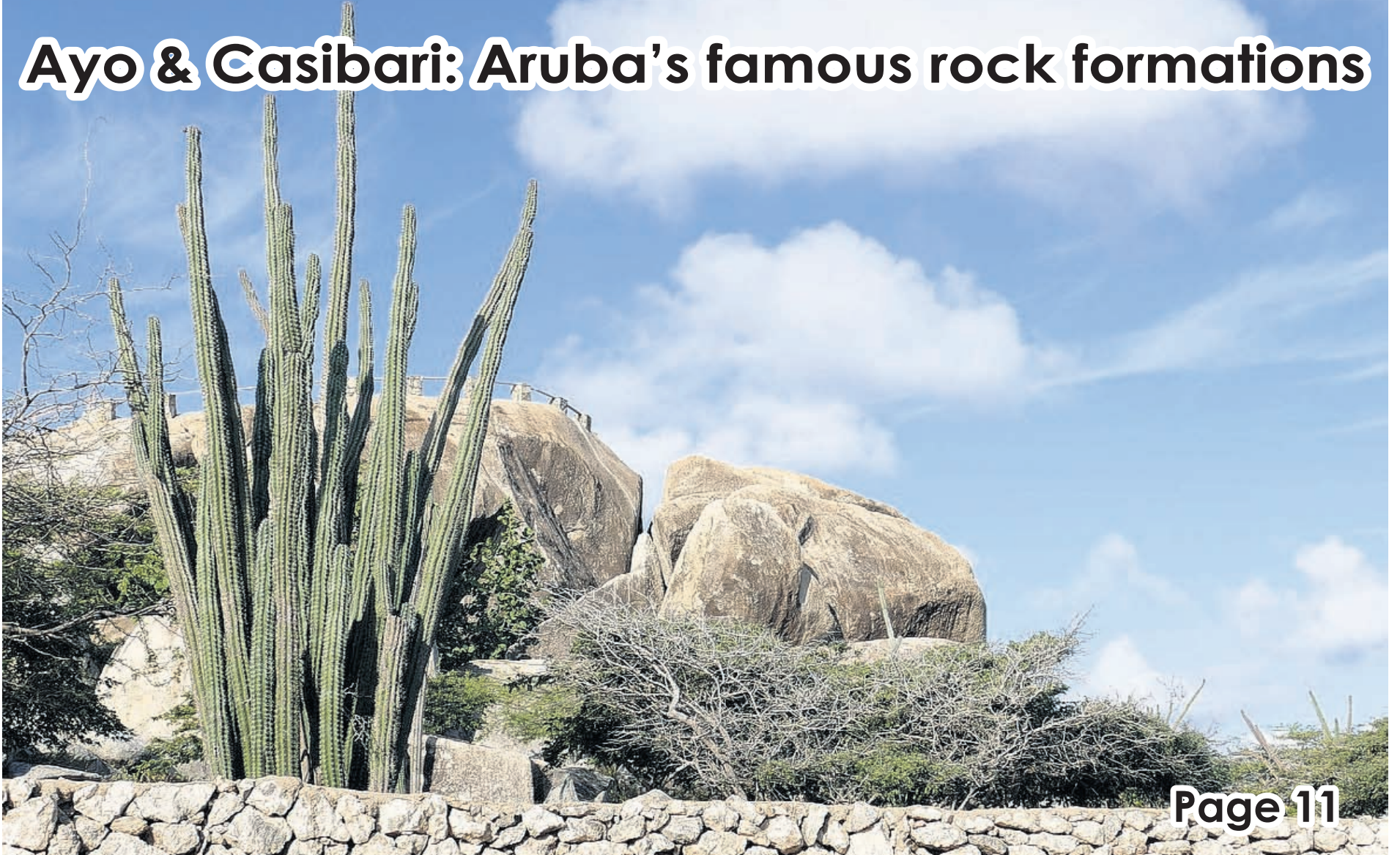




Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



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Lonnie G. Bunch III participates in a ceremony to mark the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Statuary Hall at the US Capitol April 12, 2018 in Washington, DC.

Smithsonian secretary to retire as Trump exerts control over institution

Washington, United States

The head of the Smithsonian Institution is set to retire, amid an unprecedented drive by President Donald Trump to reshape the treasured museum and research complex he has faulted over its presentation of American history and values. Lonnie G. Bunch III the first Black person and first historian to serve in the role said Tuesday he had "very mixed emotions and heartfelt gratitude" as he announced his departure by the end of 2026 following seven years in the top job and nearly 38 at the institution overall.

The 73-year-old was named secretary in June 2019, a position that made him leader of the world's largest museum, education and research complex. His career accomplishments include founding the National Museum of African American History and Culture and authoring numerous books, including one on the NMAAHC's creation.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who serves as the Smithsonian Chancellor, hailed his "distinguished service," adding: "Secretary Bunch has pursued excellence in the telling of our nation's story." Trump and fellow Republicans in Congress have accused the Smithsonian created by the federal government in 1846 but which operates in a unique position outside any branch of government of being beholden to liberal "woke" ideology.

A 162-page White House report said that Smithsonian leadership has "consistently denigrated and displaced whites, males, Christians, and Americans in educational materials and programming," and in July the president issued an order to install signage warning visitors about "ideological capture" near the National Museum of American History. The pressure continued in an August 28

letter by Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to the Smithsonian's board of regents -- bypassing Bunch while calling for an in-person meeting to address its accusations of "radical ideology."

Co-signed by Vince Haley, the White House domestic policy chief, it added the government "cannot in good conscience continue to support the Smithsonian under current leadership." In May 2025, Trump announced he had fired the director of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, Kim Sajet, calling her "a highly partisan person." The Smithsonian asserted it had control over personnel matters, but Sajet later resigned, citing the museum's best interests. Trump is also engaged in an ongoing tussle about having his name appear on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, with the administration adding Trump's name to the facade. □



Palm trees bend from strong winds as an CH-47 Chinook helicopter flies over Barbers Point in Kapolei, Hawaii, on September 7, 2026.

Hurricane Lowell lashes Hawaii's western islands

Honolulu, United States

Hurricane Lowell lashed Hawaii with damaging winds, heavy rainfall and powerful floods, knocking out power for 91 percent of a western island as it pushed out further into the Pacific on Tuesday.

Overnight, the core of the Category 2 storm passed within just 40 miles and 60 miles, respectively, of the archipelago's two westernmost islands -- sparsely populated Niihau and Kauai, home to some 70,000 people. Kauai Island Utility Cooperative reported power was out for 91 percent of customers, and "damage assessments will begin as soon as possible this morning depending on weather conditions. There is no estimated time of restoration for any outages at this time."

Further east, in the island of Oahu which is home to the capital Honolulu, there were more than 20,000 customers without power, according to Hawaiian Electric. "Customers" can refer to households, businesses and industry.

"Kauai emergency officials are urging all residents and visitors to stay off roadways and avoid unnecessary travel to allow first responders and emergency crews to continue operations and assess the widespread damage," the County of Kauai said in a statement.

"As the light comes up and the extent of the damage from Hurricane Lowell comes into focus, we want to ensure that no additional emergency situations arise unnecessarily," said Elton Ushio, Administrator of the Kauai Emergency Management Agency.

Earlier, residents of Kauai and Niihau were warned to watch for tornadoes though it was not immediately clear if these did in fact form.

Lowell packed sustained winds of around 110 mph during its closest approach, with predictions of rainfall of four to eight inches for Kauai producing the potential for significant flash flooding and mudslides.

Storm surge of two to four feet was expected to cause normally dry areas near the coast to be flooded by rising waters moving inland. □

N.Y. failed to disclose what it knew on 'toxic air' after 9/11

New York, United States

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani announced on Tuesday the release of tens of thousands of documents showing the city did not disclose all it knew about air toxicity after 9/11.

The release comes ahead of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, attacks that killed 2,977 people in the United States, mostly in the collapse of the Twin Towers in New York.

In the years since, more than 9,400 have died from illnesses linked to their exposure to the area, according to a federal medical monitoring program.

"These are documents that show what the city knew about the toxic air around Ground Zero, when they knew it, and how they acted to limit liability," the mayor told a news conference following the online release of 170,000 pages of documents on health concerns, air quality and the city's response to the attacks.

The release is part of an agreement with 9/11 Health Watch, a victims' advocacy group that had taken legal action to compel the city to make the documents public. "For 25 years, four different Mayoral administrations kept from the public, the U.S. Congress, and the City Council documents showing what the City actually knew about the danger of the toxic chemicals in Lower Manhattan and Western Brooklyn after the World Trade Center collapse, even as City officials continued messaging to the public that the air was 'safe and acceptable'," the group's director Benjamin Chevat said in a statement. After the initial dust cloud that followed the collapse of the World Trade Center, months of pollution and lingering dust ensued, causing cancers that thousands of New Yorkers still suffer today.

- Leaders 'lied' -

When asked about the names of officials who had withheld information from the public, Mamdani said, "this goes across a multitude of those that New Yorkers have trusted."

"People got sick because the leaders they trusted lied and told them they were safe to breathe in toxic air."

Roughly 173,000 documents released Tuesday, and additional ones which will be published online in waves over the next 12 months, could implicate two former New York mayors.

They are Rudy Giuliani, in office at the time of the attacks, and then Michael Bloomberg, mayor from January 2002 to December 2013.

Some concern discussions Giuliani's administration had at the time about its legal liability and health risks, New York City's chief counsel Steven Banks said Tuesday.

Giuliani's spokesman did not return a request for comment.

Another document highlights information provided by Congressman Jerry Nadler during Bloomberg's tenure regarding concerns from residents of Lower Manhattan about the quality of the air they were breathing.

Bloomberg's team declined to comment.

On September 11, 2001, hijackers seized control of two planes that struck the two World Trade Center towers. A third hijacked jet smashed into the Pentagon, and a fourth, which seemed to be headed for the Capitol or the White House, crashed in woodland near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers fought back and seized control. □



The rubble of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001 in New York.



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What we learned from 'lacerating' four-hour Musk documentary

Venice, Italy

A "lacerating" documentary about Elon Musk from acclaimed U.S. director Alex Gibney premiered at the Venice Film Festival on Tuesday with one critic saying it had "thrashed" the erratic provocateur.

Gibney in his nearly four-hour work traces South Africa-born Musk's career and life from a Silicon Valley dot.com entrepreneur in the early 2000s to becoming the world's first trillionaire.

Film bible Variety called it "a lacerating portrait", while Deadline said the "damning" movie had "thrashed" Musk as "petty, narcissistic, megalomaniacal, cruel."

Here are some of the key points from the vast film:

- Not a romantic -

Musk's first wife Justine provides some of the most touching, humane moments in the film as she reflects on her relationship with the budding businessman as he made his first millions.

As well as breaking down in tears as she remembers the



Director Alex Gibney attends the photocall of "Musk" presented out of competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on September 8, 2026.

death of their first child, she delivers some eye-popping anecdotes about the difficulties she endured.

While dancing at their wedding, Musk whispered into her ear: "I am the alpha in this relationship."

She says she and other partners are referred to as "breeders".

- NDAs -

After having a secret child with right-wing influencer Ashley St. Clair one of a known 14 kids fathered by Musk the entrepreneur's fixer Jared Birchall called to offer her a deal.

In return for an upfront payment of \$15 million and

\$100,000 a month for 21 years thereafter, she would agree to never disclose Musk's name.

She refused -- and became one of Gibney's most important sources.

- Covid switch -

The documentary traces Musk's political conversion

from a left-leaning entrepreneur to one of the most influential backers of far-right politicians in the world to the Covid 19 pandemic in 2020.

"Covid is when some switch flipped in his mind," former friend and philosopher Sam Harris told Gibney.

Around this time, Musk's eldest son transitioned to become female, which Musk described as a result of the "woke mind virus".

A snub from then-president Joe Biden at an electric car event at the White House is also seen as pivotal.

- Drugs -

The documentary sheds little new light on Musk's reported use of drugs including ketamine and LSD, relying on existing reporting from The Wall Street Journal.

But it reveals that Musk spoke to WSJ owner Rupert Murdoch to ask him to block the paper's story apparently to no avail.

- No Musk -

Musk refused to speak to Gibney when he started working on the film and called him a "douchebag" on his social network X.

The director of "Taxi to the Dark Side" innovates, using an AI-generated version of Musk reading out statements he has made in past interviews.

Elsewhere, the filmmaker relies on a selection of former partners, former friends and ex-business partners, all of whom have an axe to grind with the world's richest man.

- Data -

The documentary ends with an evisceration of Musk's time as head of bureaucracy-slashing "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) under US President Donald Trump, whom Musk spent \$300 million helping elect in 2024.

As well as linking DOGE to thousands of deaths because of cuts to American aid overseas, it also claims Musk used it to shut down ongoing investigations against him and access information to help his companies.□

Spanish stars Cruz, Bardem play strained on-screen couple in new film

Venice, Italy

Married superstars Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem play a couple going through a mid-life crisis in their latest on-screen outing together in new film "Bunker" -- which they insisted Tuesday bore no relation to their real lives.

The Hollywood power duo, who got together after appearing in 2008's "Vicky Cristina Barcelona", play a wealthy married couple in London showing the strain of managing two careers in a city not their own.

The movie by French director Florian Zeller, which premieres at the Venice

Film Festival on Tuesday, also serves as a fierce critique of Silicon Valley tech billionaires a theme that attracted the duo.

Asked if anything in their on-screen characters resembled their real relationship, Bardem replied: "Nothing, We are really good at creating fiction and reality. Otherwise, we would not survive in this job." He plays a star architect who is offered a lucrative project to design an underground survival bunker for a Silicon Valley billionaire a story inspired by Meta owner Mark Zuckerberg constructing a compound on Hawaii, according to Zeller.

Cruz said that she related to her character's contempt for tech billionaires behind social networks and artificial intelligence who imagine a future in

which computers and robots have replaced humans.

"I wonder, is there really some gene they're missing, which makes them lose their empathy?" she said.

"My hope is that young people are actually beginning to realise they're being manipulated, and I hope they'll react because they're very intelligent."

Cruz said she and her husband, who have done around 10 films together in total, always had to find a balance between their work and family life.

"We both really love this profession. But it's true that there is a good balance in terms of how much you are speaking about work," she said.□



Spanish actress Penelope Cruz and Spanish actor Javier Bardem attend the red carpet event of "Bunker" presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on September 8, 2026.

French police hunt Renoir thieves after lightning museum heist

Cagnes-sur-Mer, France

French police on Tuesday hunted for two thieves who escaped with two Renoir paintings from a museum, after abandoning two others as they fled, in a burglary that reignited concerns about the protection of France's cultural heritage.

The heist is the latest in a string of such robberies including the daylight theft last year of crown jewellery valued at around \$100 million from the Louvre in Paris. The theft in the southern town of Cagnes-sur-Mer took place in a matter of minutes shortly before 6:00 am.

Town mayor Bryan Masson said the duo appeared "well equipped and well informed" about the museum housing works by French impressionist painter Pierre-Auguste Renoir.

The suspects cut through a fence to enter the museum's tree-lined grounds, smashed a window to get inside, and used an electric saw to cut through the frame mountings, he said. "The museum and police sirens forced the burglars to hurry, stealing only four works from the Renoir Museum," added the mayor.



Police officers patrol in front of the entrance of the Musée Renoir after four paintings, together valued at nine million euros, were stolen in an early-morning break-in, with two recovered in the museum's garden and two still missing, in Cagnes-sur-Mer on September 8, 2026.

Of those four, two were "left behind in the gardens of the Renoir museum", added the far-right official, whose office earlier estimated the value of the stolen works at 9 million euros (\$10 million). They made off with a portrait titled "Madame Colonna Romano" and the depiction of a woman at a well called "Jeune femme au puits", his office said.

- 'Not first-time offenders' -

The paintings retrieved include "Madame Pichon" and "Coco lisant", a portrait of Renoir's young son Claude reading.

The mayor said it took five minutes for the authorities to respond.

"The museum alarm went off at 5:48 am. At 5:53 am, just five minutes later, our municipal police were on the scene," said Masson.

A representative of a top French police union sug-

gested that reconnaissance work was carried out beforehand.

"These were certainly not first-time offenders," said Lilie Jalabert of the Alliance Police Nationale.

"They were people with some experience who had, at the very least, scouted out the premises before carrying out this crime."

The Renoir Museum lies a half-hour drive from the southern city of Nice, in

Renoir's last home before he died aged 78 in 1919.

Its collection comprises nine paintings by Renoir, according to the museum. It also includes several sculptures by him, as well as objects and furniture that belonged to the painter, such as his easel and wheelchair.

Some of his more famous works are on display at the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, as well as in London and New York.

- 'Heritage of all French' -

The mayor urged the culture ministry to earmark substantial funding to better protect France's museums.

"It is the heritage of all French people that has today become the target of gangs," he said.

A spate of heists at French museums, including at the Louvre, has highlighted inadequate security in some cases and led to questions about whether criminal gangs see them as soft targets. The four suspected Louvre robbers have been arrested, but the jewels they are accused of grabbing in the seven-minute heist have still not been found. □

Rein in social media not children, say over 130 groups, experts

Brussels, Belgium

The European Union should force tech giants to make social media safe before children use them instead of banning minors from their platforms, over 130 groups and experts urged in a letter shared with AFP Tuesday.

Their call came just a week before EU chief Ursula von der Leyen was to outline how the bloc intends to better protect children online from dangerous content and addictive apps. She is expected to announce an age limit but officials have been tight-lipped on the details, and whether the ban will be restricted to social media or include other platforms like gaming apps.

Von der Leyen indicated in July she supported giving children gradual access to

social media and ensuring platforms had safety features on by default.

Now in a letter sent to von der Leyen, 132 children's rights, digital rights and mental health organisations and experts urged against moves like blanket bans that offload "the burden of safety onto parents or children".

The signatories, including 5Rights Foundation, an advocacy group for children's online rights, Amnesty International and Center for Countering Digital Hate among dozens of others, called for a Europe-wide framework for digital safety.

The EU's approach should focus on the safety of the technology children use including through enforcement of the bloc's Digital Services Act instead of denying minors access to

platforms, they argued.

"It must ensure that proportionate age restrictions go hand-in-hand with robust safety measures so that digital environments both protect and empower children, by design and default," they wrote.

Social media safety calls

The signatories recommended the EU define minimum standards and conditions for digital products and services "to be deemed safe" for age groups up to 18, with age-based limits on high-risk features.

"Europeans have had enough of tech companies exploiting our children, but we also expect more from our leaders than quick-fix bans on kids," said Leanda Barrington-Leach, executive director of 5Rights Foundation.

"Children need and deserve safe, age-appropriate digital services. The EU has the power to set a bar and require tech companies to prove they meet it before accessing children," she added.

Von der Leyen is under pressure from all sides.

Estonia's digital minister echoed the groups' sentiments on the potential ban, telling AFP that social media platforms should be the ones to change. □



Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen (R) shakes hands with Greenland's government leader Jens-Frederik Nielsen (C) and EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (L) after they signed a joint declaration in Nuuk, Greenland, on September 7, 2026.



This photo taken on September 4, 2026 shows people holding placards against the approval of a data centre in the government's redevelopment plans for Brick Lane, outside the Ministry of Housing offices in London.

On London's Brick Lane, a data centre sparks local battle

London, United Kingdom

In Brick Lane, the historic heart of London's Bangladeshi community, residents oppose plans for a data centre in a disused brewery, citing the erosion of heritage and need for social housing.

"This has really been the focal point of the British Bangladeshi community," local councilor Faysal Ahmed told AFP, recalling a time when his parents ran a restaurant beneath his childhood home in the Lane.

While many curry houses remain, the street and the surrounding neighborhood is transforming, in part to help power the capital's digital infrastructure boom. Part of a multi-million pound redevelopment of the sprawling former Truman brewery site, the East End financial data centre is an unlikely addition to the graffiti-lined Brick Lane, where tourists spill between vintage shops and queue for bagels served through the night.

The 10-acre site will also be transformed by new offices and retail space, primarily serving the neighboring financial district filled with skyscrapers.

Approval of the development by the UK government comes as a boom in water- and energy-hungry

data centers particularly as demand rises for facilities supporting artificial intelligence fuels local opposition worldwide.

For Ahmed, the development uses land that could help house some of the roughly 31,000 residents on the waiting list for social housing in the Tower Hamlets district.

The redevelopment plans are for only 44 flats, including just six for social housing, prompting residents to recently protest outside the Ministry of Housing.

- 'Preserving heritage' -

"My personal concern is about the need for affordable social housing for young people and preserving the heritage, the special character, of the area," said Susanna Kow, a member of the Save Brick Lane campaign.

According to planning documents, the Labor government gave "significant weight" to the benefits of additional data centre capacity, citing the need to "meet the escalating demand driving emerging technologies such as AI and increased digital services".

The government's housing department declined to comment on its decision in August to approve the

plans, while the Truman Brewery has not responded to an AFP request for its reaction.

"We've been campaigning on planning issues and... the incursion of the city on the East End for quite a number of years," said Jonathan Moberly, who is leading local opposition.

He said the project was part of a "growing national issue about the amount of power taken from the grid that can stop other developments happening, like housing".

The International Energy Agency in April reported that the global electricity demand of data centres grew by 17 percent last year.

It projects electricity consumption from these centers will double over five years to 2030.

"The UK already faces a projected daily water deficit of nearly five billion liters by 2050," according to a report on the UK government website.

"National water resource plans... do not adequately account for the burgeoning demand from infrastructure such as AI data centers.

This oversight risks intensifying water stress in already vulnerable regions." □



Residents cover their faces from smoke emitting from debris burnt down by fire at the second hand clothing Toi market in Nairobi March 16, 2026.

Second-hand smoke causes to nearly 1.7M deaths globally: study

Paris, France

More than 2.7 billion people including children have been exposed to second-hand smoke globally, contributing to nearly 1.7 million deaths in 2023, according to study published Tuesday in The Lancet.

Tobacco remains a leading cause of disease globally, the study said, noting many "non-smokers exposed to second-hand smoke" were among the estimate total of 8 million people who died in 2023 of smoking-related illnesses.

"Exposure to second-hand smoke is a globally recognized health risk, with no safe level of inhalation," it said. By reviewing studies published in the US National Institutes of Health database PubMed along with population surveys, Tuesday's study sought to estimate the prevalence of exposure to second-hand smoke and quantify the burden of disease in 204 countries and territories between 1990 and 2023.

Among the approximately 2.7 billion people exposed to second-hand smoke in 2023 were 767 million children aged 0 to 14, the study found.

This exposure is estimated to have resulted in 1.66 million premature deaths and causing premature disability and illness, leading with ischemic heart disease, a heart condition caused by insufficient oxygen supply to the heart muscle.

In children, exposure to second-hand smoke is estimated to have caused 5.2 million respiratory tract infections in 2023, it said.

People in proximity to someone lighting up are exposed to both the "sidestream smoke" from the burning tobacco product and smoke exhaled by the active smoker, the study explained.

"The sidestream component, which dominates the air non-smokers breathe, is unfiltered... carrying higher per-unit concentrations of the toxic and carcinogenic compounds" than that being inhaled by the active smoker, it said.

Despite significant declines in smoking prevalence globally since 1990, the absolute number of people exposed has remained stable due to population growth and increased exposure in Africa and the Middle East. Women are also disproportionately affected by second-hand smoke, particularly in regions where smoking prevalence among women is low, it noted.

"Despite this substantial burden, (second-hand smoke) exposure remains rarely acknowledged as a major risk factor for female health," it said. □



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CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



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

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

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

Among the standout new appetizers are the **Tuna al Tamarindo**, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind *leche de tigre*, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean com-

fort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled to perfection and served with *chimichurri* espuma.

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

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

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

To complete the experience, CAYA hosts



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

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

The tree that points west: The 'Watapana'

(Oranjestad)— Standing ing west, the Watapana proudly and always point- (also called Divi Divi—



though some say erroneously so) played an important role in one of the island's first industries. Since then, it has been recognized as Aruba's national tree. Here are some facts about the sturdy Watapana.

The Watapana name comes from the indigenous word "Guatapana" and is a symbol of hope and resilience. The Watapana grows in the direction of the wind; that's why you will always see a Watapana pointing west.

The name 'Divi Divi' originated in Curacao during

the 17th century when Watapana beans were exported from the Antilles to Europe to produce dye. The fruit of the Watapana contains tannin, a chemical compound that naturally produces a dye that was used for tanning leather back then.

In Aruba, the tannin industry gave many locals temporary work. Watapana beans were collected and taken to the *cunucu** owner in exchange for 25 cents for every 20 kilos. After collecting the beans, workers would have to pick out the best ones for exportation: Deep red pods were

preferred; green or black pods were considered premature or damaged. The end of the tannin industry in Aruba faded out with the introduction of synthetic dyes. This proved to be a much cheaper option than processing tannin.

In 1979, the Watapana was inaugurated as Aruba's national tree.

*Cunucu: Land used for food cultivation and herd farming. □

Source: Chabalito magazine - E Watapana (2010)

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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Infini Unveils Menu XVI: Journey Through Time



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

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

drawing on Caribbean heritage through a contemporary lens.

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



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

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

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



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

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

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment.

The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the

respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

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





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCLXVIII- 368

Aruba's Indigenous Roots Written in the Landscape

Long before modern Aruba took shape, the island's rocks, water, soils, and vegetation were already shaping the lives, traditions, and settlements of its Indigenous inhabitants.

Each week, in this cultural space, Etnia Nativa—one of Aruba's leading guardians of the island's cultural heritage—invites readers to journey through the history, identity, and living traditions that have shaped the Aruban spirit across generations.

In this latest edition, Etnia Nativa explores how this ancient relationship between people and place comes to life through Aruba's distinctive geology. Across Santa Cruz, Tanki Flip, Noord, Alto Vista, and Savaneta, landscapes shaped largely by quartz diorite created a rugged terrain of rocky outcrops, dry riverbeds, and deep rainwater gutters known as rooi (rôôy). Yet these seemingly harsh landscapes also offered valuable resources. Since quartz diorite is relatively impermeable, where water was retained in the soils above the rock, creating pockets of fertile land where vegetation and crops could flourish.

For our Aruban Indigenous inhabitants, these geological features were far more than elements of the landscape. They formed part of a living environment that influenced where people settled, how they cultivated the land, and how they adapted to the island's distinctive natural conditions.

Yet perhaps nowhere is Aruba's geological identity more striking than at Hooiberg—the island's iconic volcanic cone rising from its center up to 166 meters above sea level, Hooiberg stands boldly above the surrounding landscape—a timeless monument to the forces of the Earth. Its distinctive form is composed primarily of hooibergite, a rare rock named to the hill, closely associated with Aruba and this geological region.

Hooibergite, together with other ancient rocks such as **gabbro** found in Aruba's northern hills, forms part of Aruba's ancient batholithic landscape, referred to as the **Aruba Lava Formation**. Weathering and

erosion over millions of years gradually sculpted the immense geological foundation into the hills, valleys, boulder formations, and waterways that shaped the island we know today.

This ancient rocky landscape also shaped the lives of the Indigenous people, who learned to live in harmony with the island and its geological environment. For them, the landscape was more than just geology. They lived closely connected to the Earth and learned to read its signs and understand how to use the land. Through knowledge, observation, and experience, they knew where to live, where to plant, and where to fish. This was their main technology when it came to survival and living sustainably. They thrived by being one with their environment. Their settlements show how carefully they read the land—and how the land, in turn, provided what they needed.

Perhaps the most extraordinary connection between Aruba's ancient inhabitants and the quartz diorite landscape is found in the island's rock art.

Pictographs and petroglyphs—painted and carved images left on stone—are frequently found on quartz diorite boulders. Many of these sites make use of natural cavities on the sheltered, leeward sides of rocks.

These cavities were themselves created by the slow chemical weathering of the stone over immense stretches of time. Here, geology and human expression meet.

A natural opening in a boulder became a place for images. A rock became a canvas. The landscape be-

came a setting for cultural and spiritual expression.

Of Aruba's seventeen known rock art sites, twelve are located within the quartz diorite landscape.

That concentration is difficult to ignore. It suggests that these areas were significant not only as places to live and cultivate food, but also as places where knowledge, ceremony, creativity could be expressed but also where the spirits were traditionally presents

The stones, in a very literal sense, became part of Aruba's cultural memory.

Rediscovering the Soul of Aruba

Today, it is easy to travel across Aruba and admire the scenery of hills on the horizon, dry riverbeds, a weathered boulder, a few patches of fertile soil and the rest covered by xenophiles and cactus. However, look more closely, and the landscape begins to tell another its story.

The rooi's speak of ancient waters. The beaches of an abundant sea

The soil speaks of agriculture. Of corn beans squashes and yuca

The rocks speak of geology. Beautiful clay pottery and green stones

The archaeological sites speak of settlement and our ancestors.

In addition, the petroglyphs and pictographs speak of a people whose relationship with this island extended beyond survival into culture, identity and spirituality.

Together, these elements reveal an Aruba that existed long before colonial influence—a living landscape shaped by nature and given meaning by generations of indigenous inhabitants.

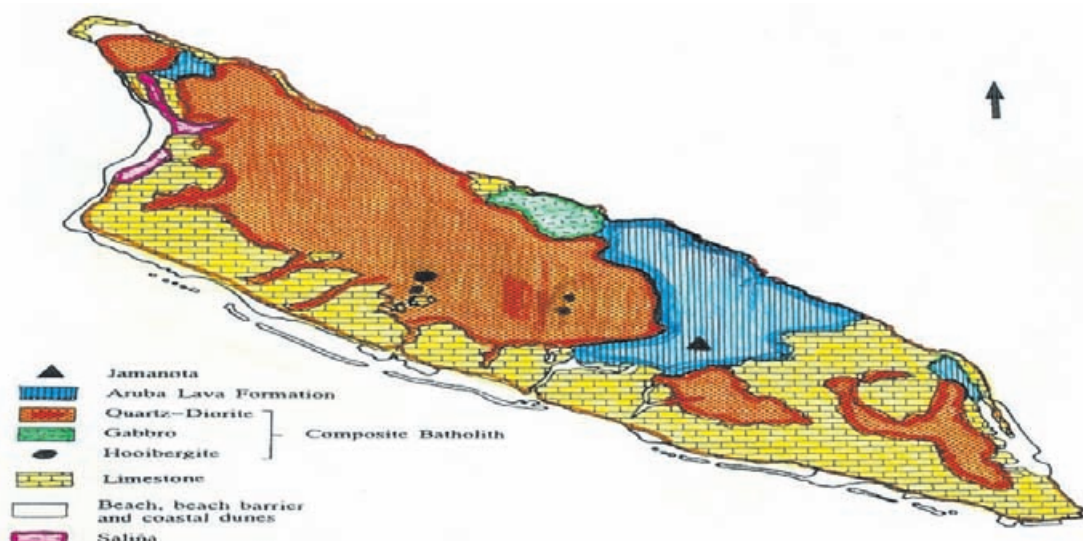
This is the perspective that Etnia Nativa encourages visitors to explore—not simply an Aruba to see, but an Aruba to understand. It is an opportunity to pause, connect with the land, and consider the stories rooted in it.

These stories offer another way to experience the island, bringing together its geology, archaeology, heritage, and living cultural memory. Understanding a place goes beyond what can be seen; it also means paying attention to the land beneath our feet and the history it carries.

Book your visit today:

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etniana03@gmail.com



Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



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

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on

the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors.

The Ayo Rock formation

contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock

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

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

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



Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; “Tram van Oranjestad” – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail

service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's

streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our “main street” has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The “I love



Aruba” trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The “Tram van Oranjestad” starts from a balloon loop

near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center it is free for all! □



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 43 Wyoming city

1 Rams' mates

5 Base-eight system

10 Valleys

12 Pack animal

13 Billing leeway

15 Paris pal

16 Tissue layer

17 Program-ming error

18 Soprano Scotto

20 Glass section

21 Museum piece

22 Early carmaker

23 Bakery workers

25 Le Pew of cartoons

28 Track contests

31 Arkin of "Argo"

32 Peripherals

34 Mule of old song

35 Utmost

36 Mauna —

37 Compact items

40 Fancy tie

41 Ocean's motions

42 Oozes

DOWN 1 Painter

Degas

2 Appliance for buns

3 Pal of George

and Jerry

4 Brief time

5 Follow, as orders

6 Nasty dog

7 Of the clan

8 In the area

9 Ski resort buildings

11 Bacteria-ridden

14 Diner

souvenirs

19 UFO flyer

20 Did some modeling

24 Cardinal's symbol

25 Success-fully imitate

26 Go by

27 Royal home

29 Sword-making city

30 Was a noisy sleeper

33 Pert

35 Brooklyn team

38 Member of the force

39 Tayback of "Alice"

T A P E S I D E B
E C R U P R I M E S
S H I P O O M P A H
L E G H O R N O D E
A S S O R T S R E L
R A Y V I A L
F R A I L L I A R S
L I S A V I C
A C T C A S T E R S
W H O A U T O M A T
E A R F U L R E B A
D R I E S T I N I T
D A N E S A D D S

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

5-23

A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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.

5-23 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

O W W S J O M H Y S R

Q V C V , K I Y V D V F Z I O Z

S R . — Q Y Q H X W O M

Cryptoquote: FOOD IS THE GREAT CONNECTOR, AND LAUGHS ARE THE CEMENT. — PHIL ROSENTHAL

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/9

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

9/8

How El Nino is choking the Panama Canal

Panama City, Panama

The Panama Canal will restrict the number of vessels transiting the crucial waterway from Friday for the second time ever due to drought caused by the El Nino climate phenomenon.

Five percent of global trade passes through the canal that connects the Pacific Ocean with the Atlantic.

The waterway is set to reduce daily traffic from 36 to 32 ships a day in an effort to conserve water amid a severe drought likely to last until mid-2027.

Canal authorities are also reducing the permitted draft of vessels how deep they sit in the water from 15.24 to 14.63 meters.

Panama has declared an emergency over El Nino, which raises surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and causes global changes in winds and rainfall as well as erratic weather conditions. The canal's incoming administrator Ilya Espino de Marotta has acknowledged the current "challenging" conditions.

- Nothing without water -

The 80-kilometer (50-mile) canal draws on freshwater that comes mainly from rainfall and is stored in artificial lakes.

Without water, its locks that lift and lower ships at the beginning and end of the journey would not function. Each transiting ship requires about 200 million liters of water, which is then discharged into the sea.

Water "is the most important resource for operations," but "between April and August the accumulated rainfall deficit was 35.8 percent below the historical average," the canal's water manager Erick Cordoba told AFP.

And there are "no signs of recovery in the short term," Cordoba added.

- 'No signs of recovery' -

Forecasts indicate that the 2027 dry season, normally between January and April, will start a little earlier



The container ship CMA CGM Arctic, sailing under the Maltese flag, passes through the Cocoli Locks of the Panama Canal in Panama City on September 3, 2026, ahead of reduced transit measures linked to the El Nino weather phenomenon that are set to come into force on September 4.(

than usual and extend into May.

In 2023 and 2024, El Nino forced a reduction in daily transits to 22 and the maximum draft to 13.41 meters. That led to 20 percent fewer vessels and a 17 percent drop in tonnage, not to mention longer lines of ships queuing up.

Further restrictions could follow those imposed on Friday.

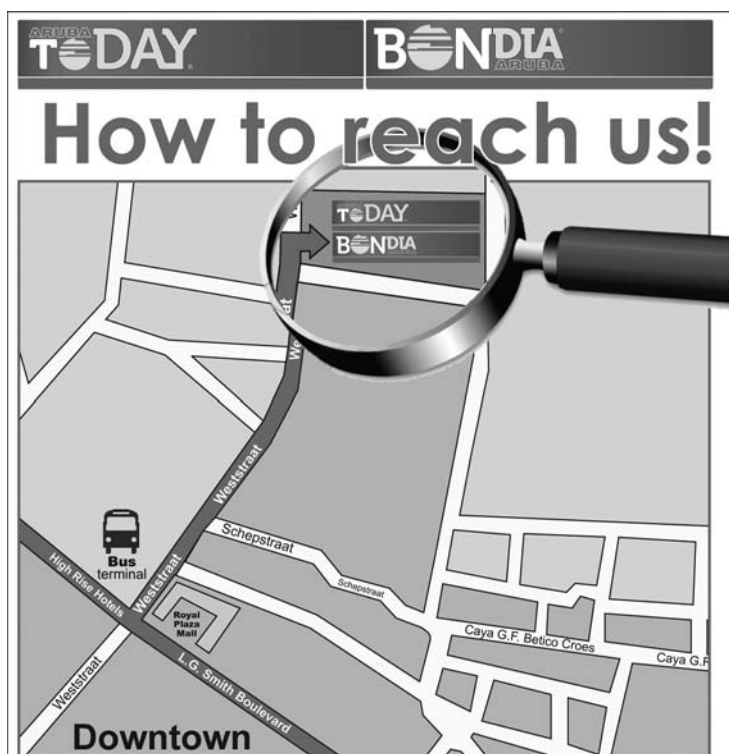
"If we don't manage to fill the lakes in November, we're going to have to tighten our belts," former canal administrator Jorge Quijano told AFP.

- Worldwide repercussions -

Long-lasting restrictions will lead to "higher shipping costs and longer waiting times" and therefore higher prices for consumers, Rebecca Bill Chavez, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, told AFP.

A ship loses around 200 containers for every 30-centimeter draft decrease, according to Quijano.

That amounts to hundreds of units for large vessels that can carry up to 16,000. "We're going to see a significant impact on the container sector," which is the canal's biggest source of revenue, he said. □



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Gold season
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Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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HEALTH



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San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

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
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Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
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Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

OpenAI says AI solved one of math's hardest problems in days

Washington, United States

OpenAI said Tuesday that one of its unreleased artificial intelligence models had solved a mathematical puzzle that has eluded mathematicians for generations, in a claim which also drew a fight with rival researchers over credit.

Researchers at OpenAI said it took just days -- and millions of dollars in computing power -- to crack what is known as the Navier-Stokes problem.

Navier-Stokes is one of the seven Millennium Prize Problems, a list of the hardest open questions in mathematics drawn up by the Clay Mathematics Institute. It concerns the equations describing how fluids such as air and water move, which are used in aircraft design, weather forecasting and the study of blood flow. OpenAI said its work showed that these equations can break down over time, answering the question as set out by the Millennium Prize.



A netizen is using his mobilephone to view GPT-6 Astra logo and using his computer to view OpenAI logo in Suqian, Jiangsu, China on September 4, 2026.

"This is a significant milestone for AI research, and its promise for the world is that even more of our hardest questions would become possible to answer," Mark Chen, OpenAI's chief research officer, told reporters. Each Millennium Prize Problem carries a \$1 million reward, and only one

has been solved since the list was published in 2000. OpenAI says it will not claim money if its finding is confirmed.

According to the prize rules, a solution has to be published in a peer-reviewed journal and survive two years after gaining accep-

tance in the mathematical community before the institute will even convene a committee to consider the work.

"The process of evaluation is deliberately unhurried, and we shall ensure that it is absolutely rigorous," Professor Martin Bridson, President of the Clay Mathematics

Institute, told AFP.

ChatGPT-style AI is revolutionizing the world of high-level math by quickly solving famous, long-unsolved problems that stumped experts for decades.

But it has also sparked debate over whether machine-generated answers truly count as real human understanding.

- 'Millions of dollars' -

In a blog post describing the breakthrough, OpenAI said it began training a new model in late August, more capable than anything it had released publicly.

Days later, seeing online rumors that a competitor had solved Millennium problems, OpenAI turned the system loose on all six that remain open.

Work on Navier-Stokes showed unexpected promise, and the company poured its computing power into it.

By the final stage, OpenAI researcher Sebastien Bubeck said, 10,000 AI agents programs that operate on their own were working on the problem at once, passing messages back and forth. □

ARUBA TODAY

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Robots protest rampant AI in Poland

Warsaw, Poland

Waving flags, "chanting" slogans, and marching in circles: around 30 robots took to the streets of Warsaw on Monday to campaign for AI regulation in front of the Polish digital affairs ministry.

The protest was organised by Democratism, an initiative that, according to its

website, aims to launch debate "on how AI and robotisation affect the labour market".

"The robots present here are meant to show that this technology is already a reality," Agibot A3, one of the AI-powered humanoid robots, told AFP.

Chants of: "Defend workplaces", "Time for rules",

and "Don't wait, regulate" played on loudspeakers as the robots which ranged from bipedal humanoids to dog-like quadrupeds demonstrated.

"We particularly want to address the issue of the potential replacement of people both by humanoid robots and by artificial intelligence in cognitive work," organiser Grzegorz Kulis told AFP.

"If we don't react now, we may soon have a problem," he added, emphasising the need for "rules and regulations that would serve as a shield protecting workers".

Aside from attracting the attention of several passers-by, Kulis said the use of robots was meant to show their existing capabilities and thereby, the urgency of the situation.

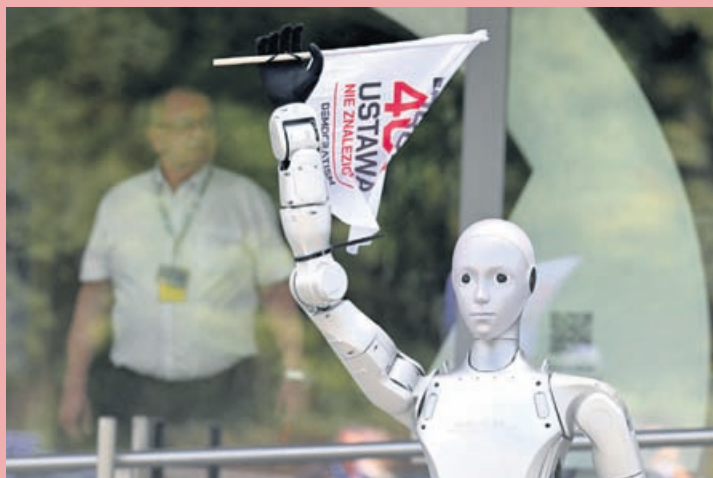
"These robots can already move around freely, they're already 'protesting'", he said.

The marching robots were met with a visit from Poland's Digital Affairs Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski, who spoke to Kulis on site.

"Uncontrolled (AI) models, implemented into humanoids that will also keep evolving as robotisation moves forward, are a major problem," he said.

Kulis, who is now the CIO of a robotics company and CEO of an employment agency, served two terms on the Labor Market Council at the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Policy.

"We feel responsible for starting to inform society about the rapid and dynamic technological changes which personally frighten us," he told AFP. □



A humanoid robot waves a flag during a demonstration calling for the regulation of artificial intelligence development in Warsaw on September 7, 2026.



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Super Bowl rematch kicks off NFL season as league expands global reach

Los Angeles, United States

The most ambitious NFL season in history kicks off on Wednesday with a Super Bowl rematch, an unprecedented global schedule and a clutch of contenders plotting to dethrone the Seattle Seahawks.

Seven months after Seattle defeated the New England Patriots to win their second Super Bowl crown, the two teams meet again on Wednesday to launch a sprawling 2026 campaign that will play out across seven countries in four continents.

The Seahawks' bid to retain their title will be tested by a crowded field of contenders that includes their NFC West divisional rivals the Los Angeles Rams.

The Rams are chasing a repeat of their 2022 Super Bowl triumph in front of their home fans in Los Angeles, with the climactic game of the season returning to the SoFi Stadium next February. Los Angeles have rolled



Tight end Travis Kelce #87 of the Kansas City Chiefs signals to stay in the game during the first quarter of an NFL preseason game against the Seattle Seahawks at Arrowhead Stadium on August 28, 2026 in Kansas City, Missouri.

the dice assembling a star-studded roster, adding Myles Garrett to an already fearsome defence while luring defensive great Aaron Donald out of retirement.

Yet the Rams are just one of

a clutch of teams with realistic title ambitions.

The Denver Broncos look well placed to build on their promising 2025 campaign, when the team finished with a 14-3 record but saw their playoff hopes derailed by an injury to quarterback

Bo Nix.

The Broncos open their season with a blockbuster divisional clash against the Kansas City Chiefs, who will welcome the return of Patrick Mahomes after the quarterback suffered a season-ending knee injury

in December last year.

Mahomes, who led the Chiefs to Super Bowl wins in 2020, 2023 and 2024, will resume his partnership with veteran tight end Travis Kelce, playing in possibly his farewell season following an off-season marriage to pop star Taylor Swift.

A slew of other teams will also have legitimate title aspirations, notably the Philadelphia Eagles, the Buffalo Bills and the Baltimore Ravens.

- Expanding global footprint -

One of the sub-plots of the season will see the NFL expand its global footprint as never before.

While the sport has staged outside the United States for decades, this season will break new ground with nine fixtures played overseas.

The first of those fixtures will see the Los Angeles Rams take on the San Francisco 49ers in Melbourne on Thursday the first ever NFL game to be staged in Australia. □

Brennan takes Vuelta stage 16 for fourth win

Palos de la Frontera, Spain

Matthew Brennan sprinted to victory in the 16th stage of the Vuelta a Espana on Tuesday to claim his fourth stage win of the race.

Visma Lease-a-bike's British rider Brennan, given a superb lead-out by team-mate Wout Van Aert, crossed the line ahead of Bryan Coquard and Vito Braet in Palos de la Frontera, in the south-west of Spain.

Team Movistar's Spanish rider Enric Mas maintained his 2min 6sec general classification lead on Felix Gall, with Primož Roglič a further four seconds behind.

Brennan, 21, held up four fingers to celebrate each of his four stage wins in his maiden Grand Tour.

"It's unbelievable, four victories here and the plan was for one," said Brennan.

Tuesday's 16th stage, running 181.1km from Cortegana, was expected to be another chance for the sprinters and so it proved, on another hot late summer day. A five-man breakaway got up the road early on but with 100km remaining the peloton started to reel them in.

The break was caught with around 23km remaining, setting up the bunch sprint finale.

Van Aert lead out for Brennan, who cruised to a comfortable victory, with nobody coming close to finding a way past him.

Belgian rider Van Aert has won two stages himself, bringing Visma's total to six in this edition of the Vuelta.

On Wednesday a flat stage 17 takes riders 185 kilometres from Dos Hermanas to Seville, offering another sprint finale. □



Team Visma-Lease a bike's British rider Matthew Brennan celebrates winning the 16th stage of the Vuelta a Espana 2026 cycling tour, a 181,1 km race between Cortegana and the Monastery of Santa Maria de la Rabida in Palos de la Frontera, on September 8, 2026.



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Sabalenka holds off Noskova to keep US Open three-peat bid alive

New York, United States

Two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka rallied in the final set to beat Linda Noskova in a match tiebreaker on Tuesday and reach a sixth straight US Open semi-final.

Sabalenka triumphed 7-6 (7/1), 3-6, 7-6 (10/7) over the 21-year-old Wimbledon champion, striking 42 winners but converting just two of her nine break point chances against the resilient Czech in a fierce duel on Arthur Ashe Stadium.

Trailing 4-2 in the third, Sabalenka appeared headed for another Grand Slam disappointment in a season in which she has so far been unable to add to her stash of four major titles.

Clearly frustrated, Sabalenka nevertheless regrouped and broke Noskova to love to pull level at 4-4. They hurtled to the tiebreaker -- where Sabalenka dropped the first two points before climbing back and finally sealed victory with a courageous second-serve ace.



Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka serves to Czech Republic's Linda Noskova in their women's singles quarter-final tennis match on day ten of the U.S. Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York on September 8, 2026.

Noskova fired 18 aces 46 winners in all as she became the first player to take a set off Sabalenka in the tournament.

"What a battle," Sabalenka said. "I was pushing myself to the limit in this match

especially in the third set. "I honestly thought the match was over and that's what helped me to feel loose and go for my shots." Sabalenka has now won 18 straight matches at Flushing Meadows, and she must keep going to a third

straight title if she is to have a chance to retain the world number one ranking she has held since October of 2024.

The victory was Sabalenka's first win over a top-10 player since she beat Coco

Gauff in the Miami final in March.

That was her third title of 2026, but Sabalenka has struggled since, exiting early at both Roland Garros and Wimbledon.

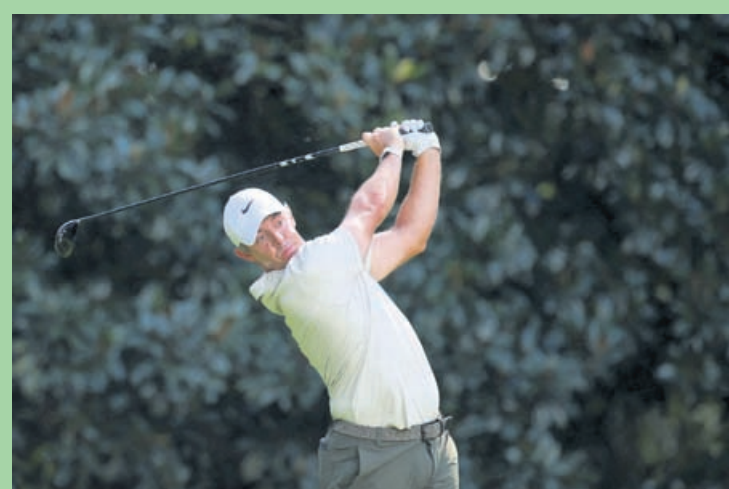
The Belarusian will next face the winner of the all-American quarter-final between third seed Jessica Pegula and Emma Navarro.

Pegula is among the trio of players who arrived at Flushing Meadows with chance to seize Sabalenka's number one ranking.

A two-time winner on the WTA tour this year, 2024 finalist Pegula would have to win the first Grand Slam title to have a shot at the top spot.

She reached the US Open final in 2024 and owns a 4-0 career record over 26th-seeded Navarro.

Men's defending champion Carlos Alcaraz faces his toughest test of the tournament, taking on eighth-seeded American Ben Shelton for a place in the semi-finals. □



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland plays his shot from the 17th tee during the final round of the TOUR Championship 2026 at East Lake Golf Club on August 30, 2026 in Atlanta, Georgia.

London, United Kingdom
Rory McIlroy believes this year's Irish Open will feel "different" should US President Donald Trump make an anticipated visit to the event.

Noted golf enthusiast Trump is expected to attend the tournament which is being held at his resort in the County Clare village of Doonbeg this weekend as part of a two-

McIlroy says 'we'll keep our heads down and play' in event of Trump golf visit

day visit to Ireland. McIlroy has previously played golf with Trump, who earlier this year hailed his achievements after the Northern Irishman won back-to-back US Masters titles.

"It's going to be different, but the one thing I'd say is his golf resorts have hosted PGA Tour events, European Tour events, LIV events," McIlroy told the BBC.

"He's a big fan of golf, he's a wonderful supporter of golf. He's got a beautiful property here in Doonbeg it's the first time I've played it... It's going to be different with him being here

but we're here to play a golf tournament and it's a good golf course and keep our head down and play."

Trump, who is set to meet Irish President Catherine Connolly and hold a meeting with Republic of Ireland Prime Minister Micheal Martin, may also present the Irish Open winner with the trophy on Sunday.

If Trump does attend, an enhanced security presence may have an impact on spectator numbers. "I think the weekend, especially when he's here (will feel different), crowds

will be limited," added the 37-year-old McIlroy, one of just six men to have won all four of golf's major titles

"Obviously, there's a lot that goes on. So, logistically, it provides some challenges, absolutely. But at the same time, if he wants to come and watch the Irish Open, who are we to say no?"

McIlroy won his second Irish Open title in 2025 after making eagle at the last at the K Club in Kildare to take Joakim Lagergren to a play-off before beating the Swede on the third extra hole. □