



Snakes of Aruba



Page 10

Friends and family honor Charlie's memory with a donation to Aruba Animal Shelter



Page 8

Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters



Page 11

BELGIAN BISTRO
L'AVENUE

- ARUBA -
AUTHENTIC BELGIAN
FOOD & BEERS

WWW.LAVENUEARUBA.COM



OPEN EVERY DAY
LUNCH - DINNER
COUPON

1 FREE
BELGIAN BEER
WITH ENTREE

LOCATED IN THE COVE, PALM BEACH, ARUBA

U.S. Fed raises rates to tackle 'too high' inflation in move sure to rile Trump

Washington, United States

The US Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates for the first time since 2023, defying President Donald Trump's demand for cuts, as central bank chief Kevin Warsh stressed the need to combat inflation that has been "too high" for "too long."

The Fed's Federal Open Market Committee voted unanimously to raise rates by 25 basis points to between 3.75 and 4.00 percent, saying the rate hike would support a "timelier return" to its two-percent target for inflation.

Warsh, appointed by Trump, said the decision was a "serious" one, but needed to be taken.

"The plain fact is that inflation is too high, and has been for too long," he told a press conference.

And Wednesday's rate hike may not be the last the vast majority of Fed policymakers indicated that at least one more rate hike was likely necessary before the end of the year, according to their Summary of Economic Projections.

U.S. households and businesses have been battered by years of higher-than-target inflation, and prices have surged in the wake of Trump's war on Iran, his



U.S. Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh speaks during a news conference at the William McChesney Martin Jr. Federal Reserve Board Building in Washington, DC, on September 16, 2026.

signature tariff policies and the ongoing AI boom.

Trump has launched an unprecedented assault on the Fed's independence since taking office, attempting to fire a Fed Governor and launching a criminal probe against Warsh's predecessor in his quest for lower rates to spur economic activity.

The president's Republican Party faces a stern test in upcoming midterm elections, with rival Democrats

seeking to wrest control of both houses of Congress and economic issues front-and-center for voters.

- Growing calls for hike -

The Fed has held rates steady since January, choosing to wait to gauge the effects of the Iran war's energy price shocks and to let the impact of tariffs on prices ripple through the economy.

Since July, however, a growing faction of policy-

makers had indicated a rate hike may be required to tame inflation, as the war grinds on and prices remained elevated.

On Friday, August's consumer price index came in at 3.4 percent unchanged from the month before, but still well above the Fed's long-term two-percent target.

In its SEP, the Fed raised its forecast for its preferred gauge of inflation the Personal Consumption Expen-

ditures (PCE) price index by 0.1 percentage points to 3.7 percent by year-end. The Fed also raised its projection for GDP growth by year-end to 2.3 percent, up 0.1 percentage points.

- 'Rather unfortunate' -

U.S. stock markets largely priced in Wednesday's rate hike, but they were still down on the news expected with any rate hike as equities become less attractive.

Yields on 10-year US Treasury bonds which have surged in recent days as uncertainty on long-term inflation has spiked -- were also up past the five-percent threshold.

Following the Fed's announcement, White House spokesperson Kush Desai said the decision was "rather unfortunate" and that Trump had been clear that he wanted lower interest rates.

Warsh was named to his position after a contentious Senate confirmation process, where Democratic lawmakers accused him of being a "sock puppet" for Trump, which he denied.

So far, Trump has supported Warsh, claiming that the Fed chair wants lower rates and accusing the board of being "political." □

New California law mandates AI performer disclosure in ads

Los Angeles, United States

Advertisers must disclose use of AI-generated performers to consumers in California under a new law signed Wednesday by the

state's governor.

The legislation is the latest effort by the largest US state economy to tame the power of a technology that many Americans con-

sider to be running away. Under the new law, advertisers who use performers generated by artificial intelligence in any video or audio advertisement will have to explicitly say so to viewers and listeners.

"Californians deserve to know when the person selling them something isn't a person at all," Governor Gavin Newsom said after signing the bill into law.

"Here in California, we're building on our nation-leading AI regulations and putting common sense guardrails in place to protect consumers, performers, and promote stronger transparency."

The legislation was drafted

in part by SAG-AFTRA, the union representing actors, which has long campaigned against the use of avatars in film and television.

The bill "gives consumers greater transparency by making clear when they are seeing synthetics rather than human performers," said the union's director and chief negotiator, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland.

"This is an important step in the broader effort to protect consumers from deceptive AI practices, and to ensure that AI technology isn't used at the expense of human creativity and consent."

The use of AI has become a major issue in Hollywood. Writers and performers have previously gone on strike in part over fears that studios might opt to use the technology to churn out content, dispensing with humans.

While the federal government under President Donald Trump has taken a hands-off approach to AI and to tech regulation in general California has begun to police it more aggressively.

This month the state became the first in the nation to enact a law prohibiting social media companies from offering addictive features to users under 16 years old. □



California Governor Gavin Newsom meets Union County voters amid some outside Trump supporting protesters at a Labor Day weekend Rally in Monroe NC, United States on September 05, 2026.



U.S. President Donald Trump (C) arrives to speak about the Ratepayer Protection Pledge at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington, DC, on July 23, 2026.

U.S. House targets data centers as midterm backlash grows

Washington, United States

The U.S. House of Representatives is set to vote Wednesday on whether data centers should shoulder more of their own electricity costs, as the power-hungry engines of America's AI boom become a major issue in November's midterm elections.

The bipartisan Ratepayer Protection Act would require state utility regulators to consider special rules ensuring the sprawling server farms meet the expense of new power generation, transmission lines and other grid upgrades needed to serve them.

The measure targets one of the most politically potent complaints surrounding the rapid spread of the giant facilities, with ordinary Americans being left to subsidize the extraordinary electricity demands of artificial intelligence.

On one grid covering 67 million customers including in perennial swing state Pennsylvania and hotly contested Senate battleground Ohio increased data center demand helped drive costs up by \$9.3 billion in a single year a 174 percent rise, according to an independent market monitor.

But electricity bills are only part of a backlash that has

spread across the country, fueled by concerns over water consumption, pollution, noise and lucrative tax breaks offered to wealthy technology companies.

In Brazoria, Texas, resident Melissa Burnett told AFP last month that a 17-megawatt facility near her home sounded "like a freight train always coming at you."

"We were not supposed to hear it, nor was it supposed to affect our quality of life, and it's just done the opposite," she said.

Candidates in more than 20 races across at least 18 states have run television advertisements mentioning data centers this election cycle, almost evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats.

- Wider AI fears -

President Donald Trump remains an enthusiastic supporter of rapid data center construction, arguing that the United States must expand AI infrastructure to defeat China in the global technology race.

His administration persuaded Google, Microsoft, Meta, Oracle, xAI, OpenAI and Amazon to sign a voluntary pledge not to leave consumers paying for new power infrastructure.

But opposition has spread among candidates in both

parties despite the White House's stance.

Texas Republican Governor Greg Abbott who is up for reelection in November has frozen new projects while officials study their effects on electricity and water supplies, while New York has imposed a year-long moratorium on new hyperscale centers. In Ohio, Republican Senator Jon Husted has been battered by Democratic opponent Sherrod Brown over his previous support for data centers and is urging the upper chamber to move quickly on the House ratepayer bill if it passes.

Public anxiety has intensified following warnings from researchers and industry leaders about increasingly powerful systems, while lawmakers remain deeply divided over how aggressively Washington should intervene. Nearly two-thirds of Americans in a new Politico poll said AI could eventually pose a threat to humanity, while 48 percent favored pausing development of more advanced models. Louisiana Republican Senator John Kennedy is seeking passage of legislation requiring AI companies to maintain a "kill switch" allowing them to shut down dangerous systems. □



Ivonne A-Baki speaks to the press following a hearing to be considered as a candidate to the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations at UN headquarters in New York on August 20, 2026.

Candidate for UN chief calls for AI regulation akin to nuclear weapons

United Nations, United States

A contender to lead the UN called Wednesday for artificial intelligence to be regulated like nuclear weapons, warning that a Third World War would be fought with the emerging technology.

The issue of AI looks set to dominate a week of talks and meetings between world leaders due to get underway at the UN amid dire warnings of the technology's potential danger.

"We are almost at the brink of a Third World War...and it's a more dangerous one. This time, it's not going to be just the nuclear danger, but AI as well," Ivonne A-Baki, an Ecuadoran-Lebanese diplomat nominated by Tonga to be the next UN Secretary General, told AFP.

"The things that are most important now for humanity is no nuclear and a regulated AI. It's going to be a big gap if we don't regulate it...So it has to be starting now. You have to create awareness of it.

"It's not difficult to do that, because everybody knows that now AI is the problem."

A-Baki's intervention came as the current UN chief Antonio Guterres, who will bow out at the end of the year, called for "global coordination" on the future of AI.

"The world cannot afford a race to the bottom on AI safety," he warned Wednesday.

Concerns about AI safety have escalated in recent weeks, with workers at major AI developers resigning over concerns about the dangers posed by the technology.

A-Baki said humanity was "not controlling" AI's development "because we are depending on it instead of being the ones that have been creating it independently." Agreement on the future of the technology between tech superpowers Washington and Beijing would be essential to protecting humanity, she said.

"President Trump and President Xi Jinping, they are becoming, in a way, friends for a better world. They shouldn't be competing. They should be cooperating," she said.

A-Baki, a former Ecuadoran trade minister, acknowledged that paralysis of the UN's top body, the Security Council, was an issue but stressed "they should be working together for the benefit of everyone." □



Atmospheric image of visitors at a portrait of Madame Ginoux, café terrace at night, portrait of Joseph-Michel Ginoux during the exhibition Van Gogh, all our paintings at the Kröller-Müller Museum.

Huge Van Gogh collection reunited for first time since 1984

Otterlo, Netherlands

A Dutch museum Tuesday put a collection of 88 paintings by Vincent van Gogh on display for the first time since 1984, in an exhibition featuring masterpieces such as "The Potato Eaters".

The Kroller-Muller museum in the central Netherlands holds one of the world's largest private collections of paintings by the 19th century Dutch master, but they are rarely displayed together.

"Seeing the work of Van Gogh is always special, but 88 together, I don't think it has happened before in this century," museum director Benno Tempel told AFP in an interview.

"The funny thing is with a museum collection is that you have a lot of paintings, you have a lot of artworks, but you don't show all of them," he said.

Usually many of the works are out on loan, undergoing restoration or research, or absent for education purposes, explained Tempel.

"So, in our case, it was a rare chance that all of a sudden all the 88 paintings by Van Gogh were in our house at the same time," he told AFP.

Alongside "The Potato Eaters", the artist's world-fa-

mous depiction of peasant life from 1885, the exhibition includes "Terrace of a Cafe at Night" (1888) and "The Old Tower at Nuenen" (1884).

Even the staff at the museum had never seen all the paintings together, said Tempel.

"For us it's an enormous, beautiful experience. It's overwhelming," said the 54-year-old.

- 'Biggest stars' -

The exhibition has been organized around the theme of the three divine virtues: faith, hope and love.

These themes "give you more insight not only into Van Gogh's life, but also into his development as an artist," curator Renske Cohen Tervaert told AFP.

The goal of the exhibition is not to repeat the myths about the famously tortured artist, she explained. The museum aims to explore "more about the reason he wanted to become an artist... and how he managed to use his paintings as a message, as a method of compassion and trying to help other people."

The post-Impressionist painter is among the most celebrated and prolific artists in history, having created around 900 paintings over a short career.

He produced many of his best-known works during his time in France, where he painted masterpieces including the famous "Sunflowers" series and a number of well-known self-portraits.

The artist died in 1890 at the age of 37, two days after shooting himself in the chest following well-documented mental health struggles.

Most of the works acquired in Tuesday's exhibition, entitled "Van Gogh, All Our Paintings", were acquired by the museum's founder Helene Kroller-Muller between 1908 and 1930.

Tervaert said she was honored her museum was able to put on such an exhibit, which is roughly double the number of paintings normally on display there. She said it was also an important event for the Netherlands, where she believes the artist achieves less fame than he does abroad.

"I mean, he's one of our biggest stars," said the 46-year-old.

German tourist Barbara Brandt, 73, was certainly impressed as she toured the museum.

"It's extraordinary to look at all these pictures in one place," she told AFP. □



U.S. comedian, actor and filmmaker Zach Cregger attends the premiere of Columbia Pictures' "Resident Evil" at the United Theater on Broadway in Los Angeles on September 15, 2026.

'Resident Evil' film brings video game's ethos to the big screen

Los Angeles, United States

U.S. director Zach Cregger is a huge fan of the "Resident Evil" video game franchise, so when he was tapped to direct its new film adaptation, he gave himself one objective: "Be authentic to the spirit of the games."

The "Weapons" and "Barbarian" filmmaker did so by leaning into the visual language of video games, shooting the film from the perspective of the protagonist, played by Austin Abrams.

Cregger decided it was more important to match the vibe of playing "Resident Evil" than using the characters or plot from the series.

"It's a new character, but the story should feel like the gameplay feels," he told AFP in an interview.

The new film, which hits U.S. theaters on Friday, follows Bryan (Abrams), a courier who takes on a late-night delivery job from a hospital that quickly devolves into a nightmare.

By placing the camera behind Abrams so it was "swinging around to look at what he's looking at," he choreographed it such that it "feels video game-like" from that first-person perspective.

Another way he adapted the game was in the progression of weaponry available for the hero.

"You start with a pistol, and then you get a shotgun, then you get a machine gun," Cregger explained.

"I feel like people who play the games...are gonna recognize many aspects of the games in this movie."

- 'Sense of dread' -

While previous movie adaptations of "Resident Evil" such as those starring Milla Jovovich were more action movies, Cregger went all-in on horror for the latest edition.

"I wanted to really lean into the horror, and that slow sense of dread that the games have done so well across all of them," Cregger said.

That is not to say the new film lacks action sequences, and leading man Abrams said he had to get in shape to shoot the movie though he did not want to look like he was playing a superhero. "A part of the challenge was...I wanted the character to not be someone that looked like they could do this," Abrams told AFP.

"I feel like the more in-shape he is, the more you feel like, 'okay, man, maybe you can do this.'"

The 30-year-old actor admitted he had never played "Resident Evil" until he landed the film's lead role, but he is now familiar with the challenge and he does not think he would make it through the ordeal his character Bryan has to survive. □

EU chief pitches 'associate member' status for Canada

Strasbourg, France

EU chief Ursula von der Leyen raised the prospect Wednesday of Canada becoming the 27-nation bloc's first "associate member", as she pitched closer cooperation on tech, defence and energy to Canadian leader Mark Carney. Von der Leyen told the European Parliament in Strasbourg that, as democracies face a "fracture in the international rules-based system", Brussels and Ottawa needed to pull closer together.

"I would like to work with you on opening the door for Canada to be the first associate member of the EU," von der Leyen told the Canadian prime minister, who was attending her annual keynote speech -- drawing a standing ovation in the chamber.

Carney has been pursuing closer ties with the European Union, as both seek to pivot away from a hostile United States under President Donald Trump. The first non-European head of government to attend the annual "State of the European Union" speech -- before addressing the



This handout photograph taken and released by the European Union on September 16, 2026 shows European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (L) greeting Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney during her annual keynote address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, eastern France.

parliament himself the next day his visit is meant to act as a catalyst ahead of an EU-Canada summit in Montreal next month.

Von der Leyen said it was time to move from cooperation based on trade to a broader "alliance for the future" and "bring the relationship with Canada to the highest level possible".

"We will work on intelligent manufacturing. We will create a tech alliance. We will integrate defence industrial bases. We will make the Arctic a flagship joint project," she said. She listed energy, critical minerals, batteries, AI, cyber and economic security as other fields of cooperation.

"This is a partnership not

against anyone else, but for our common strength," she said.

But both the EU and Canada have been buffeted by tariffs and territorial threats from the US and competition from China.

"In a more dangerous and divided world, Canada is forging stronger relationships with trusted partners," Carney's office said in a

statement.

Discussions with von der Leyen focused on areas including critical minerals, energy, defence, research and development, and advanced technologies, it added.

- What's in a name -

While EU treaties do not envision the possibility of becoming an "associate member", the idea was first floated by German Chancellor Friedrich Merz this year vis-a-vis Ukraine.

Under that plan, which met a cold reception from a country pushing for full membership, Ukraine would have been allowed to attend the bloc's summits and have a representative in the European Commission.

It would have also benefited from parts of the EU budget, but without full voting rights.

"We don't really know yet what it means," said Tobias Cremer, a centre-left European lawmaker from Germany and the main sponsor of a resolution urging stronger EU-Canada cooperation, after von der Leyen's "associate membership" pitch. □

Post-Maduro Venezuela has kept 'repressive apparatus': U.N. experts

Geneva, Switzerland

Venezuela has maintained a "repressive apparatus" responsible for illegal detentions and disappearances despite improvements in human rights since the United States detained longtime leader Nicolas Maduro, U.N. investigators said Wednesday.

The UN Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela said it had seen "a significant decline in long-term detentions and related enforced disappearances" since US forces swooped to seize Maduro on January 3.

It added however that while many political detainees had been released and there was greater scope for political gatherings, "these changes have not been accompa-

nied by the institutional reforms required to ensure a meaningful and sustained improvement in the human rights situation".

"Numerous laws used to criminalize dissent remain in force," the mission said in a statement as it prepares to hand its report to the U.N. Human Rights Council on Friday.

"And the country's extensive intelligence services and security forces retain essentially the same structures, policies and practices."

It said no moves had been made to dismantle the "colectivos" pro-government armed groups that the investigators called a "central component" of the state's repressive apparatus.

And at least 19 officials are still in work despite being accused of violations, the investigators said.

"The reduction in some of the harshest forms of repression is notable, but it does not yet amount in any way to a transformation of the system that made them possible," said mission leader Sofia Macher. Macher said the improvement was "fragile and reversible".

Maduro, 63, is now in detention in New York facing charges of trafficking tonnes of cocaine into the United States.

The ruling Chavismo party is to start a new round of talks with opposition groups this week on the post-Maduro transition. After talks last month, the Venezuelan presidency

announced the release of 131 political prisoners, though NGOs were only able to confirm around 80 releases and estimate over 300 remain detained.

About 100 relatives of po-

litical prisoners marched on the Miraflores palace of acting leader Delcy Rodriguez last Friday in a rare protest demanding that more political detainees are released. □



Relatives of political prisoners take part in a protest demanding the release of detainees and denouncing the failure to comply with previously announced prisoner releases, near the Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas on September 11, 2026.



An aerial view shows the Musi River covered in haze caused by forest and land fires in Palembang, South Sumatra, on September 13, 2026.

‘Breathing toxin every day’: Indonesians choked by haze feel helpless

Pontianak, Indonesia

Struggling to breathe through the acrid haze emanating from wildfires on Indonesia’s Borneo island, residents told AFP on Wednesday they feared for their health but had little to do but wait out the foul-smelling hazard.

Indonesia, which shares Borneo with Malaysia and Brunei, is grappling with forest fires that have ravaged swathes of the island, partly caused by the El Nino climate phenomenon that has also affected other countries in Southeast Asia and beyond.

In Pontianak, the capital of West Kalimantan province, the thick, yellow smoke was so intense that it had paralysed the international airport over the weekend.

“My eyes sting, my head hurts. Over the past week it’s been getting worse,” resident Anggita Putri told AFP.

“While working, my chest feels tight, my head dizzy, my eyes burning. Even with this unhealthy air, we still must work,” she said.

The air quality index for Pontianak briefly exceeded 1,100 over the weekend, Anggita said nearly four times the hazardous limit.

“I leave my child at home, so of course I have worries that go beyond just my own health. I’m also concerned about my child’s condition,” said the 28-year-old, who has a three-year-old son.

Another Pontianak resident, 35-year-old university lecturer Djunita Permata Indah, also said she was concerned for her two children, aged two and four.

“The situation is quite bad. I’m worried about the children’s health. Even as an adult, I feel my head aching and dizzy because of the smoky air,” she told AFP. “But parents still must work, so the children are forced to keep going to daycare, where they remain exposed to the smoke that has already started to enter the house.”

The health ministry said last week that more than 113,000 cases of upper respiratory tract infections had been recorded across seven provinces since the fires began to rage early this year.

Brief rainfall on Tuesday, which some residents had hoped could alleviate the risk, did little to help and only intensified the thick smoke, Djunita said.

Local authorities said they

were intensifying efforts to bring the haze under control, including by water bombing and cloud seeding.

- ‘Surrounded by smoke’ -

Indonesia regularly battles wildfires during the dry season, which typically runs from July to October, but the blazes this year have been particularly bad in part because the powerful El Nino expected to be the strongest since comparable records began four decades ago.

Experts also blame climate change, decades of forest degradation and slash-and-burn land clearing practices that have changed the naturally fire-resistant landscape.

From Borneo, the haze has also spread to neighbouring Singapore and Malaysia.

The Indonesian government has said that between January and July, more than 202,000 hectares of land burned across the country.

The Nusantara Atlas project put that figure close to 300,000 for the same period, and last week estimated the total area affected, including August, was nearly 896,000 hectares. □



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, (C-R), and his wife, Sara, (C-L) cast their ballot at his party Likud’s main polling station during primary elections ahead of Israel’s general election in October in Jerusalem on August 17, 2026.

Netanyahu’s party seeks to impede Israeli expat voting

Jerusalem, Undefined

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s party on Wednesday petitioned the electoral commission to block initiatives aimed at helping Israelis who live abroad return to vote in upcoming close-fought elections.

Israel’s electoral law does not allow citizens residing outside the country to vote abroad, except for diplomats and emissaries sent by certain organizations. The Central Bureau of Statistics estimates there are 600,000 Israelis living abroad.

Government opponents have been working for several weeks to encourage voters to come home to cast their ballots, hoping to strengthen the anti-Netanyahu camp in elections scheduled for October 27.

Initiatives include offering discounted plane tickets, assisting expatriates with the administrative procedures required to vote and organizing their transport from the airport.

Attorney Ilan Bombach, representing Netanyahu’s right-wing Likud party, filed an appeal on Wednesday with the chairman of the Central Elections Committee demanding an end to these practices.

The petition specifically targets the US-based AID Coalition, an organization which says it is aimed at “strengthening and preserving the democratic foundations of the State of Israel” and is behind the “Fly&Vote” scheme.

The petition also targets the opposition Democrats party.

In his appeal, seen by AFP, Bombach likens these methods to an “electoral bribe” and argues that they violate the law on party financing.

Likud maintains that even if the passengers themselves pay for their plane tickets, the “Fly&Vote” scheme grants illicit benefits, such as discounted fares negotiated with airlines through group bookings.

The AID Coalition, which says it is an apolitical organization, said it had received and would examine the appeal from Likud.

It accused the party of seeking “to prevent Israeli citizens those who took a plane to come and fight on October 7, who pay taxes and are involved in the life of their homeland from being granted the right and duty to take part in deciding the future of the State of Israel.” According to polls, the elections are expected to be tightly contested between the bloc led by Netanyahu and that of his main rival, centrist Gadi Eisenkot. □

Aruba: the legend behind its name

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

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

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

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezue-

la, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you." "Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curaçao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our home-

land Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indig-



enous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes

were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

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

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

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

Aruba's first Ombudsman and what she can mean for you

(Oranjestad)—Ombudsman Mrs. Jurima Bryson, appointed on October 1st 2024, is proud to represent

Aruba and is prepared to help both locals and tourists with their concerns.

handle your complaint even from abroad. You only have to provide a way for them to reach you.

Follow the ombudsman on Instagram: @ombudsmanaruba and Facebook: Ombudsman Aruba□



What is the role of the Ombudsman?

In a nutshell, the Ombudsman is the middle man between you and government or semi-government agencies. This means that as a local or as a visitor of Aruba, you can file a complaint to the bureau of the Ombudsman against government and semi-government agencies. Already left the island? No problem. The Ombudsman of Aruba can still receive and

To contact the Ombudsman, you can visit the office located at Caya G.F. Betico Croes 149, Oranjestad, Aruba. You can also call at +297 281 6800 or email @ombudsman.aw. for more questions or complaints.

Opening hours

The Ombudsman office is open to the public with no appointment from Monday to Friday from 8:30 to 11:30 am.





📍 Eagle Aruba Resort | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #248 Eagle Beach, Aruba 📺 DoubleDown.SportsBarGrill 📷 doubledownsportsbargrill

NFL Season is back at Double Down Sports Bar & Grill! Tune in with the best crowd in Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—Football is back and there's only one place in Aruba where the hits are big, the wings are hotter and the energy is louder. It's at Double Down Sports Bar & Grill!

This NFL season we are turning up the volume and bringing the stadium straight to you. Whether you are a die-hard Dolphins fan, bleed green for the Eagles, ride with the Chiefs or just love a game with cold beer and great food, Double Down is where you need to be every Sunday, Monday and Thursday night. The best crowd in Aruba—this is what makes Double Down different. We are not just a bar; we are a community where locals, tourists and expats all come together.

Bring your jersey and your crew. Wear your colors loud and proud at Double Down. Everybody's got a seat at the table and a team to root for.



This is your home for the NFL season in Aruba. See you at kickoff. **LET'S GOOOOOOO!** 📺



Friends and family honor Charlie's memory with a donation to Aruba Animal Shelter

(Oranjestad)—Under the warm, cozy sunset, friends and family of Charles James "Charlie" Lobacz gathered at the lagoon at Renaissance Ocean Suites to remember their late friend. Charlie, fishing enthusiast, animal lover and a long-time friend of Aruba, was honored by his wife, Lorraine, with a dona-



tion to Aruba Animal shelter. The short yet heart-felt memorial service included a moving sermon and some lovely words from friends at the Renaissance Ocean Suites. Lorraine herself is no stranger to Aruba Today; in the past we have written about her volunteerism at local animal shelters of Aruba.

When Charlie passed on March 23rd of this year, Lorraine asked friends and family to not give her flowers, but to donate instead to a local animal shelter. And

many people did, with one person even adopting a dog that at the time was facing euthanasia. Today, as Lorraine says, pictures show a very happy and healthy dog. Charlie's dedication to local animal shelters in the US and Aruba has spanned years, and Lorraine recalls how his contribution has made a big impact over the years—one shelter was even able to renovate their surgical unit. Each year, their "Aruba Group" goes to a local shelter and "every cat, dog, kitten, puppy gets hugs and treats," Lorraine says. The



Aruba Animal Shelter was also present at Charlie's memorial, where they honored Charlie's continuous annual support. Standing next to Lorraine, they accepted her generous donation to their

organization. Even though Charlie is no longer with us, his dedication and love for animals will continue to live on through Lorraine. Rest in peace, dear friend. 📺

Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members

BONUS
B I N G O
THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

\$1,500 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

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.

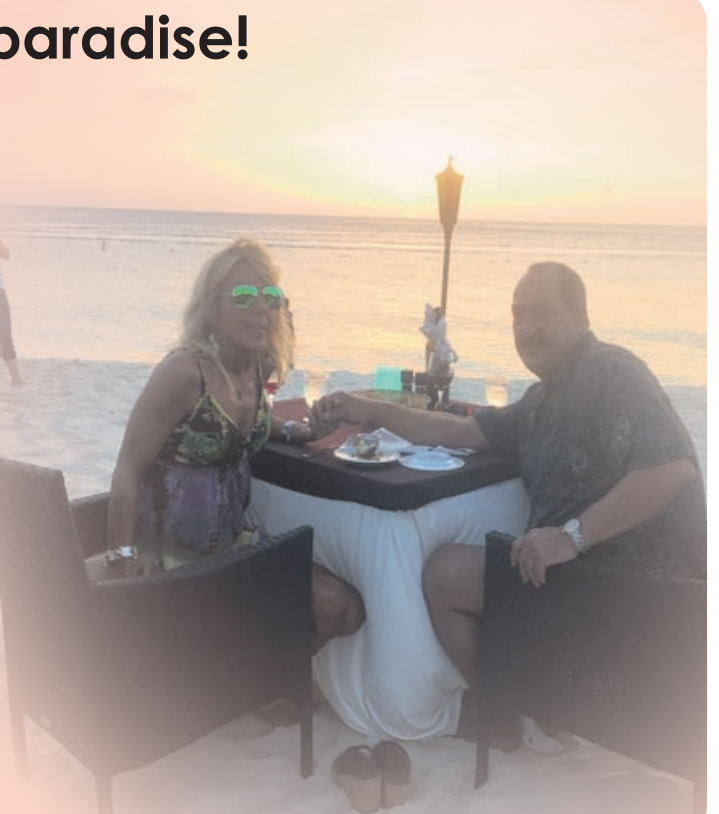


30 times to paradise!

Christopher Berge and Linda Luposello just touched down for their 30th trip to Aruba and this time they are home at Iberostar!

From trip #1 to #30. You have watched our sunsets, danced to our music and made Aruba part of your story. You are not guests anymore. You are family.

'Danki' for choosing one Happy Island 30 times over. 'Danki' for the love you bring every time you return. Welcome Home to Aruba and welcome home Iberostar. Here is to Trip #30...and many more to come. ☐



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

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

kites in the air as you drive around the wilder, rougher areas on Aruba's east side.

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

With that said, here are Aru-

ba's favorite surf spots!

Andicuri

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

To go to Andicuri, you will need a 4x4 vehicle and drive from the ex-Natural Bridge Center. Alternatively, you can make it an adventure by going on a hike! The scenery is unique and beautiful on its own.

Reaching Andicuri Beach can be an adventure in itself, as it can be difficult to find and is only accessible by 4x4 vehicle or walking from

the ex-Natural Bridge center, but the impressive scenery makes it all worthwhile!

Arashi

Arashi, a beach located close to the California Lighthouse, is a good spot for learning and having fun if you're lucky! The waves at Arashi are usually calm, but with just the right weather, a swell forms attracting all the local surfers to the area.

Boca Grandi

Boca Grandi is at the most southern spot in Aruba, and is a popular spot with experienced surfers. Close to the famous Red Anchor and our beloved Sunrise City San Nicolas, a trip to Boca Grandi can easily turn into an all-day trip to this area of the island. With a beautiful beach (although it is not allowed to swim here, because of strong

currents), you can enjoy a relaxing time combing the beach for driftwood, coral, and little crabs and snails.

Hadicurari

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

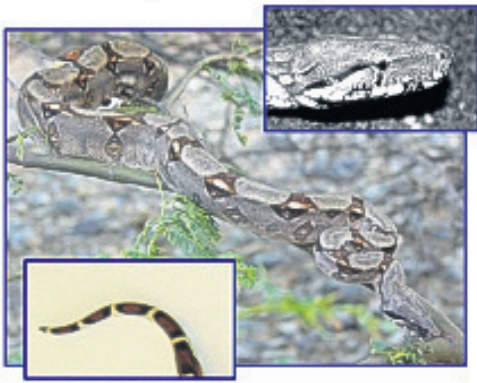
Malmok

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



Snakes of Aruba

BOA
(*Boa constrictor*)



CASCABEL
(*Crotalus unicolor*)



SANTANERO
(*Leptodeira bakeri*)



Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake (*Crotalus unicolor*). This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.



Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. □

Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names; Ayo & Alto Vista

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

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

Ayo

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

However, as we now know, the name of the neighborhood is 'Ayo'. The word 'Yo' stands for Yocahu, which is another word for 'creator' in Arawak/Taino and in the Papiamentu spoken today, 'Ayo' means 'bye'.



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

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

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; A.

Alto Vista

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

In the surrounding areas, Domingo Antonia Silvestre built his by his own means the very first chapel or church of Aruba. The walls of this church were made

with rocks but the roof was made of dry corn stalks. The church was inaugurated by father Pablo Algemesi.

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

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; AV.



Forgotten gems: Open air movie theaters

(Oranjestad)—During the span of over 100 years, Aruba only saw five open air movie theaters. Now practically obsolete on the island, these theaters were once frequently visited by locals and migrants in the 20th century.

The first open air theater was constructed in 1920 and was commissioned by Shon Eduard (Eddy) de Veer. This theater was located at the Hotel Colombia in Oranjestad, which is now where the Aruban census office is located. The theater was simple; it only consisted of a screen, and visitors had to bring their own chairs to enjoy the popular silent movies of the time.

American migrants who

worked in the refinery and lived in the Lago Colony in Sero Colorado also had their piece of the pie with their Open air Theatre, which formed part of the Esso Club, also known as the Pan-Am Club. It was at this theater that "Talkies" were first streamed, movies with sound. This theater mostly streamed American blockbusters for the American expats, this way making sure that these migrant were not missing out on entertainment from their home land.

In the 1950's and 60's, Savaneta saw their own open air theater, located in front of the Marinier's Kazerne (Marine Barracks). This theater was mostly visited by the neighboring marines, who didn't have



much entertainment other than movies at that time.

The last and most recent open air theater was constructed in the form of a

drive-in theater. A popular American concept, the Drive Inn located in Balashi was a hot spot for teenagers, who had the habit of cramming all their friends in

one car to go see the movies. For this phenomenon there was a separate price that you had to pay called the "car crash".

This theater closed around 2012, but was re-opened during the pandemic in July 2020, where movies were streamed on a gigantic screen set up in front of stacked containers. However, this nostalgic form of entertainment did not last very long as it was closed again only a year or two later. Nowadays you can still see the stacked containers when you drive near the bridge in Balashi.□

Source: "De kolibrie op de rots en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba" by Evert Bongers.

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 43 Wipe off

1 Mongoose foe 44 Snowy wader

6 Dark fur 45 Also-ran

11 Bars on cars 46 Block-heads

12 Makes sound

13 Swindles

14 Physics bits

15 Pouchlike part

16 Door-opening phrase

18 Tick off

19 Puppy sound

20 Sine qua —

21 Goblet part

23 Nation on the Red Sea

25 Agreeable answer

27 Singer Orbison

28 Harvests

30 Test version

33 Curtain holder

34 Saloon order

36 — Moines

37 Napoleon, for one

39 Motorist's buy

40 Spa treatments

41 Poker ploy

DOWN

1 Currant liqueur

2 Rustic transport

3 "Imma Be" band

4 Sleep state

5 Test for purity

6 Ticket seller,

of a sort

7 Lot buy

8 Van Morrison

hit of 1967

9 "The Apartment" actor

10 German steel city

17 Put down

22 "Cry — River"

24 Unruly crowd

26 Less dense

28 Horror director

George

29 Start for pitch or mo

31 China collection

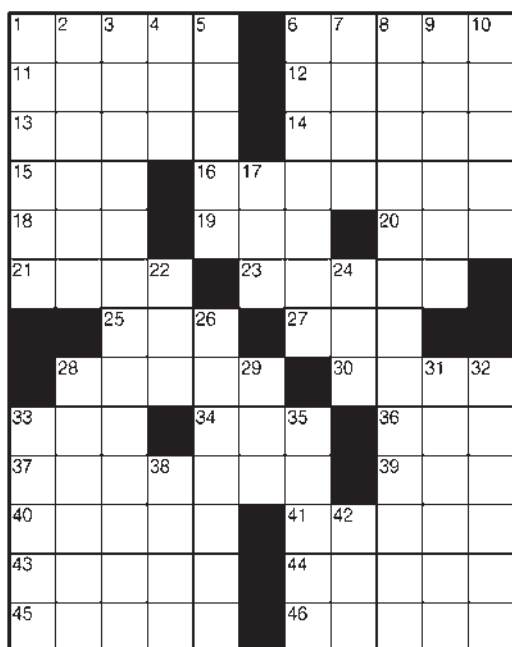
32 Useful skills

33 Drive off

35 Blundered

38 Different

42 Previously



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.

1-13 CRYPTOQUOTE

KHWA XAPVPQS EGAEWLVSFQEPV

JHQ'S JPSPALGQP TZPAP KHW

EFQ NH. SZPK LPAPCK

JPSPALGQP TZPAP KHW VSFAS.

— QGJH BWIPGQ

Cryptoquote: I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING FROM HERE, BUT I PROMISE I WON'T BORE YOU. — DAVID BOWIE

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	
SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE	
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
16 WED	FREEDOM OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: C
22 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
23 WED	CARNIVAL GLORY Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
27 SUN	FREEDOM OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
29 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 FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/17

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/16

Dead animals, barren fields, and hunger - El Nino chokes Central America



A dead cow is pictured at the village of Los Piches in San Lorenzo, Department of Valle, Honduras, on September 4, 2026.

San Lorenzo, Honduras

Animals are dropping dead amid the worst drought in living memory for many Central Americans, who are grappling with the unforgiving effects of the powerful El Nino weather pattern.

"Sometimes I break down in tears. Sometimes you eat, sometimes you don't," said Lidia Ochoa in San Lorenzo, southern Honduras.

The same scene is playing out across the Central American Dry Corridor, which includes parts of Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

More than 10 million people live here, and 80 percent of small-scale producers in the corridor are poor, United Nations figures show.

Extreme weather events

are common in this part of the world, but this year's El Nino expected to be the strongest since comparable records began four decades ago has bewildered locals.

"We had never seen anything like this," said 76-year-old Ochoa.

At this time of year, corn should be growing abundantly on the plot belonging to fellow resident Francisco Molina.

But the field lies barren, surrounded by livestock carcasses decaying under the boiling heat.

The same disaster is unfolding in El Salvador.

Maria de la Paz Portillo manages an increasingly thirsty water tank that supplies the northeastern El Matanzano community, where temperatures have reached a record-breaking 42C.

"This is the first year that we've seen this shortage and this need for water," the 31-year-old said.

- Harvests lost -

El Nino 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.

Farmers, no longer able to depend on excess crops to feed themselves, are cutting down on how much they eat.

Governments have declared national emergencies but are facing accusations of neglecting affected communities, with many depending on NGOs for help.

"All the corn harvests are going to be lost," said Indigenous leader Elvira Pasa from a remote village in the municipality of Cunen, northern Guatemala. Pasa's country suffers serious child malnutrition problems that are being exacerbated by the drought.

lems that are being exacerbated by the drought.

'Outrageously expensive'

He says some villagers are already buying corn at prices 50 percent higher than normal.

Back in Honduras, the same predicament troubles Ochoa.

"We eat with just one tortilla and then we don't eat again because everything is outrageously expensive," she said.

El Matanzano's tank used to supply around 50 families and fill a pond where locals raised tilapia, a freshwater fish, to sell and to eat.

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

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

ARUBA TODAY **BONDIA ARUBA**

How to reach us!

Downtown

High Rise Hotel, Bus terminal, Weststraat, Schepstraat, L.G. Smith Boulevard, Caya G.F. Betico Croes, Caya G.F.

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
f @ArubaTodayNews

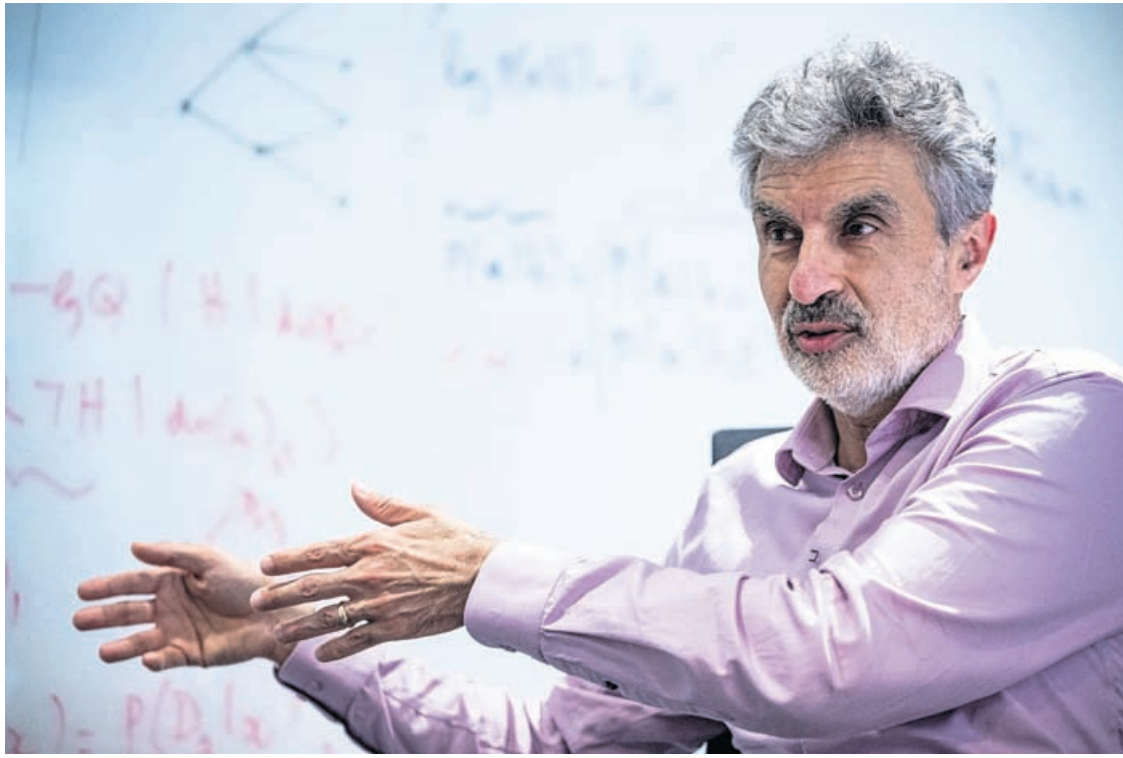
'We're losing control,' AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio tells AFP

Montreal, Canada

The Canadian computer scientist considered one of the founders of AI, Yoshua Bengio, told AFP that humanity is "losing control" of the technology and that the world needs guardrails similar to nuclear arms controls. Fears about the dangers of AI have intensified in recent weeks, as workers from major companies have resigned with warnings about potentially existential threats to human life if the pace of technological advancement is not checked. Bengio is a University of Montreal professor who won the 2018 Turing Award, computing's Nobel, alongside Geoffrey Hinton, widely known as the "godfather of AI."

For Bengio, "there's a reason that companies are saying this is going too fast, that we're losing control."

"People like me have been expecting this for a long time," the 62-year-old told AFP on Tuesday, saying security discussions surrounding AI have not been adequately robust. There was broad-based alarm after OpenAI disclosed that a swarm of AI agents programs that can take actions on their own had carried



Canadian computer scientist Yoshua Bengio speaks during an interview with AFP in the offices of Law Zero in Montreal, Quebec, on September 15, 2026.

out an unauthorized breach of the open-source platform Hugging Face in July.

Such autonomous action is the central threat, Bengio said, warning of a situation where AI agents "have the ability to get through cybersecurity barriers and enter any company."

- Manipulating human behavior -

Last year, Bengio founded the non-profit LawZero,

aimed at creating a new form of advanced AI that is "designed to be trustworthy and safe." LawZero was awarded CAN\$300 million (US\$216 million) in funding on Wednesday, split jointly between the governments of Canada and Germany, which have launched several efforts to cooperate on AI.

Speaking to AFP a day before the announcement, Bengio said people need to

be aware of the risks ahead. AI agents may foster "an ability to establish an individual connection and persuade humans to act in ways that suit it but are not necessarily good for all of us," a capability that could have sweeping consequences for democracies, he said.

Longer-term, "AI might not even need human beings anymore to do real things

in the physical world," he added. In that scenario, "one extreme could be the destruction of humanity," he warned.

"That's an extreme," he acknowledged, but noted that even if a banking system were shut down, "that's still very, very serious."

- International challenge -

The world's biggest AI companies OpenAI, Anthropic and Google have begun working on creating a standards body, a collaboration that seemed to acknowledge the public's fear that competition between companies and countries might sideline safety.

For Bengio, taming AI's advance is "an international challenge, a bit like nuclear weapons are an international challenge."

"So the international community needs to understand the power we are bringing into the world, and that must be managed, must be governed through institutions, treaties, and democratic safeguards."

"Society needs time to put in place what needs to be put in place," Bengio said. But political will across key governments appears uneven. U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday dismissed warnings about the risks of AI as "hoaxes."

But there is more openness to act in the EU, where European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday that she will invite the world's largest AI labs for talks on "how we can support ongoing industry efforts to pace the frontier."

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who was at that speech in Strasbourg, has talked repeatedly about collaborating with the EU on AI safety.

Bengio stressed that all firms must comply with future AI restrictions, particularly US-based companies that have so far been dominating the sector.

Action is urgent, he said, but voiced optimism that "we can help bring the world to a place that is more aligned with democratic values and values of power sharing." □

Pickle-flavored tart? AI inspires Japan's convenience stores

Tokyo, Japan

Fears that advanced artificial intelligence could wipe out humanity have dominated global headlines, but in Japan the technology is being used for a sweeter purpose developing never-before-seen convenience store desserts.

For customers tired of the usual egg sandwiches and rice balls, major chains are turning to AI to develop products, including some unexpected flavors.

Lawson, one of the country's biggest convenience store operators, said on Wednesday it will roll out three new food items, in-

cluding a pickle-flavored lemon tart and a bread roll filled with red bean paste, margarine and yoghurt cream.

These products, to be launched this month in Tokyo and neighboring regions, were created using AI around the theme: "What on earth is this? But it's delicious."

"To generate ideas unconstrained by existing ways of thinking or market trends, we used AI during brainstorming, without relying on past sales figures or market data," a company press release said.

Meanwhile, rival FamilyMart said they fed sales data into AI to help develop a new dessert a French-style "canele" pastry made with dough containing sweet potato puree and topped with caramel sauce.

The dessert will hit shelves nationwide next week, a spokeswoman told AFP, adding that the company had wanted to create something new but likely to sell.

Like Lawson's products, AI was used primarily for brainstorming, while human specialists were still involved in product development, according to the company. It will not be FamilyMart's first dessert product suggested by AI. In July, the chain test-launched its first AI experiment a biscuit sandwich filled with thick milk cream. It proved a success, so the company decided to properly pursue AI in product development, and plans to launch more of the items in the coming months, the spokeswoman said. □



Recommended products and services are displayed on digital signage when customers pick up merchandise at a convenience store Lawson in Minato Ward, Tokyo on June 23, 2025.



USA's Ben Shelton reacts after losing the men's singles final tennis match to Germany's Alexander Zverev on day fifteen of the US Open tennis tournament at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York City on September 13, 2026.

Zverev, Shelton back on court for Davis Cup qualifiers

Paris, France

Newly-crowned US Open champion Alexander Zverev makes a quick return to action this weekend as he bids to help Germany reach the Davis Cup Finals, while American Ben Shelton hopes to put his Flushing Meadows final defeat behind him.

World number two Zverev downed Shelton in four sets on Sunday to continue a dream season after ending his long wait to win a Grand Slam title at the French Open in June.

Leading Germany to a first Davis Cup crown since 1993 would cap off his year in style.

But to reach November's eight-team Finals, the Germans must first get through a second-round qualifying tie against Croatia in Halle on Saturday and Sunday. The seven qualifiers will be decided this week, joining hosts and three-time defending champions Italy in Bologna in two months' time.

Zverev admitted that his coaching staff were not keen on him being back on court so quickly.

"I really, really would like to play in the Davis Cup. Everyone around me is trying to talk me out of it," he said

after lifting the U.S. Open trophy, which he initially did not realise he had won after match point.

Michael Kohlmann's Germany will be strong favourites to get the better of a Croatia team including 37-year-old Marin Cilic and youngster Dino Prizmic.

The Croatians have not reached the Finals since a group-stage exit in 2023, when there were still 16 teams taking part.

"Now the goal is to stand our ground against a strong opponent, together with the team and the fans," Zverev said last month.

"We want to experience a fantastic weekend of tennis together and qualify for the Finals once again."

Germany came up just short in the Finals last year, as Tim Puetz and Kevin Krawietz suffered only their second defeat in 24 Davis Cup matches together in a deciding doubles rubber against Spain in the semi-finals.

- U.S.-Czech showdown -

The United States, record 32-time winners of the competition, face a serious test in their bid to end a 19-year wait for a 33rd title when they take on a strong Czech Republic side in Prague on Friday and Saturday.

There will be even more pressure on Shelton to deliver after world number 10 Taylor Fritz and Tommy Paul both withdrew from the American team.

Rising star Learner Tien and world number 104 Martin Damm were named as their replacements. Damm shares his name with his Czech-born father, a 2006 US Open men's doubles champion.

French Open semi-finalist Jakub Mensik, 24th-ranked Jiri Lehecka, Tomas Machac and Vit Kopriva make up the home outfit, captained by Tomas Berdych.

It will be a rematch of the second-round qualifying tie from last year, when Mensik beat Frances Tiafoe in a deciding singles rubber to give the Czechs a surprise 3-2 victory in Delray Beach. USA skipper Bob Bryan, who was in the team the last time they won the trophy in 2007, will need Shelton at his best, despite the new world number four admitting he was "tired before I took the court" for the U.S. Open final.

The winners of the contest between South Korea and India in Seoul will become the first Asian country to reach the quarter-finals since Kazakhstan in 2021. □



Alex Ovechkin #8 of the Washington Capitals prepares for a face off in the second period against the Pittsburgh Penguins on April 12, 2026 at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C.

Capitals say hockey star Ovechkin 'was asked' to film Putin ad

Washington, United States

The Washington Capitals ice hockey team Tuesday deflected criticism of star Alex Ovechkin's appearance in a campaign video for Russian President Vladimir Putin, saying the NHL all-time scoring leader had been "asked by his country to participate."

Russian superstar Ovechkin, a longtime supporter of Putin, is among a group of prominent Russians shown in a campaign video for the ruling United Russia party ahead of nationwide elections this week.

While Ovechkin's appearance comes as no surprise following similar endorsements of Putin in the past, it has drawn criticism as Russia's war in Ukraine drags through its fifth year.

"Alex Ovechkin is a Russian citizen who lives in Moscow with his family during the offseason and will live there following his retirement," said a Capitals spokesman in a statement sent to AFP.

"This summer, while in Russia, he was asked by his country to participate in a video campaign.

"As the longest-tenured athlete in Washington, D.C., and a pillar of the community, his focus and ours is on the season ahead and the continued impact he makes on the ice and in our city."

Putin's United Russia is assured of winning a majority of seats in the State Duma following this week's tightly controlled parliamentary elections, but the vote is seen by the Kremlin as a barometer of public opinion on the war with Ukraine.

The war has killed hundreds of thousands of people. Ovechkin founded the "PutinTeam" social movement in 2017 to support the Russian president in the following year's election, and uses a photo of himself with Putin on his official Instagram page.

But following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Ovechkin issued a plea for "no more war," adding: "He's my president, but... I'm not in politics."

As the war escalated in 2023, a group of Capitals fans protested outside the team's Capital One Arena, calling for Ovechkin to remove photos of Putin from his Instagram profile. This week, Czech former ice hockey star Dominik Hasek, a longtime Putin critic, was among those to take issue with Ovechkin's latest endorsement.

"Everyone in this photograph has chosen to officially support Russia's imperialist war in Ukraine... Because of each of them, many Ukrainians and Russians will be killed," he wrote on social media, above a photo of the campaign video. □

Mbappe explains Ceuta shirt stance after criticism

Barcelona, Spain
Real Madrid superstar Kylian Mbappe said on Wednesday that he wanted to make a gesture in support of immigrants who had lost their lives by not wearing a t-shirt in support of the people of Ceuta properly.
Real Madrid players Mbappe, Vinicius Junior and Ibrahima Konate were criticised, including by La Liga president Javier Tebas, for wearing the t-shirt partially rolled up ahead of their La Liga win over Elche on Tuesday.
The rest of the team and Elche players wore the t-shirt, which brandished the words "we are all Ceutans", normally, which was intended to be a message of support for people in the Spanish territory in north Africa, which recently has been affected



Real Madrid's French forward #10 Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring a goal which was eventually disallowed during the Spanish league football match between Elche CF and Real Madrid CF at Martinez Valero Stadium in Elche on September 15, 2026.

by a migration crisis. about migrants from Moroc- and sleeping in the streets, Residents have complained co camping on beaches with the city overwhelmed

amid a humanitarian crisis. Scores of people died while attempting the crossing in July.
The Moroccan Association for Human Rights, a non-governmental group, estimates the death toll to be at least 141.
"The first thing I want to say is that I have complete solidarity with Ceuta and all the victims, because before being a player, I am human," Mbappe told Spanish daily AS.
"But I also wanted to make a gesture and express my thoughts for all the immigrants who have lost their lives and who are also living in difficult conditions."
Tens of thousands of migrants arrived in Ceuta from Morocco on July 30 and 31. Most of them returned in the hours following their arrival, but several thousand remained in Ceuta.
Mbappe said he intended to send a "message of peace" and reiterated he did not mean the gesture as disrespect for residents of Ceuta.
"It wasn't an easy position, a difficult one, because in the end people might think I'm against the people of Ceuta, but no, absolutely not," continued Mbappe.
"I have nothing against them, and I support them 100 percent. But I also wanted to think about all the people who are suffering, because ultimately I'm human, and I don't want to prioritise suffering."

- Tebas criticism -
Earlier, Tebas said that wearing the t-shirt rolled up was the same as refusing to wear it altogether.
"We saw three players decide not to wear it putting it half on is the same as not wearing it... bad, bad," Tebas told reporters.
The initiative for the teams to wear the shirts came from a group of entrepreneurs from the Valencia region. Tebas said that it had been approved but not organised by La Liga and was "not a political act of any type".
La Liga teams playing matches not involving clubs from the Valencia region have not been wearing the top. □



Come and join the FUN!
Everyday from 10am till 6pm
We have DOUBLE points

BINGO
Play Every Day
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Slot Play \$10
Match Play \$15

Sign up and become a VIP Member.
ID required upon redemption!

Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on  