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U.S. warns of rapid escalation in Middle East war

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

The United States warned that fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-backed Houthis could "escalate rapidly" after a missile attack targeted Riyadh for the first time since the Yemen conflict resumed.

U.S. President Donald Trump cut short a weekend at Camp David, a secluded presidential complex in rural Maryland, to return unexpectedly to the White House. The White House gave no explanation for the early return, which comes as a new threshold was crossed in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and the Houthis, who control a large part of Yemen and are fighting government forces backed by a coalition led by Riyadh. Loud explosions rang out on Saturday in the Saudi capital,



Supporters of the Houthi authorities march as they hold placards reading "Boycott American and Israeli goods" during a protest against the Saudi intervention in Yemen and against Saudi Arabia's recent accusation that the Houthis fired at the holy city of Mecca, in Yemen's western Red Sea city of Hodeida on September 18, 2026.

where AFP journalists saw a fuel tank bearing the logo of oil giant Aramco on fire near the airport.

"This military conflict has the potential to escalate rapidly," the U.S. State Department warned, adding American

citizens outside the Middle East should "seriously reconsider travel to and through the region".

Separately, the State Department restricted travel for American government employees to the Saudi cit-

ies of Taif and Yanbu, home to a major Red Sea oil export terminal that has previously been targeted by Houthi strikes.

In recent weeks, the Houthis' lightning offensive seizing swathes of Yemeni territory has left hundreds dead and, according to the U.N. refugee agency, displaced more than 110,000 people.

- 'Intercepted' -

The violence has already disrupted exports from Saudi Arabia, the world's leading supplier of crude oil, as well as maritime traffic.

Saudi Arabia's ally the United States has sent mixed signals. According to U.S. news platform Axios, Washington refused last week a Saudi request to strike the Houthis, and Fox News reported Sunday that Trump had said the Houthis have agreed not to hit U.S. targets.

On Sunday, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in a rare visit to Cairo.

The visit came days after Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman was also in the Egyptian capital, where he and Sisi urged safe and secure navigation through Bab al-Mandab, after the Houthis seized the Yemeni coast. The Bab al-Mandab strait is a Red Sea waterway that is crucial to energy flows and global shipping and which has become even more strategic since Iran imposed a blockade on the Strait of Hormuz.

Condemning the Houthis' latest attacks, Turkey's Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan told the broadcaster NTV that his country had discussions with Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, partners in a mutual defence pact, about possible assistance.

"In this regard, military needs, especially in state technical matters, may happen. There would be no problem in meeting this demand either," he said.

Saudi Arabia meanwhile has scrambled to contain the fallout of the Houthis' attacks on its territory.

On Sunday, the attack on Riyadh was not mentioned in several major Saudi papers,

even though hours beforehand, the Riyadh-led coalition had confirmed that a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis was "successfully intercepted and destroyed". The coalition added that the pro-Iranian fighters had tried to target "civilians and civilian infrastructure" in several cities in the west of the kingdom, including the port of Yanbu on the Red Sea, an important export hub for Saudi oil.

Saudi Arabia has responded with scores of airstrikes on Houthi-held areas but has failed to stop the fighters' advance in Yemen.

Claiming responsibility for the attack, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said fighters had carried out "two successful military operations using a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones".

"The first targeted sensitive sites in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, and the second targeted Aramco facilities in Yanbu."

- Lightning offensive -

According to Andreas Krieg of King's College London, the attack on Riyadh, the first to threaten the Saudi capital since Yemen's civil war resumed, crossed "an important psychological threshold".

"Strikes around airports, fuel storage and populated areas make restraint politically and strategically much harder to sustain."

The attack has piled further pressure on a global economy already rocked by seven months of war in the Middle East, which began in February with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran and which has seen the Islamic republic respond with attacks around the region. Iran-backed groups also got involved, with Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen carrying out attacks against their foes.

Iran's top negotiator said Tehran had conveyed to the U.S. through mediators its conditions for reopening the Strait of Hormuz, which it has blockaded throughout the Middle East war, and Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi set off on Sunday for New York to attend the U.N. General Assembly. □

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Trump's beef policies irk Texas ranchers, testing their loyalty

Stephenville, United States

As dawn breaks over the Texas prairie, where a herd of cattle grazes peacefully, there's growing discontent among ranchers over President Donald Trump's moves to lower beef prices.

His policies are testing the loyalty of ranchers here -- among his staunchest supporters -- just weeks before November's midterm elections in which affordability is a top concern.

In a bid to ease prices for consumers, Trump authorized an additional 300,000 tons of ground beef to be imported starting September 1, with reduced tariffs. But Texas ranchers warn that the move could hurt an industry already struggling with the smallest cattle herd in 75 years and higher fuel and fertilizer costs thanks to the war with Iran.

"President Trump, who I fully support, decided that we needed to import some hamburger meat, which I don't agree with," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller told AFP from his ranch in Stephenville, located in central Texas.

Miller sees two problems with the decision: It does not increase the cow herd, and it widens America's agricultural trade deficit.

The stakes are particularly high in Texas, home to the



Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller herds cattle at his ranch, in Stephenville, Texas on September 11, 2026.

nation's largest cattle herd, with 12.1 million head.

The state is a Republican stronghold where Trump won more than 56 percent of the vote in 2024.

Cattle numbers have declined in Texas amid a regional drought the past three years, prompting farmers to sell their cows, Miller said.

And now they're being hit by soaring diesel fuel prices. Those concerns could cost Trump's Republicans in November, despite their firm grip over the years on many of the state's congressional districts.

"It's going to be a closer election than we've ever had," said Miller, whom Trump has called a "warrior" in his "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) movement. "I think we're going to lose some statewide offices... because the beef issue has disappointed a lot of ranchers and farmers," he said.

- Turning against Trump -

With a nationwide approval rating in the mid-30s, Trump and his Republican Party face headwinds in the midterm elections, even in rural farming areas that solidly backed him when he ran

for office two years ago.

In 2024, Trump won an average of 77.7 percent of the vote in the 444 US counties that are agriculturally dependent, according to the specialized publication Investigate Midwest.

But an August poll by ActiVote showed that only 42 percent of rural voters approved of Trump, while 52 percent disapproved.

"While we appreciate the Trump administration's support for ranchers, increasing beef imports is not the solution to high prices," the Texas and Southwest Cattlemen's Association said in

a statement.

"As the herd rebuilds, beef supplies will increase and prices will normalize, but it will take time," it said.

Bill Bullard, executive director of the producers' organization R-CALF USA, agreed that importing ground beef is a "bad policy" for American farmers.

- Mexican cattle -

The dispute over ground beef imports comes on top of another Trump policy that has angered some Texas ranchers: a halt in live-cattle imports from Mexico to contain the screwworm fly, whose flesh-eating larvae can kill cows.

"Normally we get about 1,500,000 head every year from Mexico," Miller said. The cattle graze on US land and are slaughtered and processed by American workers, he said, but that's been shut down since May 2025.

Miller said that during previous outbreaks of the screwworm, the live cattle trade was not stopped.

Although a border crossing in Arizona has reopened, it remains closed to Texas.

Demand for beef across the US, meanwhile, remains strong, and prices are expected to rise nearly 10 percent this year due to the declining supply of cattle and higher fuel costs. □

Trump says his planned arch to double as military base

Washington, United States

A massive arch that Donald Trump wants to build on a historic location in Washington will double as a base for drones and snipers, the U.S. president announced on Sunday.

"I have agreed to convert the magnificent Triumphal Arch... into a top grade Military Complex/Triumphal Arch," Trump said in a post on Truth Social, "to house, store, and have the rapid ability to use large numbers of drones, plus Snipers, on both the roof and plaza areas, and additionally have and hold large quantities of sniper ammunition in storage."

"There will be no facility like this anywhere in the World.

Out of the 59 top cities and Capitals, Washington, D.C., IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD THAT DOES NOT HAVE A TRIUMPHAL ARCH, but it will now and, by far, the greatest of them all!" the U.S. leader added.

The proposed giant structure along the Potomac River near the Arlington National Cemetery is part of Trump's drive to put his personal stamp on the capital.

The Trump administration has not sought congressional input for such a major change to the U.S. capital. Given its massive size, it would obscure the sight lines between the Lincoln Memorial, one of Washington's iconic landmarks, and

Arlington National Cemetery, the final resting place for hundreds of thousands of American service members.

Since returning to power in January 2025, Trump has launched a series of renovation projects, several of which have led to legal disputes.

They include a massive and costly ballroom that is being built at the White House, for which Trump had an entire wing of the presidential mansion demolished.

Another project is the laborious renovation of the Reflecting Pool, a massive rectangular water basin on the National Mall.

For a time, Trump also had his name placed on the



U.S. President Donald Trump stands near models for a proposed "Independence Arch" as he speaks during a dinner with ballroom donors in the East Room of the White House in Washington, DC, on October 15, 2025.

walls of the Kennedy Center, the culture and arts institute named after assassinated president John F. Kennedy, before a judge reversed the move. □

In 'Tenzing', a Sherpa mountaineer gets his due

Toronto, Canada

It took years for Tenzing Norgay to secure his place in history as the man who, alongside New Zealander Edmund Hillary, first reached the summit of Mount Everest. And it has taken far longer for the story of his feat to be memorialized in film.

"I don't know why it took so long to tell this story," said Jennifer Peedom, the director of the biographical drama "Tenzing."

"For me, it's always been the most interesting Everest story," she said in an interview with AFP.

The Apple TV film, which landed at the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) after its world premiere at Telluride, recounts the first confirmed ascent to Everest's summit in 1953.

But it focuses on the journey from the perspective of Norgay, the Sherpa mountaineer who, together with Hillary, completed the climb that until then was deemed impossible.

Norgay's story was long overshadowed in previous accounts told from a Western perspective of the historic trip up the mountain, which measures 29,031.7 feet (8,848.86 meters).

The son of a yak herder, Norgay "had to overcome so much adversity just to get to the starting line on Everest, let alone to be the first



(L-R) Simon Thompson, Jennifer Peedom, Tom Hiddleston and Willem Dafoe attend the "Tenzing" BAFTA Screening and Q+A panel at Linwood Dunn Theater on September 17, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

man to reach the summit," said Peedom.

"It's one of the great achievements of the 20th century, and I wanted to put Tenzing as a protagonist of that story, of his own story."

Bringing the tale to the screen was not without its obstacles, said the filmmaker, whose own career began as a camera operator in the Himalayas.

"It was a process of earning trust over what turned out to be many years," said the Australian director, whose award-winning 2015 film "Sherpa" details the risky work done by the people

who carry the equipment and supplies up Everest to make climbs possible for foreigners.

It was Peedom's direction that drew in the actor Willem Dafoe, who portrays Colonel John Hunt, the expedition's leader.

For the 71-year-old, the experience was an "adventure" -- not just because of the physical challenge, but because of the connection with nature.

And at its core, the film was an opportunity to give credit to a person who, along with overcoming enormous physi-

cal obstacles, faced classism and exclusion.

It's "this kind of hangover from, you know, a colonial world, that this man was not considered," Dafoe told AFP. "But in the end, he turned out to be the most capable, and he stuck to his guns," the actor continued.

"He wasn't discouraged, even though there were lots of impediments in this way."

- 'Spiritual message' -

Norgay took part in several failed Everest expeditions prior to joining the one led by Hunt.

Peedom's film portrays him

as a man excluded from the Sherpa community over his Tibetan roots, who later faces discrimination from the British expedition for being a sherpa -- people then viewed not as climbers but as mere load-bearers.

Norgay attempts to prove his worth and earn a spot among the climbers, but is pushed aside for his background.

Among the film's most powerful lines comes when he deems that merit is not a signifier of "who is the best." It's "who is the best of the British," replies a melancholy Hillary, who is played by Tom Hiddleston.

For Tenzin Dalha, a native of Lhasa who plays the young Norgay, the protagonist's lack of recognition came as a surprise.

"I wasn't aware that Tenzing was a footnote in the other parts of the world," he said. "For us, he was the superstar." Genden Phuntsok, an actor with Tibetan roots who plays Norgay as an adult, felt the weight of taking on such a leading role, but said he gained confidence with the direction of Peedom. She suggested he approach the part step by step, he said.

Hiddleston meanwhile found inspiration in the "the faith and the fellowship" demonstrated by Hillary and Norgay. □



This photograph shows details of a preview exhibition of personal belongings once owned by late French actress Brigitte Bardot at Hotel Drouot in Paris on September 15, 2026, ahead of an auction of her memorabilia and clothing.

Nice, France

The widower of French screen icon Brigitte Bardot on Saturday slammed as a "joke" the planned auction of hundreds of the late star's

personal belongings organized by her animal welfare foundation.

The sale, featuring more than 300 items ranging from portraits and toiletries

Brigitte Bardot widower slams sale of star's belongings

to a flamenco guitar and a black tutu, is due to take place Monday at Paris auction house Drouot.

"These are personal items. Why hold this sale? For the animals? It's a joke," Bernard d'Ormale told AFP, adding it amounted to a "disrespect to Brigitte's memory".

"All of this could have been kept for the day when people are able to visit La Madrague," he added, referring to Bardot's famed home in Saint-Tropez.

He said around three-quarters of the items came from Bardot's Paris apartment, with the remainder from La Madrague.

Her belongings should have been preserved as part of her legacy rather than sold to raise funds for the foundation she created, d'Ormale argued, adding that Bardot "would not have agreed to this sale".

The Brigitte Bardot Foundation rejected the criticism, saying the auction was approved by the board in June, including Bardot's widower, who was then its president.

However, d'Ormale said he had not understood the auction would involve such personal items.

The dispute comes days

after he was removed as head of the foundation, a role he had held since the star's death in December. The 85-year-old, who remains on the foundation's board, also complained he no longer has free access to La Madrague.

"I've lived there for 35 years and now they're throwing me out. It's quite something," d'Ormale said.

Founded by the actor in 1986, the Brigitte Bardot Foundation says it has taken in 13,000 animals through four shelters and 150 partner facilities, supports 350 groups in France and operates in 70 countries. □



Mustafa Khaled Alwan, a 72-year-old Syrian man, poses for a picture surrounded by his books, which he retrieved after hiding them behind a false wall for 15 years at the start of the uprising against longtime Syrian ruler Bashar al-Assad, in his home in the al-Bayadah neighborhood in Homs on September 19, 2026.

In Syria, a library of Islamist texts sees light of day a decade on

Homs, Syria

After more than a decade of displacement, a Syrian man finally tore down a wall he had built to conceal a library of mainly Islamist books that would likely have landed in prison, or worse, under Bashar al-Assad's rule.

Like many in Syria, Mustafa Khaled Alwan is a sympathizer of the Muslim Brotherhood, which long opposed the Assad dynasty.

The 72-year-old was elated to find his library mostly intact, allowing him to access texts including the works of Egypt's Hassan al-Banna, founder of the Brotherhood, and Sayyid Qutb, one of the main modern advocates for the implementation of sharia in every domain of life, including in government.

Decades on from his execution in Egypt, Qutb would continue to influence movements across the region, ranging from reformist Islamists to jihadists.

His collection, numbering in the hundreds, also includes Islamic teachings, poems and books on science and social topics.

"This library is very precious to me, I filled it up slowly," he told AFP from central Syria's Homs.

Under Hafez al-Assad, Islamists were violently suppressed, most notably in a 1982 massacre in Hama, whose death toll has never been formally established,

though estimates usually range from 10,000 to 40,000. Alwan said the Hama massacre was a "pivotal point for all Syrians".

"I was upset, but we were afraid to even talk to ourselves."

- 'We built a wall' -

Yet despite the major risk involved, Alwan was undeterred from gathering the books.

As protests erupted against Assad across Syria in 2011, Alwan feared his support for the demonstrators might put his library in jeopardy.

Amid the protests, Homs was dubbed the "capital of the revolution" and was subjected to particularly brutal crackdowns by Assad's forces.

"At the end of 2011, when the situation was difficult, I moved (the library) to the home I recently bought for my son," he said.

"No one knew I owned this home," which encouraged him to move the books there. "Some revolutionaries came and helped me, and we built a wall" to hide the library.

It was in Homs that armed anti-government factions first took up arms, and it was also among the areas targeted by a brutal siege that left people trapped with no food or medical supplies. The Bayada neighbourhood, where Alwan and his son's homes are located, was sub-

jected to heavy bombing by Assad's forces.

By the end of 2011, Alwan had left Homs due to the siege, leaving his library behind.

Upon returning after Assad's December 2024 ouster, Alwan found his home severely damaged and burnt from the inside.

He felt "a mixture of hope and fear" over the fate of his library.

When he began dismantling the wall, he found that his collection "was more than 90 percent intact... and I moved it home".

Assad's fall saw many previously-banned works, including books recounting torture in Syrian prisons or texts on radical Islamic theology, sit openly in bookstores.

Syria's new Islamist authorities, whose President Ahmed al-Sharaa is himself a former jihadist, have been faced with the delicate task of attempting to reunify the fractured country.

But around Alwan's home, Homs is still heavily damaged, with Syrians trying to rebuild after more than a decade of war.

Religiously-diverse Homs, which witnessed horrific sectarian violence during the conflict, has also seen several waves of attacks against the Alawite minority since the fall of Assad, who hails from that community. □

Sri Lanka flies monks over drought-hit areas to seek divine help



This handout photograph released by the Sri Lanka Air Force on September 20, 2026 shows Buddhist monks aboard a Y-12 aircraft chanting prayers over the island's drought-hit areas seeking rain.

Colombo, Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's Air Force said on Sunday it had flown Buddhist monks who prayed and sprinkled holy water over drought-hit areas in an attempt to encourage rain.

Sri Lanka's meteorology department has warned that both severe drought and heavy rains are likely to hit Sri Lanka during the rest of the year as the largely agricultural nation faces its "worst" El Nino climate phenomenon.

Three saffron-robed monks chanted prayers during Saturday evening's flight invoking the gods to end the drought, while airmen sprinkled holy water from five-litre (1.3-gallon) plastic bottles.

An air force official told AFP the monks were flown aboard a Y-12 fixed-wing aircraft.

"As the nation faces the hardships of dry weather, the... aircraft takes to the skies in a symbolic act of compassion," the air force said in a social media post. While the monks prayed for rain over drought-hit areas, the meteorology department has also warned of heavy downpours over other parts of the South Asian nation of 22 million people.

At Yala, Sri Lanka's largest wildlife park in the southeast, two out of six blocks have been closed to visitors because of the drought.

Weather experts have forecast that those dry conditions will give way to heavy rain from late September until December.

However, those rains are then expected to be followed by a prolonged drought early next year.

Water reservoirs, including those supplying hydroelectric power stations, are at around 50 percent capacity, according to officials.

That compares well with previous years, but there are concerns if drought conditions intensify next year as forecast.

Sri Lanka's electricity utility has also held religious services in the past to appease the gods when hydro reservoirs run low.

El Nino is a natural climate variation that warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in wind and rain patterns.

Human-caused climate change can amplify its effects because a warmer ocean and atmosphere make more energy and moisture available to feed extreme weather events. □

Data centre command hub keeps AI up and running

Singapore, Singapore

A steady nerve is crucial when keeping watch over hundreds of data centers worldwide, facilities essential to the frictionless online banking, messaging and AI services that society relies on. Analysts sit surrounded by digital maps and dashboards at the Singapore command centre of US firm Digital Realty, a major global operator of the warehouse-like sites filled with whirring servers.

The goal is not simply to react when something breaks, but to detect warning signs, such as a sudden rise in temperature, early enough to prevent disruption.

Daniel Naing, 37, and his colleagues handle thousands of system alerts flagging signs of trouble each week.

"If I panic, my team members will panic. So even though inside I may be nervous, I cannot show it," he told AFP. The command centre and its two sister hubs, in Europe and the United States, provide round-the-clock oversight of more than 300 data centers across six continents. Digital Realty rents its server space to around 6,000 companies big and small, with power disruptions and equipment failure the most common issues faced.

There are also detailed protocols for earthquakes and typhoons, and an approach-



This photo taken on September 2, 2026 shows analysts monitoring operations at the Digital Realty data command centre in Singapore.

ing storm thousands of kilometers away is enough to put the team on standby. Booming demand for data centers is a political hot potato in many places, as tech companies race to develop artificial intelligence tools that require massive amounts of computing power.

But without them "nothing works" in our high-tech world, said Serene Nah, managing director and head of Asia Pacific at Digital Realty. Data centers are essential infrastructure -- a matter "almost like national security", she said.

"We need to be up running

all the time."

Nah said, however, that "our business is very misunderstood" and has little support from the public, who believe data centers emit "a lot of carbon or heat" or "use up a lot of water".

"Yet everyone's scrolling their phones every day," and for each swipe "the data needs to go somewhere".

The company is prioritizing renewable energy such as solar panels and closed-loop server cooling systems that continuously recycle water, Nah said.

- False positives -

The vulnerabilities of the sector were highlighted this year, when data centers run by Amazon's cloud arm were struck during the Middle East war.

Data centers operate 24 hours a day, so Naing and his colleagues take the 7 am to 7 pm shift in Singapore before handing over to Europe. Engineers must attend to an alert within minutes. The teams liaise with those on the ground and call on a global network of experts to help, while keeping clients updated.

Digital Realty is one of the

biggest providers of data centre server space along with rivals like Equinix, also a U.S. company.

Meanwhile tech giants from Microsoft to Alibaba are racing to build their own data centers to train and run AI models -- part of a global buildout costing trillions of dollars.

Digital Realty's Global Command Centre in Singapore is housed inside one of three data centers that the company runs in the city-state. Most areas of the data centre, whose roof is lined with solar panels, are off-limits for security reasons.

But AFP was shown a room where rows of black server cabinets formed long, narrow corridors, with bundles of yellow cables running overhead and the computer servers' high-velocity fans emitting a soft hum.

AI is accelerating the growth and complexity of data centers, but for operations at the command centre, humans remain indispensable, said Terence Tang, head of the Asia Pacific global command centre.

"We still need human intervention to really look at whether or not those are genuine outages, genuine alerts and alarms, because sometimes AI or automation can give you false positives," Tang told AFP. □

Chile's Bachelet quits race to be next U.N. chief



Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile and co-chair of the ECLAC commission on geopolitics, globalization and development for Latin America and the Caribbean, during the launch of the report "Ruptures and Opportunities: Proposals for Latin America and the Caribbean to prosper in the new geopolitical era," at the BNDES headquarters in downtown Rio de Janeiro, this Tuesday, the 15th.

Santiago, Chile

Michelle Bachelet, the former president of Chile, withdrew her candidacy for the position of United Nations secretary-general on Saturday, weeks after a straw

poll showed her in second to last place among eight candidates.

"Today I announced that I have decided not to continue with my candidacy for the position of secre-

tary-general of the United Nations," Bachelet, who served as Chile's first female leader, said in a video posted on her social media accounts.

"Some may believe that the time was not right for a candidacy like the one I sought to represent. I do not regret having taken on this great challenge," she said.

Bachelet stressed that by running for the top U.N. post, she had helped spark debate "that the next secretary-general should be a woman from Latin America."

Chile's government said in a statement that it had withdrawn its support for Bachelet's candidacy in March. Since then, it has not backed any of the can-

didates in the running.

The government also "reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and to reform of the United Nations."

So far in three polls as part of the informal process to pick the next U.N. chief, the 15-member Security Council twice placed Costa Rica's former vice president Rebeca Grynspan in the lead.

Guyanese ex-foreign minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett placed first in the third poll.

Bachelet was initially nominated last February by the administration of then-president Gabriel Boric, and supported by the leftist leaders of Mexico and Brazil.

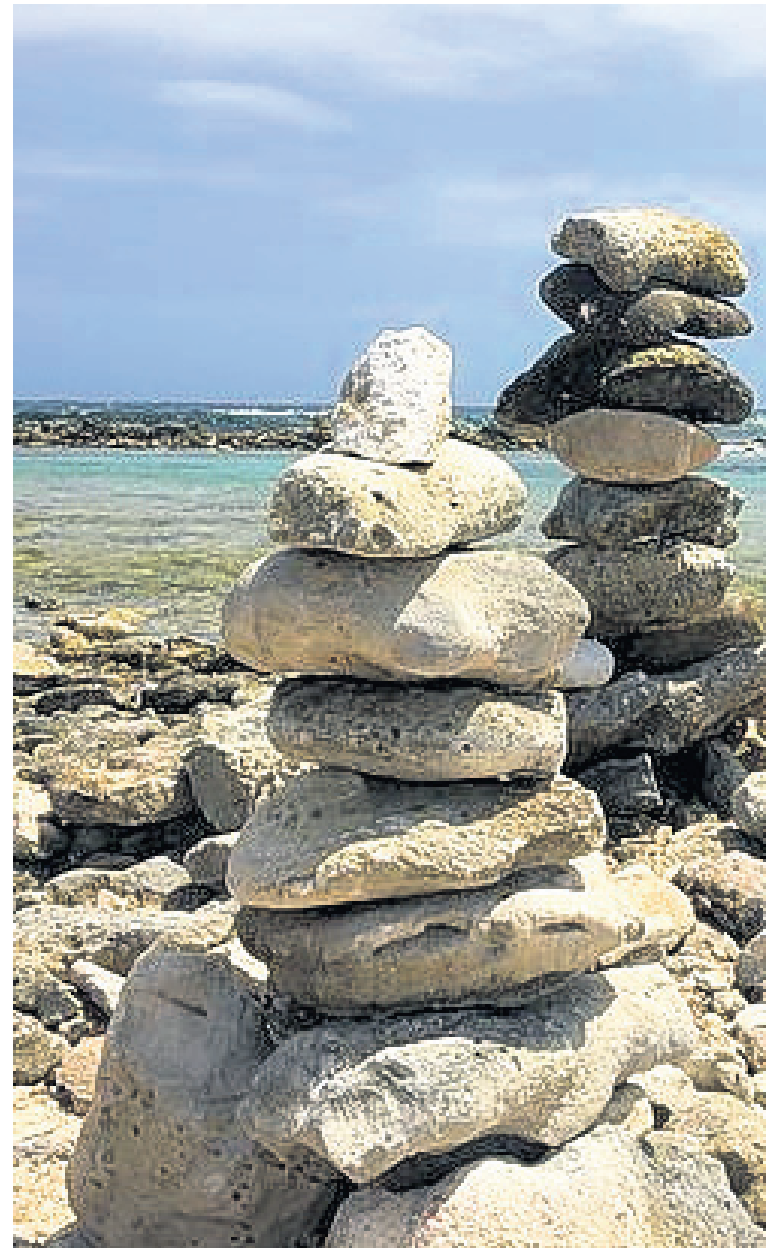
But the left-leaning 74-year-

old's candidacy lost momentum after Chile's new leader, far-right President Jose Antonio Kast, withdrew his backing.

Earlier this month at a university event, Bachelet had appeared to recognize her underdog status, joking about her slim chances of leading the global body.

No woman has led the United Nations in its 80-year history, and only one Latin American has served as secretary-general: Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, at the helm from 1982 to 1991. According to unwritten practice -- one that is not always followed -- the top position rotates among geographic regions. This time, it would be Latin America's turn. □

Why 'Rock Stacking' is more dangerous than you think



(Oranjestad)—“Rock stacking” is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba’s wilderness. Conservation organizations repeatedly warn people not to participate. To understand the growing opposition to the practice of stacking rocks, it is necessary to understand the deep and negative impact behind it.

The act, called rock stacking, has been practiced for thousands of years and was originally used to guide people on hikes or travelers in mountainous regions, as well as for rituals, burials, and memorials. However, the modern trend is quite different. Today, the popularity of rock stacking has less to do with utility and tradition and more to do with social media. An American artist based in Colorado, Michael Grab, noted that the trend really began gaining popularity around 2014 and 2015, before it exploded and became an international art form.

The reasons behind participation vary widely, ranging from something purely practical or a tradition from the past, to an activity for its “beauty.” For many, it is about leaving a mark, creating “art,” or simply enjoying the process of balancing rocks. In recent times, those who participate in this—especially in Aruba—do so to leave proof of their presence or simply to post on social media.

Although it may seem harmless, there are several problems and negative impacts behind it. One of these is that many animal species hide under rocks to live, reproduce, or escape predators. If you move a rock, you may be destroying a home. If you stack one on top of another, you may expose prey to predators. Whether this is done in nature areas, along the coast, or in desert environments, it can destroy entire colonies and, in the worst case, threaten species that are already endangered.

There are microorganisms and small species such as insects or certain snakes that live in the soil beneath rocks commonly used for stacking. These rocks help trap moisture underneath, allowing the ecosystem to sustain itself. When you remove a rock, the soil is exposed and the mois-

ture can dry up, killing all living organisms that depend on that humid environment.

Additionally, each rock is full of life—everything from aquatic plants to microorganisms attaches to them. Especially when it comes to rocks near the sea, they create habitats for some marine animals. Holes in the rocks can hold eggs, supporting them until the animals hatch. An expert explained that removing rocks from a fragile environment is essentially the equivalent of removing bricks from someone’s house while also taking everything out of their refrigerator.

There is also the issue of erosion and soil damage, because rocks help hold the ground in place, sealing the surface and helping manage excess water, even allowing new life to grow. When these rocks are removed, the soil becomes loose, significantly increasing the rate of erosion in that area.

This erosion can cause sedimentation in nearby bodies of water, negatively impacting aquatic habitats and water quality.

Rocks along the coast are part of a natural ecosystem and play an important role in protecting the shoreline from erosion and the force of the ocean. When people remove or stack rocks, it affects coastal stability, increases the risk of erosion, and damages ecosystems. According to South African National Parks, this is particularly relevant for an island like Aruba—especially considering that most, if not all, rock stacking on the island takes place near coastal areas.

It is understandable that rock stacking may seem like a fun activity to do while off-roading; however, the survival, protection, and conservation of the island are just as important—if not more so—to ensure that in the future there will still be an island for both locals and visitors. We want our visitors to appreciate what Aruba has to offer—in a healthy and sustainable way. □

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PSA for off-roaders:

Be careful when driving on rough terrains!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today recently received a message from a reader about the rough terrains and dirt roads on the northern side of the island, worried about how they may damage you car.

We at Aruba Today pride ourselves in enhancing your Aruba experience through informative articles about our history, culture and places you can visit. With this, we also want to make sure you take care of yourself and your loved ones.

You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging if you are traveling by (regular) car. These holes often occur after heavy rain or during the raining season, primarily because Aruba is a hilly island with a lot of downward streams, so rain water travels downward creating cracks and holes along the way.

For your own safety, please be advised to not drive on potentially dangerous terrains or dirt roads with deep holes if you are traveling by regular car. We advise you to rent a 4x4 vehicle instead or better yet, plan your off-roading trip with a tour guide who can provide proper vehicles and assistance. ☐



infini
by Urvin Croes

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Infini Unveils Menu XVI: Journey Through Time



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

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

drawing on Caribbean heritage through a contemporary lens.

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



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

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

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



Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba; the stones that cover the beach and the shape of it has been crafted for thousands of years through volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the ru-

ral northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



CAYA Introduces a Bold New Menu Celebrating Latin Caribbean Flavors



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

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

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

Among the standout new appetizers are the

Tuna al Tamarindo, featuring thinly sliced tuna sashimi served with tamarind *leche de tigre*, creamy avocado, marinated onions, radishes, cilantro, and crispy tortillas dusted with *tajín*; and the **Beef Stew Croquettes**, a playful nod to Caribbean comfort food, served with truffle and black garlic mayonnaise. Guests can also savor the **Beef and Pork Brochetas**, made with locally smoked bacon, *Madam Jeannette* peppers, local honey, and tenderloin, grilled



to perfection and served with *chimichurri espuma*.

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

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

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

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

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

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe Vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe Vera contain a good amount of

gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing



laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also deco-

rated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.



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

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; "Tram van Oranjestad" – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.



Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree

view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful

and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are

clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

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

A guide for the perfect picture: Where to find the most Instagrammable places in Aruba



(Oranjestad)—Imagine, you're out and about on the island and you want to take the most picture-perfect photo to show your friends and family back home and online. It seems like the perfect spot can be hard to find, but Aruba is full of great spots for a quick snapshot! Here are the most Instagrammable places in Aruba.

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

While you're in Mainstreet Oranjestad, check out the wooden swing on Plaza Daniel Leo. This is another favorite among visitors wanting a cute snapshot for Instagram.

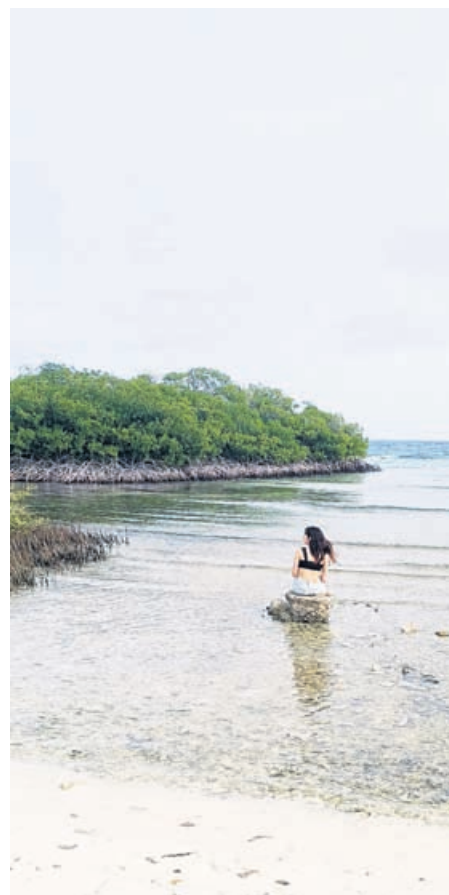
Since you've made it this far, one question: How many blue horses have you spotted already?

Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we definitely recommend Mangel Halto! You can get in the water right by the roots of these beautiful trees (please be careful not to climb them, though!). You will see beautiful skies, birds and other wildlife, and among the greenery of the mangroves, your picture is sure to pop!

Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, especially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on



the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!

"I LOVE ARUBA"

While you're in the area, check out the 'I LOVE ARUBA' sign is a great first stop for a quick shot with the family. This spot is among the few that has become a favorite among tourists, especially those that are visiting Aruba through a cruise vacation.

Speaking of giant signs that read "Aruba" (because there can never be too many), there is another sign you can find along the Linear Park. It may be a long walk from the harbor to get there, but while you're at it, check out these other spots along the way! □

CROSSWORD

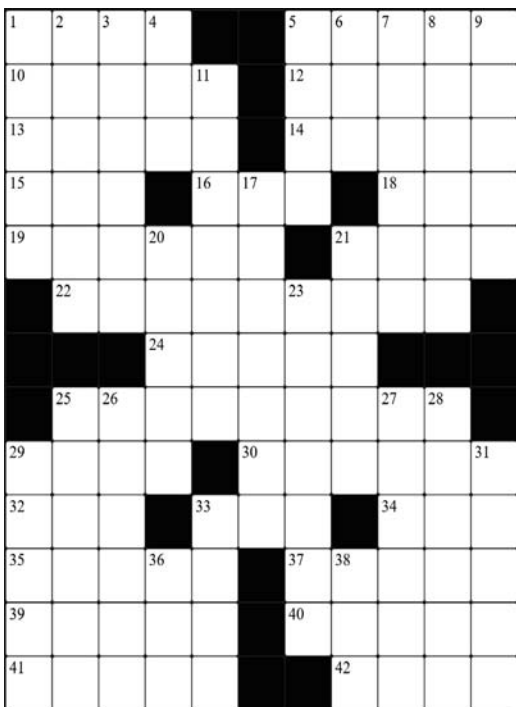
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

40. Did shoe work
1. Insulted
5. Salon tool
10. Start of the Spanish year
12. Out of practice
13. Birch's kin
14. Best Picture winner in 2025
15. "Lenore" writer
16. Road-house
18. Lobster trap
19. Denies
21. Car scar
22. Taking a long way
24. Took a part
25. Gobbling up
29. Prudent
30. "The Bathers" painter
32. Band blaster
33. Genetic stuff
34. Unbroken
35. Wise fellow
37. Avoid
39. Needle sources

DOWN

1. A lot
2. Sell in a hurry
3. Overnight flight
4. Uno plus due
5. Muffin makeup
6. Use the track
7. Annual golf event
8. Powerful
9. Hilton competitor
11. Vene-zuelan river
17. Road warning
20. Barrel piece
21. Slew
23. Enjoys a favorite book
25. Pinhead
26. Sevilla's nation
27. Pasta bit
28. Teriyaki ingredient
29. Some stingers
31. Marsh plants
33. Blu-ray item
36. Singer Tillis
38. Sound of delight



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.

9-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

E F P H Z Y H F C F I F W T Y K Q Q H .
E F P H F I F W I F E H Y M T W K L
I M J D : Z L E O H X H Y C H O W Q H
W K L Y J Q M R H . - S F Z R K O H Y L C F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ALL THE MONTHS ARE CRUDE EXPERIMENTS. OUT OF WHICH THE PERFECT SEPTEMBER IS MADE -- VIRGINIA WOOLF

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

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

Difficulty: ★

9/21

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

9/20

Hushing and hedging: U.S. companies retreat on climate

Washington, United States

Some companies are talking less about their climate commitments, while others are shifting the goalposts or quietly letting targets lapse. In President Donald Trump's second term, major American businesses are bending with the political winds and stepping back from environmental commitments in line with what scientists say is required to prevent the worst consequences of human-caused global warming. Climate Week NYC, which begins Sunday, is an annual jamboree of civil society, governments and companies on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly. "It's probably the biggest year I've had companies saying, 'Well, we haven't got anything to announce, so you know, I'm not sure we'll be on stage,'" Helen Clarkson, CEO of the Climate Group, which organizes the event, told AFP. "We're seeing 'green hushing' is definitely increasing, and that's a real challenge because I think if we all give in to this idea that the word climate should never be spoken, that is a lost battle." The explosion of AI data centers looms large over the trend, as U.S. tech companies rush to finance private gas plants to power them.

Earlier this year, Meta left the Climate Group's RE100 -- a voluntary pledge by leading companies to source all their electricity from renewables -- fueling speculation that other tech giants could follow.

It's not just Big Tech, though. Dylan Tanner, executive director of InfluenceMap, a think tank that tracks corporate climate policy and lobbying, said automakers were among the worst offenders. "Many car manufacturers with sales in the U.S. have weakened their EV production targets in recent years, no longer putting their push to electrify within clearly defined timeframes," he said. In January 2021, for example, GM set a target of 100 percent zero-emission

vehicle sales by 2035.

While it technically maintains this target, the company this year backed the Trump administration's weakening of a fuel economy rule to a level that would require no further improvement.

"GM believes that the EV transition must account for market and consumer realities... Ultimately the market will determine how quickly the EV transition occurs," the company wrote in a comment supportive of the rule.

- First wave, then backlash - Tanner, who has tracked this topic since 2015, said few companies supported climate policy action at first, but momentum grew after the 2015 Paris Agreement and landmark legislation in Europe and in the United States under former president Joe Biden.

A backlash to that first wave of high-ambition commitments began around 2023, with Trump bringing "a tailwind for some of the negative actors," he said. Pushback came from the fossil fuel sector and companies reliant on it, such as utilities, but also the US Chamber of Commerce, Tanner said. Just this week, the chamber praised the Trump administration's rule to remove curbs on greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.

In 2020 retail giant Walmart



Chevrolet Equinox EVs are shown for sale at a Chevrolet dealership on October 29, 2025 in Southfield, Michigan.

committed to cutting emissions by around a third by 2025 and two-thirds by 2030 from a 2015 baseline. But in a 2024 report it acknowledged it would miss the first target as well as its recycling goals.

Also in 2020, Google pledged to run on carbon-free energy by 2030, in what CEO Sundar Pichai heralded as a "moonshot." But by 2024 it had stopped claiming its operations were carbon neutral, and this year it acknowledged its emissions were still rising.

Beverage giants Coca-Cola and Pepsi have changed the baseline years for their emissions reduction targets and weakened their ambitions. Even companies whose climate policies have held steady -- as with Apple under InfluenceMap's scoring -- have drastically reduced their public engagement. Rachel Cleetus of the Union of Concerned Scientists said there was a clear limit to corporate climate action.

"I think it's pretty clear that voluntary commitments and announcements are always

going to be insufficient and we actually do need mandatory public policies on the books," she told AFP. "Without those policies... we just get this whiplash effect where companies are just swinging in the wind as politics change." □

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3 BR 3 bath Ocean view
Gold season
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Marriott Surf club

Palm beach
2 BR 2 bath ocean side
Gold season
Price :\$ 15,000
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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	
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Child Abuse Prevention Tel. 582 4433	
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Evenepoel wins record 4th straight world time-trial title

Montreal, Canada

Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel etched his name into the history books with a dominant fourth successive world time-trial victory in Montreal on Sunday. The 26-year-old Belgian came into the race as the overwhelming favourite and he did not disappoint. Evenepoel was already more than half a minute ahead of the rest by the second intermediate time-check just over half way through the race.

By the finish, the Belgian had put almost a minute into second-placed Filippo Ganna with Paul Seixas taking third another 15 seconds back.

Evenepoel became the first man to win the time-trial world title four times in a row, while also equalling the record number of overall titles held by German Tony Martin and Swiss Fabian Cancellara.

"It's amazing. It was obviously the goal to come and win here for the fourth time in a row. It was a big moti-



(L/R) Second place finisher Filippo Ganna of Italy, first place finisher Remco Evenepoel of Belgium and third place finisher Paul Seixas of France celebrate on the podium after the Men's Elite individual time trial at the 2026 Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) Road World Championships in Montreal, Quebec, on September 20, 2026.

vation," said Evenepoel. "I'm super happy. It was a wonderful experience." Already the Olympic champion in both this discipline and the road race, Evenepoel has not lost a time-trial since the 2025 Tour de France.

He has enjoyed his best season to date, winning the Amstel Gold Race, Clasica San Sebastian and Grand Prix de Quebec, as well as finishing second behind Tadej Pogacar at the Tour

de France. His next objective will be to win a second road-race world title next Sunday, and become the first man to do the double in the same year.

"There's quite some time to rest now and enjoy this special course," he said. "Full focus on Sunday from Tuesday."

Ganna had started slowly and was only 10th at the first time-check, but by the third, he had moved up into second spot.

But he could not make any headway into Evenepoel, who did not stop increasing his lead from the start to the finish.

Young Swede Jakob Soderqvist, the under-23 champion in this discipline last year, was second to Evenepoel at the first two time-checks but faded over the last 10km and finished fifth.

Teenage French starlet Seixas, gauged his effort better and put in a strong ride over the final 10km to finish third.

- 'Nervous' Reusser -

In the women's race, Swiss Marlen Reusser retained her world time-trial title as her main rival Demi Vollerling finished a disappointing eighth.

Time-trial queen Reusser celebrated her 35th birthday with an ultimately comfortable victory, but not before Briton Zoe Backstedt gave her a scare.

Backstedt had been quickest at the first two intermediate time-checks on the 39.2km course but Reusser powered away in the second half to beat the 21-year-old by 40 seconds, with German Franziska Koch finishing third, a further six seconds back.

Double world champion Reusser has been virtually unbeatable in races against the clock in the last few years.

She is a four-time European champion and has won time-trial stages at the Tour de France Femmes and Giro d'Italia Women.

It was a long time-trial for a women's race, where they are usually closer to 20km.

"Apparently I coped well but it made me really nervous," said Reusser.

"I was really nervous and I was not really sure because we don't have time trials like this often.□

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Bridgeman wins PGA Biltmore title with sizzling 61



Jacob Bridgeman of the United States poses with the trophy after winning the Biltmore Championship Asheville 2026 at The Cliffs at Walnut Cove on September 20, 2026 in Arden, North Carolina.

Washington, United States

Jacob Bridgeman birdied four of the last six holes on Sunday to hold off fel-

low American Ben James and win the PGA Biltmore Championship by two strokes.

Bridgeman fired a 10-under-par 61 with eight birdies and an eagle to finish 72 holes on 26-under 258 at The Cliffs at Walnut Cove in Asheville, North Carolina.

"When I was over the putt I knew where it was going to go. It was just magical," Bridgeman said. "I just made so many putts."

It was the second career PGA crown for 26-year-old Bridgeman, a native of nearby Inman, South Carolina, playing in front of family and friends who captured his first in February at Riviera.

"It was super cool," Bridgeman said. "It was awesome. I felt like I had all my

family and friends cheering for me. "It was pretty neat. It's super cool to perform in front of them. I'm super pumped."

Bridgeman will play for the United States in next week's Presidents Cup at Medinah.

"It's a dream come true," he said. "Being able to play as a team for the United States, I'm really pumped." James matched his career-low PGA round with a 61 to finish second on 260, one stroke ahead of fellow Americans Ricky Castillo and Neal Shipley with Americans J.T. Poston and Jackson Koivun sharing fifth on 263.

Bridgeman birdied three of the first four holes, added a 10-foot eagle putt at the par-five eighth and sank a

five-foot birdie putt at the 10th for a one-stroke lead. James grabbed a share of the lead with a birdie at the par-five 15th but Bridgeman answered with a birdie from just outside five feet at the 13th.

When James made a 26-foot birdie putt at 16, Bridgeman responded with a 12-foot birdie putt at the par-three 14th to regain the solo lead.

Bridgeman tapped in for birdie at 15 and James did the same at the par-five 17th to stay on his heels.

A closing par by James left him needing a mistake by Bridgeman in the last two holes but the leader added a tap-in birdie at 17 and parred 18 to secure the \$900,000 top prize.□

Williams injured as Bears shut down by Vikings

Los Angeles, United States

Quarterback Caleb Williams suffered a worrying-looking injury as the free-scoring Chicago Bears were brought back to earth with a 9-3 defeat to the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

One week after piling up 59 points in a dazzling NFL season-opening victory over Carolina, the Bears were restricted to just a single field goal at a rainswept Soldier Field.

A bitterly disappointing home opener for the Bears was compounded by injury to their franchise quarterback, who hobbled off in the fourth quarter and was carried to the locker room on a medical cart.

Williams had been in rampant form in last week's win over the Panthers, but was given no respite by the Vikings' steely defense. He was forced to scramble repeatedly all game, suffering three sacks and coughing up an interception before pulling up in agony in the red zone.

"A hamstring could be pretty damaging... We'll see how bad it is tomorrow and we'll go from there," said Bears head coach Ben Johnson, with scans scheduled for Monday.

The Vikings improved to 2-0 thanks to three field goals from Will Reichard.

In other early NFL action Sunday, the New Orleans Saints scored 15 unanswered fourth-quarter points to turn a 17-9 deficit into a 24-17 defeat of the Ravens in Baltimore.

Saints quarterback Tyler Shough hit Chris Olave for a 21-yard touchdown and a successful two-point conversion tied the score at 17-17, before Shough's one-yard rushing touchdown with 1min 28sec remaining gave New Orleans the winning score.

The comeback came a week after the Saints forced overtime from 21-0 down to the Detroit Lions, but lost that game with a failed two-point conversion. This time they made no mistake.

"Sometimes you have to learn how to win, learn how to finish. And I think we're

right on time," said Saints defensive edge Chase Young. The Philadelphia Eagles snatched a dramatic 24-20 win over the Tennessee Titans thanks to a last-gasp Darius Cooper touchdown. The Titans had edged ahead 20-17 inside the two-minute warning with a Joey Slye field goal.

But Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts led a nine-play, 65-yard drive that culminated with a three-yard pass to Cooper for a touchdown with nine seconds left on the clock in Nashville.

The Green Bay Packers grabbed a tense 20-17 overtime win after coming from 17-7 down in the fourth quarter at the New York Jets.

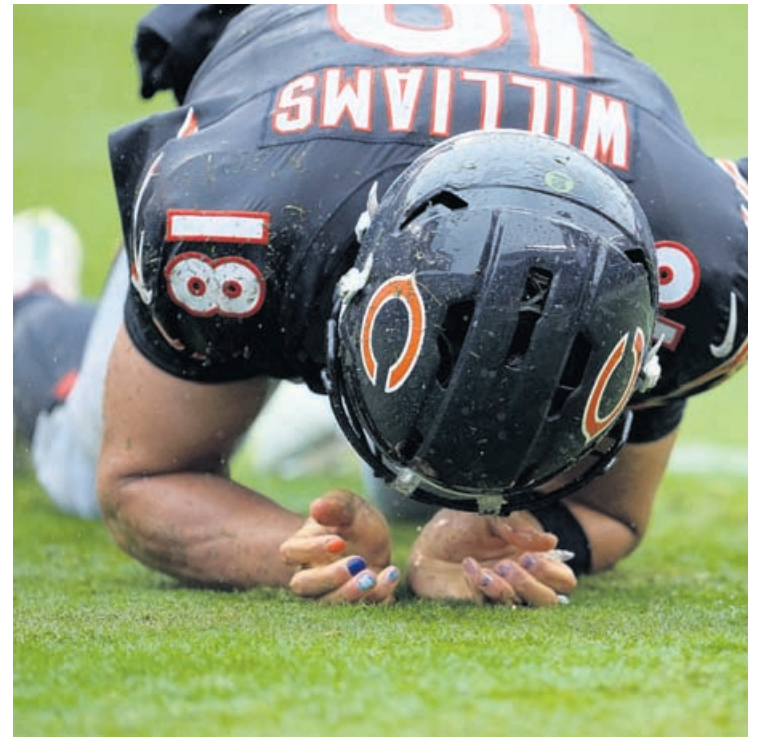
The Jets failed to score on the first possession of overtime, before a defensive penalty for unnecessary

roughness took Packers kicker Trey Smack comfortably into field goal range for the victory.

- Patriots, Bengals win -

The New England Patriots bounced back from their opening loss with a clinical 20-3 defeat of the Pittsburgh Steelers, whose veteran quarterback Aaron Rodgers was sacked four times. The Patriots' scores included a TreVeyon Henderson 39-yard rushing touchdown. The highly rated Houston Texans defense could not stop Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow linking with star receiver Ja'Marr Chase for two touchdowns in a 20-6 win.

And after their high-scoring loss to the Bears in week one, the Panthers made the most of their potent offense



Caleb Williams #18 of the Chicago Bears reacts after an injury against the Minnesota Vikings during the third quarter of the game at Soldier Field on September 20, 2026 in Chicago, Illinois

in a 34-3 rout of the Atlanta Falcons. □



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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com