

Beat the heat with a cold, refreshing coconut!



Page 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MONDAY: ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	WEDNESDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	FRIDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	SATURDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
---	---	--	--	---	---	---

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR

costa linda
beach resort

Happy Hour
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10

PREMIUM
BRANDS
**



Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

DOUBLE DOWN
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

**CATCH ALL THE
NFL ACTION HERE!**



Trump's targeting of Haitian immigrants takes toll on U.S. healthcare system

Washington, United States

Like many Haitian healthcare workers in the United States, Rachelle has been forced into hiding by US President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant policies.

"We take care of sick people. We don't commit any crimes. So why hunt us down like animals?" the New York nurse in her 30s told AFP, speaking under a pseudonym for fear of the authorities.

After years spent caring for sick Americans, Rachelle faces deportation, like hundreds of thousands of her compatriots which in turn is straining many American hospitals, nursing homes and healthcare facilities that rely on them.

At the end of July, the U.S. government revoked her Temporary Protected Status (TPS), which allowed her to live and work temporarily in the United States due to dire conditions in Haiti.

Rachelle's employer then fired her, and she has stayed home since, fearful of getting detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents if she went outside.

"I wake up every day praying that they've changed their minds," she said of administration officials.

Established after the devastating 2010 earthquake, TPS status was benefitting more than 350,000 Haitians, a third



Administrator for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Dr. Mehmet Oz (L) along with U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr. listen as U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to the media about healthcare in the Oval Office at the White House on September 18, 2026 in Washington, DC.

of whom worked in the U.S. healthcare sector when it was revoked, according to estimates.

- Worker shortage -

That's created "chaos" in a sector already struggling to find enough workers, and degrades patient care, said Nancy Hagans, a nurse who heads a New York City healthcare workers' union. Hagans said that in her facility, 21 workers were let go. In a nearby nursing home, hundreds were fired, she said. "These workers were providing care to the most vulner-

able," she said.

In Florida, home to a large chunk of the Haitian diaspora, two home care agencies have been forced to close, said Denise Bellville, president of an association representing stakeholders in the sector.

While some caregivers continue to work undocumented in homes despite the risk of arrest, most employers have resigned themselves to layoffs, she explained. Replacing these workers is nearly impossible.

The healthcare sector was

already facing a staff shortage and relied heavily on immigrant labor to fill the lowest-paying positions, such as nursing assistants and personal care aides. "Americans don't choose that type of job. It's not their focus," Bellville said. "They can make more money doing something else" like working in a fast-food restaurant or for Amazon.

- 'Devastated' -

The Trump administration has also revoked TPS for other countries such as Ethiopia, South Sudan and

Yemen, and is expected to remove it soon for others like Ukraine, raising the specter of deportation over more than a million immigrants.

All this will have repercussions for Americans, warned Bellville.

"It's not just the employee who is sent back to their country of origin; it affects all the patients they were caring for," she said, particularly those receiving home care who could then lose the ability to remain in their own residences.

While some healthcare facilities are trying to retain these caregivers by changing their status, the process is generally very long and expensive, and was made even more complex by the Trump administration.

Rachelle had hoped to begin this lengthy process soon when the axe fell.

"I was devastated," recalled Rachelle, who is not considering returning to Haiti due to the unstable security situation there.

Also, Rachelle's son, whom she raises alone, suffers from a neurodevelopmental disorder and needs specialized support that would be impossible for her to obtain otherwise.

Healthcare worker associations, industry stakeholders and local elected officials are urging Congress to reinstate protected status for Haitians. □

Warren Buffett steps down as Berkshire Hathaway chairman



Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, makes his way to a morning session at the Allen & Company Sun Valley Conference on July 12, 2023 in Sun Valley, Idaho.

Washington, United States

Influential U.S. billionaire investor Warren Buffett stepped down as chairman of Berkshire Hathaway, the conglomerate announced Friday.

The news brings to an end the revered investor's more than half a century of running the group, which he turned into a financial behemoth.

Buffett's resignation is "effective immediately," although he will remain a member of the board of directors as chairman emeritus, Berkshire Hathaway said in a statement.

Buffett's son Howard Buffett will take over as chairman, the statement added.

The 96-year-old had announced plans last year to retire from leading the business group.

Berkshire Hathaway, a former small textile company, has grown over the years into

a gigantic conglomerate under Buffett's leadership, and is now worth over \$1 trillion on Wall Street -- a first for an American group outside the tech sector.

Today, his conglomerate owns dozens of businesses, from Duracell batteries to U.S. insurer Geico, and shares in carefully selected companies, from Coca-Cola to Bank of America.

"Father Time always wins. He has, however, been generous with me," Buffett said in a letter to shareholders. "He has given me the opportunity to see Berkshire reach a point where I am more confident than ever about what lies ahead. The company is in excellent hands."

"Recently, I celebrated my 96th birthday with family and friends, including one of my great-grandchildren, who had just turned one," Buffett said. "He's moving a bit faster than I am these days." □

U.N. chief 'deeply regrets' U.S. visa refusal to Abbas for annual meeting

United Nations, United States

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres "deeply regrets" Washington's decision to deny a visa for the second year running to Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, a UN spokesman said Friday, preventing him for attending the U.N. General Assembly.

The U.S. State Department said Thursday it was refusing to grant visas to Abbas and other Palestinian officials for next week's assembly. Only members of the Palestinian mission to the U.N. will be able to attend the meeting, which begins Tuesday. "The Secretary-General is concerned about the impact of this decision on the ability of the State of Palestine to participate fully in the work of the United Nations," Guterres's spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement. "The full participation of all delegations in the work of the Organization is essential to its proper functioning." Guterres continues to urge the United States, as the host country, "to ensure that visas are issued to all delegations in accordance with its obligations," the spokesman said.



Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres held a press conference on Wednesday ahead of the UN General Assembly high-level week on September 16, 2026, in New York City, U.S.

The Trump administration also denied visas for the Palestinian delegation last year, forcing Abbas, a regular at the U.N. General Assembly, to address the body of global leadership by video.

The General Assembly voted 152-3 on Thursday for Abbas to be able to appear virtually once again this year.

The United States and Israel

have objected to the Palestinian Authority's historical payments to families of imprisoned or slain Palestinians, including those who carried out attacks against Israelis.

The PA recently reformed this system, allocating welfare payments to families on a needs basis rather than political affiliation or prisoner status.

The State Department said Washington also opposed

Palestinian "actions to internationalize the Israeli-Palestinian conflict including through the International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ), seeking to bypass negotiations through seeking unilateral recognition."

They accused them of "continuing to pay stipends to terrorists and to glorify acts of terrorism and terrorists in public pronounce-

ments and school textbooks."

The United States is at odds with the 142 U.N. member states that recognized a Palestinian state at the United Nations last year.

- 'Acts of terrorism' -

The decision to deny Abbas a U.S. entry visa comes as violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians has escalated in recent months in the West Bank.

Israel has occupied the West Bank since 1967, and violence there has surged since the October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack that triggered the war in the Gaza Strip.

According to an AFP tally based on Palestinian health ministry data, Israeli soldiers or settlers have killed at least 1,109 Palestinians in the West Bank -- fighters and civilians -- since the 2023 attack, which killed more than 1,200 people. In retaliation, Israel waged relentless strikes on Gaza that have killed more than 73,821 people, according to Gaza's health ministry, which operates under Hamas authority and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations. □

Trump says CNN, MS NOW, Politico banned from White House

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday he was banning news outlets CNN, MS NOW and Politico from the White House, accusing them without specifics of reporting "fiction and lies." Trump added that "other Fake News Media Outlets" would face a similar fate, but did not say which ones. The move drew immediate accusations that it was unconstitutional and would be thrown out by the courts.

"I am proud to announce that, effective immediately, I am banning Fake News CNN, MSNOW... and Politico... from the White House as a result of their constant 'reporting' FAKE NEWS!" Trump said on his Truth Social platform.

Trump did not say what had prompted the move but added that "media Outlets shouldn't be able to constantly write or report FICTION and LIES when they're covering the President of the United States, the Trump Administration, or the United States of America."

Later in the Oval Office, Trump told reporters: "I think that somebody has a right to keep them away if they're going to write false stories all the time."

"It's really just cumulative stories over the last two years.

"You get sick of it," he said. "They're smart people, but they purposely write negative news, and they do that because they want to try

and diminish the Republicans and a Republican administration."

It is extremely rare for U.S. presidents to outright bar news outlets from the White House, although Trump banned a CNN reporter in his first term and Richard Nixon put restrictions on The Washington Post over its reporting on the Watergate scandal.

But in his second term, Trump's administration has put stricter controls on reporters, including taking control of which journalists can cover events as part of the "pool" admitted to tight spaces such as the Oval Office and Air Force One.

Last year, Trump barred The Associated Press from some events because of

the news agency's decision to continue referring to the "Gulf of Mexico" -- and not the "Gulf of America" as decreed by Trump. For the time being, reporters for Politico and CNN were still in the White House press room following

Trump's announcement.

- 'Flatly unconstitutional' -

Both of the 80-year-old president's White House terms have seen him lash out repeatedly at media whose coverage displeases him. □



CNN's broadcast booth is seen in the press area of the White House in Washington, DC, September 18, 2026.

American 'blackness' painter celebrated in Europe

Paris, France

He has arguably done more than any living painter to bring black figures into Western galleries, but Kerry James Marshall is still uncomfortable with being seen as a trailblazer on the eve of another major retrospective of his work.

"It's not a reasonable assumption to believe that there were no black people in pictures before I had some kind of revelation that they should be there," the Alabama-born American told AFP in Paris.

He cites the work of his American mentor Charles White (1918-1979) a man he compares to some of the greatest figurative painters as well as portraits by the 16th-century Dutch painter Hieronymus Bosch or even the statues of Ancient Greece.

But few other contemporaries can compete with how Marshall has mainstreamed black portraiture: he counts stars from Sean Combs to Jay-Z as collectors, holds the auction record for a living black artist, and is now being honoured like never before outside his home country.



U.S. artist Kerry James Marshall poses for a photo session for his first exhibition in France, titled "Kerry James Marshall: The Histories", running from September 18, 2026, to January 24, 2027, at the Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris on September 17, 2026. Kerry James Marshall:

A travelling retrospective of his work named "The Histories" has won rave reviews at London's Royal Academy of Art and Zurich's Kunsthaus before arriving at the Musée d'Art Moderne in Paris, where it opened on Friday.

It includes monumental works such as "De Style" (1993), depicting the clients of an African American hair salon who stare out at

the viewer in front of a wall calendar showing the date of Rodney King's beating by police officers in Los Angeles in 1991, which led to race riots.

In "Black Painting" (2003), another large-format work, a barely discernible couple embrace in a dark bedroom, with a book by Angela Davis, the African American activist and for-

mer member of the Black Panthers, on the bedside table.

"The first thing you see is that they're black figures, but then you have to move on from that to everything else that's happening in the picture," Marshall told AFP.

- 'Blackness' -

But beyond the deliberate references to significant fig-

ures or dates in America's violent history of race relations, much of Marshall's work carries a simple, but powerful message about representation.

He spotlights black people in often banal, everyday settings -- in a beauty salon, lying in a park -- echoing the codes of classical European portraiture in which the black subjects, if painted at all, were usually either shown as servants or slaves.

In Marshall's hands, the skin colour of his figures is rendered in jet-black.

The blackness is "a rhetorical device, not just as a marker of a certain kind of identity, but to create an aesthetic framework in which people can think about blackness as more than just a simple dead end.

"Blackness is not a dead end, it's not a non-colour. It's something that can be as complex and as rich as any other colour that one might use to make a painting," he explained.

- Difficult start -

Marshall, now aged 70, spent his early years in racially segregated Birmingham, Alabama, before his parents moved with him and his brother to Los Angeles in the 1960s in search of greater opportunities. Living in predominantly black and poor South Central, Marshall witnessed the rise of organised gang violence there, with the rivalry between the Crips and the Bloods, as well as the 1965 Watts riots, a six-day uprising fuelled by racial tension.

He broke through as a major figure in the American art world relatively late, enjoying his first major retrospective only ten years ago at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

The massive Black Lives Matter protests that swept the United States and the world in 2020 have boosted interest and the prominence of a wide range of black American artists including Mark Bradford and Julie Mehretu.

Shakira to cap off world tour with Madrid 12-gig run

Madrid, Spain

Shakira will kick off on Friday evening a marathon twelve-concert run in Madrid, bringing an end to both her world tour and the Colombian superstar's eight-year absence from Spain.

The 49-year-old "Hips Don't Lie" and "Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)" singer will take to a temporary 50,000-seater "Shakira stadium" erected in the south of the Spanish capital up till October 11, according to events giant Live Nation.

With no other European tour dates announced, Madrid's authorities are expecting a significant economic windfall from her grand return, after welcoming fellow Hispanic superstar Bad Bunny in May and June for a series of 10 gigs.

Shakira has not performed in Spain since 2018, several years before her separation from former Spanish footballing great Gerard Pique was made public in 2022.

She embarked on a world tour in February 2025 to promote "Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran" (Women no longer cry), an album inspired by her breakup with the legendary Barcelona defender which won her a fourth Grammy award.

Across her decades-long

career, Shakira has sold more than 95 million records worldwide and performed at both the opening ceremony and final of the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

"Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)" was also the official song for the 2010 tournament in South Africa, the first time world football's premiere showcase was held on the continent.

Her return to Madrid also comes after she paid a 7.3-million-euro fine (\$8.4 million) in November 2023 as part of an agreement with the Spanish courts, in which she pleaded guilty to avoid having to stand trial for tax fraud.

In the high-profile affair, Shakira also paid the Spanish taxman 17.45 million euros to settle her affairs in the country.



Colombian singer Shakira (C) poses with children during the halftime show of the 2026 World Cup football tournament final match between Spain and Argentina at the New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford on July 19, 2026.



People spend their afternoon on a sunny day on Bondi Beach in Sydney on September 18, 2026.

Backpackers fret over Australian visa crackdown

Bondi Beach, Australia

Briton Johnny Gibbs has been in Australia for six months, surfing and working part-time like countless other young people drawn to the country's pristine beaches and laid-back way of life.

He's one of thousands that venture Down Under on so-called "working holiday visas" a chance to work, and play, in Australia for as long as three years.

But the future for some backpackers is now in doubt, following the government's announcement of plans to cut the number of visas issued and detain tourists who overstay.

"A lot of places you can't surf and work at the same time, so it's kind of perfect," Gibbs, 22, from near Croydon in London, told AFP.

"They're not really losing much by getting people to work in their country," he said, his surfboard still wet from an afternoon dip at Sydney's famed Bondi beach.

"I've done a lot of different types of work on the working holiday visa, and that helps out the Australians as well," he said.

"I'm not a harmful person. I'm only doing good."

As a Briton, Johnny is lucky; he's not affected by the changes thanks to an

agreement between London and Canberra.

But many of his compatriots will be left waiting.

Interior minister Tony Burke said this week that a backlog of applications from the UK for working holiday visas would continue to be processed slowly after a record 80,000 applications last year.

For other nationalities, Burke said visas for a second-year stay will be cut to 45,000 places from 57,000 last year and applicants will be required to carry out 88 days of regional work. Those that want to stay a third year will need to enter a ballot to stay with only 5,000 places available.

- 'It's good for Australia' -

Australia's ruling Labor party denies it is tightening visa rules in response to the rise of the far-right One Nation, now one of the country's most popular parties with pledges to drastically slash migration.

Graham Carson, 55, an Australian lawyer who was sunbathing with his family, told AFP the crackdown was "ironic".

"We send criminals back to England which you know in a way is quite funny, given that they were sending their convicts here," he said.

For some on Bondi long known as a backpacker's

paradise for its chill vibes and carefree lifestyle the crackdown is a surprise.

"Maybe this was the wrong impression I had of Australia, but I thought they were very open," Stina Svensson, 27, from Gothenburg in Sweden, told AFP.

She and her friend Alva Johansson are both in Australia on working holiday visas not working yet, but hoping to soon.

"People speak so highly of the working holiday visa programme. And I feel like it's also good for Australia," she said.

"Like we okay, not yet because we're unemployed but we would do the work that Australians don't want to do," she explained.

"We wanted to have, like, just a regular fun job at the beginning, but then do the remote work or, like, farm work, but, like, now we don't want to do that," she said.

"Because we don't know if we're even going to get a second year."

Her friend Alva said the new rules would likely mean she'll cut her stay short.

"We wanted to stay before this came up," Alva said. "But now I think I'll go home."

"I think we would rather just go to Southern Europe then, because that's just easier," Stina said. □



Israeli forces (top) advance toward the outskirts of Deir Mimas as they reach an intersection near a newly established Lebanese army position, on September 18, 2026.

Israeli, Lebanese armies face off in village after Israel advances

Deir Mimass, Lebanon

Israel's military moved forward on Friday in a south Lebanon village, facing off against a Lebanese army position and detonating stun grenades, Lebanon's army and an AFP photographer said.

Israel has been occupying a swathe of south Lebanon since war broke out in March against Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, but the Lebanese army is supposed to gradually take control of the area under a framework agreement between the two countries.

Under the deal, Iran-backed Hezbollah is meant to disarm and Israel to withdraw from Lebanon, but progress has been slow, with Israel warning it will stay put as long as its foe remains a threat.

In the village of Deir Mimas on Friday, located on the edge of territory occupied by Israel, two Israeli tanks advanced along a road towards the settlement, the AFP photographer saw.

The tanks stopped in front of a barricade made from earth, beyond which Lebanese army vehicles were stationed.

The Lebanese army said in a statement late on Friday that Israeli forces approached an observation post, established on September 10 in coordination with the ceasefire monitors, and launched stun grenades "in its vicinity".

In response, the army "reinforced the post, and a state of heightened alert ensued between the two sides", it said.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) had earlier reported a similar version of events, saying the Israelis threw six stun grenades.

According to the AFP photographer, the Lebanese army withdrew by about 100 metres but remained in a position facing the Israeli tanks.

The army said the Israelis later left the area and army personnel returned to their "main position" in the village.

It recently established itself at the site and also has a presence at other locations in Deir Mimas on the edge of the Israeli-occupied zone, according to the photographer.

But the Lebanese army has stayed out of hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah.

The militant group dragged Lebanon into war with Israel on March 2 in support of its Iranian patrons. Israel responded with massive airstrikes and a ground invasion of the south. □

Bhutan's traditional archers lose ground to development

Thimphu, Bhutan

Atop a steep hillside near Bhutan's capital Thimphu, an arrow slices through the air and slams into a wooden target with a thud, prompting a round of celebratory song.

Traditional archery is Bhutan's national sport and has a storied history, but some fans fear for its future as development and safety concerns eat away at space for archery ranges. Played with a bamboo bow and arrows, the sport evolved from hunting and military traditions and is now a key part of cultural events, as well as a popular weekend activity.

But it is a sport that requires space and flat terrain, which are in growing demand, particularly in the capital.

"Since now our development is coming up, archery grounds are occupied by residences, so it's very difficult to get a play ground," lamented archer Sonam Dorji, who works at a conservation group, as he competed in an all-day tournament.

Bhutanese archery is played in teams that vary in size depending on wheth-



An archer aims for a target during a match on a mountain in Thimphu, Bhutan on August 29, 2026.

er the game is friendly or competitive.

Each team sets up at one end of the range and aims at small wooden targets up to 145 meters away.

Players wear the country's traditional striped "gho" belted knee-length robe, complete with knee-high socks, though footwear is of the modern variety, ranging from trainers to hiking boots.

Archers get two arrows per go, and the first team to get 25 wins. A hit anywhere on the target earns points, along with an obligatory celebratory song and shuffling dance.

Play is relatively raucous often enhanced by consumption of beer or the local tippie ara with taunts and shouts of encouragement part of the fun.

Teammates often stand either side of the target and

shout guidance or wave to try to guide incoming arrows, jumping aside at the last minute to avoid injury. The sport has been struggling for years to compete with the growing popularity of alternatives like football, said Sangay Phuntsho, who had travelled several hours from Wangdue Phodrang to Bhutan's second city Paro for an all-day competition. "Times change," he told AFP in between shots

at the target.

"We have a lot of other options now with sports... young people normally they prefer to play advanced games like football."

- 'Stronger safety measures' -

The country's archery association said the declining number of ranges was also due to safety concerns over the rising use of more powerful compound bows. "Development and increasing pressure on land are contributing factors, but safety has also become a major concern," said Pema Tenzin, general secretary of the Bhutan Archery Federation.

"Given the power and speed of compound bows, their use in long-range grounds, particularly in densely populated areas, requires much stronger safety measures."

The federation and Bhutan's Indigenous Games and Sports Association are working with the country's Olympic committee to find land to establish more ranges "in a safer and more organised setting," he added. □



This picture taken on March 19, 2026 shows a Medical Services Pacific Moonlight program team offering free HIV testing during an outreach visit to a suburb of Suva.

Sydney, Australia

Fiji has declared a national HIV crisis as sexual transmission and illicit drug use help to spread the virus, now infecting an estimated one in 60 adults in the Pacific nation.

New HIV diagnoses surged to 2,016 cases in 2025 -- 16 times the level recorded in 2019, authorities said, vow-

ing a "whole of government" response.

"I am formally declaring a national HIV emergency in Fiji," Health Minister Atonio Lalabalavu told reporters on Wednesday.

"This decision recognizes the seriousness of the epidemic and the urgent, coordinated response our country now needs."

Fiji declares national HIV crisis

An estimated one in 60 adults in Fiji have HIV -- up from one in 167 five years earlier, the government said.

Two in every 100 pregnant women carry the virus, it said. Of the 59 babies born with HIV in 2025, 18 died before their first birthday.

The government said it was expanding access to free HIV testing, prevention services and treatment.

"This includes rapid testing, prevention medicine for people at higher risk, harm-reduction measures for people who inject drugs, and free treatment for people diagnosed with HIV."

Fiji said it was receiving external support in the effort, including from Australia, New Zealand, India, the Global Fund and the United Nations.

Among HIV cases with a known mode of transmission, more than half were linked to sexual transmission and more than 42 percent to injecting drug use, UNAIDS said.

- 'Change the course' -

The U.N. agency welcomed Fiji's plans to introduce legislation for a needle and syringe program.

"Fiji still has an opportunity to change the course of this epidemic," said Eamonn Murphy, UNAIDS director for regions including Asia and the Pacific.

"Stronger cooperation across the Pacific and sustained international solidarity can reinforce the national effort and help accelerate action," he said in a statement.

HIV transmission rates began to increase around

2019 when a group of "very high-risk" injecting drug users emerged, primarily in the sex worker community, UNAIDS country director Renata Ram told AFP in Fiji earlier this year.

Pacific islands including Fiji have been transit hubs for drugs from Latin America and Asia destined for lucrative markets in Australia and New Zealand.

The flow of highly addictive drugs such as methamphetamine and cocaine rose sharply after a lull during the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime.

Those drugs are increasingly seeping into the Pacific's domestic markets in part due to foreign criminal syndicates opting to pay their local facilitators in kind. □

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

(Oranjestad)—The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the ‘Lora,’ relies on how we act as humans. We’ve seen many hikers who’ve encountered the ‘Lora’ in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the ‘Lora.’ Please, don’t just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

No interfering, please

Please refrain from interfering with the “Lora”. The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly



because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not inter-

fering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away

Pets and strays such as

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

Do not feed them food or water

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

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

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

Aruba’s kite flying tradition

(Oranjestad)—Every year for King’s Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks leading up to King’s Day. These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home. Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news

papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members. Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied



together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite. To finish off the process, people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together. Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air. Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest. In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air. □

*Mondi: Aruban woods.

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

SUPER
BINGO
SATURDAY!
SUNDAY FUNDAY
BINGO

Super 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. Irawsquín Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoolhambra.com

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



Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



SAN NICOLAS— At Just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came

to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas – more than anywhere else on the island.

Flow of history

If you are looking for history San Nicolas has it.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history

which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

The Community Museum holds a remarkable collection that spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaus of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barbershop,



just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of ed-

ucation or enjoyment.

The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. □



Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coco-

nuts!

Packed with natural electrolytes, coconuts are a fantastic choice for hydrating yourself under the blazing Aruban sun. Coconuts also contain antioxidants that can help reduce stress and protect your cells. So while you're having fun exploring the island, know you are well-protected with a fresh-cut coconut in your hand. □



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

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra T-Shirt when you earn **250 Slot Points** on Sunday with your **Players' Club card!**

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.



Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

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

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

Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

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

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they

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

Boca Catalina in Malmok

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

What Aruba means to GiGi!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to give you a shout-out by inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island!

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is
Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.



Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from GiGi from New Jersey, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is finding beauty and wellness in stillness. Phones down, look around. This moment might have been missed. First rainbow I have seen in Aruba while sitting on my balcony. This beautiful scene only lasted a couple of moments. Magical."

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □

Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa

Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract

infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif

There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu

Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for

medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system.

Concomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Concomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.



Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna

In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruba is Sopi di Pampuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so



The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by



Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started search-

ing for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aruban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search par-

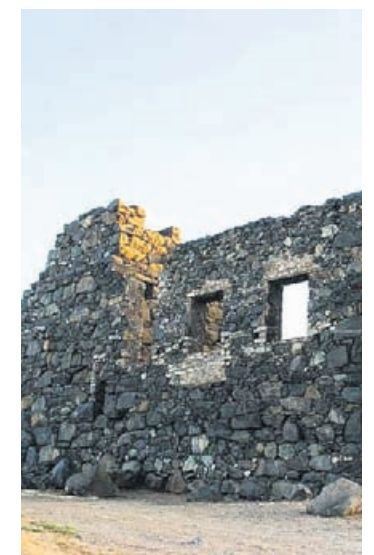
ties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong

northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant. □

Sources: Etnia Nativa



Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language



ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean.

Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Pa-

pimento directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two re-

leases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and "slaves of arms" in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermi-

Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

CROSSWORD

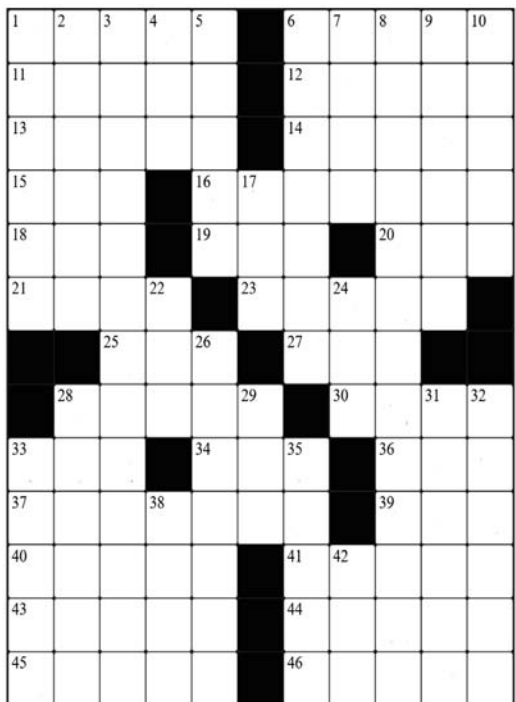
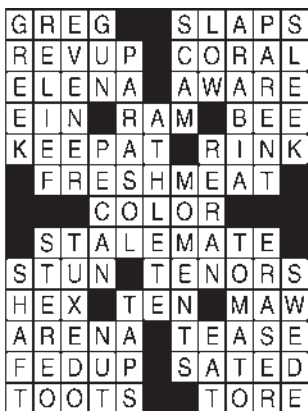
By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

43. Trout homes
44. Without break
45. Dunder-heads
46. Work breaks
1. Tricky puzzle
6. Flower part
11. Super-fluous
12. Make blank
13. Reads over
14. Sorceress of myth
15. Put away
16. One with a rig
18. Half of hex-
19. Melody
20. They hold power
21. Molecule part
23. Intended
25. Egggy drink
27. Droop
28. Monastery figure
30. Rudiments
33. Craggy hill
34. Buck's mate
36. Squabble
37. Device for a book lover
39. Before today
40. Shop-worn
41. Al of "Today"

DOWN

1. Former Spanish coin
2. Rustic transport
3. Show inter-ruptions
4. Direction suffix
5. Dreadlocks
6. Fastens down
7. Rocker Clapton
8. They prevent rolling
9. Climb
10. Lewd looks
17. Brink
22. Unruly crowd
24. Bond rating
26. Nemesis
28. Big arteries
29. Water tester
31. Con-vincing
32. Dueling need
33. Physicist Nikola
35. Goof
38. Out of the wind
42. Count starter



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for 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.

9-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

M N N Y P S O D Q Y P H M W S V W J R S
S B A S W G O S Q Y H , D J Y D T
K P G V P Y P S A S W T S V Y
H S A Y S O C S W G H O M R S .
--- Z G W L G Q G M K D D N T

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE BAD NEWS IS TIME FLIES. THE GOOD NEWS IS YOU'RE THE PILOT.--- MICHAEL ALTSHULER

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 occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/19

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/18

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

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



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.

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.

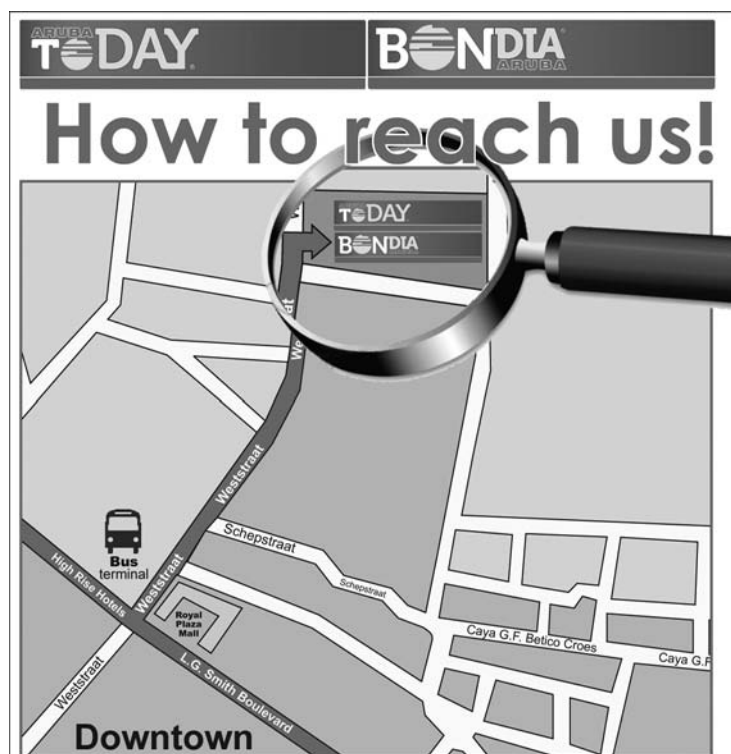
Researchers place color reference charts around newly planted coral to record the pigmentation, a method used to monitor its health and detect early signs of heat stress.

Coral is made up of tiny

individual animals called polyps, which maintain a symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae that live within their tissues. When the algae are stressed by heat or pollution, however, they leave, causing the coral to "bleach" and become vulnerable to disease and death.

"Anecdotally, we've seen that Mountainous Star Coral tends to be the most resilient to bleaching and thermal stress," Ledbetter explained. So far, this summer the program has planted 615 coral, with 228

of those part of the thermal bleaching study. Their results are then given to state environmental and wildlife authorities. □



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: Paradera
Tel. 588 6638

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
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



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 Figueroa
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800

E: news@arubatoday.com

W: www.arubatoday.com

@ArubaTodayNews

Can we shut down AI?

Paris, France

The debate over potential dangers posed by artificial intelligence has resurged in recent weeks, with researchers once again warning the technology could end humanity, and leaders of AI companies suggesting development needed to be slowed. One of the co-founders of AI firm Anthropic told the BBC this week he believed kill switches may need to be made mandatory for AI. But if an AI system goes rogue, is it even possible to shut it down?

access to the computing power it needs to run, Papernot said.

The situation becomes more complicated if the program has been allowed to act beyond its initial environment.

Papernot envisaged a scenario where AI could be used to spread a computer worm – a type of self-replicating malware.

"In that case, we would have to simultaneously interrupt the action of all copies the worm made of itself – device by device by device," he said.

- Is there a 'kill switch'? -

"From an AI cybersecurity perspective, the term 'kill switch' refers to the ability to interrupt the execution of an AI agent's action," Nicolas Papernot, a professor at the University of Toronto and a specialist in computer security and artificial intelligence, told AFP. The person or organisation that deployed the AI agent – an industry term for a bot that has the potential to operate autonomously – can stop it by denying it

- Can we really switch off an AI? -

Thierry Poibeau, an AI expert at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS), said the image of a single button that would let us "switch off AI" is misleading.

"You can't really just cut off AI like that," he said.

"There are an enormous number of companies around the world, and all sorts of different software and services. There's no single person who controls



People hold placards and a banner during a "emergency protest" by civic action group PauseAI U.K. outside Downing Street in central London on September 16, 2026, after news that AI researcher Jacob Coxon has decided to leave the industry.

AI as a whole."

But it is possible to shut down a specific system when you control the machines and services it depends on.

Hussein Abbass, a computer science professor at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Canberra, wrote on LinkedIn that AI systems could be divided into three levels of complexity.

In the first, a centralised AI system entirely under

the control of its operator, an emergency shutdown mechanism would be "theoretically and practically possible".

But in his other two "decentralised" scenarios, where AI programs have been given permissions to act on other software, files, machines or even systems, it would be much more difficult to stop everything.

- What are the risks of a kill

switch? -

The more AI is integrated into everyday activities, the greater the risk that shutting it down will also paralyse legitimate uses.

Papernot said: "As AI is increasingly embedded in all of our institutions and businesses, and as we automate more and more aspects of daily life using AI, it will be harder to use compute power as a kill switch because that will mean all of those other legitimate functions will also grind to a stop."

Stopping an AI system could degrade services that businesses, public administrations, or health-care institutions already depend on. The costs and drawbacks of such a move would be "enormous", Papernot added.

And some leading public figures have warned against scaremongering about AI. US President Donald Trump has dismissed existential fears about AI as a hoax, while Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg has argued against calls to slow AI development, saying market incentives and legal liability are the best safeguards. For Jean-Gabriel Ganascia, professor of computer science at Sorbonne University, the debate on the "kill switch" can feed into the idea misleading idea that AI's greatest risk is it developing a will of its own. Instead, he said, the more concrete risk lies in our growing dependence on such systems. □

California governor signs order to explore AI 'kill switch'

Los Angeles, United States

California Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order Friday directing state officials to explore the feasibility of imposing a mandatory "kill switch" for the most advanced AI models.

Newsom, widely seen as a possible Democratic presi-

dential contender in 2028, said he was making the move because U.S. President Donald Trump was doing nothing on the issue. The Republican president this week dismissed fears over AI as a hoax and is urging American AI companies to keep advancing in order to stay ahead of

China in developing the novel technology.

California is home to Silicon Valley and the AI firms at the forefront of the sector.

"The federal government's abject failure to create any form of meaningful AI oversight or accountability should alarm every American, especially when AI CEOs themselves are begging for regulation," Newsom said in a statement.

"We're not waiting to act we're going to speed up our work on substantial and responsible AI oversight before it's too late." The order comes days after dire warnings from industry insiders about the threat the technology poses to humanity.

Jacob Coxon, a former AI researcher who worked at Anthropic before resign-

ing, set off the latest round of alarm by describing how those building the technology "earnestly believe that it could kill us all by the end of the decade."

Anthropic chief executive Dario Amodei published an essay soon after urging caution.

"We must slow the pace at which we improve the capabilities of AI models," he wrote.

OpenAI chief Sam Altman and tech titan Elon Musk lent their support to the idea, as did Google DeepMind's Demis Hassabis, who himself has called for a U.S.-led global regulatory body for the technology.

Newsom's order does not impose a kill switch. It directs state agencies to report by Nov 16 on whether one is feasible. □



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.

Allen lights up Bills' new stadium with 41-31 win over Lions

New York, United States

Josh Allen threw a perfect housewarming for Buffalo's brand new NFL stadium as the Bills comfortably beat the Detroit Lions 41-31 on Thursday.

In the first regular-season game at the \$2.2 billion Highmark Stadium, Allen passed for 248 yards and three touchdowns, and rushed for 69 yards and two more touchdowns.

Both teams had entered the clash 1-0 after their high-scoring offenses sealed late wins on the season's opening weekend.

But Detroit could not live with Allen and the Bills in Thursday's first half, as Buffalo scored touchdowns on each of its first four drives, opening up a double-digit lead that it never lost.

"This is a great spot. We're hopefully going to be here for a long time," said Allen. "We executed in the first half... We stayed pretty constant and found a way to win."

In the stadium's first-ever drive, Allen had an uncharacteristic fumble recovered, before rushing on multiple plays and all the way into the endzone.



Josh Allen #17 of the Buffalo Bills throws the ball against the Detroit Lions during the fourth quarter of the game at Highmark Stadium on September 17, 2026 in Orchard Park, New York.

The Bills' next touchdown was scored by Joshua Palmer who grabbed a pass in the dying seconds last Sunday for Buffalo's win over Houston. He found himself wide open here and seized a 43-yard Allen pass.

Early in the second quarter it was 21-0. After several fouls by an increasingly desperate Lions defense,

Allen sent it to tight end Dawson Knox for another touchdown.

Detroit grabbed one back as star running back Jahmyr Gibbs made multiple rushes before turning receiver for a Jared Goff touchdown pass.

Buffalo's own elite back James Cook III came to life, driving the ball 62 yards across three consecutive rushes. Allen picked out

Dalton Kincaid for touchdown number four, though the drive was marred by an injury to newly acquired receiver DJ Moore, who did not return.

A field goal and an Amon-Ra St. Brown touchdown either side of halftime briefly subdued the raucous Bills Mafia.

But Allen scrambled for a fifth touchdown to get the

festivities back on track. Tight end Sam LaPorta and St. Brown grabbed Detroit consolation touchdowns, either side of one for Buffalo's Cook, who had rushed for 135 yards across a productive night.

The jubilant night at the Bills' gleaming new, open-air arena just across the street from their old home had begun with a rendition of "O Canada" along with the US anthem.

The gesture, introduced in the midst of Donald Trump's trade war with Canada and criticized by some Republican voices, was a nod to the Bills' giant fanbase across the nearby border.

Buffalo sits just a two-hour drive along Lake Ontario recently renamed Lake America by Trump amid the hostilities from Toronto. But Ontario-based rock band Barenaked Ladies' a cappella rendition of Canada's anthem was warmly received in the 61,000-capacity arena.

Bills legend Bruce Smith then pumped up the crowd with the words "We're going Lion hunting," and Allen took up the call. □

Hodgkinson wins Athlos 800m as Richardson, Thomas shine

London, United Kingdom

Britain's Olympic 800m champion Kelly Hodgkinson wrapped up her season \$65,000 better off as she won the two-lap event in the women-only Athlos meet in London on Friday. Hodgkinson, wearing a hooded, backless all-in-one black suit and shades, clocked 1min 56.40sec for the win.

The dominant victory came in a race that did not feature Hodgkinson's Swiss nemesis Audrey Werro or Dutch rival Femke Broeders-Bol.

Hodgkinson's training partner Georgia Hunter Bell was edged at the line of the mile by Diamond League and Ultimate Championship 1,500m gold medallist Klaudia Kazimierska of Poland, who won in 4:19.43.

"It's awesome to close the season with a win,"

the Pole said, taking her head-to-head for the year against British rival Georgia Hunter Bell to four wins to three.

Kazimierska and Hunter Bell, who has picked up the world indoor, Commonwealth and European 1,500m titles this season, were the two form runners in the field.

"Klaudia and I have had a lot of battles this season," the Briton said. "It's been such an amazing season." Created by Alexis Ohanian, the co-founder of Reddit and husband of tennis' 23-time Grand Slam singles champion Serena Williams, Athlos is now in its third year after the opening two seasons were staged in New York.

It was "built to give the most trailblazing women in the sport a stage", Athlos said.

This year's New York meet, scheduled for October 2, was cancelled, and all eyes turned on Friday's meet at the StoneX Stadium in Barnet, home of English rugby union side Saracens.

- 'Celebrating all women in sport' -

There were just seven events, featuring 42 athletes, chasing not only a top prize of \$65,000 (£48,500) in each event, but also a Tiffany&Co crown and an equity share in Athlos.

Four of the seven events went to a strong American presence, led by 2023 world champion Sha'Carri Richardson, who scorched to victory in the 100m in 10.90sec ahead of New Zealand's Commonwealth champion Zoe Hobbs.

Olympic champion Gabby Thomas then streaked

to the 200m crown in 22.13sec.

"That felt fantastic," said Thomas. "Athlos is all about celebrating all the women in sport."

"We're going to keep the momentum going."

Alaysha Johnson, in her 40th race of the season,

reeled in fast-starting Devynne Charlton of the Bahamas to kick off proceedings with victory in the 100m hurdles in 12.50sec. Charlton came in third as Nigeria's Tobi Amusan grabbed second, just a hundredth off the American winner. □



Keely Hodgkinson of Team Great Britain acknowledges the crowd after the Women's 800 Metres Final during Day 2 of the World Athletics Ultimate Championship at National Athletics Centre on September 12, 2026 in Budapest, Hungary.

New France boss Zidane confirms Mbappe as captain after naming first squad

Paris, France

Zinedine Zidane confirmed on Friday that Kylian Mbappe would be his France captain after naming his first squad since being appointed as the successor to Didier Deschamps as coach of Les Bleus.

Real Madrid superstar Mbappe shone in his role as skipper at the World Cup and finished as the tournament's top scorer with 10 goals, although France were beaten by eventual champions Spain in the semi-finals.

Mbappe played as the centre-forward at the World Cup but was equally lethal at the 2022 tournament in Qatar playing off the left wing having mainly been used on the right when France won the World Cup in 2018.

"He is capable of playing in the three positions and I also really like him on the left," Zidane told reporters at a press conference in the French capital where he unveiled his squad.

The recent World Cup in North America brought the curtain down on the 14-year reign as coach of Deschamps, the highlight



France's national football team head coach Zinedine Zidane holds a press conference to unveil France squad for the upcoming Nations League matches, at the French football federation (FFF) headquarters in Paris on September 18, 2026.

of which was the triumph in Russia in 2018.

Zidane, who played alongside Deschamps in the France sides that won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000, was appointed at the end of July as the new coach on a four-year contract.

His first matches in charge come in the UEFA Nations League, beginning with a

trip to Turkey next Friday and then a meeting with Belgium in Brussels on September 28.

Zidane's first home game at the helm will be against Italy at the Stade de France on October 2, with his new charges then hosting Belgium three days later.

The 54-year-old former Ballon d'Or winner Zidane, who retired from playing in

2006 after being sent off for headbutting Marco Materazzi during that year's World Cup final which France lost on penalties to Italy, has named several new faces in his first squad.

- Jacquet gets call-up -

Centre-back Jeremy Jacquet, 21, is included as a reward for his performances with Liverpool since moving

to the Premier League club during the close season.

"I really like his profile. He is a player I have followed for a long time because he played with my son Elyaz at youth level," said Zidane, whose four sons have all played professionally.

Rennes striker Esteban Lepaul, the top scorer in Ligue 1 last season, gets a first call-up while there is a place for the midfielder Lucas Da Cunha of Como in Serie A. Andy Diouf, the midfielder or wing-back with Inter Milan, and Toulouse goalkeeper Guillaume Restes also come in.

Notable names who were at the World Cup but who do not feature in the squad include the Real midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni and the Inter forward Marcus Thuram, as well as the injured Arsenal defender William Saliba.

"I have left out one or two players, whether because of a lack of game time or because of injuries, but a lot of thinking and a lot of work has gone into this since I was appointed on July 28," added the Marseille-born former Juventus and Real Madrid playmaker. □

McIlroy on the charge at PGA Championship as Reed withdraws

Virginia Water, United Kingdom

Rory McIlroy revived his hopes of victory in the European Tour's flagship PGA Championship with a five-under par second round that left him four strokes off

the lead as Ryan Gerard of the United States took the lead.

McIlroy had a poor finish to his first round at the Wentworth course, southwest of London, with three bogeys in his closing six holes.



Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy watches his drive from the 18th tee on day two of the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Club in the town of Virginia Water in Surrey, southwest of London, on September 18, 2026.

But it was a different story on Friday for the Northern Irishman, one of just six men golfers to have won all four of golf's major titles. McIlroy, the reigning U.S. Masters champion, made three birdies in his opening five holes.

The 37-year-old McIlroy is trying to reel in the injured Patrick Reed to win a record-equalling eighth Race to Dubai title -- the competition which crowns the best player on the European Tour.

McIlroy dropped a shot on the par-four eighth to head into the turn on 33, but regained that stroke with a birdie from 16 feet on the 11th hole.

A birdie on the par-three 14th was followed by a bogey at 16.

McIlroy narrowly missed an eagle chance on the 17th but he tapped that in and then made another birdie on the last for a round of 67.

Reed retired midway through his second round with an injury, the American having been nine over.

"Unfortunately he's pulled out this week, which gives me an opportunity to try to claw back some ground that I lost last week in Ireland," said McIlroy, the world number two.

"This weekend is a big weekend for me to pick up a few points and make the race even tighter going into these last few weeks." Gerard, who had started the day at five under, rolled in a fine eagle from

20 feet on the 17th to take the outright lead, before finishing with a birdie in a superb round of 65.

Australia's Adam Scott finished at 10 under after his 67 left him two shots off the lead and sharing second place with Italy's Filippo Celli.

US PGA champion Aaron Rai, playing alongside McIlroy and British Open champion Ryan Fox in a showpiece group, also had a birdie-birdie finish for his 69, which leaves the Englishman at nine under alongside Spain's Manuel Elvira.

New Zealand's Fox was one of a quintet of players on eight under, with McIlroy, England's Ross Fisher, Spain's Ignacio Elvira and JJ Spaun of the United States. □