

Aruba: the legend behind its name

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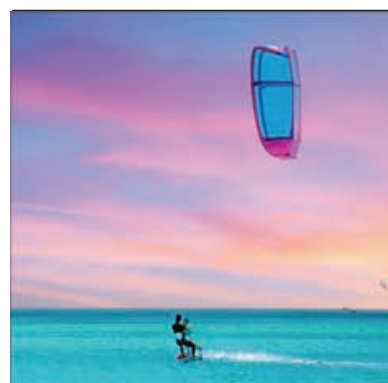
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This aerial view shows an Amazon Web Services (AWS) data center adjacent to single-family homes in Stone Ridge, Virginia on August 12, 2026.

Trump says AI data center opponents want to be 'backwards and poor'

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday attacked opponents of artificial intelligence data centers, saying they would end up "backwards and poor" and were helping rival China.

A backlash against the energy-guzzling centers has become a surprise issue in November's US midterm elections, with Trump at odds with many Republicans.

Polls show a majority of Americans are now against building the centers, amid complaints about rising electricity bills and noise from the facilities.

"The only reason that communities throughout the U.S.A. should not want Data Centers is if they want to end up being backwards and poor," Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

"If they want to be successful and rich, with far lower taxes and jobs all over the place, let Data Reign," Trump said.

"If we kill the Golden Goose, you will only have

yourselves to blame."

Republicans are already at risk of losing control of Congress in the midterms as the Iran war drives up the cost of living, and the data centers are proving a fresh headache. Opposition to the facilities is growing, according to opinion polls.

A Fox News survey in July showed that 70 percent of respondents opposed the building of an AI data center in their area -- including 60 percent of Republicans and 76 percent of Democrats.

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

But Trump has maintained his support, even as his administration earlier this year signed up top tech firms to a voluntary "Ratepayer Protection Pledge" to protect consumers from higher power prices.

- 'China could not be happier' -

U.S. media reports have suggested that China may also be trying to stoke opposition to data centers, with a congressional committee demanding an investigation.

Trump, who is due to host Chinese President Xi Jinping at the White House in September, did not repeat the allegation but said Beijing would be pleased with the situation.

"China could not be happier with this anti Data Center movement. Actually, they can't believe it is happening!" Trump said.

China is on course to nearly double its data center capacity within the next five years, as an AI race with the United States intensifies. Trump's Vice President JD Vance who is widely considered a possible 2028 presidential hopeful took a more measured tone as he headed on a campaign visit to Michigan on Monday. □



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

U.S. Supreme Court allows Trump ballroom project to proceed

Washington, United States

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday allowed President Donald Trump to continue construction of his White House ballroom, granting him a major victory against opponents of the project.

The conservative-dominated court voted 5-4 to lift a lower order demanding construction be halted, with Chief Justice John Roberts notably joining the court's three liberals in dissenting.

Roberts earlier this month issued a temporary order to allow construction while the full court weighed the matter. The project has roiled Washington, with critics saying Trump acted unlawfully by unilaterally ordering the demolition of the entire White House East Wing.

The court decision means construction will advance, while a lawsuit brought by the National Trust for Historic Preservation will play out in lower courts a process that could take months or years.

The National Trust did not immediately return AFP's request for comment.

In its decision the court said that the government was likely to eventually win the ongoing lawsuit because the National Trust probably did not have the right to bring the claim in the first place.

The organization's case is grounded by one of its members, Washington resident Alison Hoagland, who claims that seeing the finished ballroom would result in damage to her "aesthetic, cultural, and historical interests," due to its size.

"This Court has not found standing in circumstances like these before. To the contrary, we have repeatedly held that mere offense, disagreement, or distaste does not qualify as a concrete and particularized injury," under the US constitution, the five justices wrote in their ruling. "Perhaps nearly any government action or project offends someone's sensibilities," they added.

However, those justices made clear that they were not making a final ruling on the legality of the ballroom project, just that construction could continue while the case is argued and decided in lower courts. □

Trump vows to hit Iran 'hard' after first exchange of fire in weeks

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump threatened on Monday to hit Iran "hard" after the two foes traded fire for the first time in weeks, as his Treasury secretary vowed to keep up a pressure campaign aimed at hobbling Tehran's economy.

After six months of war, the foes remain at an impasse, with Iran keeping the strategic Strait of Hormuz closed and the U.S. persisting with a naval counter-blockade of Iranian ports.

On Sunday, the United States carried out strikes on an Iranian island in the Strait of Hormuz, with Tehran quickly retaliating by attacking US military targets in the Middle East.

The exchange raised fears of a return to major hostilities, with the US president vowing to respond.

"We're going to hit them hard," Trump said, according to a Fox News reporter who spoke to him briefly. "There will be a response."

The United States said it attacked Iranian rocket launchers on the island of Larak to prevent Tehran planting mines in the key shipping lane.

Iran responded with missile and drone attacks aimed at Jordan and the United Arab Emirates, saying they targeted U.S. forces there, but President Masoud Pezeshkian later on Monday called for dialogue.

"We continue to strive for a path of agreement and understanding, and we believe that continuing the war is neither in our interest, nor in the interest of the region," he said at a summit in Kyrgyzstan, adding "the solution to the existing problems is dialogue and cooperation".

State media reported that three people were killed in the US attack on Larak, with several others wounded.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards said the ballistic missile attack targeting two US air bases in Jordan caused "heavy damage". But Trump told Fox that all the missiles fired at US forces had been shot down, except for one that was determined not to pose a



A G20 signage is seen at the Omni Grove Park Hotel during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, on August 31, 2026.

threat. Jordan's army said it had intercepted eight missiles, without stating their origin.

Iran also said it targeted US personnel at an air base in the UAE, and shot down an American drone over Hormuz.

Abu Dhabi said it intercepted a drone over the country's waters, but dismissed claims that Al Minhad Air Base had been targeted as "baseless".

The Guards reported knocking out a second US drone over the Hormuz on Monday evening, and Iran's armed forces central command reiterated a warning to its regional neighbours not to allow the US to use their territory to carry out attacks.

- 'Continue exerting pressure' -

The exchange of fire came after weeks of relative calm, with the Trump administration recently pivoting to "economic warfare". Earlier on Monday, Trump had called Iran "a Failed Nation", saying on social media that its military was decimated, its finances were crumbling "and their leadership is in total disarray".

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent vowed to keep up the economic pain.

"We are going to continue exerting pressure, and we've had very good discussions here already," Bessent told reporters at a G20 meeting in North Carolina. He said a turning point in the pressure campaign could come "within weeks or months".

Iran is exerting economic pressure of its own through its blockade on the Strait of Hormuz, which has roiled global markets and driven up prices for American voters in a closely fought mid-term election year.

One-fifth of the world's oil

passed through the strait before the war, which was triggered by a surprise wave of U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28.

- Hormuz flashpoint -

Despite traffic remaining throttled six months on, Trump has claimed the US navy has "total control" of the strait, with Washington last week announcing it had completed clearing explosives from the waterway.

Iran, however, insists it is in charge of the sealane. The Revolutionary Guards said Monday that a "rogue" oil tanker caught fire near the strait after it hit two mines while attempting to transit an "illegal route".

The U.S. military called the claim "disinformation", say-

ing: "No ships have hit mines in the Strait of Hormuz."

Mediators have tried for months to broker an end to the war, but an earlier truce and memorandum of understanding fell apart. Sporadic attacks resumed, but ultimately tapered off, with the US last striking Iran on July 29.

A spokesman for UN chief Antonio Guterres called the latest exchange of fire "very regrettable" after weeks of calm, and urged a return to diplomacy.

Iran recently has been trying to push the U.S. to return to the previous deal, with Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi telling state TV on Monday that "the solution is completely clear and straightforward: the United States must return to its commitments". □



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Galliano pulls Met Gala exhibit after anti-Semitism backlash

New York, United States

Top fashion designer John Galliano announced Monday he was cancelling an exhibition of his work that was to kick off New York's Met Gala next spring, following criticism from donors and political leaders over his past anti-Semitic remarks.

"After much reflection and discussion with all those involved, I have decided, with great sadness, that it is best for the exhibition not to take place at this time," Galliano, 65, wrote on Instagram.

"I remain fully accountable for the pain caused by my words in the past, particularly the hurt I caused to the Jewish and Asian communities, and I remain deeply sorry," he added.

A French court convicted Galliano in 2011 of making racist and anti-Semitic comments, after he hurled Jewish and Asian slurs at a Paris bar.

The Briton, famed for his flamboyant personality and daring designs, was also fired from his job as



British designer John Galliano gives a press conference on his new work as a consultant for Russian cosmetics retailer L'Etoile in at the Barvikha Luxury Village Concert Hall just outside Moscow, on May 22, 2014.

creative director of Dior after the incident surfaced. The Metropolitan Museum of Art had planned a nine-month exhibition of his work starting with the star-studded Met Gala next May but high-profile Jewish fig-

ures, including renowned art dealer Arne Glimcher and city council speaker Julie Menin, voiced opposition this month.

"I do not want the debate surrounding me to place

the Met in a difficult position or to distract from the remarkable work of the Costume Institute," Galliano said Monday, referencing the museum's department dedicated to fashion. "I also recognize and re-

spect that an exhibition honoring my work would be painful for some," he said.

Galliano referenced the rehabilitation that followed his conviction, noting his "deepest gratitude to all those who have guided, supported and accompanied me throughout these fifteen years of sobriety and recovery from alcoholism and addiction."

- Wintour weighs in -

The Met confirmed that the "John Galliano: Horizons" show would not proceed as planned, and that a new exhibition would be announced at a later date. Andrew Bolton, curator in charge of the Met's Costume Institute, said he supported the decision.

"I believe deeply in the responsibility of museums to examine difficult histories with rigor, candor, and care. I also recognize the pain and concern this exhibition has caused," he said in a statement.

Anna Wintour, the fashion icon and ex-Vogue editor

who is a trustee of the Met, expressed her "full support" for Galliano and the museum.

"John's decision that the exhibition devoted to his work should not take place at this time is very courageous and a measure of the man he is," she said.

After Dior, Galliano took the reins as creative director at Maison Margiela. He stepped down in 2024 after 10 years at the French label that helped repair his scandal-tainted image.

In March, he signed a two-year creative contract with Spanish retailer Zara.

Jonathan Greenblatt, CEO of the nonprofit Anti-Defamation League, said on X that showcasing Galliano's work was "the wrong move at the wrong moment."

"With anti-Semitism at crisis levels, the Met honoring John Galliano at this moment was misguided, and even Galliano ultimately recognized what the Met should have done from the start," Greenblatt said. □

Famed singer returns to Iran after decades of exile

Paris, France

A prominent singer has returned to Iran after nearly two decades in exile, as authorities encourage artists living abroad to return home in a show of patriotism against the backdrop of the conflict with the United States.

Mohsen Namjoo, 50, whose work mixes Persian traditional music with more modern styles and had been living in the United

States, flew into Tehran late last week, with his arrival welcomed by official media.

But his return ran into immediate controversy after a video said to be from his wife was posted criticising his move, prompting the singer to publish a swift rebuttal.

In her video published by Prague-based Radio Farda, Namjoo's wife was quoted as saying that she

had been completely unaware of his decision to return and the singer had effectively been missing for several days.

Namjoo responded in a video published by the ISNA news agency on Sunday that while he had made the decision to return "a few months ago", he had kept the move under wraps.

He hailed the "utmost kindness" he had encountered since his return and responded to criticism by saying "I have come to see my homeland and my family". The official IRNA news agency on Friday praised his "patriotic positions" in opposing the US-Israeli strikes during the war that caused widespread infrastructure damage and civilian casualties.

Namjoo, who had previously backed protest movements against the authorities, had left Iran in 2007 and in 2009 was sen-

tenced in absentia to five years in prison on charges of insulting Islam.

Culture Minister Abbas Salehi has said Tehran wants to remove obstacles impeding foreign-based Iranian artists from returning. In June, the pop singer Binesh Bolour, known as Gheysar, performed to crowds in a Tehran square on his return to the country after some four decades living in Los Angeles.

This is despite rights activists accusing the authorities of heavy censorship and of holding foreign nationals in jail in a bid to extract concessions from the West.

"Journalists, students, artists and civil-society figures inside Iran continue to face restrictions," said the National Iranian American Council (NIAC), a US-based group pushing for greater engagement between Iran and the United States. □



Iranian singer and songwriter Mohsen Namjoo performs during a concert at Cemil Topuzlu Open-Air Theatre in Istanbul, Turkey on August 05, 2018.



Members from the team of archaeologists work at an archaeological site in the northern coastal Lebanese town of Batroun on August 14, 2026.

Lebanon archaeological finds showcase rich heritage despite war woes

Beirut, Lebanon

From a Roman temple to ancient olive presses, Lebanon keeps turning up archaeological treasures even as the latest Israel-Hezbollah war has caused excavations to grind to a halt at precious heritage sites in the country's south.

Important discoveries in recent years include the remains of columns and bases from a Roman temple in Maasser al-Shouf in the mountains southeast of Beirut, nestled next to a millennia-old cedar forest. "A whole system was built around this temple," which dates to between the first century BC and the second century AD, said Myriam Ziadé, regional antiquities official with the culture ministry.

She said the site was turned into a Crusader fortress between the 12th and 13th centuries.

The local municipality reported finding huge stone blocks on the hill in 2017, and excavations began five years later with a team from an Italian university, with the dig revealing the ruins of the large temple, she told AFP.

Archaeologists are to soon resume work at the site, located "on a network of roads leading from the Mediterranean coast to the Bekaa valley" in the

country's east, she said.

The eastern city of Baalbek has one of Lebanon's best-known landmarks: a stunningly well-preserved Roman temple complex set against the mountainous border with Syria.

- Protecting heritage -

Lebanon is brimming with archaeological finds showcasing its rich history over thousands of years, from the Phoenician, Persian, Roman and Byzantine periods, the Crusades, and Arab and Islamic sultanates and empires.

After Iran-backed Hezbollah drew Lebanon into the Middle East war in March, triggering heavy Israeli airstrikes and a ground invasion in the south, the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO last month added several Lebanese sites to its World Heritage in Danger list.

They include the southern coastal city of Tyre, home to a Roman triumphal arch and a second-century hippodrome.

The list also includes five castles in south Lebanon's Jabal Amel area, among them the Crusader-era Beaufort fortress, which Israeli forces captured in May.

Sarkis Khoury, head of antiquities at Lebanon's cul-

ture ministry, told AFP the war had forced archaeologists to switch tack.

We are "now focused on protecting endangered heritage in southern Lebanon and in the Bekaa, particularly in the Baalbek region", he said.

"Excavations in dangerous areas have come to a halt, and archaeological missions are going through a period of minimal activity throughout Lebanon, especially in the southern regions."

He said foreign archaeological teams had stopped going to Lebanon.

- Ancient port city -

Still, some work continues.

In Batroun, a northern coastal city home to the ruins of a small Roman amphitheatre, an archaeologist was surrounded by tools and papers, documenting the latest finds as waves lapped rocks nearby.

Samar Karam, in charge of archaeological sites in north Lebanon, said a Roman-era olive press was found on private property along with pottery weights and items for textile production.

On another nearby property overlooking an ancient sea wall, excavations revealed two stone quarries "one Roman and the other Phoenician", she said. □

'We are standing firm,' Maduro says in photo posts from detention



Government supporters and family members, including Nicolas Maduro Guerra, gather at the historic Plaza Caracas for a 'Patriots' Gathering' in Caracas, Venezuela, on July 22, 2026.

Caracas, Venezuela

Venezuela's deposed leader Nicolas Maduro said on social media Sunday that he was "standing firm" with photographs that appear to show him in the detention center 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 facility in Brooklyn, New York, 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.

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 authenticity of the photos could not be verified by AFP.

AFP attempted to contact the detention center to find out if the photos were authentic and had been authorized, but did not receive a response immediately.

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 his father 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. □

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

Sao Tome and Principe

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 Sundy 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 labor 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



Conceicao Moreno, 46, a member of parliament for the Movement for the Liberation of Sao Tome and Principe (MLSTP-PSD party), poses for a portrait walks between abandoned buildings in Sanzalas in Roca Sundy near Santo Antonio, in Principe Island in Sao Tome and Principe, on August 5, 2026.

cocoa and coffee.

They initially used slaves who were later replaced by contracted laborers 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" em-

ployees, 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 social facilities, UNESCO said.

They illustrate "the operation of a large-scale colonial agro-industrial system, based on forced migration

and labor" from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century, the U.N. culture agency added.

- 'Collective memory' -

Sundy 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 dark-

er 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.

Nationalized by the country's Marxist-Leninist rulers in the late 1970s, the "rocas" were privatized in the 1990s but failed to survive the economic decline of the 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 contracted workers, shipped from Cape Verde to Sundy plantation in the highlands of Principe island. □

Italy, Spain extend border checks for 15 days in migration row



Women with children speak together in front of the facilities of the NGO Luna Blanca, where migrant women and girls are staying in Ceuta, on August 31, 2026.

Rome, Italy

Italy and Spain announced on Monday a 15-day extension of reciprocal border

checks imposed in a spat over a migrant rush last month into the Spanish north African territory of Ceuta.

The Italian interior ministry said in a statement that the extension was "due to the continued relevance of the assessment factors that led to their introduction on August 1".

Italy said it was "taking into account the initiatives already launched by Spain, together with the European Union, so that the situation in that area may move towards normalisation in the near future".

Spain's interior ministry, which put in place border checks for travellers arriving from Italy for one month from August 8, responded by announcing a reciprocal 15-day extension.

Italy and Spain do not share a land border, but passengers arriving on flights now go through passport checks, which is normally not the case because both countries are members of the Schengen free-travel zone.

Ceuta is not part of Schengen. Any travellers continuing to mainland Spain must pass border controls.

More than 70,000 migrants entered Ceuta on July 30-31, swimming or crossing on foot from neighbouring Morocco in a chaotic influx that left scores dead and fuelled fresh tensions in the European Union over migration.

Italy's far-right Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni was among

the EU leaders who called for Spain to be suspended from the Schengen area, even though such a move is legally impossible.

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Monday the rush of migrants was still under investigation, though he ruled out any responsibility on the part of Moroccan authorities.

In a radio interview, the Socialist leader also denounced misinformation spread by the "ultra-right". Although the vast majority of migrants returned to Morocco within hours, thousands remain in Ceuta, which is only 18 square kilometers (seven square miles), many living rough on the streets. □



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By Urvin Croes

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For a special accessory, discover permanent jewelry at Gloria Feliciano, crafted locally for everyday wear. For island wellness, Aruba Aloe offers locally made skincare and gifts created with aloe grown right here on the

island. Beauty lovers can visit Maggy's for favorite beauty essentials and services for hair, nails, and makeup, perfect for a quick refresh before dinner or a night out.

A World of Flavors

Dining at Paseo Herencia fits every moment of the day, from breakfast to late night bites. Start at Che Bar, serving breakfast from 7:30 AM and continuing throughout the day with comforting favorites, including classic Neapolitan style pizza.

For bold traditional flavors, Xixon Spanish Restaurant is a go to for signature dishes such as paella paired with a wide wine selection. If you are craving something modern, Fusion Cuisine brings a creative twist with its original take on sushi. The Lazy Turtle offers comforting classics and craveable appetizers, while Sexy Shrimp adds a sports bar atmosphere to the mix, pairing standout drinks with a diverse menu that is perfect for gathering with friends and watching any game.

As the evening continues, follow your cravings. Enjoy Mexican favorites at Iguana Can-



tina, share Dutch specialties at Pomm's Frites, and finish with something sweet at Mythos or Mimo's roll up ice cream. Starbucks is always nearby for a familiar coffee or an easy refresh between stops.

VIP Cinema

Caribbean Cinemas VIP delivers a premium movie experience on the second floor, easily accessible by escalator. Settle into plush reclining seats and enjoy high quality screens, state of the art projection, and immersive sound. A well stocked concessions counter offers classic popcorn, snacks, and drinks including wine, making it ideal for a laid back movie night or a special outing.

Location and Hours

Paseo Herencia is located in Aruba's high rise area, directly across from Holiday Inn. The mall is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM, and on Sundays from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM. For the latest updates and upcoming events, follow our social media pages and visit our website at www.paseoherencia.com.

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 "tingilingi box."



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

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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the

night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft),

from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural



past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas un-

der management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □

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Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!



(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far

left of the beach.

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where

most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □

September 1st: Celebrating journalism across the Dutch Caribbean with Press Day



(Oranjestad)—Today the Dutch Caribbean celebrates Press Day. While the UN has set World Press Day for May, the tradition of celebrating on September 1st began in Curacao and spread to the other islands in the Dutch Caribbean.

To celebrate, the Aruba Today team is taking a day off to reflect on the importance of our work: Showing our visitors the other side of Aruba—our history, culture and way of life. In connection to Press Day on the island, the Aruba Today office will be closed today, September 1st, and there will be no new issue for September 2nd. However, we'll be back September 3rd on your news stands. See you then!

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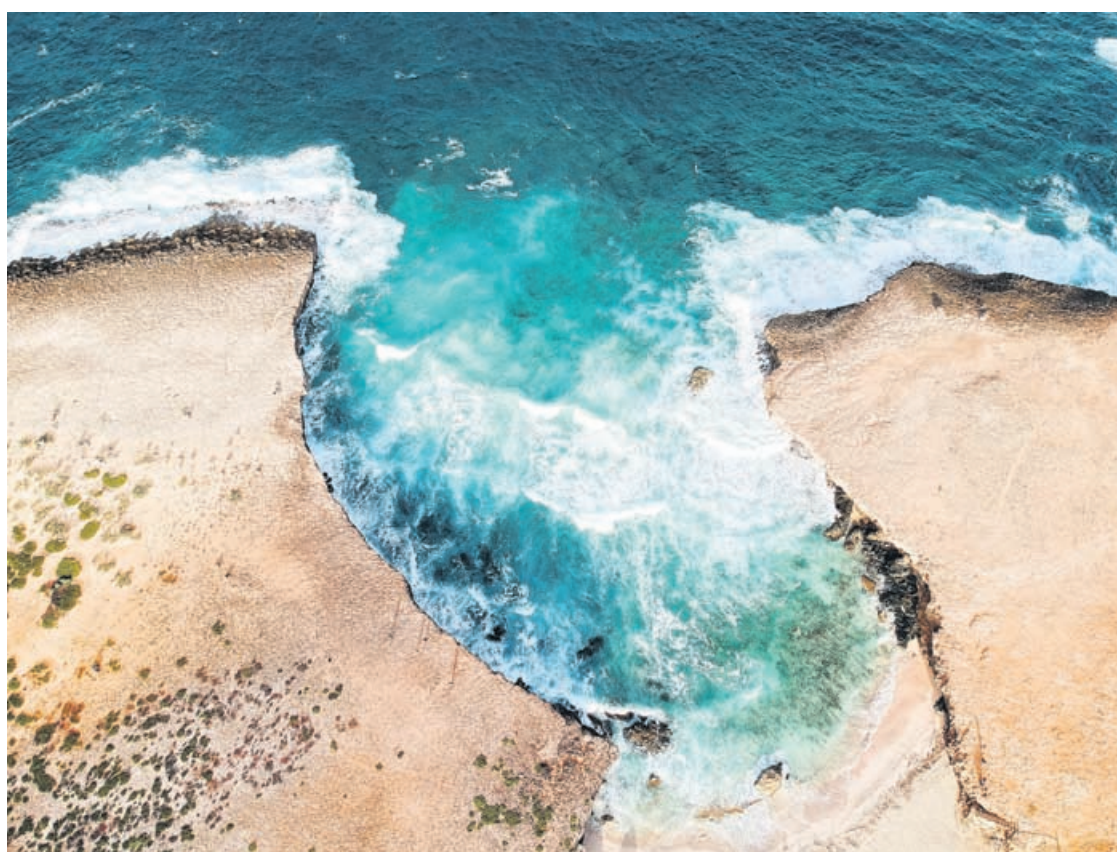
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Aruba: the legend behind its name

(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 Curaçao 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 Curaçao 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 Paradeira Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradeira 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.

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Surf's Up: Favorite places to catch waves in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Whether you are a salt-seasoned surfer looking for a thrill, or just looking to wet your toes in a little ocean adventure, Aruba has amazing places to learn and practice surfing! Although more known for the calmer waters of Palm Beach, Eagle Beach and Mangel Halto, Aruba also has some special places to thrill your senses. Because of strong winds and breezes, Aruba is perfect for wind and kite surfing. You will surely notice kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

There are plenty of surf shop rentals to help you with your gear, and there are also a lot of tutors if you're looking to try for the first time and need a little help. These can be found around the island, and will surely come in hand if you want to try a new experience!

With that said, here are Aruba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

Andicuri is recognized as the best place for body boarding. Because of the rough waves, this beach is better suited for those with more experience in surfing. However, the beach with two bluffs – one on each side – is worth a visit, if only to watch the exciting show presented by the surfers.

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and



drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive

scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun – if you're lucky! The

waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City – San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

Here is where you will find most of the action for surfers in Aruba. With a variety of surf shops and schools in this area, you will find it easy to get in on the action. Hadicurari is also the site of the Aruba Hi Winds World Challenge, which takes place usually in June/July, and it is the largest windsurfing competition in the Caribbean!

Malmok

If you're a beginner, this is your spot. There are also various shops to rent gear and receive lessons, facilitating learning and just trying out a new experience. The beach is also popular for paddleboarding and other watersport activities. □



CROSSWORD

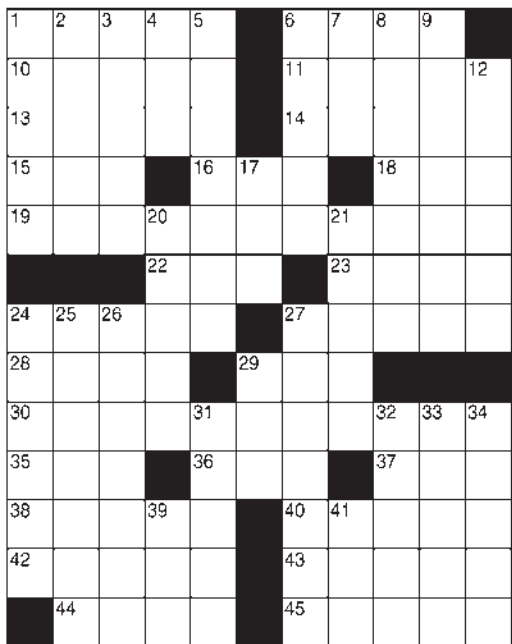
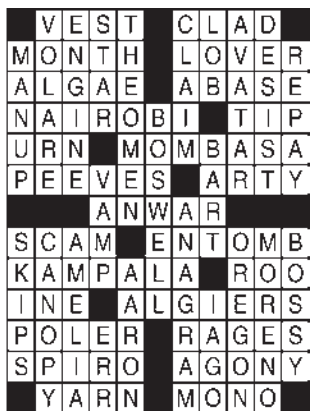
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

- 45 Shoulder muscles, for short
- 1 Victimizes, with "on"
- 6 Curving paths
- 10 Metal fastener
- 11 Billies and nannies
- 13 Like lambs
- 14 Advice
- 15 Tennis court divider
- 16 Touch lightly
- 18 Lupino of films
- 19 Top chess player
- 22 Have lunch
- 23 Single
- 24 Put into boxes
- 27 Young stallions
- 28 Like the desert
- 29 Gallery fill
- 30 Banquet leader
- 35 Total
- 36 Orange tuber
- 37 Bullfight cry
- 38 Deplete
- 40 Noggins
- 42 Basil-based sauce
- 43 Precise
- 44 Letters after cees

DOWN

- 1 Plug part
- 2 Rafting spot
- 3 Musical set in Argentina
- 4 Longing
- 5 Mom's new hubby
- 6 Heart-burn
- 7 Harry's friend
- 8 Senate setting
- 9 Class member
- 12 Rude looks
- 17 Quantity: Abbr.
- 20 Must have
- 21 Casino machines
- 24 Burger topper
- 25 Awakened
- 26 Cat with colorful points
- 27 Like one-room apartments
- 29 Doc's org.
- 31 Printing goofs
- 32 Sum
- 33 Put in office
- 34 Work breaks
- 39 Western Indian
- 41 Chopping tool



5-15

A XYDLBAAXR
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.

5-15

CRYPTOQUOTE

M FRPJIG UPBT CF GPZ M

FRMBBPU. PGKI CZ EHCIF

PVZ, QPV KMG'Z KMZKO CZ.

— BVFFCMG RBPNI BD

Cryptoquote: YOU ARE THE STORYTELLER OF YOUR OWN LIFE, AND YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN LEGEND, OR NOT. — ISABEL ALLENDE

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

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

Difficulty: ★★

9/1

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

8/31

NASA launches Roman telescope on cosmic mapping mission

Washington, United States

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 exo-



A SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket soars toward space after lifting off from Launch Complex 39A with NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida on August 30, 2026.

planets 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

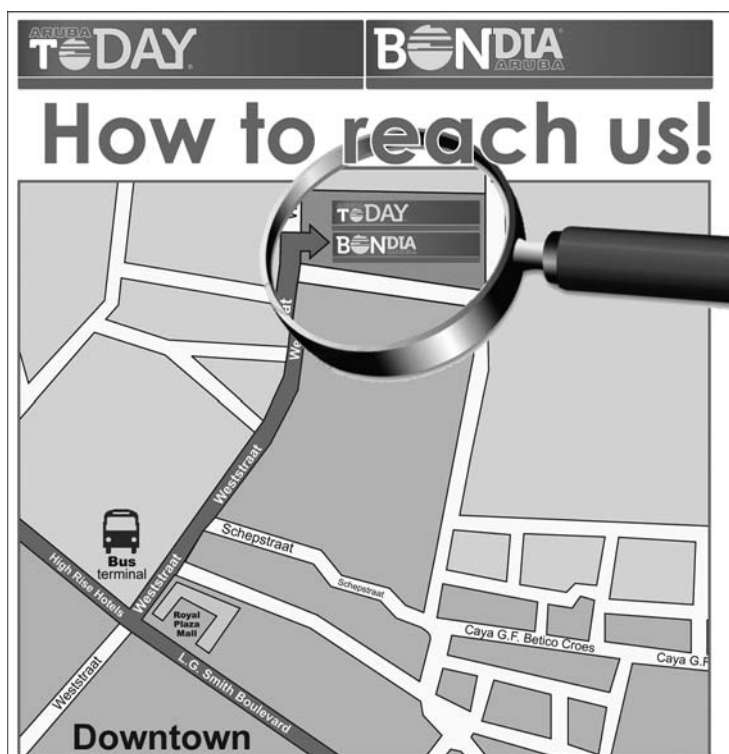
the way scientists have been thinking about the universe's early expansion, based on the predictions of existing models, may be wrong.

"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. □



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PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

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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
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Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
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Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
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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

John Ternus to lead Apple into the age of AI

San Francisco, United States

John Ternus takes over as Apple's chief executive on Tuesday, inheriting a company that towers over the smartphone market but trails its rivals in artificial intelligence.

One of his biggest challenges will be balancing the company's dependence on China while parrying acute political pressure from the White House. The handover ends Tim Cook's 15-year run, replacing the operations specialist who built Apple's supply chain with the engineer who built its hardware.

Ternus, 51, joined Apple's design team in 2001 and worked his way up to senior vice president of hardware engineering, reporting to Cook.

He leads the engineering teams behind Apple's entire product lineup, including the iPhones that generate most of the company's revenue.

He gets barely a week to settle in, with Apple holding its annual iPhone event on September 9, where it is expected to unveil its first foldable handset.

"Tim Cook left the house in



John Ternus, SVP, Apple attends the premiere of Apple TV's "Ted Lasso" Season 4 at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on July 27, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

phenomenal order," said Dan Ives, partner and senior managing director at investment firm Yorkville Ives & Co.

"But now it's about Ternus defining the AI chapter."

Ives expects the new chief executive to lean into what he knows.

"There's no reason to fix what's already working," he said, predicting Ternus will concentrate on hard-

ware innovation while leaving Cook's supply chain intact.

Some analysts had argued software chief Craig Federighi was the more logical pick for a company scrambling to catch up on AI.

Carolina Milanesi, an analyst at Creative Strategies, said that misreads how consumers actually adopt

technology.

"Consumers are still buying hardware first, and it's going to be like that for a long time," she said. "You're not going to discover the value of AI if you're not interested in the hardware."

Cook echoed that sentiment in a final memo to employees on Monday.

"Few people understand what it takes to build products that change the world

the way John does," Cook wrote.

Ternus earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and worked as an engineer at Virtual Research Systems before joining Apple.

Inside the company he is credited with driving a push to make products more durable, reliable and resilient, and with design work that cut their carbon footprint.

The harder question is what kind of leader he becomes.

"Even people that know him now don't know him as a CEO," Milanesi said.

"You might know him as the head of engineering, but once you're CEO, things change. Your responsibility is bigger, your power is bigger. You're dancing a different kind of dance."

- 'Learn on the job' -

Nowhere is that gap wider than in the geopolitical role Cook excelled at, courting both Beijing and Donald Trump's White House to protect a supply chain that runs largely through China. Apple's manufacturing operation is among the most complex in corporate his-

tory, a web of hundreds of suppliers and assembly lines that Cook painstakingly built over decades.

Cook in recent years began shifting some of the work elsewhere iPhone assembly to India, other production to Vietnam but the diversification has been gradual with China, one of Apple's biggest consumer markets, still anchoring the system. Complicating matters, Trump has repeatedly demanded Apple build iPhones on American soil, threatening tariffs on those made overseas.

Cook avoided the heaviest blows of Trump's trade war by cultivating the president directly, making U.S. investment commitments and political donations -- all while also keeping Beijing onside.

The tricky political terrain will be new for Ternus.

"He knows Apple Park like the back of his pocket in terms of hardware," Ives said of Ternus. □

ChatGPT becomes first AI chatbot to face tougher EU rules

Brussels, Belgium

ChatGPT will have to comply with tougher safety rules after the EU added it Monday to a list of digital services subject to greater legal scrutiny, a first for an AI chatbot.

Brussels also designated Reddit and Roblox as "very large" online platforms, a label that comes with additional obligations and oversight.

"ChatGPT, Reddit and Roblox will now be held to a

higher standard of scrutiny and accountability in the European Union, in line with their large impact on our citizens and society," EU technology chief Henna Virkkunen said.

The "very large" designation applies to platforms and search engines with more than 45 million monthly active users in the 27-nation bloc, a threshold ChatGPT, Reddit and Roblox reported meeting, the commission said.

The three now have four months to comply with additional obligations under the Digital Services Act (DSA), a content law that is a major weapon in the legal armoury the EU has deployed to rein in Big Tech in recent years.

These include "assessing and mitigating the systemic risks stemming from their service and algorithmic systems related to the dissemination of illegal content, the negative effects on minors, users' physical and mental well-being, fundamental rights, electoral processes and public security," Brussels said.

To bring it under the DSA's regulatory umbrella, the commission qualified ChatGPT as a search engine.

Lena-Maria Boswald, of the German tech think tank Interface, said ahead of the announcement that the expected move would set a "precedent" and "influence the regulatory expectations for every large generative AI system used in the EU". □



A photo taken on October 4, 2023 in Manta, near Turin, shows a smartphone and a laptop displaying the logos of the artificial intelligence OpenAI research laboratory and ChatGPT robot.



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Argentina's forward #10 Lionel Messi cries during the trophy ceremony at the end of the 2026 World Cup football tournament final match between Spain and Argentina at the New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford on July 19, 2026.

It 'hurts' says Messi as he retires from international football

Miami, United States

Lionel Messi said on Monday he was retiring from international football after leading Argentina to a second successive World Cup final in July.

The 39-year-old forward who won the World Cup in 2022 and dragged his nation to the final in the United States only to lose to Spain, said the decision had been painful.

"It was a decision that hurt and still hurts deep in my soul but I understand that it is the right time," Messi wrote on Instagram.

"I swear I always gave everything, not just in the last few years when we won everything but before that too, and I always fought and gave my all for this shirt," he added.

Messi led Argentina to World Cup glory four years ago by winning the final against France in a penalty shootout in Doha, but his side lost 1-0 to a superior

Spain side in the 2026 final in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

Following the death of his father Jorge in August, Messi had said he had "serious doubts" about continuing to play football of any sort for "much longer". "I don't know what I'll do without you, I don't know how to go on. I just played football, and now I have serious doubts about continuing to do so for much longer," he said then.

Messi's contract with Major League Soccer club Inter Miami runs until the end of the 2028 season.

In this year's finals, Messi inspired Argentina to another final by scoring eight goals and provided two assists in the dramatic late comeback against England in the semi-finals.

But the dream of lifting the trophy again proved one match too far as the South Americans lost to Spain in the MetLife Stadium.

Messi was pictured in tears after receiving his loser's medal. He said afterwards that the pain of defeat was "immense" and that it would "take a long time for this wound to heal".

'Thank you for everything'

In his statement on Monday, the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner said it was time for a new generation of Argentina players to take up the torch.

"I love, I loved, and I will always love being on the national team," he wrote. "I gave everything I had, I have nothing more to give, and besides, there are some very talented young players coming up behind me who deserve to be there."

Reacting to the news, FIFA president Gianni Infantino called Messi "one of the greatest players our sport has ever seen" and thanked him for "bringing so much joy to millions of football fans". □



Team UAE's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar followed by Team Movistar's Spanish rider Enric Mas crosses first the finish line of the sixth stage of the Vuelta a Espana 2026, a 177.4 km race between Alcossebre and Castellon de la Plana on August 27, 2026.

Cycling superstar Pogacar has surgery after Vuelta crash

Madrid, Spain

Tadej Pogacar had an operation on his fractured collarbone on Monday as he begins his recovery from the heavy fall that put paid to his Vuelta a Espana ambitions.

"Tadej underwent successful surgery on his left clavicle after receiving the all-clear to proceed with the operation," UAE Team said after the surgery was delayed due to Pogacar suffering concussion from the fall.

"The procedure went well and he will remain in hospital for post-operative monitoring for a few days."

The five-time Tour de France winner will then "travel home to pursue his recovery and rehabilitation under the supervision of the team's medical staff", the statement added.

The team did not specify how long Pogacar will be out of action, but it seems unlikely the 27-year-old Slovenian will be fit to defend his world title in late September in Canada.

Pogacar crashed on Saturday during the eighth stage of the Vuelta, just over 30 kilometres from the finish line in the Valencian town of Xeraco, a stage that was initially expected to be transitional.

He had been leading by a massive three minutes and 50 seconds a week into the 21-day race and was the overwhelming favourite for victory in his bid to complete a career clean sweep of the three Grand Tours.

According to the medical report provided by his team on Saturday, Pogacar was "diagnosed with a concussion, displaced left clavicle fracture, a stable C7 cervical fracture, and multiple abrasions".

UAE's statement added that there were "fortunately, no other major injuries and no neurological fallout" and the following day Pogacar posted a good-natured selfie from his hospital bed accompanied by the Bee Gees' song 'Stayin' Alive'. □



Physical woes dog Djokovic in shock U.S. Open loss

New York, United States

Novak Djokovic suffered his earliest Grand Slam exit in 20 years on Sunday and said he doesn't know the solution to the physical problems he's battled in "pretty much every match" this year.

Argentine Mariano Navone's 7-6 (7/5), 5-7, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1 victory ended Djokovic's latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam title.

It also ended his run of 78 Grand Slam first-round victories, a streak stretching all the way back to Djokovic's 2006 loss to Paul Goldstein at the 2006 Australian Open.

Djokovic vomited on court and struggled with late-match cramps and back pain an "awful feeling" that he's becoming used to.

"It's something that I've been carrying, unfortunately, pretty much every match this year. Vomiting, throwing up ... Then my whole body starts to collapse, basically cramping and pain."



Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts against Argentina's Mariano Navone during the men's singles first round tennis match on day one of the U.S. Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City on August 30, 2026.

Although he reached the final of the Australian Open this year and the semi-finals at Wimbledon, Djokovic said he's not equipped right now to go deep in tournaments and he's not sure what the fix is.

"I'm just trying to address really what's going on and

how far I can go this way," he said.

Despite his struggles, Djokovic appeared to have finally taken control when he broke Navone for a 2-1 lead in the fourth set with a vintage backhand winner down the line.

But Navone won the next five games, raising his arms in celebration after fighting off two break points for a 5-2 lead and breaking Djokovic again to force the fifth set.

Djokovic took a medical timeout before the final set, receiving massage on his

spine and another delivery of medication.

But Navone jumped to a 3-0 lead in the decisive set and despite the urging of fans there was no road back for the Serb as his opponent dropped just one point on his own serve as he sprinted to the finish line. "It's unbelievable," an ecstatic Navone said after triumphing in his first meeting with his longtime idol after four hours and 36 minutes.

"It was a tough match, a battle. Playing against Novak the first time in the biggest stage we have in the world of tennis right now .. Like, until 20 years he never lose in the first round, so I mean, it's crazy."

Navone, ranked 48th, was most pleased with his mental game.

"I was two sets to one down, and then break down also in the fourth, but in that moment I felt it," he said.

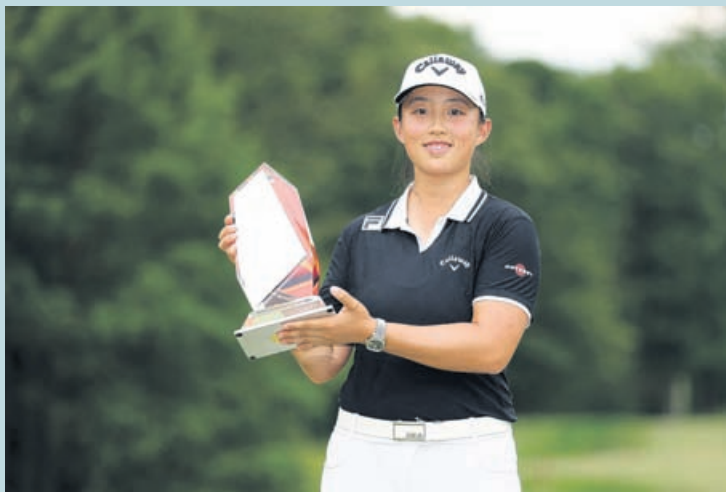
Djokovic broke Navone in the second game of the match as he rolled to a 3-1 first-set lead. □

Yin holds off Kim to win sixth LPGA title, end title drought

New York, United States

China's Yin Ruoning held her nerve to end her two-year title drought and

claim the sixth LPGA Tour victory of her career with a two-shot triumph at the FM Championship on Sunday.



Ruoning Yin of China poses with the trophy after winning during the final round of the FM Championship 2026 at TPC Boston on August 30, 2026 in Norton, Massachusetts.

Yin, 23, endured a rollercoaster round before carding a closing two-under-par 70 to finish the tournament on 14 under.

The 2023 Women's PGA Championship winner rattled in five birdies and three bogeys on her way to victory at TPC Boston, in Norton, Massachusetts.

Yin finished with a crucial birdie four on the par-five 18th to complete her first win on the tour since 2024.

"I was really emotional when I was on the 18th green and just felt like all the hard work paid off," Yin said afterwards. "Just really happy how I grinded out

there today."

Yin admitted she had been nervously looking over her shoulder at playing partners Kim Hyo-joo and Kim Sei-young down the stretch.

Kim Hyo-joo shot a one-under-par 71 to finish on 12 under, while Kim Sei-young carded a one-over-par 73 to tie with Rose Zhange for fourth place, one back from Allisen Corpuz of the United States on 11 under.

"I felt like that was the longest 18th hole I've ever played because they're just so good and they don't really make mistakes," Yin

said.

Yin said she had doubted whether she would ever win another title after a frustrating sequence of near-misses this season and last year.

"I've had quite a few times where I was really close but just keep missing by one or two," she said. "I was always harsh on myself...I doubted if I can win on this tour again. "I was not a happy person last year; but this year I think I learn a lot. The biggest thing I learn is that life comes from you, not at you. And that good things take time and just be patient about it." □