bronze here, delivered a typically astute anchor lap to secure gold for the Netherlands in 3:21.10 over Britain and Italy.

Lorenzo Benati held off Britain's Charles Dobson on the anchor leg to ensure Italian gold in the men's 4x400m relay. □

Top-ranked Scheffler powers to PGA St. Jude Championship victory

Washington, United States

World number one Scottie Scheffler powered to an eight-stroke victory in the St. Jude Championship on Sunday, capturing his first PGA Tour title since January. The American launched the tour's FedEx Cup play-off series in convincing style, shrugging off an early bogey to card five birdies in a four-under par 66 for a 17-under par total of 263 at TPC Southwind in Memphis, Tennessee.

South Korean Kim Si-woo carded a two-under 68 to finish second on nine-under. "I've had some close calls this year," said Scheffler, who had five runner-up finishes and four other top-fours during the extended

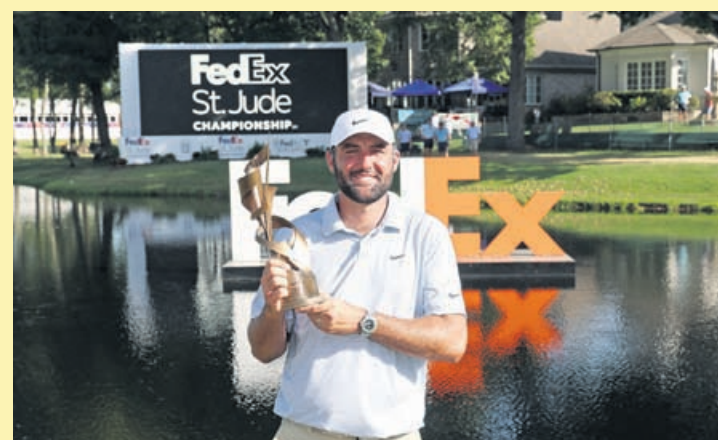
dry spell that followed his season-opening victory at La Quinta, California.

"I feel like I kept saying at the end of each tournament 'Man, I feel like I'm playing pretty good. It's just the little things aren't going my way.'" Scheffler started the day with a two-shot lead, his first 54-hole lead in more than a year, but quickly got another unwelcome taste of little things going wrong when his shot out of a greenside bunker at the third hole hit a sprinkler head and bounced into the water for a bogey. Scheffler responded with a 10-foot birdie at the fifth, then rolled in 20-foot birdie putts at six and 11 before draining a 22-foot birdie at the 13th. A six-foot birdie at

the 16th was just an exclamation point as those chasing systematically fell by the wayside.

Scheffler's good friend Sam Burns, who started the day tied for second and played in the final group, took a double-bogey at the third and bogeyed the fifth. He finished with a three-over 73 and finished tied for third with Sweden's Alex Noren on eight-under.

South Korean Im Sung-jae, who shared second overnight, fired a four-over 74 for a share of fifth. That was good enough to see Im move into the top 50 in the FedEx Cup standings and book his spot in next week's BMW Championship. Four-time major-winner



Scottie Scheffler of the United States celebrates with the trophy after winning during the final round of the FedEx St. Jude Championship 2026 at TPC Southwind on August 16, 2026 in Memphis, Tennessee.

Scheffler, whose week included a superb 61 on Friday, claimed his 21st PGA Tour title.

The more than six-month gap since his last victory was the longest he's gone

between titles since 2023, when he won the Players Championship in March and didn't return to the winner's circle again until the Hero World Challenge in December. □

Sabalenka squeezes out a win on sixth match point in Cincinnati

Cincinnati, United States

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka fought through 6-2, 7-6 (7/2) against Talia Gibson on Sunday to join two other elites in the third round of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

The world number one needed six match points, Australia's Gibson saving five in the 12th game of the second set before Sabalenka managed a final winner to get the job done in just under two hours on a windswept Grandstand Court.

"I'm super tired, this is crazy weather," the Belarusian said. "Talia played great tennis and was more aggressive in the second set."

"She put more pressure on my service games. I'm glad I stayed calm and pulled it out in straight sets."

Sabalenka, who won the Cincinnati trophy in 2024, is looking for a solid build-up to the US Open, where she'll be seeking her first Grand Slam title of the year.

She's won three titles in 2026, but none since Miami in March.

She joined a pair of reigning Grand Slam champions in advancing, with Australian Open winner Elena Rybakina and Roland Garros titleholder Mirra Andreeva also reaching the third round.

Second seed Rybakina, coming off a runner-up finish to Iga Swiatek in Toronto, defeated Taylor Townsend 6-3, 6-4.

Andreeva crushed Oleksandra Oliynykova with the loss of just one game, breaking five times and saving all seven break points against her own serve in a 65-minute 6-1, 6-0 rout.

Rybakina said that she is concentrating on recovery after a tough Toronto run and was glad to get off to a low-stress start.

"Today I'm happy with the serve," she said. "Definitely it helped me a lot. Last week in Toronto was very difficult. A lot of three set matches." Seventh seed Swiatek, the defending champion who bagged her first title of a rocky season in Toronto, hammered Emiliana Arango of Colombia 6-3, 6-0.

Swiatek went down an early break but recovered quickly to prevail in 71 minutes over

the player who ousted Venus Williams in the first round.

Sara Bejlek continued her rampage against fellow Czechs as she defeated Barbora Krejickova 7-6 (7/5), 6-4. She had beaten compatriot and former champion Karolina Pliskova in the first round.

- FAA back in action -

In men's action, second seed Felix Auger-Aliassime began his injury-delayed US Open preparation with a 6-3, 7-5 victory over 2022 Cincy finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas.

Auger-Aliassime was playing for the first time since losing a five-set Wimbledon quarter-final to Novak Djokovic nearly six weeks ago.

The Canadian withdrew at the last second from his home Montreal Masters this month with back pain but looked fully recovered as

he throttled Tsitsipas in 88 minutes.

The 49th-ranked Greek was broken three times in the second set, with Auger-Aliassime sending down his seventh ace on match point.

Auger-Aliassime said that a late break of his serve could be blamed partly on conditions.

"It got really windy, it was pushing against me. I felt like I had no power in my serve. "It was a tricky ending, but luckily I was able to get the break back. I was able to come back and serve it out better, with the wind this time."

"For someone who hasn't played since Wimbledon, (coming back has) been a tough health-wise. But I'm happy to be back with a win like this, it's great."



Mirra Andreeva returns a shot during a match against Oleksandra Oliynykova of Ukraine on day six of the Cincinnati Open at Lindner Family Tennis Center on August 16, 2026 in Mason, Ohio.

Fourth-seeded Russian Daniil Medvedev opened his campaign with a businesslike 6-4, 7-5 defeat of Argentine Marco Trungelliti.

Medvedev is always a threat in the US hard court season, having won four of the five

hardcourt Masters titles in his career.

The 2019 Cincinnati champion earned his 100th Masters 1000 win and his 32nd of this season. He trailed 2-5 in the second set but won the last five games. □



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



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

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

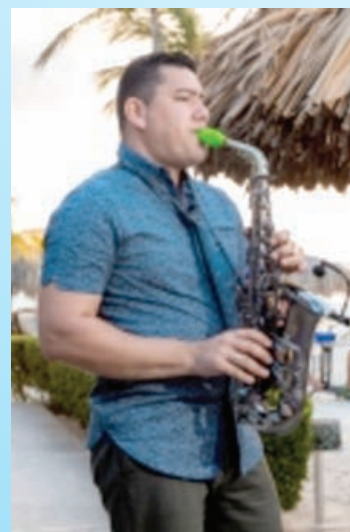
Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Live entertainment

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

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

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

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