



The Felthams are back to celebrate "Pop's" big birthday!

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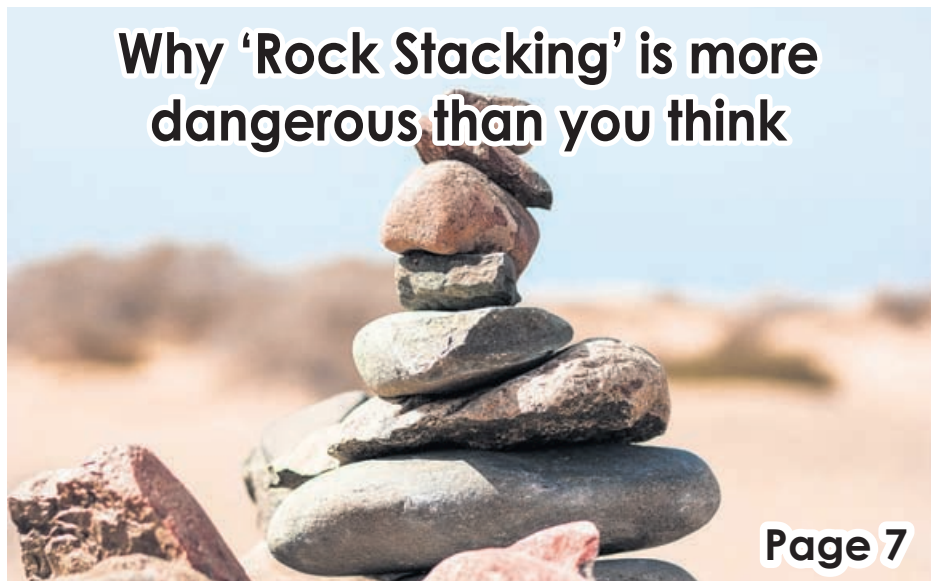
Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

Aruba: the legend behind its name



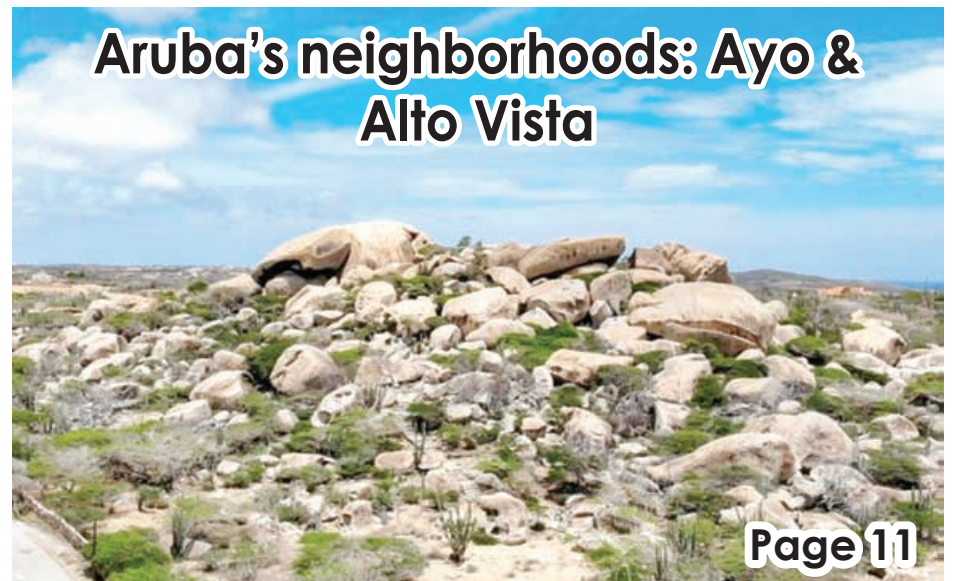
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Why 'Rock Stacking' is more dangerous than you think



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Aruba's neighborhoods: Ayo & Alto Vista



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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.



Happy Hour
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10



U.S. Supreme Court allows White House ballroom construction for now

Washington, United States

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday allowed construction of a massive White House ballroom to continue for now, giving President Donald Trump a temporary victory for one of his pet renovation projects.

Chief Justice John Roberts temporarily lifted a lower court ruling that had demanded a halt to the building of the controversial ballroom by midnight on Friday.

Roberts's one-sentence order means that work on the ballroom, which has been challenged by historical preservation groups, may proceed while litigation plays out in the lower courts.

Trump, in a post on Truth Social, said he was "grateful" for the Supreme Court decision.

"The Military/Ballroom Complex being built on the hallowed grounds of the White House, which is so vital for National Security, will be the greatest of its kind!" he said. "Construction is under budget and ahead of schedule."



Demolition work continues where the East Wing once stood at the White House on December 8, 2025 in Washington, DC.

The Trump administration asked the conservative-dominated Supreme Court last week to allow it to finish building the ballroom and an underground bunker at the White House, saying the project was essential for national security.

Trump ordered the demolition of the entire historic East Wing of the White House last year without input from Congress to make

way for his long-desired ballroom, but the project was quickly challenged in court.

A district court ordered a halt to work on the above-ground ballroom while allowing construction of the underground military bunker to proceed, but that order had been stayed while on appeal.

The appellate court recently upheld the lower court's

order, agreeing that such a sweeping White House overhaul required the explicit consent of Congress, but gave the administration time to appeal to the Supreme Court.

Trump initially touted the construction of the ballroom as being necessary to host galas and state dinners, but has since repeatedly emphasized the addition of a sophisticated un-

derground military bunker and other security features.

- 'Not a tenant' -

Solicitor General John Sauer, in the appeal to the Supreme Court, also stressed the security aspects of the project and argued that the president has the authority to make changes to the White House.

"The President of the United States of America is not a tenant, but rather the sole, elected head of the Executive Branch, and Congress has authorized him to renovate, secure, and protect the White House and its grounds, as other Presidents have been allowed to do, without exception," Sauer said.

The project is already 65 percent complete, he said, and halting it "will stall this vital construction, making this president the subject of recurrent assassination attempts much less safe, and risking future presidents' safety."

Work on the ballroom began last year with the sudden demolition of the East Wing, which used to house the offices of the First Lady. □

Experts question U.S. Census Bureau report on noncitizen voting

Washington, United States

A U.S. Census Bureau report claiming more than 20,000 noncitizens voted in the 2020 presidential election has raised doubts over the impartiality of the influential but normally non-partisan agency.

Unproven allegations of widespread voter fraud including the casting of ballots by noncitizens, which is illegal in federal elections have been a cornerstone of President Donald Trump's insistence that his loss to Joe Biden six years

ago was unlawful. And the bureau's analysis stating with "high confidence" that around 24,000 noncitizens voted in 2020 was pounced on by Trump as clear evidence to back his claims.

However, experts and former Census Bureau officials have raised serious doubts about the accuracy of the document, suggesting the methodology is flawed. Former Census Bureau senior executive Amy O'Hara called the paper an abuse of the agency's "sterling reputation for high-quality analysis."

She pointed to the lack of attribution and other "red flags on methods and research integrity."

NPR reported that the analysis was not conducted by career civil servants, but rather by a team including

individuals affiliated with the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), a think tank started by officials from Trump's first administration. O'Hara, who is now director of the Massive Data Institute at Georgetown University, said it is "unthinkable that the carefully negotiated, curated and stewarded data could be exposed for political gain instead of statistical purpose."

The Census Bureau and AFPI did not immediately reply to AFP requests for comment.

Comparing two datasets

The report compared federal administrative records that include immigration information with a nationwide voter file dataset provided by the Virginia-based business Data-Clear

under a contract it won related to the 2030 census. Company president Carolyn Carlson told AFP: "The voter file records provided and delivered by Data-Clear did not contain an individual voter's citizenship status."

She said Data-Clear played no role in the analysis, and that any questions about the methodology used should be directed to the Census Bureau.

For Michael Morley, director of the Florida State University Election Law Center, there are several possible sources of error when matching datasets.

If the data were collected at different times, for example, some of the information especially on a fluid process like gaining U.S. citizenship could be out-of-date, he explained. □



In this photo illustration, the sex marker for a male is shown on a U.S. passport on November 06, 2025 in San Anselmo, California.

In U.S. mining hub, black lung rates soar

Oak Hill, United States

John used to love to go fishing with his son. But at age 45, after 20 years working in the coal mines of West Virginia, physical activity has become nearly impossible. "I can't do nothing," said the man who, despite his sturdy build, had trouble speaking.

"I can't breathe, and it's changed everything."

John, who asked to be identified by a pseudonym because he is part of a lawsuit against his former employer, has been diagnosed with coal workers' pneumoconiosis, commonly called black lung disease.

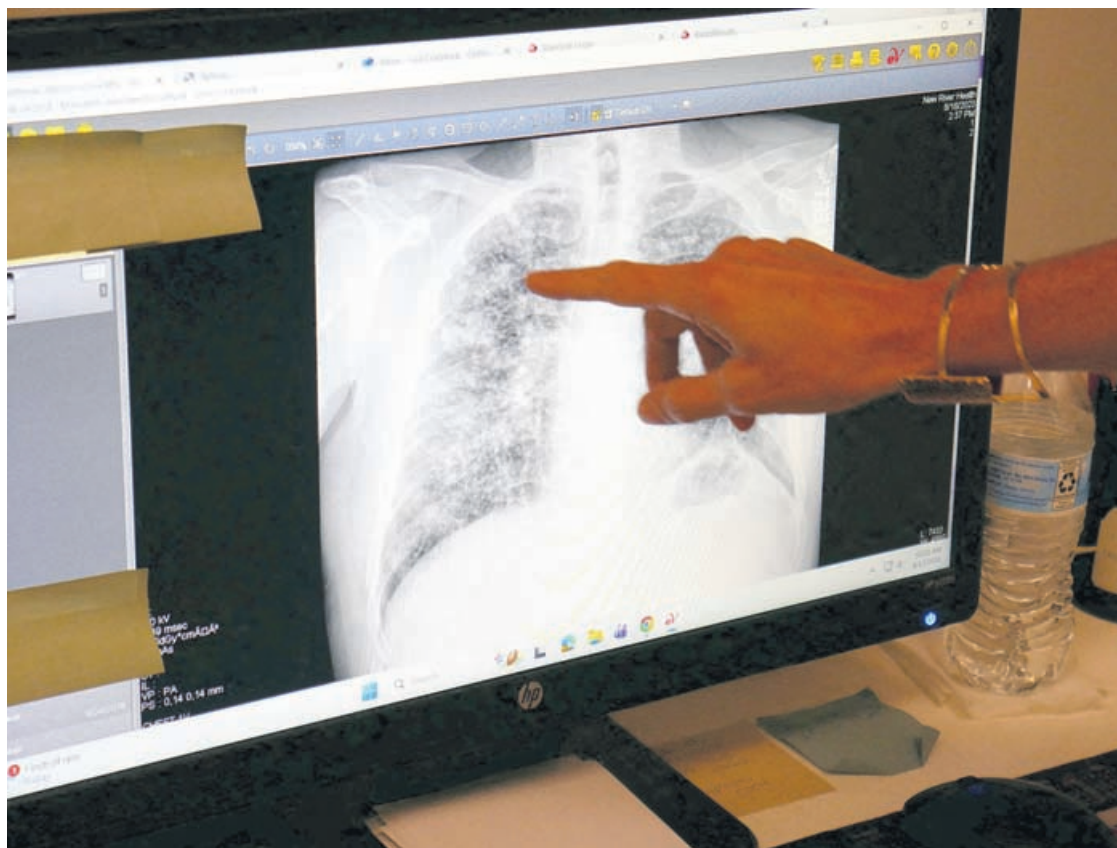
When coal dust is repeatedly inhaled over time, it causes scarring in the lungs that makes it difficult to breathe.

There is no treatment to reverse the damage. The complications can eventually be fatal, when not enough oxygen reaches the bloodstream.

Appalachia a region defined by the Appalachian Mountains that includes all of West Virginia and parts of a dozen other states is a major mining hub in the United States.

With about 30,000 coal miners working there, John is not alone in his suffering.

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) this month published a study revealing that one out of three miners in the area with more than



Lisa Emery, director of the Breathing Center and Black Lung Clinic at New River Health, shows an X-ray of the lungs of a miner suffering from black lung disease at the New River Health Center in Oak Hill, West Virginia, on August 13, 2026.

25 years in the industry have black lung disease.

"To see that it's the worst that it's ever been since I've been here, and all the way back to the 1970s, is quite alarming," said NIOSH epidemiologist Scott Laney, the study's co-author.

"I was saddened, but I cannot say that I was surprised."

- 'Your son's disease' -

Disease prevalence rates in the region have risen for the past 20 years or more, after a period when they had dropped off thanks to regulations limiting miners'

exposure to coal dust.

Why? The answer is silica, a material that is 20 times more toxic than coal.

Once companies had extracted all the easy-to-reach coal, miners were forced to bore deeper into the rock, which sent fine silica dust into the air.

This increased exposure explains why more and more miners are getting sick more quickly, and more seriously, than before, Laney explained.

In a specialized clinic in the city of Oak Hill, the youngest black lung patient was just

30 when he was diagnosed with progressive massive fibrosis, the most severe form of black lung disease.

"This is not Grandpa's disease anymore. This is your husband's disease. This is your son's disease," said Emery, the director of the Breathing Center and Black Lung Clinic at New River Health.

Emery said some of her 40-something patients are now on the list for double lung transplants, their only real hope of survival.

"You can treat the symptoms... but there's no cure

for black lung."

- 'Totally preventable' -

Faced with a crisis, the government's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) in 2024 adopted a rule lowering the silica exposure limit to a level scientists believe is safer.

But mining associations filed suit, claiming that the standards set by the government to measure compliance are too stringent.

A federal appeals court suspended the rule. It has never been implemented, and MSHA has shelved it indefinitely.

The National Mining Association, the main lobbying group for mining firms in the United States, told AFP it "absolutely supports" the new lower permissible silica exposure limit.

"Where we differ with the MSHA silica rule is how to get there," said association spokeswoman Ashley Burke. Burke insisted that new black lung cases do not reflect current mining conditions, because of the delay in the onset of symptoms.

Improvements over the last two decades had "exponentially" lowered dust levels, she said.

A study by the Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, a non-governmental organization that advocates for miners, showed that in mines tested by MSHA in 2025, one out of five had dangerous levels of silica dust. □

Trump pledges 'golden age' of space travel

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump pledged to blast more rockets into space in a push to boost US space travel, including to Mars and the Moon, the White House said Thursday.

The United States is competing with China in the race to land astronauts on the Moon before 2030, more than 50 years after humans first walked the lunar surface. The policy aims to "reinvigorate America's leadership in space transportation," enabling over 1,000 launches and reentries on U.S. soil every year by 2030.

In a memorandum published Thursday, Trump called on U.S. space agency NASA to "facilitate commercial transportation to and from the moon, to facilitate commercial robotic access to Mars, and to explore commercial avenues to send humans to and from Mars."

NASA is already pushing to create a lunar surface base and plans to use robotic vehicles to build infrastructure that future human explorers to the Moon could eventually make use of.

The president also encouraged private investment in U.S. space exploration and called on his government to identify additional sites to launch and land spacecraft. NASA is aiming in 2027 to test an in-orbit rendezvous between its spacecraft and at least one lunar lander, which billionaire Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are racing to develop with their rival firms SpaceX and Blue Origin.

Musk founded SpaceX in 2002 with the lofty goal of ferrying humans to Mars and setting up colonies on the neighboring planet. □



A Freedom 250 F-5 aircraft sits on static display during EAA AirVenture Oshkosh 2026 in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on July 24, 2026.

Meghan faces difficult return to the U.K.

London, United Kingdom Prince Harry's wife, Meghan, faces a tough challenge in re-assimilating to life in the U.K., where she remains deeply unpopular, while managing uneasy ties with the royal family.

Through bombshell interviews and tell-all documentaries, the 45-year-old former American actor has never hidden how difficult she found things after her fairytale wedding to Harry in 2018.

And both she and Harry have complained about her treatment by the British media, which Harry told a court this year made her life "an absolute misery".

"I think there's more questions sort of over her and how she re-adapts to the life back in the United Kingdom" than about Harry, said historian Ed Owens.

How she will cope "is difficult to answer at this stage because you know she's tried successively over the last six years to reinvent her public image to relaunch her brand", he added.

Deeply attached to his charitable work and keen



Britain's Prince Harry and his fiancée US actress Meghan Markle pose for a photograph in the Sunken Garden at Kensington Palace in west London on November 27, 2017, following the announcement of their engagement.

for his children to build closer ties with his family, King Charles III's younger son has retained strong ties to Britain.

But for Meghan, things appear more complicated. What will she do away from her sunny Californian base where she is clearly more at

home?

Their surprise move back to the UK six years after quitting their royal duties has in part come about because Meghan, who starred in the U.S. show "Suits", is in talks to join Netflix's UK-filmed series "The Gentlemen", according to British media.

The comedy-drama, whose

second season is due to be released in September, follows a duke who becomes a drug baron.

Experts believe Meghan is likely to focus primarily on family life, particularly her children Archie, seven, and Lilibet, five.

In past interviews, she has acknowledged that she

enjoys doing the daily school run.

The two kids have already been enrolled at a British school and the couple has reportedly chosen a new home.

- 'Destroy me' -

In the United States however, her prospects appeared to have dimmed following the end of her Netflix deal for her lifestyle and cookery show "With Love, Meghan". A film made late last year is set to be released soon in which she has a brief cameo appearance playing herself.

And during a trip to Australia she made a guest appearance on an episode of "MasterChef Australia".

"If Meghan decided tomorrow that she seriously wanted to act again, directors and producers would absolutely want to meet her and audition her," talent manager Jonathan Shalit, chairman of InterTalent Rights Group, told the Press Association news agency. But in Britain, Meghan remains deeply unpopular. According to a YouGov

poll released in late July, 65 percent of the public hold an unfavorable view of her. Following their bombshell departure, Harry and Meghan publicly denounced her treatment at the hands of Britain's powerful press.

"Truth be told, no matter how hard I tried, no matter how good I was, no matter what I did, they were still going to find a way to destroy me," Meghan said in a 2022 Netflix documentary.

The media had initially welcomed her arrival as a breath of fresh air for the royal family, sometimes known as the "Firm", steeped in centuries of tradition.

But she swiftly fell out of favor, with the tabloid press carrying reports portraying her as demanding and unwilling to accept the constraints that came with the privileges of royal life.

Her ventures are still regularly mocked, including her lifestyle and food products brand, As Ever. □

Japan axes Netflix collaboration after outcry over dating show

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's justice ministry said Friday it will cancel a collaboration with a controversial Netflix dating show featuring ex-juvenile delinquents, following backlash against what some called the glorification of crimes. Earlier this month, the ministry launched an unusual partnership with the streaming giant's "Badly in

Love," releasing a poster starring its Season 2 cast members, including heavily tattooed men.

"Badly in Love" spotlights Japan's so-called "yankii" (delinquent) subculture by lodging together young men and women with wild and often criminal pasts, including former yakuza gangsters and motorcycle gang members.



This picture taken on April 17, 2026 shows "Badly in Love" Season 1 participant and rapper '136youngboss' posing at an event that can be translated as the "Great Yankii Exhibition", in Tokyo.

Since its release in December, the show has proven an unexpected global hit, with Netflix saying its Season 1 maintained a weeks-long top 10 presence in South Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The ministry's rehabilitation bureau had justified the campaign on grounds that the show's depictions of participants' harsh upbringing, atonement and personal growth jibe with its belief that "a person can change".

The ministry promoted the program as part of the campaign, and the show will continue to air without the government's support. "It was never the intention of this collaboration to endorse crime or delinquency, nor to glorify or trivialize these acts from someone's past," the ministry said in a statement on Friday.

"But we have received a

lot of concerns and criticism that it can cause discomfort among people victimized by crimes," it said, adding that the partnership will be terminated. "Badly in Love" Season 2 came under fire after an episode aired in which one cast member confessed that, as a teen, he had been arrested for setting someone on fire to prove he was "not chickening out".

The cancellation of the campaign, however, "isn't meant to deny efforts to help rehabilitate people who committed crimes in the past," the ministry said. "Badly in Love" executive producer Dai Ota told AFP in April that prior to running Season 1 the production team had "extensive internal discussions" to ensure the show would not be perceived as "condoning the violence". □

Festival brings Greek exiles back to island home they never forgot

Gökçeada, Turkey

It's festival day and Dino Haimandos is savouring the sight of Gokceada's streets filled with Greek Orthodox icons for a parade led by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, who was born on this Turkish island.

Now 77, Haimandos returns every summer to the village where he grew up on this island off Turkey's Aegean coastline, which he reluctantly left in 1964 following clashes between Greek and Turkish communities over Cyprus.

Every August 15, hundreds return for the Feast of the Virgin Mary on Gokceada, led by the island's most famous son, Bartholomew I, the 86-year-old spiritual head of the world's 260 million Orthodox Christians.

The island is known as Imbros to Greeks, who were once a majority here before fleeing to Athens, Thessaloniki and beyond.

Now, many fear the culture of the island's Greek population risks disappearing.

Under the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, signed a year after the end of a three-year Greek-Turkish war, Athens and the nascent Turkish nation did a sweeping population exchange. But the Greek-speaking Christian population of Istanbul, along with Imbros and the neighbouring island of Tenedos (Bozcaada in Turkish), were exempted from



People perform a traditional dance during the Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, in Tepekoy Square on Gokceada (Imroz) Island, Çanakkale Province of Turkey, on August 15, 2026.

the swap, along with the Turkish-speaking minority in the Thrace region.

Around 1.5 million people were forced to leave lands they had called home many after years of neighbourly relations, though in some places, intercommunal tension escalated into massacres.

On Imbros and Tenedos, coexistence was never a problem, but "politics is another matter", said Kristo Vogiatzis, a 59-year-old businessman from Athens.

- 'I still feel at home here' -

Following escalating intercommunal violence over

Cyprus in 1964, Ankara retaliated by closing the Greek schools on Gokceada and setting up an open prison on expropriated land by Derekoy, its biggest village.

Spooked by the move, many families packed up and left.

"Prisoners would turn up looking for alcohol and there were thefts and murders... I don't like remembering it," said Yorgi Baki, a shepherd in his 60s whose cousin was murdered. By then, the atmosphere had changed, said Vogiatzis.

"Once you send the signal it's acceptable to target

Greeks, there will always be people willing to attack them," he told AFP.

"It was so sad," said Haimandos, who left for Istanbul at 13 then moved to Sydney five years later but has kept strong ties to Gokceada.

"I was born here and I still feel at home. I love the streets, the people. I was at school with them, we got on well."

The departures sped up after 1974, when Turkey invaded the northern third of Cyprus in response to an Athens-engineered Greek Cypriot coup seeking unification with Greece.

- Reviving a lost community

For everyone, August 15 is when they reunite each year and the sounds of church bells and Greek greetings fill the air.

Bartholomew I comes every year to deliver a three-hour liturgy.

Stelyo Berber, a 52-year-old island-born singer, is hoping to revive both the Greek spirit and the community that once called this place home.

Every evening, he and his wife Pelin perform well-loved songs of "rebetiko" the so-called Greek "blues" of exile, lost homelands and unrequited love inside the stone tavern they run in Zeytinlikoy, the patriarch's home village.

Switching between Greek and Turkish to charm his clients, Berber who grew up in Istanbul and Ankara returned to live on the island five years ago.

With the 2013 opening of a Greek school at the EU's encouragement, "around 600 Greeks returned to live here", boosting the numbers from less than 70 in 2005, he said.

But it remains a modest number on an island of 7,000 residents whose population swells to 30,000 in the summer months.

Despite his efforts to bring people back, time is working against him. "Our culture is dying out," he said. □

Austria to enshrine 2040 climate neutrality into law

Vienna, Austria

Austria's government on Friday announced it would enshrine a target to reach climate neutrality by 2040 into law, as a record drought scorches Europe.

The Alpine nation has experienced its driest 12 months ever recorded, according to its weather service, hitting agriculture hard.

While deciding on an aid package for farmers, the conservative-led coalition government also agreed on passing a climate protection law, finance minister Markus Marterbauer said.

"We reaffirm that the goal is climate neutrality by 2040, enshrined in law," he told a press conference, adding that a draft bill should be circulated "very soon".

He added that the government would present a roadmap by the end of next year with "concrete measures" to

achieve the goal.

The EU has a target of climate neutrality being an economy with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Climate and conservation groups welcomed Friday's announcement, but warned that the goal needed to apply to all sectors and be binding.

"Without clear guidelines, climate neutrality by 2040 remains an empty promise without effect," conservation group WWF Austria said in a statement.

Temperatures this summer reached an all-time record high of 41.2C earlier this month, as much of Europe sweltered under a succession of heatwaves.

Scientific experts say that human-made climate change has made extreme weather events more intense and more frequent, and Europe has become the globe's fastest-warming continent. □



This photograph taken on August 21, 2026, shows unidentified remains found in the dried-out Danube riverbed near the village of Ryahovo, during an organised fossil hunt after a record low water level revealed mammoth bones there at the end of July.

Indian tycoon's giant Vantara zoo announces 'reset', rethinks imports

New Delhi, India

India's vast Vantara zoo, which calls itself the world's largest animal rescue centre, has announced a major reset under the former head of a global wildlife watchdog following sharp criticism of its operations.

The overhaul follows concerns about its rapid acquisition of animals from around the world and questions about procedures for approving imports of protected species.

Founded by Anant Ambani, son of billionaire tycoon Mukesh Ambani, Vantara will shift away from importing animals and towards supporting conservation in their countries of origin, said John Scanlon, who was appointed on Thursday.

Scanlon, who headed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) from 2010 to 2018, will chair the centre's newly created governing council, with authority over decisions on animal acquisitions.



This photo illustration taken on September 16, 2025 shows an employee watching the news related to Vantara on a website at his office in Bengaluru.

"Vantara has sought, obtained, and acted upon external advice as it takes bold steps to reset its operations," Scanlon said in a statement issued by Ambani's Reliance Industries.

"In making this reset, it has decided to voluntarily strengthen its internal due diligence governance, expertise and processes, and

to pivot from ex situ rescue towards providing in situ support to countries, including in India."

The sprawling 3,500-acre (1,416-hectare) wildlife facility at Jamnagar, in the western state of Gujarat, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025, housing endangered species on baking hot lands next to

a giant oil refinery complex. It has more than 260 Asian elephants, and includes what it says is the world's "largest dedicated elephant hospital", as well as scores of bears, tigers, lions, leopards and hundreds of crocodiles. It offered in April to take hippos descended from those introduced to Colombia by drug kingpin Pablo Escobar,

rather than have the animals killed.

- 'New chapter' -

Experts have repeatedly raised concerns over Vantara's vast animal intake, including the import of critically endangered and rare species.

The CITES Secretariat recommended serious reforms in 2025 to ensure Vantara does "not inadvertently become a driver of illegal harvest of wild animals".

Vantara said this month it had submitted "voluntary commitments" to CITES, also filed at India's Supreme Court, including to "withdraw all pending applications to import live animals".

It said it had self-imposed a minimum one-year moratorium on imports until June 2027 while it "builds the governance, the expertise and processes" needed.

Vantara also pledged to support local conservation in India, including state forest departments, rescue centers, breeding programs and zoo modernization. □

'Duck run' pest control catching on in S.Africa's winelands

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Every morning, around 1,000 long-necked ducks are let loose on a South African wine farm to gobble up insects in an environmentally friendly method of pest control that is gaining popularity.

At 9:00 am the upright and flightless Indian Runner ducks charge out of their pens on a farm near the Stellenbosch wine-producing area outside Cape Town and head to work.

After a rapid but brief forage for aphids, worms and snails near the homestead and restaurant, they move into the vineyards for the rest of the day.

"Using the ducks instead of pesticides is obviously better for the ecology," said Vergenoegd Low Wine Estate and farm manager, Christiaan Cloete.

"When you use chemicals, you sometimes kill a lot of

beneficial insects. We are trying to create a more biodiverse ecology in the vineyards," Cloete told AFP.

The farm introduced the practice around 40 years ago.

"It's beginning to pick up in popularity," he said, as farmers seek more sustainable and biologically

friendly methods, including "regenerative farming" which aims to restore degraded soil.

Now between five and 10 surrounding farms purchase ducks from the farm, Cloete said.

- Looking after the soil -

There are around 890 ducks on the property with

400 hatchlings expected over the breeding season from mid-July to the end of October, Cloete said.

Half will be sold and the rest will replace the more senior ducks on the farm's own fleet.

Indian Runner ducks were originally bred in Indonesia to control pests in rice paddies, said the farm's ecology ranger, Milan Germishuizen.

Their long necks allow them to reach pests on the raised, trellised vines.

They are also handy in breaking down the manure of the 220 sheep and nearly 100 cattle that graze in the vineyard, another regenerative farming practice that leaves the soil nutrient-rich.

"The more pesticides and artificial fertilisers you put onto your soil, eventually your soil will degenerate," he said.

"So by using natural methods ... we are really looking after our soils, which eventually does give us a much better product at the end of the day."

When there are grapes on the vines, the ducks are kept away to avoid them being tempted by the fruit, and diverted to the four irrigation dams.

As they forage there, their droppings enrich the water in a process called "fertigation", Germishuizen said. "A lot of our neighbours have gotten on board with regenerative farming," said Tessa Kleynhans, the commercial manager of the on-site hotel.

The impressive daily duck run has also become a draw for visitors, she told AFP.

"We're trying to set the precedent for regenerative farming. □



Indian Runner Ducks are herded to forage for aphids, worms and snails at the Vergenoegd wine farm in Stellenbosch, on August 21, 2026.

Why 'Rock Stacking' is more dangerous than you think

(Oranjestad)— "Rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Conservation organizations repeatedly warn people not to participate. To understand the growing opposition to the practice of stacking rocks, it is necessary to understand the deep and negative impact behind it.

The act, called rock stacking, has been practiced for thousands of years and was originally used to guide people on hikes or travelers in mountainous regions, as well as for rituals, burials, and memorials. However, the modern trend is quite different. Today, the popularity of rock stacking has less to do with utility and tradition and more to do with social media. An American artist based in Colorado, Michael Grab, noted that the trend really began gaining popularity around 2014 and 2015, before it exploded and became an international art form.

The reasons behind participation vary widely, rang-



ing from something purely practical or a tradition from the past, to an activity for its "beauty." For many, it is about leaving a mark, creating "art," or simply enjoying the process of balancing rocks. In recent times, those who participate in this—especially in Aruba—do so to leave proof of their presence or simply to post on social media.

Although it may seem harmless, there are several problems and negative impacts behind it. One of these is that many animal

species hide under rocks to live, reproduce, or escape predators. If you move a rock, you may be destroying a home. If you stack one on top of another, you may expose prey to predators. Whether this is done in nature areas, along the coast, or in desert environments, it can destroy entire colonies and, in the worst case, threaten species that are already endangered.

There are microorganisms and small species such as insects or certain snakes that live in the soil beneath

rocks commonly used for stacking. These rocks help trap moisture underneath, allowing the ecosystem to sustain itself. When you remove a rock, the soil is exposed and the moisture can dry up, killing all living organisms that depend on that humid environment.

Additionally, each rock is full of life—everything from aquatic plants to microorganisms attaches to them. Especially when it comes to rocks near the sea, they create habitats for some marine animals. Holes in the rocks can hold eggs, supporting them until the animals hatch. An expert explained that removing rocks from a fragile environment is essentially the equivalent of removing bricks from someone's house while also taking everything out of their refrigerator.

There is also the issue of erosion and soil damage, because rocks help hold the ground in place, sealing the surface and helping manage excess water, even allowing new life to grow. When these rocks are removed, the soil becomes loose, significantly increas-

ing the rate of erosion in that area.

This erosion can cause sedimentation in nearby bodies of water, negatively impacting aquatic habitats and water quality.

Rocks along the coast are part of a natural ecosystem and play an important role in protecting the shoreline from erosion and the force of the ocean. When people remove or stack rocks, it affects coastal stability, increases the risk of erosion, and damages ecosystems. According to South African National Parks, this is particularly relevant for an island like Aruba—especially considering that most, if not all, rock stacking on the island takes place near coastal areas.

It is understandable that rock stacking may seem like a fun activity to do while off-roading; however, the survival, protection, and conservation of the island are just as important—if not more so—to ensure that in the future there will still be an island for both locals and visitors. We want our visitors to appreciate what Aruba has to offer—in a healthy and sustainable way. □

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

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

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish

version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was

taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their



Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

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Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of



these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and

land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years,

and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times

on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

Blackstone Beach

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

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

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

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



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Fun facts about the Terns

(Oranjestad)—Throughout the months of January to September, big groups of terns migrate to the island for breeding season. These terns are important sea-birds, and their presence on Aruba is a unique phenomenon. Here are some fun facts about terns.

Why terns matter

Terns (Sternchi in Papiamentu) migrate annually to Aruba for breeding season. Our island, hosts 10 different species of terns which is crucial for global seabird conservation. 90% of Caribbean population of Common Tern nest on Aruba,

25% of Global population of Cayenne Tern nest on Aruba and 25% of Caribbean population of Black Noddy nest on Aruba, making their conservation especially important.

Breeding season

The terns breed mainly along the north coast of Aruba as well as the San Nicolas Reef Islands (No-Go conservation zones). Baby Beach is a particularly special site for terns, since this is where they carry out their reproduction rituals. Referred to as a "discotheque" by Natasha Silva, the point of Baby



Beach near the open water is where a large group of terns spends the season searching for their partner-for life o reproduce.

In Aruba, there are ten different species of terns, all

of which breed at different times. The ten species of terns that migrate to the island include the Cayenne Tern; Cabot's Tern; Common Tern; Roseate Tern; Least Tern; Brown Noddy;

Black Noddy; Sooty Tern; Bridled Tern and the Royal Tern

Main threats to these seabirds are human proximity, kite-surfing, unleashed dogs, ATVs/UTVs, Jet Ski's and pollution.

How to protect them

Aruba Conservation Foundation advises everyone to keep their distance from these seabirds, do not visit the reefs, do not fly drones around nesting areas, keep your dogs on leashes, do not drive on the coastline and do not leave trash thrown about. "Nature has no boundaries and its protection is a shared responsibility." □

The Felthams are back to celebrate "Pop's" big birthday!



(Oranjestad)—This week, Ed Feltham and 13 other family members came to Aruba once more to celebrate his 70th birthday. Their connection with the island involves four generations of dedicated visitors, dating back to the 70s. They recently reached out to us to share their story.

Over the years, they've visited with their kids Gerilyn, Jaclyn and Ryan, who have now been to Aruba over 20 times and have kept up the tradition in their own family.

Gigi's connection with Aruba is even longer; her parents began vacationing on the island since the 70s, at the time staying at what was the Aruba Grand. Four generations of Aruban visitors within one family how cool is that!

For more than 50 years, Aruba has been part of many family vacations and wonderful memories. And the island continues to mean so much for the family. As they've put it, Aruba has become a place where they can escape, enjoy the beautiful beaches and spend some quality time together. And by celebrating Pop's big 70th this time around, the family is creating even more meaningful moments together.

Aruba Today would like to give a big shout out to Ed and Carolyn Feltham, as well as Gerilyn; James; Caroline; Maggie; Timmy; Jaclyn; Matthew; Ryan; Effie; Seraphina and Luca! Thank you for making our home your home too! And happy birthday Pop we hope you've had the most wonderful time!

Do you also share a special connection with Aruba? Contact the Aruba Today team at news@arubatoday.com. We would love to share your story! □

The Felthams hail from Long Island, New York. Ed and his wife Carolyn "Gigi" Feltham have been coming to Aruba since 1981 and have made over 40 trips back to the island.

Aruba: the legend behind its name

(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find



our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him

the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along

the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My

children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.□

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock.



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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Meet an Aruban trailblazers: Padu Lampe



(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as "the father of culture."

On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe "Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe" was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a

love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from August 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Loi" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several paintings using his

unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamentu on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on "Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis" in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as



a hypnotechician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states.

Over the course of his career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aru-

ba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called "Abo so". Daisy later passed away in 1994. □

Aruba's neighborhoods: The meaning behind their names

(Oranjestad)—Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history be-

hind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

Ajo, or Ayo, is a word with Arawak-Indian origin. A (or Ha) is an Indo-Antillean generalizing word. If you were to change a part of the word "Ayo", namely 'Yo', to 'Yu' and make 'Ayu', it would mean "white."

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo'

stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.

At Ayo, you can find some of the most well known rock formations. These formations became a well loved and visited attraction at Aruba that is held in high regards by both tourists and locals alike.

If you'd like to know more about the rock formations at Ayo, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all about its location and history.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is: A.

Alto Vista

This word combination can be roughly translated to a 'high point of view' and the neighborhood received this name from the Hill.



This neighborhood's abbreviation is: AV. □

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

If you'd like to know more about the Alto Vista Church's beautiful history, stay tuned for our article where we tell you all you need to know about it for when you visit it.



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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Swift

1 Looks

forward to

7 Labyrinth

11 Malay

island

12 Weary

sigh

13 Face a

difficulty

15 Casts a

ballot

16 Prayer

ender

18 Turn to

slush

21 Recipe

instruction

22 Singer

Harry

24 Old

calamity

25 Halloween

cry

26 Director

Spike

27 Tickled

29 Ore

source

30 Rigging

support

31 Wagers

32 Fancy

parties

34 Begin

fighting

40 Heaps

41 "Search

me"

42 Like lawns

in the

morning

DOWN

1 Jackson 5

hit

2 Court

3 Sleeve

filler

4 Indignant

cry

5 Wyo-

ming's —

Range

6 Chimney

grime

7 Squishy

and wet

8 Boxing

great

9 Ray-gun

sound

10 Snaky

shape

14 Influence

from harm

39 Utter

28 Protection

knot

25 Floppy top

work

23 Notice

material

22 Lawn

job

21 Massage

setting

20 Hoe

targets

19 Dole out

33 Heaps

34 Scoundrel

35 Bullfight

cry

36 Do a yard

job

37 Exalted

work

38 Tie the

knot

39 Utter

from harm

28 Protection

knot

25 Floppy top

work

23 Notice

material

22 Lawn

job

21 Massage

setting

20 Hoe

targets

19 Dole out

33 Heaps

34 Scoundrel

35 Bullfight

cry

36 Do a yard

job

OBAMA SECTS
PAPAS IGLOO
TREYS GOATS
FERN MOO
TOOLSHED
UNDO ORATED
STOWS SYRIA
KOREAN FUND
ROOTLESS
VAT TRIO
ALITO AWARE
STEAM RECUR
TORRE ARENA

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

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-2 CRYPTOQUOTE

XMAGEHMS VXND LHGE KTUD,

IXV! — HG'C X IDXPGHQPK

VDXK. — DVDFHK KXSXCCD

Cryptoquote: A PARTY WITHOUT
CAKE IS REALLY JUST A MEETING. — JULIA
CHILD

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/22

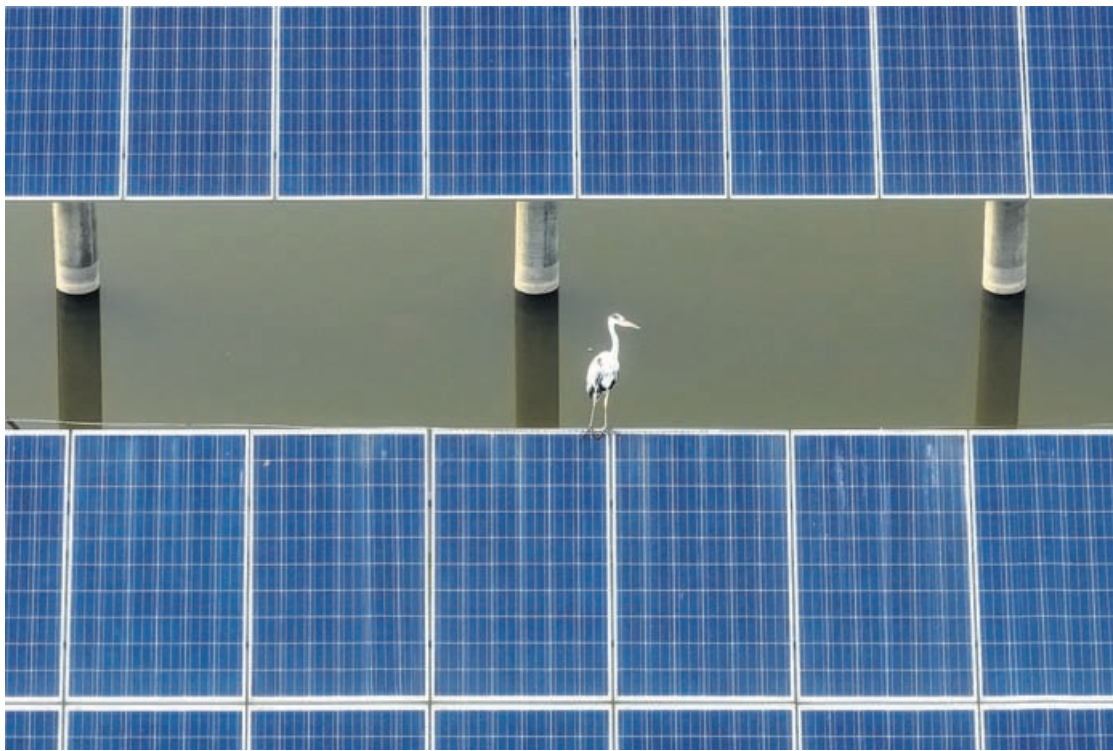
Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/21

'Green dilemma': China's solar boom hurt birds, says study



A bird perches on a solar panel at the Jingneng Helan 30-megawatt photovoltaic power station in Yinchuan, in northwestern China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on August 20, 2026.

Washington, United States

The global push for solar energy expansion could carry hidden biodiversity costs, according to a study on China published in the journal Science on Thursday.

According to the research spanning more than 2,300 Chinese counties, pro-solar policies led to reductions in bird diversity as cropland and grassland were rapidly cleared for development. The authors called it an example of a "green dilemma" pitting carbon reduction against conservation. "The main message is not to slow the renewable energy transition, but to make solar development more ecologically informed," first author Huiming Zhang, of the Nanjing University of Information Science & Technology, told AFP.

China's goal to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060 has seen it embark on a renewables revolution. By 2024, its solar footprint reached an estimated 4,520 square kilometers (1,745 square miles) -- equivalent in size to the U.S. state of Rhode Island -- and solar energy is projected to constitute 45 percent of its energy mix by 2060.

Choosing solar locations in China is not based on sunny locations and available

land, but rather on government "Five-Year Plans" to promote economic development in certain regions. Zhang and his colleagues exploited these variations in solar expansion policy in 2,344 counties across China from 2014 to 2023, while also accounting for national trends, weather, socioeconomic conditions, land cover and birdwatching effort.

This data was paired with citizen science records to understand the impact on bird diversity. Their findings revealed a negative trade-off, with increased policy stringency

consistently associated with decreased bird biodiversity, though the effect was moderate.

The effects were stronger in wealthier and non-desert regions. Both resident and migratory birds suffered significant declines, but species that were native to mountain habitats poorly suited to solar farms were unaffected.

- 'Inferior greening' -

The push for solar farms in China was accompanied by greening efforts to satisfy environmental requirements, but the authors identified what they

called "inferior greening" where the total amount of leafiness may go up but because it was too homogeneous, the ecological quality went down.

Writing in a related commentary, Yuanning Liang of Peking University said "birds serve as an effective indicator group for large-scale biodiversity assessment" because they are among the few animal groups for which abundance data over time and space is readily available. Although the authors studied solar power, the problems they identified equally apply to other forms of renewable energy such as wind farm expansion, she added. □

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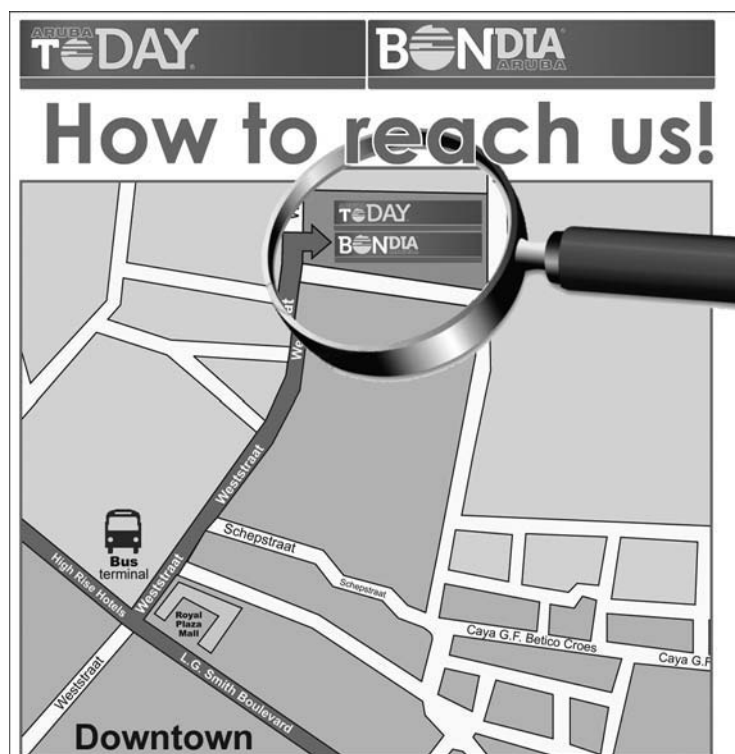
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Gamescom gathers with GTA VI looming in the background

Paris, France

The videogames industry meets on Tuesday in Cologne at the Gamescom trade show as concerns mount for its future amid job cuts, cut-throat competition and the end of discs. Though the latest instalment in the smash-hit Grand Theft Auto series will not be on show at Gamescom, developers are under pressure to make their games stand out from the crowd as developers bring releases forward to try and avoid the GTA behemoth.

After a launch event showcasing the main upcoming releases with the latest instalment in the Final Fantasy saga as the centrepiece the gaming gathering opens its doors to industry on Wednesday and to the public on Thursday, running through Sunday. About 360,000 people attended last year's jambo-ree.

In the shadow of GTA VI The sixth instalment in the hit Grand Theft Auto series likely to smash records when it comes out on No-



This illustration photo created in Los Angeles, California, on December 5, 2023, shows Rockstar Games' Grand Theft Auto 6 trailer played on computer screens.

vember 19 is giving rival publishers nightmares. Other studios have pulled releases forward to try and avoid clashing with Rockstar Games' GTA release which has so far enjoyed an "unprecedented and astonishing" number of pre-orders according to Strauss Zelnick, CEO of Rockstar parent Take-Two Interac-

tive. Some games would struggle in the flurry of releases, Rhys Elliot of Alinea Analytics, a specialist consultancy that focuses on the games industry, told AFP. "Some games will not sell as well because they're competing with, you know, some of the other biggest games," he said. "It's

tough."

Game over for the disc

One hotly-debated topic at the trade show will be Sony's decision to discontinue video games on physical discs from 2028. The Japanese giant popularised discs with the PlayStation in the 1990s, but digital sales for the PS4 and

PS5 made up nearly 82 per cent of sales at the beginning of 2026.

Some players fear the decline of the disc could mean the end of the second-hand market as well as the loss of a tangible part of video gaming heritage.

Microsoft's U-turn

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of its Xbox games console this year, Microsoft will showcase more than 25 games, including "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 4" and "Gears of War: E-Day." "Gears of War" will be an exclusive release for Microsoft consoles, the US giant said in June, marking a change from a previous strategy that had seen it make major titles for various platforms in an effort to pay off rising development costs. "The U-turn is about winning hearts back," Elliot told AFP, adding Microsoft would expect the move to boost Xbox brand loyalty. Revenue at Xbox last year fell seven percent and Microsoft in July said it would cut 3,200 jobs at its gaming division by the end of June next year.

Tough times

Faced with a period of relative bust after lockdown-fuelled pandemic boom times came to and end, studios across the world have cut jobs.

U.S. publisher Epic Games, maker of "Fortnite", in March laid off 1,000 and Sony's US studio Bungie, which makes "Marathon", in June cut nearly 300 jobs. Long-established studios in France, including giant Ubisoft as well as Nacon, are also struggling.

Nearly 10,000 people have lost their jobs and the industry is on course for 15,000 lay-offs this year, according to the ASGC Games Industry Layoffs Tracker, a figure which if reached would be close to the 2024 record. Although the global video game market continues to grow, reaching nearly \$200 billion for the first time in 2025, players' time is dominated by a handful of hit games like "Roblox" and "Fortnite".

Discord suspends livestreams in Brazil after teen's suicide

Brasília, Brazil

Popular messaging platform Discord said Monday it had complied with a Brazilian government order to suspend livestreaming and video calls in the country after a teen girl was allegedly goaded into taking her own life during a broadcast.

Brazil's National Data Pro-

tection Agency (ANPD) had ordered the U.S.-based tech company to suspend livestreams on August 12, saying it had failed to put safeguards in place to protect children. The agency had given Discord a deadline of Monday night to comply. "We're complying with the order and working with the

ANPD in good faith, which means that screen sharing and video calls will be unavailable for Brazilian users starting now," Stanislav Vishnevskiy, the company's co-founder, said in a blog post.

Five teenagers and an adult have been arrested in connection with the death of the 13-year-old girl in a small town in western central Brazil.

One police officer described her death a "real-life horror show."

Over 45 minutes, the teens allegedly encouraged the girl to kill an animal and when she failed to do so, they encouraged her to kill herself, according to an official with the Justice Ministry's Ciberlab intelligence unit.

One of the teens arrested was just 14.

In his post, Vishnevskiy

claimed that Discord was not the only platform involved, saying that the "coordinated sadistic harm campaign...was carried out across multiple platforms."

"We are working hard to restore access to these important features as quickly as possible," he wrote, assuring that the company was working "to make Discord safer for teens."

Users in Brazil can, meanwhile, continue to access audio calls and direct messages, among other tools. When it ordered the suspension, the ANPD said that "livestreams have been repeatedly used to facilitate violence, harassment, and the incitement of self-harm and suicide," and cited "robust evidence that the company failed to adopt reasonable measures."



This photo illustration shows the logo of the U.S. company Discord displayed on a smartphone and a screen in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on August 12, 2026.



Iga Swiatek of Poland serves to Diane Parry of France during day nine of the Cincinnati Open at the Lindner Family Tennis Center on August 19, 2026 in Mason, Ohio.

Swiatek into Cincinnati semis after Rybakina injury

Cincinnati, United States

Iga Swiatek moved into the semi-finals of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters as Elena Rybakina was forced to retire with a heel injury less than half an hour into their clash Thursday.

Rybakina's withdrawal raised concerns over the fitness of the world number two Kazakh just 10 days before the start of the U.S. Open.

Trailing 4-1 in the opening set of Thursday's Cincinnati quarter-final, Rybakina suddenly pulled up short at 40-all, heading to her bench and consulting with the trainer.

She went back out and played one more point before quitting.

"I was feeling anxious watching the whole situation," said her opponent Swiatek. "I hope she will be fine. Health is always the priority."

"This is an important tournament, but the U.S. Open is the U.S. Open. I hope she is ready for that," she said, referring to the major which begins in New York on August 30.

"It was a shame she was injured, we were having a good match."

Had two-time Grand Slam winner Rybakina reached the Cincinnati final she would have risen to num-

ber one in the world for the first time in her career, following incumbent Aryna Sabalenka's shock exit to 20-year-old Sara Bejlek.

Defending Cincinnati champion Swiatek said she had "gained a lot of confidence in the last weeks," which have also included her victory over Rybakina in the final of this month's Toronto event.

"I feel great, ready to play my game... I'm happy to be playing the tennis that I am."

- 'Good record' -

Poland's Swiatek now plays a semi-final against Jessica Pegula, who is reportedly carrying a hip niggle after defeating Amanda Anisimova 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (7/4).

Sixth-seeded Anisimova converted all five of her break points against Pegula, breaking her three times in the second set, before the world number three rebounded to win.

Pegula is setting WTA records at age 32. She is the fourth player since 2009 to reach five or more Masters 1000 quarter-finals after turning 30, along with Li Na, Serena Williams and Svetlana Kuznetsova.

Pegula needed just 34 minutes to pocket the opening set.

But Anisimova struck back

in the second, earning a double break for 4-0.

After Anisimova squared the match at one-set each, Pegula regrouped with an opening break in the deciding set.

They would each be broken twice as they went to the tiebreaker, where Pegula sealed the win on her first match point.

Pegula's win was her sixth without a loss to Anisimova.

"I know I have a good record against her, but literally every single match is like it was today," she said.

- Sweet victory -

In the men's draw, Flavio Cobolli advanced to the final four with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat of Tommy Paul, gobbling down a handful of sweets for an unorthodox boost midway through the match.

The Roland Garros runner-up asked for the candy to be brought to the court and seemingly took energy from the pause before dispatching Paul, who had himself eliminated top seed Alexander Zverev 24 hours earlier.

"A sweet with chocolate makes me happy," Cobolli said. "I've tried it in doubles so why not singles?"

Cobolli mounted the comeback after dropping the opening set. □



Gold medallist France's Julian Alaphilippe, wearing his World champion's rainbow jersey, celebrates on the podium after winning the men's elite cycling road race, 268,3km from Antwerp to Leuven, on the eighth day of the Flanders 2021 UCI Road World Championships, on September 26, 2021, in Leuven.

'Grateful' ex-world champion Alaphilippe retires from cycling

Paris, France

Former world champion Julian Alaphilippe confirmed on Friday he had retired from cycling after media reports earlier in the day sparked tributes from across the sport for the Frenchman.

The 34-year-old, who claimed the rainbow jersey in 2020 and 2021, had a contract with his Tudor team until 2027. Alaphilippe's final race was at this year's Tour de France, when he finished 125th overall.

"It is with a very particular emotion that I write these few words to announce the end of my sporting career," he said on social media.

"After much reflection, I had the honour of closing this chapter of my life on the Champs-Élysées, by way of Montmartre in Paris, on the final stage of the Tour de France "I feel enormous gratitude for having been able to work with, meet, or simply cross paths with so many wonderful people throughout my career.

"And a great deal of luck, too, to have made some of my dreams come true, and to have lived through emotions that will stay with me forever. Pride at having contributed to so many successes for all my teams.

"And at having been able to let you live them too. You have always supported me so much, even in the hardest moments.

"Before coming back to you to share what comes next, simply a big THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart," he added.

- 'Flair, smile, class' -

Earlier, Dutch website WielerFlits and French newspaper L'Equipe claimed Alaphilippe would end his career this year before the Tour de France and the Vuelta a Espana paid homage to the former Quick Step rider.

Alaphilippe claimed won six stages on his home Grand Tour.

"Loulou. In yellow, polka dots, rainbow, you made us dream in July and throughout the year! Thank you for your flair, your smile and your class!", the Tour said on X. He claimed his first stage victory in a Grand Tour at the 2017 Vuelta.

"Thank you for everything, Loulou," the Vuelta said on the platform.

Alaphilippe enjoyed his purple patch from 2018 to 2021 winning the Milan-San Remo in 2019 and then recording two stage victories and spending 14 days in the leader's yellow jersey during that year's Tour. □

Werro wins Lausanne 800m, well off world record pace

Lausanne, Switzerland

Switzerland's Audrey Werro clocked a meet best to win the 800m on home soil at the Lausanne Diamond League on Friday, but fell well short of the world record.

The newly-crowned European champion, the third fastest ever in the women's two-lap race, is aiming to break the 1 min 53.28sec run by Jarmila Kratochvilova of then-Czechoslovakia in 1983. It remains the oldest world record in track and field, albeit one that is highly contested having come during a period when systemic doping of athletes was prevalent. Kratochvilova, however, never failed a doping test.

Unlike the European champs, the Diamond League features wavelight technology, trackside lighting that enables runners to see at what pace they are running. Werro also had Myrte van der Schoot as her pacemaker, but despite the Dutchwoman clocking 54.64sec for the opening 400m, the 22-year-old Swiss could not maintain the pace, ultimately winning in a meet record of 1:55.33.

Femke Broeders-Bol, the former two-time world 400m hurdles champion who won



Switzerland's Audrey Werro (R) is congratulated by Netherlands' Femke Broeders-Bol (L) after winning the women's 800m final during the World Athletics Diamond League athletics meeting at the Stade Olympique de la Pontaise in Lausanne, on August 21, 2026.

European bronze behind Werro and Britain's Olympic champion Keely Hodgkinson in Birmingham, came second in a national record of 1:55.41.

World and Olympic champion Emmanuel Wanyonyi claimed victory in the men's 800m in 1:42.19 ahead of Algeria's Djamel Sedjati, the two-time world silver medalist who won bronze at the Paris Games.

It was a first Diamond League 800m win of the season for the Kenyan after two second places and a fourth-placed finish in London last month. He did, however, set a new world best for the non-Olympic distance of 1,000m in Monaco.

"I had a battle, especially over the final 100 meters, but I felt very strong and I'm happy to have won the race," said Wanyonyi, with Canada's 2023 world champ

Marco Arop finishing fourth.

- Hunt second in 200 -

Britain's Amy Hunt, who won a historic four golds at the recently-concluded European championships, had to be happy with second behind American Kayla White in the 200m.

White won in 22.18sec, with Hunt holding off Nigeria's Favour Ofili in a photo-finish at 22.32.

Jamaica's Shericka Jackson, the two-time former world champion in the event, pulled up with 70 metres of the race to run.

Hunt acknowledged that she had been "tired before the race and my pre-competition felt pretty stiff".

Botswana's Olympic champion Letsile Tebogo dominated the men's 200m, winning in 19.87sec in a dominant display.

Like Hunt, there was also no joy for Italy's Andy Diaz Fernandez, who went out to the third longest distance ever, of 18.15m, to win gold at the Euros in Birmingham.

He finished third in Switzerland with a best of 17.20m, Portugal's Pedro Pichardo winning with 17.44.

Pre-empting Werro, there were also meet records for American Masai Russell in the 100m hurdles (12.27sec) and teammate Rai Benjamin, who has been focused on the 400m flat this season, in the 400m hurdles (46.67), beating Edwin Moses' mark of 47.14 from 1981.

"It was my first 400m hurdles race of the season, so it was rusty as hell, but I'm happy with it," said Benjamin, the reigning Olympic and world hurdles champion. □

Give LIV Golf 'one more shot,' says DeChambeau

Los Angeles, United States

Bryson DeChambeau has urged the golf world to give the divisive break-away LIV tour "one more shot" as it scrambles to stay afloat into next year.

LIV Golf began in 2022 and lured some of the sport's top names from the traditional PGA Tour, which banned LIV golfers from its events.

But LIV recently lost its Saudi backers, was forced to cancel its season-ending team championship event, and is exploring a slimmed-down schedule with new investors for 2027.

Several players have been linked with possible returns to the PGA Tour and other circuits.

LIV talisman DeChambeau's future is seen as particularly critical to the survival of the series.

"I hope people can see that we actually bring value to the game of golf," said DeChambeau, at this week's LIV Indianapolis event.

"My wish is that people give us one more shot and be open minded."

His comments followed an interview with Rory McIlroy this week, in which the six-time Major winner and PGA Tour stalwart openly questioned whether the likes of DeChambeau have ever "brought value" to LIV Golf.



Bryson DeChambeau of Crushers GC follows his shot from the eighth tee during day one of LIV Golf Indianapolis at The Club at Chatham Hills on August 20, 2026 in Westfield, Indiana.

LIV reportedly spent more than \$5 billion from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund between 2021-2026 to lure golf's biggest names, before its Middle Eastern backers pulled the plug.

Chief executive officer Scott O'Neil this week outlined proposals for a "2.0" version going forward under new investors, including a shorter season, with smaller prize pots, but offering its players greater equity.

He confirmed that LIV players had been given a deadline to sign up for next season but declined to provide details.

"Look, it's tough. It's not easy. We definitely have a lot against us," said DeChambeau.

"But I think behind the

scenes we've got a lot of people that are working hard to make this possible, for not only all the players that are out here, but all the fans that have come out to these events."

LIV has frequently touted the record crowds it drew to events this year in underserved golf markets including Australia and South Africa, and says it has been successful at drawing younger fans who are new to the sport.

"I think we just have a bit of a responsibility to continue to show this," said DeChambeau, who has his own wildly popular YouTube channel.

"If it works, it works; awesome. If it doesn't, we'll figure things out. Time will move on, and I would say that time heals things." □