

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto



Page 10



**For the BEST
& the
BIGGEST Steak**
and so much more!

f @

Lobby Bar Menu



FRIDAYS
2 FOR 1 Sangria

Lunch Special
EVERYDAY 11:30AM - 5PM



\$30.35
+15% SC
TAX IS INCLUDED.

Local Deal
SATURDAY



15% OFF For Locals

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now celebrating over 20 years in business,
proudly owned and operated by Aruban local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM

Full Service Bar

Live Music Fridays & Sundays

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com





Heather Washburne, co-chair of the Dallas 2026 Host Committee, speaks during the second day of the Republican National Committee midterm convention at the American Airlines Center in Dallas, Texas on September 10, 2026.

Beyond midterms, Republicans ponder who comes after Trump

Dallas, United States

Republicans gathered in Dallas this week to rally behind President Donald Trump ahead of November's U.S. midterms even as an unavoidable conundrum loomed beyond the election: who inherits the movement when he is gone?

In the halls and corridors of the downtown convention center, that question repeatedly produced the same two names: Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, the leading contenders to carry the party into its post-Trump era.

Trump, 80, remains the Republican Party's dominant figure and has not endorsed a successor.

But the U.S. Constitution bars him from seeking a third elected term, and the looming midterms are already being viewed as an important test of which potential heirs can best defend his record and which parts of his political movement survive him.

"I think it's going to be between Rubio and Vance," said Susan Kokinda, 77, a conservative podcaster from Michigan.

"Or maybe the two of them will just team up and flip a coin and decide who's

first."

Vance appears to hold the early advantage.

A Focal Data/Financial Times poll in August put him on 42 percent among Republicans, well ahead of Rubio on 18 percent, while other surveys have shown the two much closer.

Trump himself has publicly encouraged speculation, calling a Vance-Rubio ticket a potential "dream team" while stopping short of backing either man.

Vance's supporters see him as the more natural ideological heir: younger he is just 42 closely tied to the MAGA grassroots and steeped in the economic nationalism that has reshaped Republican thinking on trade, immigration and working-class politics. "He's the closest to the president," Tom Hoffman Jr, 62, a New York businessman attending the convention, told AFP.

"I think he's been a great running mate and he's been a great vice president so far, and I think he's earned it."

- Rubio appeal -

Rubio offers a different proposition.

The former U.S. senator from Florida has built a profile as one of Trump's most prominent foreign-policy

lieutenants and is viewed by supporters as a more experienced and polished political performer.

Kyle Hermann, a 29-year-old teacher from California, praised Rubio's "charm and his wit" and said he hoped both men could emerge from any primary battle without damaging each other.

"I think the eyes of the world are pretty much on Vance and Rubio," Hermann told AFP. "I don't even necessarily want one of them to lose."

But Rubio, 55, has repeatedly played down speculation about another presidential run, and the field is not necessarily limited to two.

Senator Ted Cruz, who ran against Trump in 2016, has been making increasingly conspicuous moves toward another presidential bid, including repeated trips to Iowa and outreach to potential supporters.

Cruz recently insisted that Republicans had not coalesced around Vance and said he would be "part of the discussion" over the party's future.

Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has also been floated as a possible contender, although he has described reports that he is considering a run as "100 percent false." □



An election worker processes mail-in ballots at the Los Angeles County Ballot Processing Center during California's state primary election in the City of Industry, California, on June 2, 2026.

Appeals court upholds block on Trump bid to curb mail-in ballots

Washington, United States

A U.S. appeals court on Thursday upheld a lower court's block on President Donald Trump's executive order curbing the use of mail-in ballots in November's midterm elections.

District Judge Indira Talwani issued a preliminary injunction last week barring the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) from carrying out a plan that critics say would restrict distribution of mail-in ballots.

A three-judge panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit unanimously upheld Talwani's injunction, which the Trump administration has already appealed to the Supreme Court.

The judges said they agreed with the district court's conclusion that carrying out the executive order "will likely result in the disenfranchisement of millions of voters across the country while providing minimal if any gains in combating voter fraud."

A coalition of Democratic-ruled states sued the administration on the grounds that under the US Constitution, states and not the federal government retain broad control over elections.

North Carolina began sending mail-in ballots to voters last week and other states have also begun to do so.

Trump signed an executive order in March seeking to restrict mail-in voting, saying without evidence that it is vulnerable to fraud.

Trump's order would require the compilation of lists of eligible voters and for the USPS to deliver ballots only to voters who are on the lists.

A USPS whistleblower has warned that millions of Americans may not receive ballots because the systems being used by the postal service have been put together in a "sloppy and rushed manner."

Trump has long been a critic of mail-in ballots but has frequently used them himself, including last month when he voted by mail in Florida's Republican primary.

The president has for years claimed without evidence that mail-in voting is highly vulnerable to fraud, repeatedly linking it to his false assertion that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from him by Democrat Joe Biden.

Polls show that Trump's Republican Party faces a serious threat of losing its narrow control of Congress in November, particularly the House of Representatives.

If Democrats win, they have signaled they would block Trump's agenda and could even move to impeach him for the third time. □

Ex-president Bush remembers 9/11 through exhibit of his art



A visitor looks at paintings by former U.S. President George W. Bush at the George W. Bush Presidential Museum in Dallas, Texas, on September 9, 2026.

Dallas, United States

Twenty-five years after the September 11, 2001 attacks that would define his presidency, George W. Bush, now an avid painter, is displaying 16 pieces of art inspired by the tragic events.

The exhibit opens with a painting of lower Manhattan shrouded in thick gray smoke under a blue sky, the Twin Towers having both collapsed after being rammed by hijacked pas-

senger jets.

Bush, who had taken office less than eight months earlier, has "returned to this defining moment in American history with brush and canvas, painting the symbols, the people, and the embraces that have stayed with him since," the exhibit's introduction says. It is the latest special collection produced by the 80-year-old former president, who took up painting a few years after leaving

office in 2009, with previous exhibits dedicated to portraits of veterans of his post-9/11 wars and American immigrants.

Bush himself is featured in half of the paintings, which include iconic moments, such as when he was informed by staff that a second plane has struck the World Trade Center, and more subtle scenes like him taking the hand of his father, former president George H.W. Bush.

The American flag is a recurring theme in the surprisingly colorful series, displayed at the Bush Presidential Library in Dallas, Texas. Barely visible in the first painting depicting the attack on Manhattan, the Stars and Stripes are shown filling the entire frame in another illustrating the Pentagon which was struck by a third plane and waved by first responders in another. "These are the moments President Bush chose to paint, because they are the moments he remembers most not fear, but resolve, not despair, but the instinct of ordinary Americans to come together and help one another," the exhibit says.

An immense wave of patriotism followed the 9/11 attacks, with American flags displayed throughout the nation, while Bush saw record-high approval ratings. The commander-in-chief's poll numbers would later decline dramatically amid widespread opposition to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the economic turmoil of the global financial crisis.

"Looking at the paintings I felt like not just remember-

ing all that happened, but remembering that unity that came," educator Far-ran Burnette, 40, told AFP after visiting the exhibit.

That the creator of the art was actually president during the events gives them "a different kind of weight," she said.

"To see it through his eyes in that way is really, really powerful."

For Anna Catherine Duplantis, a 17-year-old student, Bush's painting style "really connects you back" to the people and events of the time before she was even born.

"His painting is so raw, there's not all the structuredness, and it's not realism. It captures the emotions I think he feels and it can channel those emotions sometimes better than what may look like almost a movie to us," she said.

In addition to the attacks on New York and the Pentagon in Washington, a fourth hijacked plane crashed in a Pennsylvania field after passengers stormed the cockpit.

Officially 2,977 people were killed in the attacks, with thousands more deaths since linked to 9/11-related illnesses. □

Evacuations in Malibu after waves open sinkhole at Nicolas Cage's house

Los Angeles, United States

People living in an upmarket coastal stretch of Malibu were under an evacuation order Wednesday after a giant sinkhole opened up on the driveway of a beachfront home belong-

ing to Oscar-winning US actor Nicolas Cage. The enormous hole appeared Tuesday as heavy surf brought by the after-effects of a hurricane pounded the exclusive coastline, which is home

to some of California's wealthiest people and a host of celebrities.

Photographs of the crater, estimated to be as much as 60 feet (18 meters) wide in places, showed it contained concrete, tiles and a portable toilet that appeared to have been placed at the multi-million dollar home for use by workmen who were doing alterations.

By Tuesday evening, the sinkhole was around 25 feet deep, as waves from the churning Pacific Ocean continued to eat away at the coastline, lapping around the stanchions that support the house which the "Leaving Las Vegas" actor bought for \$10.5 million. after real estate in

Southern California.

"The Director of Emergency Services of the City of Malibu has declared the existence of a local emergency following a large sinkhole forming near 31630 Sea Level Drive," an announcement said.

"An evacuation order is in effect for all affected properties. Sheriff Deputies have notified residents in person, and a digital alert has been issued by the City." South of Los Angeles, truckloads of boulders had been placed along a stretch of beach in Dana Point in an effort to protect properties in a spot where seven homes have already been declared uninhabitable, with one partially col-

lapsing into the sea.

Richard Thompson, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, told AFP on Tuesday that coastal waters were being roiled by the remnants of Hurricane Marie.

"There were some pretty significant surf and swells across area in the last several days," he said.

"At the height of the surf and swell, we had some very significant wave heights of 10 up to 15 feet (3.0-4.5 meters) in some spots, along with significant beach erosion."

This week Hurricane Lowell lashed Hawaii with damaging winds, heavy rainfall and powerful floods, blacking out power across most of one island. □



This aerial view shows a sinkhole on a street and driveway of a seaside home affected by large swells produced by Hurricane Marie in Malibu, California, on September 8, 2026.

'Wallace & Gromit' creators turn 50 with spook-tacular Shaun yarn

Bristol, United Kingdom

Crochet hook in hand, the animator slightly raises the eyelid of a clay model sheep in a filmmaking technique as old as cinema, perfected over five decades by Aardman Animations.

In the basement of the Bristol-based company whose beloved characters such as Wallace and Gromit have won them four Oscars designers have been working for the past three-and-a-half years on the latest adventure in their "Shaun the Sheep" series.

"Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom" is the third full-length film starring the mischievous, savvy sheep, due to be released on September 18 in UK cinemas.

This time Shaun and his flock have to work together to save Halloween from a fur-raising creature terrorizing their farm's pumpkin patch. The film marks the 50th anniversary of Aardman, founded in Bristol in 1976 by Peter Lord and David Sproxton who went to school together and used to make models on a kitchen table. In the dim light of Aardman's basement, about 40 small rooms with a blue



This photo taken on March 4, 2026 shows models for 'Shaun the Sheep: The Beast of Mossy Bottom' at Aardman Animations studios in Bristol, western England.

background have been set up, with curtains concealing puppet-sized scenes from the film.

One curtain opens to reveal Mossy Bottom farm and its autumnal colors, another a mad science lab, while behind yet another is a black and red fishing boat.

In the world of sophisticated digitalized animations and computer graphics, Aardman stands out for its painstaking handcrafted "stop-motion" technique, which dates back to the

late 19th century. "Our aim as animators is to make people think these puppets are alive," said animation director Claire Rolls. "Nowadays, there's not a lot of places in the world doing stop-motion animation."

- 'Spare arms and ears' -

In a docklands scene, Rolls, who joined the company in 1998, was working with team member Ed Jackson setting up camera shots. The sheep, wearing yellow rain jackets, are trying

to attract the attention of a crew of sailors, Rolls explained.

The animator gets down to work, eyes fixed on a screen that alternates between the shot he's preparing and the previous frame. To create the illusion of movement, he raises one sheep's head, lowers another's legs, and clicks the camera once the shot is ready.

After two days of this patient, exacting work, he will have filmed about two sec-

onds of footage, each second made up of 24 frames. The complete film is made up of more than 100,000 of these painstakingly created stop-motion frames. The creatures that populate the studio's productions are created upstairs, in the puppet department. After first appearing in 1995 in "Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave", Shaun has become one of the studio's icons.

He is now the hero of a television series, shown in 170 countries, and two previous films, and has attracted a huge social media following. Amid a jumble of drawings and materials, Kate Anderson, the head of the puppet department, pulls out a box filled with interchangeable parts a mouth closed, a jaw dropped, or rounded in an "O" of surprise.

Such parts help animators to illustrate different "sounds and expressions" for Bitzer, the long-suffering sheepdog.

The puppet makers "stick with clay for really expressive areas of the puppet, like the face," said Anderson, even if sometimes silicon is used to make the characters' bodies.

That material is more resistant when applied to a metal frame, she said, with the figures nailed in place to avoid any continuity errors. "Because animators are touching puppets all day long, they do break quite easily," she said.

"We always know that we need to have a big stock of spare sheep arms and ears."

- 'Quirky, fun' -

"The animation is like a live performance," said co-director Steve Cox.

It is different to computer-generated images and two dimensional or 2D ones as "you can't really go back and change things once you've done it".

Filming is done in silence and sound added later, but that doesn't stop its "very British" humor, kind of "quirky and fun", from shining through. □

Ralph Lauren opens fur-free New York Fashion Week

New York, United States

Legendary U.S. designer Ralph Lauren on Wednesday kicked off New York Fashion Week with his namesake brand's Spring/Summer 2027 collection, as the industry showcase implements its first full ban

on fur on the runway.

The 86-year-old designer, whose preppy aesthetic has influenced American style for decades, featured looks that emphasized his signature colors, navy blue and white.

Hints of gold, beige and

dusty rose completed the palette. Oscar-winning actresses Viola Davis and Ariana DeBose joined "Wicked" star Cynthia Erivo in the front row at the show, which took place on the eve of fashion week's official launch.

The label said the collection sought to upend "traditional notions of chic" and rework historical silhouettes. Suit trousers were paired with a leather jacket, a boater hat and ballet slippers.

Of course, there were gowns that the A-list Hollywood talent could easily wear to red carpet events. U.S. fashion house Coach, known for its handbags and other leather accessories, hosted the only other show on Wednesday a calm night before the fashion frenzy picks up pace,

beginning in New York before heading to London, Milan and Paris.

Both brands have found success this year despite a slowing luxury market due to their more accessible branding, with each reporting double-digit revenue growth in the last quarter.

New York Fashion Week gets into full swing on Thursday, with Henry Zankov debuting his first collection as artistic director at Diane von Furstenberg.

Other shows on Thursday include Proenza Schouler, Christian Siriano, Tory Burch and Tommy Hilfiger -- which made waves with its latest ad campaign featuring Super Bowl champion Travis Kelce, who happens to be Taylor Swift's husband. □



Fashion designer Ralph Lauren waves to guests from the runway during the Ralph Lauren Collection Spring 2027 show in New York City on September 9, 2026.



This picture taken on August 12, 2026 shows South Korean haenyeo Woo Jung-min swimming using the tewak, a buoy used by haenyeo floating, in the South Korean coastal town of Geoje.

Women quit South Korea's grind for diving tradition

Geoje, South Korea

Jin So-hee had to suffer to join the centuries-old tradition of South Korean women diving to harvest seafood. But she is now part of a new generation to earn a place in the waves.

The nation's rapid economic transformation drew workers away from being haenyeo, the so-called "sea women" who dive without oxygen tanks to catch what they can.

But South Korea's all-consuming work culture is now pushing some back towards a meaningful and punishing way to make a living.

Jin, 33, grew up in Busan, the country's second-largest city, earning qualifications in skincare and nail art before working as a nursing assistant to help make ends meet.

Worn down by long hours, one-day weekends and limited pay, she decided to head for the quiet coastal town of Geoje at age 25.

There, she came across haenyeo in their 70s, earning a living in nature and diving well past retirement age, and decided to join them.

But Jin lost seven kilograms (15 pounds) in her first year as a haenyeo and said she was sometimes so exhausted she "barely had the

strength to lift a spoon".

The intense work requires haenyeo to dive, protected only by a wetsuit and goggles applied with mugwort and saliva to prevent fogging up, as tradition dictates.

Jin also suffered severe ear pain from the water pressure, followed by splitting headaches after dives ailments that have plagued generations of haenyeo.

"The pain was so bad it brought tears to my eyes... I couldn't hear a thing," she said. Determined to continue, Jin learned modern freediving, the sport of diving underwater without using breathing equipment, and scuba diving, including techniques to equalize the pressure in her ears.

- Female independence -

For centuries, haenyeo have held a distinctive place in Korean history, with generations of women becoming family breadwinners.

Their culture, recognized by the UN cultural body UNESCO, has come to symbolize female independence and resilience in a country long shaped by deeply patriarchal traditions.

The UNESCO listing specifically notes the island of Jeju as the heart of the tradition, where the number

of haenyeo fell to 2,371 last year from 3,437 in 2021.

But their culture and tradition exist elsewhere on South Korea's coast including Geoje.

Another challenge for Jin and her fellow new-generation diver, Woo Jung-min, has been breaking into Geoje's tight-knit community of older haenyeo.

Fiercely private, the divers were initially wary of Jin and Woo filming their lives for YouTube, which the pair have used to promote and record the experiences of people like them.

But the pair persisted.

"We wanted to document the fact that there were young haenyeo like us, so that someday, this could become a kind of record and perhaps even an asset for future generations," Woo, 40, said.

- 'Sea is dangerous' -

Choi Young-hee, 60, took an equally unlikely path to the sea, becoming a haenyeo in her late 40s after nearly two decades selling clothes and accessories in Seoul department stores. Left weary by seven-day workweeks and demanding customers, she was visiting Geoje when she spotted figures in the sea repeatedly diving and surfacing. □



This handout photo taken on September 9, 2026 and received from Shizuoka prefecture on September 10, 2026 shows vehicles buried by mud and debris after a landslide swept into the parking lot at Fifth Station of Mount Fuji's Fujinomiya Trail in Fujinomiya, Shizuoka Prefecture.

Mount Fuji ends hiking season with landslide, two rescues

Tokyo, Japan

A landslide struck a car park on Japan's Mount Fuji, with the final day of the volcano's summer climbing season on Thursday marred by downpours and dense mist.

Three vehicles belonging to people working on the mountain were partially buried Wednesday, as powerful gusts and torrential rain battered the popular hiking destination, a local official told AFP.

No injuries were reported in the incident, which occurred in a parking lot at one of the 3,776-metre (12,388-foot) volcano's four main access gates, said Hisayuki Motohashi, a road maintenance official for the Shizuoka regional government.

Separately, Shizuoka police said on Thursday they had been called to help rescue two hikers.

A man who appeared to be in his 30s or 40s was found collapsed near the summit Wednesday while another man who appeared to be in his 60s was found fallen on a trail the same day, according to a local police official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

She did not provide details about the condition of both individuals.

The local Shizuoka government and official mountain guides posted video clips and photos from the mountain Thursday morning, showing access roads and gravel trails covered with dense mist and rain.

Mount Fuji attracts more than 200,000 hikers every year during its official opening period from July through September.

Local police rescue dozens of people and report a few deaths every year.

In recent years, communities around the popular mountain have tightened access rules to Mount Fuji to ease severe over-tourism problems.

They have also tried to stop poorly equipped climbers from summiting and mandating that visitors spend at least one night at one of the huts on the trails.

On Tuesday, hundreds of Asian Games athletes in Japan were briefly evacuated from their accommodation as record rainfall lashed host city Nagoya. □

Portugal harvests grapes at night to beat the heat

Estremoz, Portugal

Equipped with headlamps and pruning shears, a team of farm workers navigate pitch-black darkness during a nocturnal grape harvest that shields them from Portugal's increasingly oppressive summer heat.

"At night, it's much cooler, and with this light we see the bunches of grapes better," Maria Jeronima Mendes, 70, told AFP on a rural estate lined with lush vines.

Climate change is intensifying and lengthening spells of extreme heat and drought across Europe, with EU's climate monitor reporting on Thursday that western Europe sweltered through its warmest summer this year, while August was the hottest single month ever recorded globally.

The heat has forced adaptations in the continent's wine-making south that includes Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece.

At Herdade das Servas, an estate of around 350 hectares (865 acres) located some 150 kilometres (93 miles) east of Lisbon, night-time grape harvests were fully adopted last year after a successful test in 2024.

At first, the shift came up



Workers from Herdade das Servas winery use headlamps during a night grape harvesting in Estremoz on September 3, 2026.

against the reluctance of its around 20 workers from Portugal, Romania and Southeast Asia, in a sector already struggling to recruit.

But the harvesters have now come to terms with working at night in cooler temperatures that make the manual work more bearable.

"Working at night isn't more tiring, it's just a matter of habit," said Mendes, who has worked in the fields since she was 12 and is

the oldest member of the team.

Under a clear sky illuminated only by the stars and the Moon, it was still 28C at midnight at the estate in southern Portugal's Alentejo region.

But the temperature was much lower than the daytime peak of 40C, with such highs creeping into September as well as baking the country during the summer months.

The nighttime harvests "have become a neces-

sity" to spare the workers from "temperatures of more than 40 degrees", said Renato Neves, director of production at Herdade das Servas.

- 'Response to climate change' -

As in other European regions struck by an exceptionally warm and dry summer, the grape harvest in Alentejo started in early August two weeks earlier than usual.

The new working conditions

also offer an advantage for the wine-making process at the estate, which produced some 277,000 litres of red, white and rose wine in 2025.

"At night, the grapes arrive fresher, which delays the start of fermentation," making it possible to "obtain better decanting" and a better "extraction of aromas", explained Neves.

As well as adapting the working hours, Neves's estate no longer removes the weeds that grow at the base of the vines to try to retain soil humidity and thwart the increasingly hot, dry conditions.

At daybreak, the workers leave the vines and the harvest is taken to vats, where the grapes are washed and sorted before being crushed.

The night harvest then provides another advantage, as the cellar works at full capacity during the day, when the estate's solar panels are at their most productive.

The spread of harvesting at night across several European countries "is a response to climate change, and in Mediterranean climates I think this practice is here to stay", said oenologist Rui Reguinga. □

Myanmar tin mega-mine restarts operations: think tank

Yangon, Myanmar

One of the world's biggest tin mines, located in an autonomous region of war-torn Myanmar, is resuming

operations suspended since 2023 and ramping up exports to China, a think tank said Thursday.

Tin is an element vital to

the artificial intelligence industry, used as solder to attach microchips to circuit boards and bond together other electronics in data centres.

Eastern Myanmar's Man Maw mine emerged suddenly as a global supply lynchpin in the 2010s, making the nation the world's third-largest tin producer and the biggest supplier to China.

Its abrupt closure by the powerful armed faction controlling the area coincided with the start of the AI boom, causing a price spike and a global scramble for the metal.

But the International Crisis Group think tank said operations are beginning a "slow restart".

"Ore is moving again,"

analysis shared with AFP said, although "output remains well below pre-suspension levels".

China's imports of tin ore and concentrates from Myanmar in the first half of 2026 have already surpassed 2025's total at nearly 40,000 metric tonnes, Beijing's customs data shows. "Satellite imagery shows large new buildings going up" around the gargantuan Man Maw site, according to Crisis Group's report. "Night-time illumination around the site has returned to higher levels after falling sharply following the suspension," also suggesting increased activity, it said.

Production levels are still far from Man Maw's peak.

In 2016, Myanmar supplied nearly 500,000 metric tonnes of tin ore and concentrate to China, accounting for more than 99 percent of such imports, Beijing's customs data shows.

Still, Crisis Group's senior Asia advisor Richard Horsey told AFP there is evidence of "a steady but uneven ramp-up" at the mine. Any revival, however slow, is likely to have far-reaching implications amidst the international race to secure resources critical to AI.

Fragile supply and a production boom in data-processing microchips drove tin to record prices in January. □



This handout satellite image taken on April 24, 2026 by 2026 PLANET LABS PBC shows a mining area believed to be the Man Maw mine, located in autonomous Wa State in eastern Myanmar, near the Chinese border.

The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life



(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter

from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, using them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □



Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba offers 30 MINUTE, COMMUNITY ROSH HASHANAH SERVICE



PALM BEACH – Rabbi Ahron Blasberg, of Chabad of Aruba, knows that to engage members of the tribe one often needs to lower the barriers of entry, sometimes beyond the institutional walls of the synagogue.

To accommodate those who would otherwise not participate in formal Rosh Hashanah synagogue services, the rabbi is promoting a brief, open to all, thirty-minute Rosh Hashanah ceremony that includes the primary observances of the holiday.

Chabad of Aruba will be celebrating their annual Community Tashlich & Shofar Service at the Beach, which will take place on Sunday September 13th 5:30pm at the beach front between Marriott Hotel and Ritz Carlton (in front of Vela Sports Center).

Tashlich is a practice rich in symbolic and mystical meaning, which is customarily performed on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. A brief prayer is recited near a body of water, preferably containing live fish; in which we express our prayerful hope that G d cast our indiscretions into the depths of the sea, and that we be granted a good and sweet new year filled with G d's abundant and manifest blessings.

The sounding of the shofar is the central mitzvah of Rosh Hashanah. Typically, it is part of the Rosh Hashanah synagogue services. However, if for any reason one did not attend services, the shofar sounding can be fulfilled this year throughout only the 2nd day of Rosh Hashanah, Sunday September 13th.

The mitzvah of shofar also contains many deep and inspiring messages for us to reflect upon.

"According to Jewish tradition the gates of heaven are open on the New Year, and G d accepts prayers from everyone," said Rabbi Ahron Blasberg, "That served as our inspiration to create Rosh

Hashanah opportunities for everyone in the community."

"The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, insisted that Judaism be made accessible to all Jews" Rabbi Ahron Blasberg explained. "During the High Holiday period, accessibility can mean different things to different people. For some it means shorter, more user-friendly services, for others it means a non-judgmental atmosphere, while for still others accessibility means affordability, and no expectation of membership or affiliation. Our goal is to lower the barriers of entry, and to encourage each and every Jewish person to actively participate in the observances of Rosh Hashanah".

Rosh Hashanah begins this year at sundown on Friday, September 11th, and extends until nightfall on Sunday September 13th.

For more information about this ceremony and all the traditional, accessible services over the High Holidays please contact Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba at 5927613, email Rabbi@Jewisharuba.com or visit www.Jewisharuba.com/highholidays

Event Recap

Who: Open to one open to all!

What: Tashlich and Shofar service on the Beach

Where: Beachfront between Marriott & Ritz Carlton (Front of Vela Sport Center).

When: Sunday September 13th 5:30pm
Chabad also offers free Rosh Hashanah services

What: Free Rosh Hashanah Services

Where: Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba
When: September 11-13

Free RSVP: 592-7613 Rabbi@Jewisharuba.com

Full Schedule: www.Jewisharuba.com/highholidays

About Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, is observed this year beginning at sundown on September 11th, and extends until nightfall on Sunday, September 13th. Literally meaning "head of the year," the two-day holiday commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates in the Yom Kippur holiday.

About the Sponsoring Organization

Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba offers Jewish education, outreach and social service programming for families and individuals of all ages, backgrounds and affiliations. For more information, contact Chabad Jewish Center of Aruba at 5927613 Rabbi@Jewisharuba.com or visit www.Jewisharuba.com



QUALITY APARTMENTS
AND SUITES



www.arubaqualityapartments.com

All Fully Furnished w/Kitchen, Airco, Cable Tv, FREE WIFI (in and outside rooms).
Swimming Pool, Gym, Library, Laundry Room & BBQ Sets.
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 2 Large Supermarkets.

FEEL FREE TO CONTACT OR VISIT US.

Mon-Fri: 8am - 7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am - 5pm. Worldwide calls: (297)-582-0697
Calls from USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095 (toll free)
Calls from The Netherlands: 085-009-0218 (toll free)
Schotlandstraat 70, Oranjestad, Aruba

Email: info@arubaqualityapartments.com | Whatsapp: (297) 734-3008
Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of

the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is im-

mediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest

control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4-5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Cododo



These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for

certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole



The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all qualified Club members.

50/30
Friday!

We're giving away
\$50 Free Slot Play
to lucky slot and table
game players **every**
30 minutes from
7pm to Midnight!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Explore Aruba!



(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles

across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Arikok National Park

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are

beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In total, the park consists of 34 square kilometers of protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

Natural Bridge

One of Aruba's favorite tourist attractions is the Natural Bridge. For thou-



sands of years, pounding waves and strong winds have slowly chiseled away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create several natural bridges. The largest of these bridges used to be the famous Natural Bridge. The bridge was a formation of coral limestone cut out by years of pounding surf, and was one of the largest of these types of spans in the world. It stood some 23 feet (7 meters) above sea level and spans more than 100 feet (30 meters). Unfortunately the bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Despite

this, it is still the most photographed natural bridge and it remains a popular tourist attraction in Aruba, with the adjacent and intact Baby Bridge also meriting a visit. The Natural Bridge is the perfect stop while touring Aruba. There is no admission fee or set hours for visiting. Quench your thirst with refreshing beverages & refuel your tank with local snacks.

The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of

a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas. A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresa church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the event you wish to stop for pictures at this location.□

Fun facts about cacti hedges "Trankera"



(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by

certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called "trankera" and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several 'cunucu' (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be benefi-

cial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don't play that big of a role in Aruba's agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures.□

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders be-



lieve Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes

further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found

the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors something we highly value

today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy

and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fonds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was

often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older

kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw



The Aruban Cunukero: From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

- The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
- Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
- Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
- Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of



or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them

had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events. □

Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.



**Help FUDA with
a last wishambulance
for Aruba!**



**Donation:
CMB#65550908**



**All beneficiary will receive
a Teddy Bear!**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

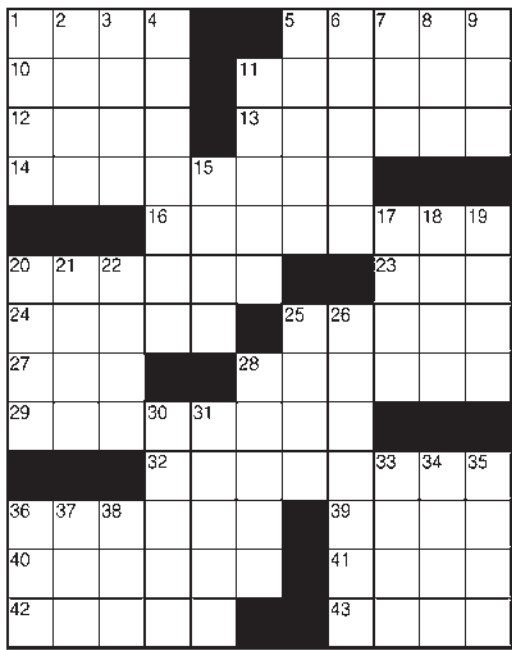
- 1 Neatnik's opposite
- 5 Small porch
- 10 Casserole staple
- 11 Painter's place
- 12 Brighton brews
- 13 Take care of
- 14 1998 Wes Anderson film
- 16 Weary from walking
- 20 Modify
- 23 Pasture
- 24 Elite Navy group
- 25 Corona, e.g.
- 27 Here, in Quebec
- 28 "Key Largo" co-star
- 29 Legends and such
- 32 Dyed-in-the-wool
- 36 Tahini base
- 39 Follow orders
- 40 Conjured up
- 41 Single
- 42 Luke-warm
- 43 Owner's document

DOWN

- 1 Flag feature
- 2 Hum-dinger
- 3 Wallet bills
- 4 Doc's friend
- 5 Set off
- 6 Melodies
- 7 Strange
- 8 Gusher flow
- 9 "The Gold-Bug" writer
- 11 Photo session
- 15 Terrarium growth
- 17 Gymnast Korbut
- 18 Genuine



- 19 Rank above viscount
- 20 "Like that'll happen!"
- 21 1920s art style
- 22 Lockup
- 25 Joker, e.g.
- 26 Freezing
- 28 Yawning, perhaps
- 30 Uniform material
- 31 Crippled
- 33 Clarinet cousin
- 34 Painter Magritte
- 35 Took in
- 36 Ready to go
- 37 Genesis name
- 38 Soak up



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

1-12

CRYPTOQUOTE

C STQ'P YQTV VGOXO C'U

FTCQF HXTU GOXO, LIP C

BXTUCRO C VTQ'P LTXO ATI.

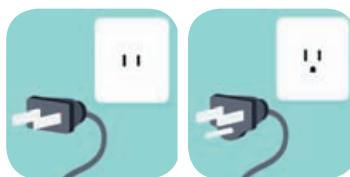
— SWECS LTVCO

Cryptoquote: FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE AND DO IT ON PURPOSE. — DOLLY PARTON

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other

establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

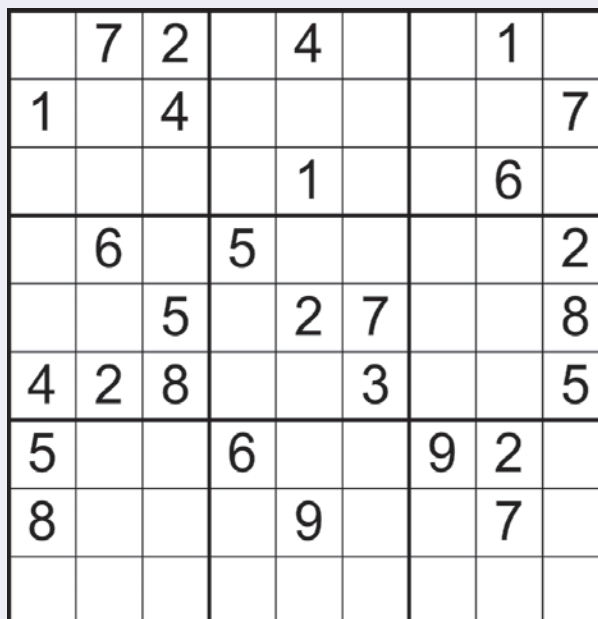
SEPTEMBER

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

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku



Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/11

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/10

As oceans warm, Florida scientists hunt for heat-resistant coral



A small coral colony is seen on August 28, 2026 as it begins to bleach at the base of a mound of star coral, a sign of heat stress on a reef off the Florida coast.

Miami, United States

Off Florida's coast, a team of scientists and trained volunteers in scuba gear descends to the ocean floor and begins planting young coral onto a reef and examining how others are faring in the increasingly warm waters. It is part of a long-running "Rescue a Reef" program run by the University of Miami that aims to advance conservation efforts and raise public awareness. Part of that work involves researching which coral species are able to better withstand rapidly warming oceans as a result of human-caused climate change.

"Certain species may be more resilient, where they're able to better survive and recover from thermal stress events," program manager Devon Ledbetter explained to AFP during a recent dive to Rainbow Reef about three miles offshore from Key Biscayne. Coral reefs support vibrant marine ecosystems, but also act as breakwaters, protecting coastlines from storm-driven erosion and flooding. The situation, however, is increasingly dire.

A record-breaking marine heat wave that began in 2023 left two ecologically vital coral species, elkhorn and staghorn, "functionally extinct" in Florida's Coral Reef, highlighting the growing dangers a warming climate poses for the world's oceans. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration believes that this fourth global coral bleaching event likely concluded in mid-2025. But the arrival of a very strong El Nino could

bring a return to more widespread bleaching including in Florida's waters. During the expedition, the participants go about their tasks diligently. Some coral species with fast-growing branches are planted onto "coral trees" that look like old television antennas and are suspended in the water column, with floats to keep them upright. Others are placed onto table frames fixed to the ocean floor, and yet others are mounted onto plugs, screwed into a three-hole

"cookie" and planted onto the reef. These are given predation umbrellas to protect them from the hungry fish having a nibble. Researchers place color reference charts around newly planted coral to record the pigmentation, a method used to monitor its health and detect early signs of heat stress.

Coral is made up of tiny individual animals called polyps, which maintain a symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae that live within their tissues.□

CLASSIFIEDS

Time share resales

Want to sell your Time -Share In Aruba ? Call the expert !
40 years doing business on the islands
Do all legal transaction
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Le Vent

Eagle Beach
2 BR 3 bath
4 th Floor ocean view
Price :\$1,250,000
Call :011-297 -630-1307

Property land

At Tanki leendert
683 m2 with fenced and septic Tank
Price :\$300,000
Call :011-297-6301307

Marriott Surf club

Palm beach
3 BR 3 bath Ocean view
Gold season
Price :\$25,000
Call :011-297-630-1307

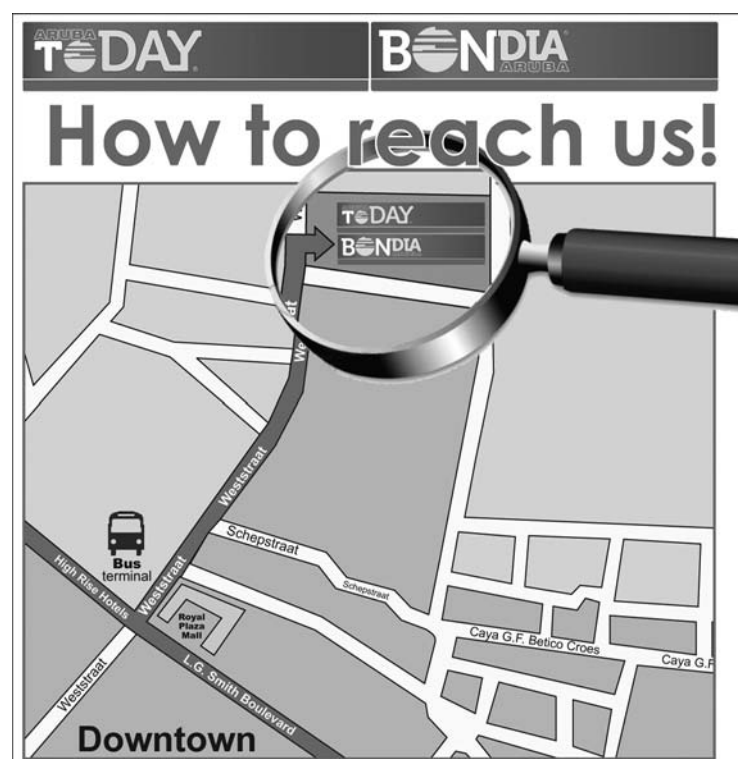
Marriott Surf club

Palm beach
2 BR 2 bath ocean side
Gold season
Price :\$ 15,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Marriott surf club

Palm beach
2 BR 2 bath ocean view
Gold season
Price :\$14,000
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

220917



HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 587 1780

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Google unveils 13B euro AI expansion in Finland

Helsinki, Finland

Google will invest at least 13 billion euros in data centers and other digital infrastructure to power its AI ambitions in Finland, in what the U.S. tech giant called Wednesday its biggest single investment in Europe.

The \$15 billion plan also calls for clean energy projects over the next two years, which Google said was "a testament to Finland's leadership in responsibly building AI infrastructure".

It will partner with Finnish companies and four municipalities across the country: Hamina, Kajaani, Muhos and Vaala.

The buildout aims to power several of the tech giant's services, including its AI chatbot Gemini.

"This investment is historical in Finland," the country's Prime Minister Petteri Orpo told AFP after a press conference.

He called it a sign that "we have done the right things



Finland's Prime Minister Antti Rinne (R) and Google CEO Sundar Pichai address a joint press conference in Helsinki, Finland, on September 20, 2019.

in Finland", citing investments in the power grid, electricity production and the labor force.

"This makes us a front-runner in digitalization and AI," Orpo said.

Since buying a former paper mill and transforming it into a data centre in the coastal city of Hamina in 2009, Google has steadily

increased its presence in the country.

Antti Jarvinen, the company's director for Finland, said the Hamina site had already been expanded seven times and currently housed seven data centers.

"Now we are building more in Hamina, expanding that

site on a remarkable level, and we are opening up data centre operations in three new locations in the municipalities of Kajaani, Muhos and Vaala," Jarvinen told AFP.

He said the final numbers on how many new data centers would emerge were expected in the coming months.

The construction phase of the new investments is expected for 2027 and 2028, and Google estimated it would boost Finland's GDP by 3.6 billion euros annually and "support more than 37,000 jobs".

Around 16,000 of these jobs will be in the construction sector.

After the construction phase, running the new operations will support around 7,000 direct and indirect jobs annually, Google said.

- Courting investments -

With its cool climate and relatively stable and cheap electricity thanks to nuclear plants as well as extensive wind and hydro power, Finland has seen a boom in data centers in recent years, with dozens already under construction.

Attracting investments in the sector has been a priority for Orpo's right-wing government as the Nordic country grapples with record-high unemployment and sluggish economic growth. □

ARUBA TODAY

Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales
Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@ArubaTodayNews

Gambling with our lives': AI researcher quits Anthropic

'San Francisco, United State

An artificial intelligence researcher who left OpenAI to join Anthropic has decided to leave the industry, accusing both U.S. companies of "gambling with our lives" in the race to develop AI models capable of self-improvement. Jacob Coxon, 27, spent the past three years pre-training AI models, first at OpenAI and then, this year, at its rival Anthropic,

which he considered more cautious in its approach. Pre-training is the stage where AI models absorb vast quantities of data.

"Neither company is acting responsibly. They are racing straight to self-improving super intelligence and gambling with our lives," Coxon said on Tuesday.

"The people building AI earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade," he said in

a post on X.

"This is not a marketing stunt," he added.

Super intelligence is the theoretical point when AI's capabilities exceed human intelligence.

Anthropic safety executive Evan Hubinger backed up Coxon on X.

"We really do earnestly believe AI could kill all humans!" he said, adding that he estimated that risk at more than 10 percent over the next decade.

Hubinger said Anthropic is "trying its best", but does not yet have a plan to ensure an AI system that surpasses human capabilities would obey its creators. He said there was a "low" risk of that happening with current models.

Coxon's resignation comes as Anthropic prepares for its market debut, following a summer marked by unauthorized hacks carried out by AI tools during testing.

The two companies did

not immediately respond to AFP requests for comment.

AI leaders say so-called "recursive self-improvement," a stage where AI systems could essentially design and train the next generation of AI with little human involvement, is drawing near.

Coxon considers Anthropic's efforts genuine but said he believes no company can responsibly develop an AI that surpasses humans without government intervention or a co-ordinated slowdown.

"At Anthropic, the stakes are well-understood, but they are locked in a race to get there first -- they believe no one else will act responsibly, so they must do it themselves, despite the risk," he said.

In February, Anthropic removed a pledge from its safety charter to halt the development of its models if it failed to control their risks. □



The Claude by Anthropic AI assistant app logo is seen on a smartphone screen in this illustration photo taken on September 9, 2026.

Seahawks beat Patriots again in NFL opener

Los Angeles, United States

The Seattle Seahawks shrugged off Sam Darnold's early injury to beat the New England Patriots 13-10 in the NFL's opening game, piling more misery on the team they defeated in last season's Super Bowl. Backup quarterback Drew Lock threw for 187 yards and a touchdown to Jackson Smith-Njigba, as reigning champs Seattle rallied from 10-0 down for their 11th consecutive win.

The latest loss inflicted more pain on New England quarterback Drake Maye, who threw three costly interceptions, including a particularly wasteful one in the final seconds from field-goal range to throw away a patchy, defensive game. Maye who had been sacked six times in February's Super Bowl, and suffered three more here was picked off by Seahawks cornerback Josh Jobe in the end zone.

"It was game on the line. You know, fourth quarter... we only was up three points, and we got to take the ball away, and we did," said Jobe.

"Holy cow, we did it! Here we are, one-and-zero," said Lock.

And it was a night to forget



Josh Jobe #29 of the Seattle Seahawks celebrates with teammates after intercepting a pass in the end zone intended for Mack Hollins #13 of the New England Patriots during the fourth quarter in the game at Lumen Field on September 09, 2026 in Seattle, Washington.

for the Patriot's new acquisitions too, as AJ Brown limped off with an ankle injury and Romeo Doubs was beaten for one interception and was guilty of a terrible drop shortly before a second.

The Seattle evening began in festive fashion. A new Super Bowl LX championship banner was unfurled from Lumen Field's colossal rafters. Pearl Jam's Mike McCready performed the national anthem.

But the mood was punctured on the game's first drive. Darnold was sacked on third down by Dre'Mont Jones, and limped to the locker room via the medical tent clutching his hip. He did not return.

The Patriots struck first. Maye hurled the ball 34 yards to Brown on the edge of the endzone. Defensive pass interference was called, and Maye immediately lofted a short pass over the top to

newly drafted tight end Eli Raridon for the season's first touchdown.

Seattle fought back. Veteran receiver Cooper Kupp took a stunning one-handed diving catch from Lock for a 24-yard gain on third down. The pair then celebrated a touchdown pass, before the score was ruled out for an illegal shift, and the Seahawks settled for a field goal.

- Interceptions -

After a promising Patriots drive, Maye's ambitious downfield hurl to Romeo Doubs ricocheted off Rodney Thomas's fingers to Nehemiah Pritchett for the game's first interception. The Seahawks made Maye pay. At 4th & 1, Lock passed to an open Smith-Njigba, who raced past the Patriots defense at lightning speed for a 45-yard touchdown, tying the game 10-10. Seattle drove again, with Lock peppering passes before charging 14 yards into the red zone. A series of errors from a hugely promising position meant it was only a field goal.

An increasingly desperate Maye suffered his first sack of the night trying to break through the Seattle defense. Two more swiftly followed, though the Patriots somehow edged the ball upfield, twice successfully going for fourth downs.

But sensing a chance for a winning touchdown, despite being in field goal range, Maye hurled a deep right pass to Mack Hollins in the end zone, resulting in Jobe's game-ending interception. "We've moved on. This is a new season. We did the banner thing. It's time to find out who 2026 Seahawks are going to be," said Lock. □

Kung wins Vuelta time-trial as Mas retains lead

Jerez de la Frontera, Spain

Swiss Stefan Kung won Thursday's stage 18 time-trial as Spaniard Enric Mas retained the overall lead at the Vuelta a Espana. But four-time winner Primož Roglic finished more than 30 seconds quicker than Mas and trimmed down the Movistar rider's lead to 1min 37sec as the Slovenian leapfrogged Felix Gall into second place.

With just three stages left, including two successive mountain top finishes, Mas is looking increasingly likely to finally claim his first home Grand Tour.

"The whole race went well, I lost less time than I expected, I'm happy with my

day," said Mas.

The 31-year-old has finished second three times, to Simon Yates in 2018, to Roglic in 2021 and to Remco Evenepoel the year after that.

He was also third behind Roglic and Australian Ben O'Connor two years ago. Roglic, 36, is his closest challenger after finishing Thursday's 32.1km time-trial in fourth, just 19sec behind Kung, with Briton Callum Thornley second at 3sec and Portugal's Joao Almeida third at 9sec.

"In the end, you have to win. (It) doesn't matter how big the margin is," said the Tudor Pro Cycling rider,

who won his 24th time-trial as a professional.

"I'm super happy to take the win here. I'm alone on the podium today, but it's a victory from the whole team."

Roglic finished 33sec quicker than Mas and 1:28 faster than Gall.

Austrian Gall is just over three minutes behind Mas but has a buffer of more than two minutes to fourth-placed Richard Carapaz, who finished eighth at July's Tour de France.

Briton Oscar Onley, who is fifth overall, extended his lead in the best young rider white jersey category to almost a minute ahead of Slovenian Jakob Omerzel.

Friday's stage 19 is a hilly 210.8km ride, starting from Velez-Malaga and culmi-

nating in an altitude finish at Penas Blancas. □



Team Tudor Pro Cycling Team's Swiss rider Stefan Kung crosses the finish line of the 18th stage of the Vuelta a Espana 2026 cycling tour, a 32,1 km individual time-trial race between El Puerto de Santa Maria and Jerez de la Frontera, on September 10, 2026.



THE CASINO AT
THE RITZ-CARLTON
ARUBA

WIN!
YOUR DREAM CAR

SEPTEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 1, 2026
Receive one (1) raffle ticket for every 50 points / \$25 theoretical win.
Weekly earning period from Sunday to Saturday.

DREAM CAR GIVEAWAY
ANNOUNCING WINNER ON NOVEMBER 1, 2026
(\$1,000 GASOLINE VOUCHER + 1 YEAR FREE SERVICE!)

\$44,000 IN TOTAL PRIZES
SELECTING LUCKY WINNERS IN CASH
PRIZES EVERY SATURDAY STARTING AT 9:30PM

YRAUSQUIN

Must be over the age of 18 years. The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

Ultimate Championship as big as Olympics - and more lucrative, says Bolt

Budapest, Hungary

Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt claimed 19 global titles in a storied career, but he wishes the kind of prize money on offer at the Ultimate Championship from Friday had been available when he was competing.

Bolt got rich from appearance fees and endorse-

ments off the track rather than prize money as he claimed treble sprint golds at the 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympics, also picking up two 4x100m sprint titles.

At the world championships, the now 40-year-old won consecutive 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay golds medals from 2009-15, with the excep-

tion of 2011 when he false-started.

Importantly, the Jamaican, still the world record holder in the 100 and 200m, built up an off-track persona that combined a towering presence alongside his achievements that always ensured he was in high demand.

Bolt brought down the curtain on his glittering career at the 2017 world championships in London and the gaping hole he left in track and field has never quite been filled.

But he has been brought on board as an ambassador for the inaugural Ultimate Championship in Budapest, a three-day biennial competition launched by World Athletics president Sebastian Coe as a season-enders for a year without a world championships or Olympic Games.

"I was happy when Seb explained to me that this is what we're doing. It was a no brainer to be a part of it," Bolt said of the Ultimate, with 28 disciplines delivered in a fast-paced, made-for-television format.

"I'm sad this is happening now! But I guess that's just one of those things. I'm here to enjoy it and to promote it and just to let the world know that track and field is here to stay. "We're going to continue pushing and continue growing the sport itself to bigger and better things. I'm happy to be a part of this and it's going to be great."

- Incentivising athletes -

The Ultimate features an unprecedented \$10 million prize money pot, with individual event winners collecting \$150,000.

Should a sprinter win the 100m, 200m and relay in Budapest, it would make

for an impressive payday.

"I was having a conversation with Asafa before I came here," Bolt said of former Jamaican teammate Asafa Powell.

"We were actually talking about that same thing. I mean, jeez, we missed out on this cash prize!"

Bolt added: "I won a few championships and it still does not add up to all the cash."

"So, it's big. I think it's good for the sport and it incentivises athletes to come out here and do the best, to show up and to be ready."

"This is a job for us. This is what we do. So, it's sad I missed out on it but I'm happy for the athletes."

Coe's ground-breaking move to award prize money to track and field gold medallists at the 2024 Paris Olympics ruffled some feathers. □



Former Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt arrives for a red-carpet event ahead of the World Athletics Ultimate Championship at the Gyula Zsivotzky National Athletics Centre in Budapest on September 10, 2026.