



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

Credit: Arthur Meiners

Page 11

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

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Data center backlash scrambles US midterm politics

BRAZORIA, UNITED STATES

– The data centers powering America's artificial intelligence boom have become an unlikely target in November's midterm elections, as anger over rising electricity bills and noise turns Democrats -- and a growing number of Republicans -- against Big Tech.

Candidates in at least 21 races across 18 states have aired television advertisements mentioning data centers this cycle, according to marketing data cited by US media, almost evenly divided between both parties.

On the grid serving Senate battleground Ohio, as well as 12 other states, demand from data centers drove up capacity costs by \$9.3 billion in a single year, a 174

percent increase, according to an independent market monitor.

Anger over household bills has merged with a broader populist distrust of Silicon Valley, exposing lawmakers who, until recently, were courting the sprawling server farms with tax breaks and promises of jobs and investment.

In Texas, Republican Governor Greg Abbott has frozen new projects while regulators weigh their impact on power and water supplies. It was Abbott who, not long ago, called his state the "epi-center of AI development."

His Democratic challenger wants a moratorium until lawmakers pass stronger safeguards, and accuses



In an aerial view, the Stargate Oracle AI data center campus is seen on August 26, 2026 in Abilene, Texas.

(Getty Images/AFP)

Abbott of putting wealthy interests ahead of ordinary Texans.

In Brazoria -- between Houston and the Gulf Coast -- 44-year-old Melissa Burnett told AFP the serenity of her quiet neighborhood had been shattered by a

17-megawatt center last year that is "like a freight train always coming at you." "We were not supposed to hear it, nor was it supposed to affect our quality of life, and it's just done the opposite, you know?" she said. Almost alone among Republicans, President Donald Trump has not moved. He still calls the industry essential to beating China on AI, leaving him at odds with candidates running under his own banner.

- 'Sleeper issue' -

The midwestern former manufacturing hub of Ohio offers perhaps the sharpest test of the politics of data centers.

Sherrod Brown, a Democrat who lost his Senate berth in 2024, is running for the Buckeye State's other seat. Brown has run at least four ads attacking Republican Jon Husted for courting data center investment as lieutenant governor.

They brand Husted "the face of data centers," and Brown has promised to make operators pay the full cost of the power they use.

Senate Republicans have warned that the issue could cost Husted the race. Their campaign arm called data centers a "sleeper issue" and said a defeat blamed on them would chill political support for the industry nationwide.

The same argument is turning up in races that have little else in common: a Republican running for governor in Florida promising to shield families from facilities that

push up utility bills; a Pennsylvania Democrat demanding that tech companies cover their own costs; a Wyoming Republican who won a House primary on advertisements attacking Silicon Valley billionaires.

In Michigan, the issue topped two better-connected Democrats in a primary won by a leftist who said opposition had united committed Republicans, Trump voters, independents and Democrats.

- Both parties turn -

In Wisconsin, Republican gubernatorial nominee Tom Tiffany has taken to calling his Democratic opponent "Data Center David Crowley." Earlier this year Tiffany was praising the technology and voting to speed AI infrastructure through.

Tiffany now wants the state's tax incentives scrapped and the industry more tightly regulated, though he stops short of a ban.

Democratic governors are moving the same way.

New York has imposed a year-long moratorium on new hyperscale facilities, and Pennsylvania now requires developers to cover infrastructure costs and meet tougher standards on water use, hiring and community consultation.

Trump has not moved with them.

"America must remain dominant in the AI race that is the future. I think the American people understand that, and this president certainly does," his spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said on Thursday.

His administration has signed up Google, Microsoft, Meta, Oracle, xAI, OpenAI and Amazon to a voluntary "Ratepayer Protection Pledge."

Under it, the companies undertake not to leave consumers paying for the power plants and grid upgrades their facilities require.

The pledge has not stopped the advertisements. □

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>

WATERSHOWS

EVERY NIGHT AT

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www.paseoherencia.com

Trump calls for 'punishment' of NBC reporter

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES (AFP) – President Donald Trump on Sunday threatened a prominent NBC broadcast journalist with possible punishment by US media regulators as the Republican expressed disappointment with coverage of his candidate endorsements ahead of November's midterm elections.

Trump took to his Truth Social platform to attack Kristen Welker as the "unpopular 'hostess' of the once great Meet the Press" talk show for stating that the president had "mixed results" on his endorsement of political candidates in party primaries, insisting the results went his way 98 percent to 100 percent of the time.

"Because of this purposeful inaccuracy, she will be reported to the FCC for rebuke or punishment," he said, referring to the Federal Communications Commission, which assigns and oversees licenses for radio and television broadcast frequencies.

"Unfortunately, she is not the only one. The Radi-



U.S. President Donald Trump stops to speak to reporters after landing at Reading Regional Airport on June 23, 2026 in Reading, Pennsylvania. President Trump traveled to Pennsylvania to deliver remarks at a Mack Trucks facility. Andrew Harnik/Getty Images/AFP

(Photo by Andrew Harnik / GETTY IMAGES NORTH AMERICA / Getty Images via AFP)

cal Left News is going out of their way to harass, demean, and libel anything 'TRUMP.'"

The Republican billionaire used American media to his advantage over the years as a provocative real estate developer in New York. But as president he dramatically turned against the press and what he called "fake news."

He has sued several newspapers including the Wall Street Journal and The New York Times, and ordered federal funding slashed for public media.

His administration, from the Pentagon to the FBI, has ramped up restrictions and attempts to intimidate journalists, and the FCC -- headed by a close Trump

associate -- has pressured broadcasters to toe the line.

"I hope that Chairman Brendan Carr, and the fine people of his Commission, will take this Threat to our Country very seriously," Trump said.

The latest attack is part of the Trump administration's months-long offensive against media outlets it

deems overly critical.

Such efforts are facing growing resistance from news organizations and major broadcast networks. Several of them have filed lawsuits against the FCC, arguing such pressure constitutes political retaliation that violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution, which protects freedom of speech.

Relations between Trump and Welker have been under pressure for months. In June the president abruptly cut short an interview with her following a tense exchange, during which he grew irritated by Welker's questioning, particularly on the war against Iran.

NBC News did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Experts argue the FCC lacks the legal authority to punish broadcasters or reporters for their viewpoints. According to a 2025 paper by the Yale Journal on Regulation, the US Supreme Court has confirmed that US law "does not grant the FCC the power to ban controversial speech." □

Trump govt mulls deal to give away part of Yosemite park

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES – President Donald Trump's administration is considering giving a section of the renowned Yosemite National Park to a private developer, a lawyer for the company confirmed to AFP on Friday.

The National Park Service has been holding talks with Nevada-based Kingsbarn Realty Capital to build an access road from an 83-acre private property just outside the park to Yosemite's entrance, in exchange for land elsewhere, lawyer Lanny Davis said.

The news was first reported by the outlet NOTUS and caused an uproar among conservationists and opposition Democrats, who have fiercely objected to moves by the administration to roll back protections of public

lands -- including pushing to reinstate road building and logging in national forests. But Davis, who described himself as a lifelong "progressive Democrat," framed the road as a green move, on the grounds that it would shorten trips to and from the currently undeveloped property, cutting emissions compared to the current circuitous route.

"Without a direct access route, every trip from the Hazel Green area requires a significantly longer drive -- twice as long, at a minimum -- on unpaved forest roads and thus more air pollution," Davis said. "The new access road would be safer for drivers and generate substantially less vehicle emissions." He also stressed the land exchange proposal -- which would involve supplying

Yosemite National Park with a parcel of land elsewhere -- "is expressly provided for under federal law and will not reduce the land area of the park."

The Interior Department earlier said negotiations had taken place but rejected the idea, reported by NOTUS, that there had been political pressure to reach a predetermined outcome.

Kingsbarn CEO Jeff Pori has business connections to people close to the president, NOTUS reported, and federal election commission records show he has made donations to the Republican National Committee and Trump-aligned fundraising committees.

- 'Backroom deal' -

The National Parks Conservation Association, an ad-



US National Park Service nps.org

vocacy organization, called the move an unlawful "attack."

"The Trump administration's attempts to dismantle America's conservation legacy are now taking aim at Yosemite with this secretive, backroom deal," said Mark Rose, the group's se-

nior Sierra Nevada program manager.

The Yosemite NPS Employees Union said it was "appalled" by the ceding of public lands for private interests, calling the proposed trade "antithetical to what we stand for" as stewards of the park. □

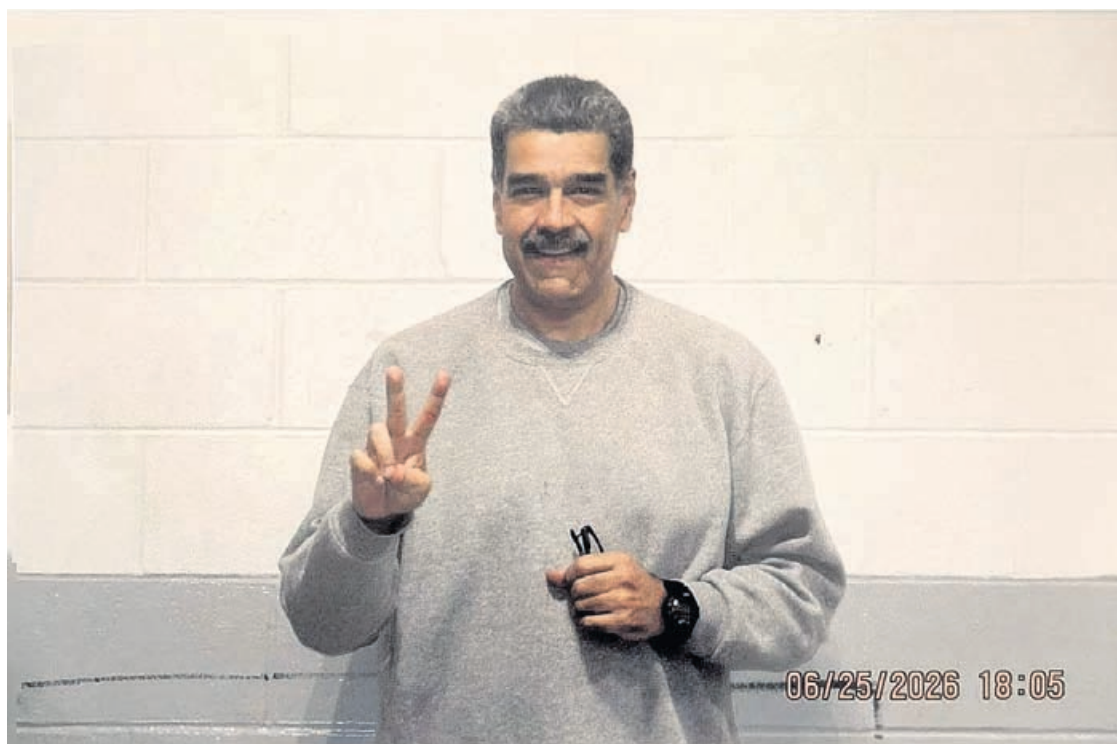
'We are standing firm,' Maduro says in posts from prison

CARACAS, VENEZUELA (AFP) – Venezuela's deposed leader Nicolas Maduro said on social media Sunday that he was "standing firm," while posting photographs from the New York prison where he has been held since his capture by US forces.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, were seized in Caracas during a US military operation in January. They are being detained in a Brooklyn, New York jail on drug trafficking and firearms possession charges, which they deny.

"I am sending these photos as a small gift to all my grandchildren, to the boys and girls, and to all the good people who love us," he wrote on the Telegram messaging service.

"I want you to know that we are standing firm, with our hearts full of your love," he added.



Picture: X.com/NicolasMaduro

In the two photographs, Maduro is wearing a gray tracksuit and making peace signs with his hands. He appears to have lost considerable weight since his capture.

Although the photographs emerged Sunday, camera

data indicates they were taken on June 25, a day after twin deadly earthquakes killed more than 6,500 people and caused widespread destruction in northern Venezuela.

"We will remain strong, calm and confident: God

is with us. God will provide. Venezuela will rise again," he concluded.

The message was posted two days after his successor, interim President Delcy Rodriguez, announced a "historic" oil agreement allowing the United States to

operate oil fields in Venezuela.

Rodriguez is governing under intense pressure from Washington and says she has "chosen the path of diplomacy" with the United States because she wants Venezuela to become an "energy powerhouse."

Maduro does not have access to newspapers or the internet in prison, but he is allowed to speak by telephone with his family and lawyers for approximately 300 minutes a month, with a maximum of 15 minutes per call, according to a source close to the former leader.

His son, Nicolas Maduro Guerra, says he is in good shape and spends his time studying the Bible.

Maduro and his wife's trial in the United States will begin on June 1, 2027, a federal court in New York announced in late July. □

France's ex-PM Edouard Philippe calls for new party to counter far-right



TOURCOING, FRANCE (AFP) – French presidential hopeful Edouard Philippe said Sunday he wanted to bring together the centre and the right and called for the creation of a new political party, as moderates seek to prevent far-right leader

Marine Le Pen from coming to power.

Seeking to energise his supporters in the northern town of Tourcoing, Philippe, the centre-right former prime minister, said he wanted to create a new party or an

alliance of parties ahead of parliamentary elections expected to follow next spring's presidential vote.

With less than eight months until the April-May presidential election, Le Pen, 58, is the front-runner in the polls. "It is about building the governing pact, or the new party, or the new confederation of parties, that will enable all those who want to unite their efforts in the service of the country to govern together," said the leader of the Horizons party. "This will involve fielding a single candidate in each constituency," Philippe, 55, said, adding such candidates would run "under a common banner" in order to build a parliamentary majority following the election.

While Philippe remains the best-positioned candidate on the right, recent surveys indicate that Jean-Luc Melancon, the divisive leader of hard-left France Unbowed (LFI), could emerge as Le Pen's most likely runoff opponent, raising some

doubts over Philippe's ability to secure a place in the second round.

Observers say that a crowded field of candidates from the centre, centre left, centre right and right risks fragmenting the moderate vote in the first round.

On Sunday, Philippe stepped up his push for a "political realignment", while offering few details of his programme. "We must build a coalition of those who share the values to which we are fundamentally attached," he said, referring to respect for the rule of law, commitment to European integration, and support for a market economy.

"Everyone who shares these simple ideas must unite to ensure that France does not drift either toward LFI's so-called 'new France' or toward Madame Le Pen's nationalist, identity-based brand of populism."

- 'Cart before the horse' – Particular concern has mounted over growing

competition between Philippe and 37-year-old Gabriel Attal, once France's youngest, openly gay prime minister, as both men hope to secure the backing of the centrist camp.

Speaking in the northeastern town of Chalons-en-Champagne, Attal sought to highlight differences with Philippe, arguing that his rival in the race was campaigning "with the ideas from 20 years ago".

Attal, who campaigned throughout the summer, claimed that he was now polling at roughly the same level as Philippe.

"There is no natural candidate or clear favourite in this election," the leader of the centrist Renaissance party argued.

At the botanical garden of Tourcoing, France's influential justice minister Gerald Darmanin, who this month pledged not to stand himself and endorsed Philippe, lavished him with praise before a crowd of hundreds of supporters. □

Iceland votes 'No' to resuming EU talks

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND (AFP)

– Iceland voted 'No' to resuming membership negotiations with the European Union, referendum results showed Sunday, dealing a blow to Brussels which had been keen to welcome a new wealthy member.

Almost 53 percent of Icelanders rejected the resumption of EU entry talks suspended 13 years ago, while some 47 percent voted in favour in Saturday's referendum.

Prime Minister Kristinn Þórsson, who favoured a 'Yes,' stressed she didn't "see this as a setback".

"I see this as a victory for democracy," she told reporters, pointing to voter turnout of over 80 percent.

"I want to make it absolutely clear, this government is not going forward with the accession talks this term."

This means any discussions of Icelandic accession are frozen at least until 2028 – an apparent disappointment to Brussels, which had appeared willing to compromise on thorny issues to facilitate Iceland's accession.

EU chief Antonio Costa nonetheless told Þórsson the bloc "fully respects the democratic choice" made by voters, a spokesperson said.

"Iceland remains one of the



Leaders of the government coalition parties. Þorgerður Katrín Gunnarsdóttir, Kristín Þórsson and Inga Sæland. Government.is.

EU's closest and most trusted partners," said the spokesperson.

Far-right, eurosceptic leaders in Britain and France hailed the result.

"At a time when some are pushing for greater federalism and the transfer of sovereignty to the European Commission, this vote reminds us that another Europe is possible, a Europe of free, sovereign nations cooperating voluntarily on matters of common interest," France's Marine Le Pen wrote on X.

"Congratulations to Iceland on voting to keep their independence," Reform UK leader Nigel Farage, who

was one of the faces of Britain's Brexit, wrote on the same platform.

Iceland, a country of just under 400,000 people applied to join the EU in the wake of the 2009 financial crisis that devastated its economy.

Membership talks were then suspended in 2013 when a eurosceptic government came to power. The island is, however, already closely linked to the EU as a member of the European Economic Area and the free-movement Schengen zone, ties which will remain unchanged.

The referendum result was

non-binding but the government had vowed to respect it.

- High turnout -

Debates ahead of the vote had mainly revolved around domestic and economic issues, though the war in Ukraine and US President Donald Trump's ambitions for neighbouring Greenland -- which he has mixed up with Iceland on several occasions -- also featured.

The campaign had "lifted discussions about the EU, about Iceland's place in the world, about our general geopolitical situation and status, to a higher level", Þórsson said after casting her ballot

Saturday.

Political analysts had said it was unlikely the government would resign in the event of a 'No' victory, though it could emerge weakened by the rejection.

According to RUV, voter turnout was 82.5 percent, the highest participation in any Icelandic vote since April 2009 parliamentary elections during its crippling financial crisis.

The campaign divided Icelanders.

"It's hard to grasp that it's a 'No'," 37-year-old artist Elisabeth Anna Kristjansdóttir told AFP.

"It's quite sad that the Icelandic people don't even want to see the possibilities of joining the EU."

Anna Maria Bogadóttir said meanwhile she was "really happy", but acknowledged it would now "be a challenge to unite 50 percent on each side."

- Wooing from Brussels -

A 'Yes' vote would have given the government a mandate to resume negotiations with Brussels, including on the hotly contested issue of fishing -- a pillar of Iceland's economy and part of its national identity, and over which Reykjavik wants to retain exclusive control. □

Italian woman died, two injured in Swiss shooting: Italy

Rome, Italy (AFP) – Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni expressed her condolences on Sunday after an Italian woman was killed and two more Italians were lightly injured in a shooting at a rave in Switzerland.

Meloni named the victim as Maria Spinelli, calling the shooting a "dramatic incident" and saying she was confident Swiss authorities would "shed full light on what happened and find anyone responsible".

Swiss police were hunting at least one gunman who opened fire at the rave in Aarau near Zurich, killing the Italian woman and wounding five others, some of them seriously.

The shooting, which happened in the early hours of Sunday and sent partygoers running for cover, is a rare event in the Alpine nation, despite its long tradition of gun ownership.

Italy's foreign ministry in a statement it was sending officials to the scene of the incident near Zurich "to closely follow the investigation" and was setting up a task force to assist Italian nationals affected and follow the investigation.

The ministry said two other Italians "were slightly injured and have already returned home".

Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis had called his Italian counterpart Antonio Tajani to send his condolences, the statement said. □



Picture: Instagram.com/GiorgiaMeloni

The missing in Nepal-Tibet flash floods

Kathmandu, Nepal (AFP) – More than 3,000 people were listed as missing Sunday, with at least 797 confirmed dead, after the flash floods and landslides that hit the Nepal-Tibet border.

The figures are likely to change, which is not uncommon in the chaos after a major disaster. Here are the latest numbers:

- In total: 3,048 missing – Nepal's disaster agency increased the total number of people missing on its side of the border to 2,502 on Sunday, saying there were also 781 confirmed deaths.

The number of missing in Tibet is now at 546, with 16 others dead, China's state broadcaster CCTV reported on Sunday.

Together, the total missing stands at least 3,048 and the total dead at 797.

Nepal's disaster agency said Sunday that 592 foreigners were unaccounted for -- an increase on Friday's figure of 517. It did not update the list by nationality.

Chinese officials said Sunday at least 261 foreign nationals were among those unaccounted for there. In India, authorities said they had recovered seven bodies from rivers flowing from Nepal, believed to be flood victims. However, at this time they are not included in the toll.

- Nepal – Nepal's disaster agency lists 1,910 missing citizens, in a update on Sunday. That includes 562 unaccounted for in the hardest-hit district of Rasuwa.

Among the missing are 933



A photograph taken on August 26, 2026 shows a truck and buildings partially submerged by mud after flash floods and a landslide in Trishuli Bazar, in Nepal's Nuwakot district
(Prakash Mathema/AFP/Getty Images)

people working on hydro-power projects, 45 Nepali Army soldiers, 38 police and armed police officers and 19 customs and immigration officers.

China's CCTV said Sunday that 104 Nepali nationals were missing in Tibet.

- China – China's foreign ministry said on Thursday that nearly 100 Chinese nationals were among the missing in Nepal.

The Nepal Tourism Board said eight Chinese were unaccounted for but that 16 had been rescued.

- India – India's foreign ministry said on Saturday that 275 citizens were missing, and an additional 128 persons of Indian origin. Around 900 Indian nationals are still on the Chinese side but are safe and contactable. Chinese state media said Sunday that 49 Indian nationals were missing in Tibet.

- United States – About 85 US citizens were

missing, the State Department said on Sunday, adding that nine had been rescued. It said it was not aware of any US fatalities.

The Nepal Tourism Board put the figure at 65 missing on Friday, and two rescued. Eighteen US citizens were still missing in Tibet, Chinese state media said on Sunday.

- Ukraine – The Nepal Tourism Board put the number of Ukrainians still missing on Friday at 61. Ukraine's embassy in Nepal said on Friday it was aware of 62 of its citizens with whom contact had been lost, revising its earlier numbers upwards by six.

Chinese state media said one Ukrainian was missing in Tibet.

- Malaysia – The Nepal Tourism Board put the number missing at 51.

Chinese state media said three Malaysians were missing in Tibet.

- Australia – The number of Australians missing stood at 42 on Sunday.

- United Kingdom – Thirty-three people from the United Kingdom were missing, the Nepal Tourism Board figures showed on Friday.

In Tibet, 15 people from the United Kingdom were miss-

ing, Chinese state media said.

- Latvia – Twenty-nine Latvians were missing, the Nepal Tourism Board said on Friday. Chinese state media said 33 Latvians were missing in Tibet.

- Canada – The Nepal Tourism Board said 25 Canadians were among the missing on Friday. Canada's foreign ministry put the figure at 30 in both Nepal and Tibet.

Chinese state media said six Canadians were missing in Tibet.

- South Korea – The Nepal Tourism Board said Friday that nine South Korean tourists were missing. South Korea's foreign ministry said Wednesday they had had no news of nine hydro-power workers.

- Singapore – Nine Singaporeans were unaccounted for, the Nepal Tourism Board said.

- Germany – Eight German citizens are missing, according to the Nepal Tourism Board.

Chinese state media said three Germans were missing in Tibet.

- Russia – Nine Russians are unaccounted for, while two have been rescued, the Nepal

Tourism Board said on Friday. Three Russians were missing in Tibet, Chinese state media said Sunday.

- Other nationalities –
South Africa: six (Nepal Tourism Board). Four missing in Tibet. (CCTV)
Japan: five (Nepal Tourism Board)
New Zealand: five (foreign ministry and Nepal Tourism Board). Two missing in Tibet. (CCTV)
France: four (Nepal Tourism Board). Two missing in Tibet. (CCTV)
Spain: three (Spanish foreign ministry). One missing in Tibet. (CCTV)
Belgium: two, and one person rescued (Nepal Tourism Board)
Hungary: three (Hungarian foreign ministry). The Nepal Tourism Board put the figure at one. One missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Portugal: three, with two found safe (Portuguese government). The Nepal Tourism Board said only one Portuguese citizen was missing. One missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Netherlands: two (Nepal Tourism Board). Two missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Italy: three missing (Italian foreign ministry). The Nepal Tourism Board said Friday one was missing, with two rescued
Ireland: two (Nepal Tourism Board). Two missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Kazakhstan: three (Nepal Tourism Board). One missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Belarus: one (Nepal Tourism Board)
Finland: one (Nepal Tourism Board). One missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Israel: one (Nepal Tourism Board)
Lithuania: one (Nepal Tourism Board). One missing in Tibet (CCTV)
Philippines: one (Nepal Tourism Board)
Serbia: one (Nepal Tourism Board)
Switzerland: one, with one person rescued (Nepal Tourism Board)
Sweden: one (Swedish foreign ministry and Nepal Tourism Board)
Vietnam: one (Nepal Tourism Board)
Estonia: Two missing in Tibet (CCTV)□



A resident walks along a street covered in mud following flash floods and a landslide disaster in Devghat, in Nepal's Nuwakot district, on Wednesday. | AFP-JIJI



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Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use



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

Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However,

if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in

the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

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

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

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are

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

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



PSA for off-roaders:

Be careful when driving on rough terrains!

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

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

You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging

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

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



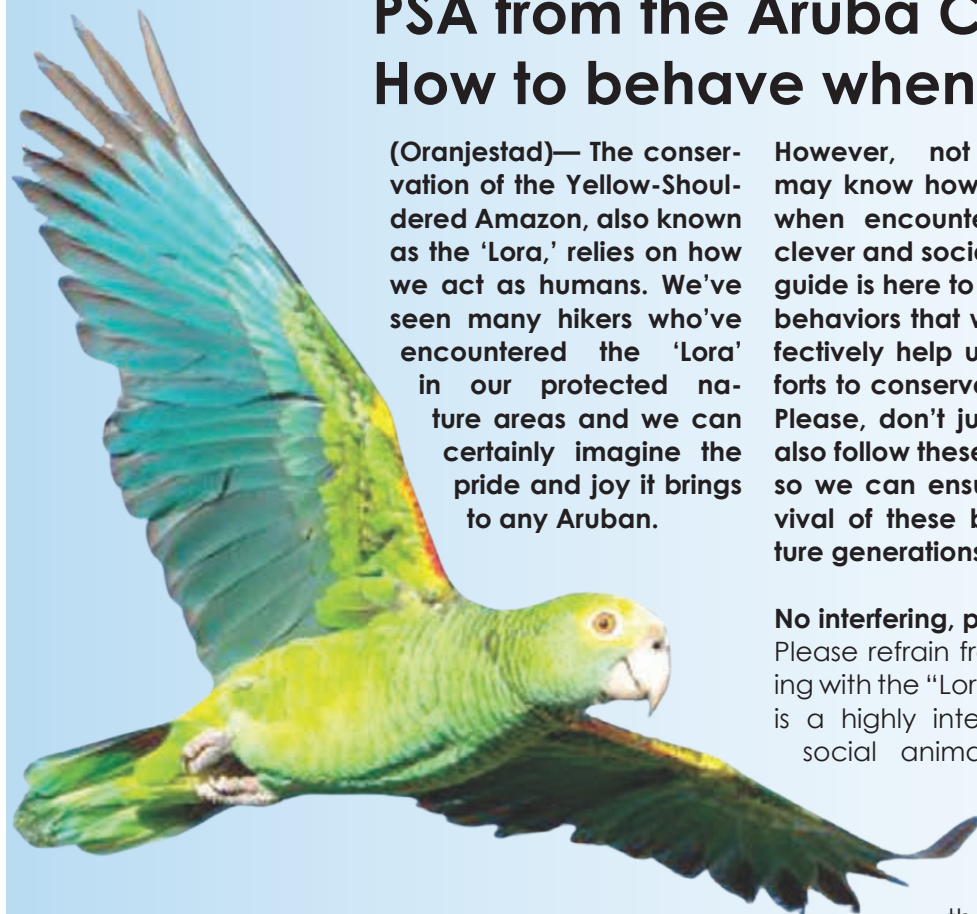


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PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a “lora”



(Oranjestad)—The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the ‘Lora,’ relies on how we act as humans. We’ve seen many hikers who’ve encountered the ‘Lora’ in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban.

However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the ‘Lora.’ Please, don’t just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with the “Lora”. The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as they pre-

pared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water

You may think that giving

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

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let’s work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □

Ever heard of the cah’i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)—The cah’i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah’i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah’i orgel “Josefina”, and successfully debuted

it on the streets of Barquisimeto. Back in Curacao, he started his own cah’i orgel business along with his brother Luis.

In Aruba, it is said that the cah’i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah’i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle’s cah’i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah’i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah’i orgel is a music box. Made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces.

By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah’i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the “wiri”, a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro. Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah’i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah’i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah’i orgel is the “tingling box.”



Source: “E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao” by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.

2,000,000

SUMMER

POINT GIVEAWAY

JULY 1 TO AUGUST 31

Win your share of \$20,000 in points!

20 WINNERS EACH DAY

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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikí cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves.

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

Woman in Quadirikiri Cave, Arikok National Park, Aruba As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of



Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes

through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.



Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly

known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Arawak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy. Take care to not disturb the bats' habitat. □



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-aruba.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 language? 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 version 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".

The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

ORANJESTAD—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves. The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawecha, who was an epistomophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her

father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her. Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers.

Kudawecha, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and



gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

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 commis-

sioned 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.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Knitting need
1 Suit piece
5 Not nude
9 May, for one

10 Romantic one
12 Pond cover
13 Humble

14 African city
16 Gratuity
17 Coffee dispenser

18 African city
20 Annoys
22 Prentious

23 Egypt's Sadat
25 Racket
28 Put in a mausoleum

32 African city
34 Aussie hopper
35 Suffix for hero

36 African city
38 Raft pilot
40 Fads

41 Veep Agnew
42 Extreme pain

DOWN

1 Hit song of 1958
2 Train puller

3 Teacher's reward
4 1976 horror movie

5 Assertion
6 High hit
7 Online icon

8 Stop
9 "Stop being a wimp!"



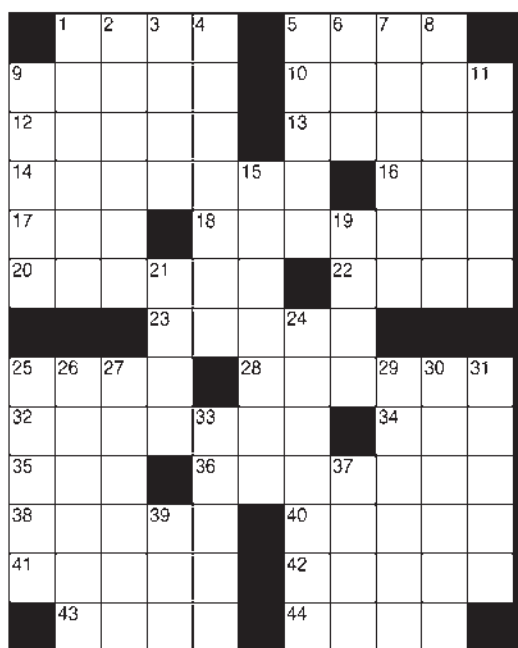
11 Settle, as a debt
15 Johnson biographer

19 Homer's son
21 Siren
24 Servant for taverns, e.g.

25 Passes over
26 Bed topper
27 Aviator Earhart

29 Salem's state
30 Entertainer Rita
31 Overbearing

33 Composer Copland
37 Othello's betrayer
39 Screw up



5-13

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

5-13 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

OFY HLN SQN CSFLOSNNKKNL FB

OFYL FVP KWBN, HPT OFY XHP

XLNHSN OFYL FVP KNJNPT,

FL PFS. — WCHINK HKKNPTN
Cryptoquote: RAINY DAYS SHOULD
BE SPENT AT HOME WITH A CUP OF TEA AND A
GOOD BOOK. — BILL WATTERSON

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 SCHEDULE

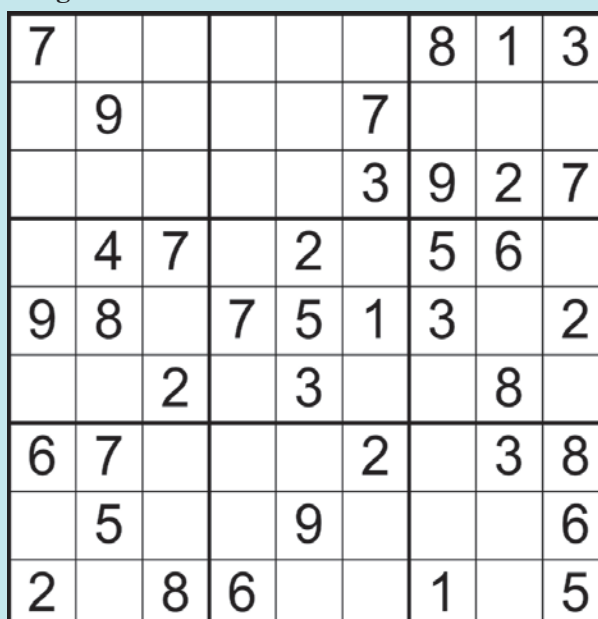
SEPTEMBER

01 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
08 TUE	CELEBRITY REFLECTION Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 11:30 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
09 WED	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B MARGARITAVILLE ISLANDER Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: C ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 14:00 Berth: I
15 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CELEBRITY REFLECTION Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I

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



Difficulty: ★

8/31

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/30

NASA launches Roman telescope on cosmic mapping mission



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket with NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Telescope on board is seen transiting the sun during launch from Launch Complex 39A, Sunday, Aug. 30, 2026, at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA/John Kraus

WASHINGTON, UNITED STATES (AFP) –

NASA launched its new flagship space telescope on Sunday, embarking on a multi-year mission to create an unprecedented map of the cosmos and shed light on some of the biggest mysteries in physics.

Designed to take a panoramic view of the vast reaches of space, the Roman Space Telescope "will help unlock the secrets of the universe," US President Donald Trump said Friday during a ceremony at NASA headquarters in Houston, Texas.

Standing over 12 meters (39 feet) tall, the state-of-the-art observatory launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 7:26 am (1126 GMT) aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket.

Developed over more than a decade at a cost topping \$4 billion, the telescope is named after pioneering US astronomer Nancy Grace Roman, who became known as the "Mother of Hubble," another of NASA's flagship telescopes.

While Hubble revealed that the universe is expanding faster than previously thought, Roman will seek to answer some of the other unsolved mysteries, including those of dark matter and dark energy.

"Roman will give the Earth a new atlas of the universe," NASA administrator Jared Isaacman said in April when

he unveiled the project to the press.

- Studying the invisible -

With a field of view more than 100 times larger than Hubble's -- and significantly wider than James Webb's -- Roman will survey vast swaths of the sky from a vantage point 1.5 million kilometers (930,000 miles) from Earth, which it will take about 100 days to reach.

Designed to work in tandem with other observatories such as Webb, which offers greater power and precision, Roman aims to discover thousands of exoplanets as well as tens of thousands of supernovae, the explosive deaths of massive stars.

"It will be the biggest catalog of astronomical objects anybody's ever produced, and it will help us understand how

common are solar systems like our own," Dave Content, Roman's technical manager, told AFP.

The new telescope will also shed light on two of the biggest mysteries in physics: dark matter and dark energy. Their origins remain unknown, but together they are believed to make up about 95 percent of the universe.

Dark matter is thought to act as a kind of gravitational glue, while dark energy is believed to be a repulsive force driving the universe's expansion.

With its infrared vision, Roman will be able to detect light emitted by celestial objects billions of years ago, effectively looking back in time and offering scientists a glimpse into the universe's distant past and helping them better understand these two mysterious phenomena.

- Surprise -

Roman's observations will complement the work of the Rubin Observatory in Chile and the European Space Agency's (ESA) Euclid probe, and are highly anticipated because they could challenge scientists' understanding of the universe's structure.

Julie McEnery, Roman's senior project scientist, said recent research suggests the way scientists have been thinking about the universe's

early expansion, based on the predictions of existing models, may be wrong. "Recent observations hint that our standard model of the universe is incorrect," she told a press conference on Saturday, adding that Roman will help clear that up.

"It will definitely say, 'Yeah, the model works, or it doesn't.' And if it doesn't, it's going to provide us with the precision and quality of data that will allow us to start to distinguish between those options."

Scientists and the general public will have access to all of Roman's data. But the sheer volume will be daunting, Content warned.

The telescope will be generating about 1.3 terabytes of data a day, "which means you basically can't download the data to anybody's laptop," he said.

For McEnery, the more data, the better. □



Editor

Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
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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

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 1780

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
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
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

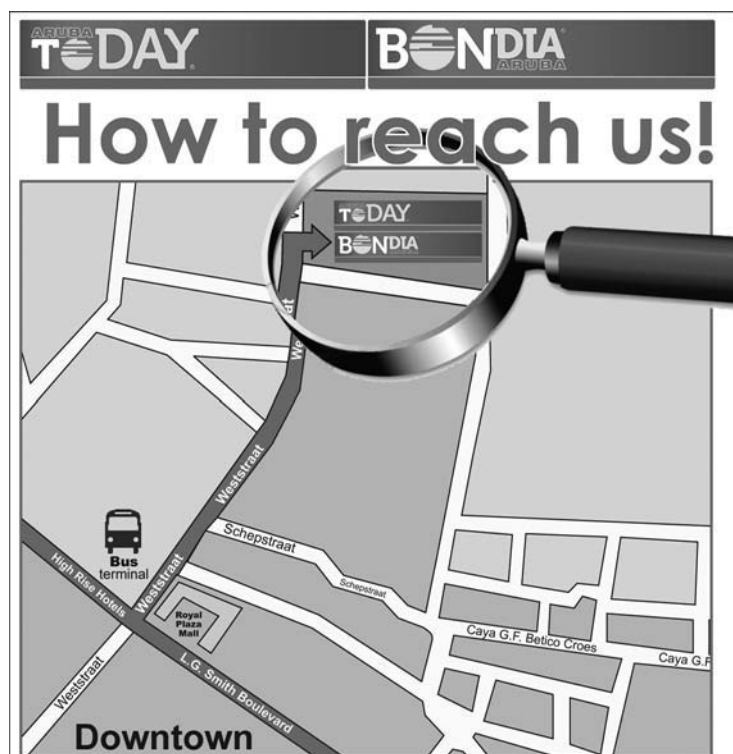
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



From forced labour to living heritage: Sao Tome's colonial plantations

(AFP) – Conceicao Moreno is a descendant of agricultural workers, of whom many were brought by force from other African nations to Sao Tome and Principe to labour on colonial-era plantations.

"My grandmother lived here, my father was born here and I was born here too. It's our heritage, in a way," Moreno said, pointing to the crumbling walls of the former Sundry plantation on the island of Principe.

It is one of six "rocas" (pronounced ro-ssas), or plantation estates, that were built on slavery and forced labour and added to UNESCO's World Heritage List last month.

Most of the "rocas" have been abandoned, presenting a major preservation challenge for the small archipelago in the Gulf of Guinea.

However, they have drawn interest from private investors keen to develop the tourism potential of the buildings steeped in history.

Established by Portuguese colonists in the second half of the 19th century, the plantations intensively cultivated sugar cane and later cocoa and coffee.

They initially used slaves who were later replaced by contracted labourers forced to live and work in harsh conditions.

Sao Tome, off Africa's west coast, had a steady supply of slaves passing through as the last staging post on the trade route before ships left for the Americas.

After Portugal abolished slavery in 1869, workers became "contract" employees, brought, often by force, from other Portuguese colonies -- Angola, Mozambique and Cape Verde -- as well as Gabon and the Congo.

The "rocas" had agricultural land, industrial infrastructure, residential areas and



Conceicao Moreno's ancestors were contracted workers, shipped from Cape Verde to a plantation in Sao Tome and Principe © Daniel BELOUMOU OLOMO / AFP

social facilities, UNESCO said.

They illustrate "the operation of a large-scale colonial agro-industrial system, based on forced migration and labour" from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, the UN culture agency added.

- 'Collective memory' -

Sundry plantation still has its old stables with their fortress-like appearance, a Portuguese colonial-style manor house, small white-stone chapel and a row of "sanzalas" where plantation workers lived.

They bear witness to a darker past when the estate was a nearly self-sufficient system of booming agricultural production.

The buildings "preserve the collective memory of Sao Tome and Principe from the colonial era to the present day", the two-island nation's culture chief Emir Boa Morte said.

"Some have already disappeared since colonial times, others have been merged, there has been a decrease. But despite all that, there are still around a hundred of them," he added.

Nationalised by the country's Marxist-Leninist rulers in the late 1970s, the "rocas" were privatised in the 1990s but failed to survive the economic decline of the



Plantation workers lived in 'Sanzalas' and were often brought by force from other African nations to Sao Tome and Principe © Daniel BELOUMOU OLOMO / AFP



Egbert Bloemsma, CEO of HBD Hotels, says it's important to preserve the culture while developing the old plantation buildings © Daniel BELOUMOU OLOMO / AFP

world's former leading cocoa producer.

The vast majority of the "rocas" -- some still inhabited by former workers and their descendants -- are little more than run-down buildings, often unsanitary and overgrown with weeds.

The forebears of Moreno, a 46-year-old member of the National Assembly, were "servicais", or con-

tracted workers, shipped from Cape Verde to Sundry plantation in the highlands of Principe island.

He is one of a few who stayed at the sprawling site after it was bought a few years ago by HBD (Here Be Dragons), an investment fund founded by South African entrepreneur Mark Shuttleworth.

"I've never lived anywhere

else, so I like being here. There's a very strong cultural connection," said Moreno, whose home is now separated from the plantation by a guardhouse and barrier.

- New impetus -

The old plantation owner's mansion has already been turned into a five-star hotel and the workers' houses will become extra bedrooms once the renovation is complete.

"We are creating beautiful hotels where hundreds of people can work. Nobody was using the old 'rocas' in the way they were supposed to be used in the old days; the new use of these 'rocas' is so important," said Egbert Bloemsma, CEO of HBD Hotels.

"It's important we do our part, renovate the 'rocas', preserve the old building, preserve the culture that was here."

The hotel group owns two former "rocas" on Principe.

UNESCO recognition is expected to breathe new life into efforts to preserve the historical heritage.

"We are in the process of mobilising almost the entire population of Sao Tome," said Boa Morte, from the culture ministry.

"Whoever visits the 'rocas' will see that there has been a change since they were elevated to the status of World Heritage of Humanity," he added.

"In five to 10 years, 10 more 'rocas' could join the UNESCO list."

Sao Tome and Principe has launched a 10-year plan to restore the buildings from their state of disrepair and find new uses for them.

But new investment will not "erase the history", insisted Boa Morte.

"The story of these 'rocas' must be told. There will be a combination, a union between the past and the present." □

Emotional Federer inducted into tennis Hall of Fame

(AFP) – A tearful Roger Federer was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame on Saturday, describing his formal entrance into the sport's pantheon as one of the "greatest honors of my life."

The 45-year-old 20-time Grand Slam singles champion was frequently overcome with emotion as he addressed a crowd bristling with tennis royalty at a ceremony in Newport, Rhode Island.

The Swiss legend, who retired from tennis in 2022, paid tribute to the opponents, officials, fans, family and friends who had shared his career during a lengthy address that unfolded as a love letter to the sport.

"This is one of the greatest honors of my life," Federer said. "They call this the Hall of Fame, but fame was never the goal.

"My goal was to spend my life doing something I love... with people who I love it as much as I do."

In a light-hearted preamble, the eight-time Wimbledon champion totted up his career in some of his lesser-known statistical milestones.

"Not the obvious stats like the number of majors or number of weeks at number one," Federer said. "I'm talking about the numbers that really paint a picture. Between 1998 and when I first went on the ATP tour, and when I retired in 2022, I wore more than 5,000 headbands. That's more than (Bjorn) Borg and (John) McEnroe combined.

"And if you think that's impressive, I wore probably over 7000 pairs of socks. That's probably twice as many as most of my opponents, because I doubled them up.

"But really, there's no way to measure what it means to be here. It's hard to put it into words," Federer said, reflecting on his journey from being a 13-year-old

ballboy at an ATP tournament in Basel to the pinnacle of tennis.

"I really want to thank every ball kid who ever stood through my matches or all our matches, for that matter, for hours on end," Federer said. "I see you. I thank you. I was you."

Federer had to wipe away tears as he name-checked his idol Stefan Edberg, other tennis stars, family and support staff who had inspired him throughout his career.

"I need tissues and sunglasses and everything to protect me right now," he joked. "This is such a mess." "It's been an incredible journey," Federer said. "For me, the International Tennis Hall of Fame provides



Ben Solomon/International Tennis Hall of Fame

a great opportunity to look back, but also to look ahead," he added.

"As you can tell, I'm still writ-

ing my love letter to tennis. My time as a player is done, but tennis will always stand at the intersection of everything I care most about:

my family, our friendships, the past 40 years, the future we're building. Tennis for me is responsible for it all." □



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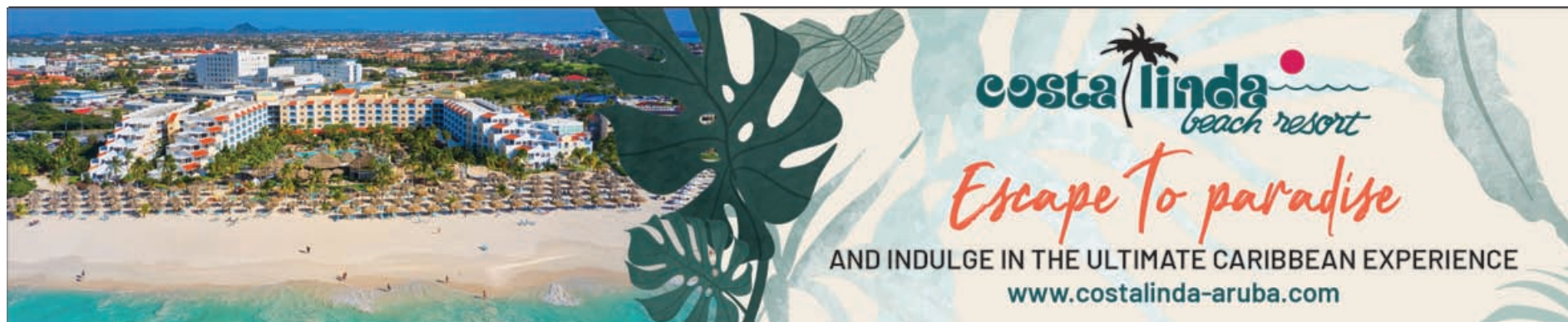


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Dutch federation calls for football summit without Infantino

(AFP) – The Dutch football federation (KNVB) on Sunday said "FIFA needs new leadership" and that it would like to host a summit on the future of football's world governing body which does not involve beleaguered president Gianni Infantino.

The 56-year-old Swiss has taken a pummelling over his now shelved FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) plan to bring private investment into FIFA events, including the jewels in the crown, the men's and women's World Cups. The KNVB in a letter to Aleksander Ceferin, president of European football's governing body UEFA, said it had lost confidence in Infantino and things had to change radically within FIFA.

Infantino, who was elected in 2016 after Sepp Blatter stood down, had looked set to be re-elected unopposed to a fourth and final term in Rabat next March as he basked in the afterglow of a highly successful World Cup. However, his botched proposal has resulted in a steady loss of support, the Norwegian FA demanded he resign and now the Dutch are en-

visaging an overhaul of FIFA without him at the helm. Anyone wishing to challenge Infantino -- CONCACAF president Victor Montagliani is seen as the likeliest to put his name forward as Ceferin has declared himself a non-runner -- has to do so by November 18.

"The KNVB no longer has confidence in the leadership of FIFA President Gianni Infantino," read the KNVB statement.

"We believe FIFA needs new leadership from 2027 onwards. But a new President alone is not enough. The way FIFA is governed must change as well."

- 'Critical voices' –

Although UEFA has led the fight against Infantino -- their latest salvo threatening legal action accusing him of "criminal mismanagement" -- KNVB insisted its proposal for change "should not be a European plan for the rest of the world".

"We want to develop this new direction together with FIFA's 211 Member Associations and the confederations from all parts of the world," it said.



Photo by DAVID SALAZAR / AFP FIFA President Gianni Infantino gestures during his visit to the new Concentration Hotel of the Colombian Football Federation in Barranquilla, Colombia, on February 24, 2026.

The KNVB listed three priorities: Good governance for a better balance of power, putting football's social power at the heart of FIFA and investing more in football worldwide.

One of the main accusations aimed at Infantino has been a lack of transparency -- contradicting what he had promised when first elected -- and taking decisions unilaterally or with just a few of his inner circle involved.

Such was the case with the FFE when according to The

"This requires greater transparency, independent oversight and room for critical voices."

To this end the KNVB said it would like all these matters to be discussed by "football associations and confederations".

"We therefore propose an International Summit on the Future of FIFA," it said.

"The KNVB is willing to host this summit in Amsterdam, a city with a special place in FIFA's history.

"The 2027 presidential election should not only be about who leads FIFA.

"First, we need to determine what kind of FIFA we want. Then we can identify the leadership needed to deliver that change."

UEFA when contacted by AFP preferred to keep its own counsel regarding the letter.

"We would prefer not to comment on correspondence that was intended to be private," it said.

"We can only add that we have a long-standing, productive working relationship with KNVB, which we greatly appreciate." □



Team Netcompany Ineos' Welsh rider Joshua Tarling celebrates on the podium wearing the Best Young Cyclist jersey after the first stage of the Vuelta a Espana 2026, a 9.4 km time-trial between Monaco and Monaco on August 22, 2026. (Photo by Miguel MEDINA / AFP)

(AFP) – Tom Pidcock dedicated his victory to late British cyclist Fin Tarling on Sunday after winning the mountain

Pidcock dedicates mountain bike world title to late Tarling

bike cross-country world title for the second time.

Tarling, whose brother Josh and Pidcock were Netcompany Ineos team-mates in 2023, died in a crash with a vehicle at a race in Portugal earlier this month at the age of 19.

"I don't have much words to be honest, it was a hard road here after the Tour," said an emotional Pidcock, who finished ninth at July's Tour de France.

"I want to dedicate this win

to Fin Tarling, to Josh. Seeing him start the Vuelta was pretty incredible, so I dedicate it to him and his family."

Josh Tarling had started the Vuelta a Espana grand tour just days after his brother's death and came close to winning the opening stage time-trial, although he quit the race just a few days later.

On Sunday in Val di Sole, Briton Pidcock started on the fifth row and was forced to overtake numerous rivals be-

fore finally hitting out alone at the front on the seventh of eight laps.

Fellow Briton Charlie Aldridge finished second with Canada's Cole Puchard third, while star Dutchman Mathieu van der Poel, a world champion on the road and in cyclocross, was never able to make his mark and came home in 30th.

Pidcock, 27, is a two-time Olympic mountain bike champion from Tokyo, in 2021, and Paris 2024. □