

Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts



Page 7



BUSHIRI
KARTING SPEEDWAY

TUESDAY TO SATURDAY 10 am - 10 pm
SUNDAY 1 pm - 9 pm

More Info
CALL: +297 583 5278
www.bushirikarting.com

STREET
SPORTSBAR *Bites*

GO-KART RENTALS



Pinchos Grill & Bar

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

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

Full Service Bar

Live Music Fridays & Sundays

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





ARUBA

Beach Club Resort

Discover Aruba Beach Club, a family-friendly resort right on Aruba's white-sand beach.

At Aruba Beach Club, your family can enjoy comfort, community, and affordability with timeshares that last for generations.

Choose from 3 spacious unit types, enjoy affordable ownership, and secure your vacation spot in paradise for life.

For more information, visit our website arubabeachresort.com or contact our sales team today!



Michigan Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed (L) and former U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris participate in a roundtable discussion about reproductive health at Birth Detroit on September 22, 2026 in Detroit, Michigan.

U.S. ex-VP Harris campaigns for leftist El-Sayed in key Senate race

Washington, United States

Former U.S. vice president Kamala Harris returned to the campaign trail Tuesday alongside a leftist Michigan Senate candidate, seeking to help Democrats hold a crucial battleground seat as speculation persists over another White House run in 2028.

Harris appeared with Abdul El-Sayed at a Detroit-area roundtable on Black maternal health and was scheduled to join other events aimed at mobilizing voters in a state central to Democratic hopes of winning control of the Senate in November.

El-Sayed, who would be the first Muslim member of the U.S. Senate, faces Republican former congressman Mike Rogers for the seat being vacated by a retiring Democrat.

A Republican victory would make an already challenging Democratic path to a Senate majority considerably steeper.

"The Senate should be a

stopgap on the abuses of this administration, and I would suggest to you that the fellow sitting to my right would be one of them when elected," Harris said at the roundtable as she introduced the candidate to the cameras.

The epidemiologist has run in part on his experience in health administration, and he described maternal care as "personal" for him, revealing that two of his father's siblings died before turning five.

"Babies shouldn't die, full stop. And a measure of a society is... the choices we make about the services we provide, about the resources we offer, about the voices we listen to, about the perspective we share or don't share," said El-Sayed.

"Those are the markers of a society, and we have an opportunity in this race to decide that we are going to invest in health care."

The visit put Harris back in the spotlight in Michigan,

where Donald Trump narrowly defeated her in the 2024 presidential election and which is set to vote early in the Democratic presidential nominating calendar in 2028.

Harris has said she is "thinking about" another presidential bid but has given no timeline for a decision.

Her Michigan appearance kicks off a broader burst of midterm campaigning, with stops also planned in Nevada and Georgia.

Tuesday's joint appearance was significant for El-Sayed as he seeks to unite Democrats after defeating establishment-backed Representative Haley Stevens in a bruising primary.

El-Sayed drew strong support from the left but performed less strongly among Black voters, a key Democratic constituency in Detroit that Harris's visit could help him reach.

The two Democrats have also occupied different ground over Israel. □



Donald Trump Jr. and his wife Bettina (R) disembark from Air Force One as they arrive with US President Donald Trump at Shannon Airport in Shannon, western Ireland on September 12, 2026, ahead of his arrival to attend the Irish Open golf tournament in nearby Doonbeg.

Republican senator seeks probe of Trump Jr. Russian-funded wedding

Washington, United States

A Republican U.S. senator called Tuesday for Donald Trump Jr. to be subpoenaed over a Russian oligarch close to Vladimir Putin helping bankroll lavish celebrations for the president's son's wedding.

Utah Senator John Curtis asked the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate whether members of presidential families have used their political connections for private financial gain, in a rare challenge from within President Donald Trump's own party.

His request follows a ProPublica investigation reporting that Russian oligarch Umar Kremlev paid hundreds of thousands of dollars toward Trump Jr.'s three-day wedding celebrations in the Bahamas in May, including the rental of a private island and a fireworks display.

Trump Jr. and his wife Bettina later confirmed Kremlev's involvement, describing him as a friend who had "very generously hosted" two nights of celebrations.

"A toaster is a wedding gift. A private-island party paid for by a Putin-connected oligarch is something else," Curtis posted on X.

Curtis also called for former president Joe Biden's son Hunter to be subpoenaed, arguing that Congress should apply the same standards to presidential families regardless of party. "Republicans nearly wore out the subpoena machine investigating Hunter Biden's foreign relationships. We should not unplug it now," he said.

In a letter to Republican Judiciary Committee chairman Chuck Grassley and its top Democrat Dick Durbin, Curtis cited Trump Jr.'s cryptocurrency ventures, international real estate dealings, defense investments and ties to prediction markets.

The reports, he said, raised questions about whether foreign interests could gain access or expect favorable treatment through relationships with a president's family. □

Trump threatens Iran with 'hell' but reveals fresh talks

United Nations, United States

President Donald Trump revealed that U.S. and Iranian officials held talks Tuesday for the first time in months, even as he told the United Nations he was still deciding whether to "annihilate" Iran.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi met Trump's roving envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Trump's carrot-and-stick approach began with a bombastic speech to the U.N. General Assembly in New York focused heavily on his stalled, unpopular war against the Islamic Republic.

"I have a big decision to make -- will a deal be made with Iran that lets them rebuild and create a far greater country?" the 80-year-old said in his speech, during which all but one member of the Iranian delegation walked out. "Or do I annihilate the Islamic Republic and do it quickly, never giving them a chance to kill and destroy people and countries again? Do I drive them into hell with no chance of survival?"

Trump said he believed Iran would make a deal immediately after November's midterm elections in which Republicans face losing control of Congress due largely to the conflict's drag on the US economy.

But just after his speech, Trump revealed that Iranian and U.S. representatives had met for three hours on the sidelines of the U.N. gathering.

"They had a very good meeting, a very productive meeting they have another one scheduled in the very near future," Trump told reporters as he met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

Trump later added while meeting Gulf leaders at the U.N. that "I think there's a lot of momentum for them to make a deal, that's what we're hearing from everybody."

Iranian media reported that Araghchi gave Witkoff conditions for reopening the crucial Strait of Hormuz waterway.

According to the state news agency IRIB, Araghchi said Tehran's demands included "the immediate lifting of the (U.S.) naval blockade, the prompt payment of all Iranian assets that have been frozen, and an end to the war on all resistance fronts."

Witkoff told reporters that "I feel very good right now" about the Iranian meeting but would not give further details.

- Ukraine talks -

It is believed to be the first face-to-face meeting between Iranian and US officials since U.S. Vice President JD Vance met senior Tehran officials in Switzerland in June.

Trump promised when the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28 that it would be over in four or five weeks, but the conflict is now grinding on well into its sixth month.

A ceasefire agreed in April quickly broke down and negotiations have since stalled, with Iran refusing to cede control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump has sought to justify the economic pain of high fuel prices caused by the war amid mounting voting anger, saying that Iran cannot be allowed to develop a nuclear weapon.

Despite the belligerent tone of much of his speech, Trump portrayed himself as a peacemaker who was acting in America's interests, declaring: "While others have ignored threats, I have confronted them."

Yet Trump's meeting with Zelensky underscored that he is still to secure a deal to end Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a war that he once claimed he could settle in 24 hours. Trump insisted he was working with both sides to end the war, despite little evidence of Russian President Vladimir Putin being open to any settlement. □



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) multilateral meeting alongside Jordan's King Abdullah II and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani (unseen) on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 22, 2026.

WACKY WAHOO'S

**Your first choice for locally caught fish and seafood on the island.
Very reasonably priced, exciting menu and no service charge added
to your bill.**



**We are open from Monday - Saturday from 5.30pm - 10pm.
No reservation required! We operate on a first come first serve system.**

**Located within walking distance from the High Rise hotels at Palm Beach #33.
For more information call +297-586.7333**

Memoir by Diana's brother goes on sale after rocking UK monarchy

London, United Kingdom

Charles Spencer's book about his late sister Princess Diana, packed with explosive claims concerning King Charles III that have rocked Britain's monarchy, went on sale Tuesday.

"Swan Song: Diana, My Sister", a memoir written by Diana's younger brother, has been published by Penguin in various English-speaking countries and translated into 12 languages.

Billed as chronicling her life from his perspective, Spencer's 384-page book comes almost three decades after Diana was killed in a 1997 car crash in Paris.

Extracts serialized in the British tabloid the Daily Mail last week have triggered sensational headlines around allegations involving her ex-husband King Charles.

Charles issued a rare rebuttal after Spencer wrote that the then Prince of Wales told him in a phone call



Copies of "Swan Song: Diana, My Sister", Charles Spencer's book about his late sister Princess Diana, are unboxed at a bookstore in central London on September 22, 2026.

shortly after Diana's death: "Rest assured, we'll forget her soon enough."

Spencer also claimed Charles had "sounded giddily elated, like a lottery

winner" at the news of her demise.

"I'm looking forward to reading it," self-described Diana fan Mary Scheible, 69, from the United States,

told AFP as she bought a copy from a bookshop while visiting London.

"What I've seen are sentences taken maybe out of context. So I want to read

the book to get the full story and then make my opinion."

Spencer, 62, who has worked as a U.S. television journalist, has said he wrote the memoir to correct "untruths that have become accepted over time".

"Diana would be cheering from the rafters at this book," he told the Mail on Sunday.

- 'Fraternal grief' -

But despite the recent publicity, the book only sat in 12th position in Amazon UK's non-fiction bestseller list Tuesday.

Diana's death, aged just 36, sparked an outpouring of grief in Britain and beyond for the woman dubbed "the people's princess". And it triggered accusations that the then monarch, Queen Elizabeth II, failed to respond swiftly with empathy and understanding.

Spencer told the BBC that Charles "went ballistic" after he insisted Diana would not have wanted her sons, princes William and Harry, to walk behind her coffin in her funeral procession. They were then aged 15 and 12, respectively.

Drug cocktail killed former child star Hayden Panettiere: coroner

Los Angeles, United States

Actress Hayden Panettiere, who starred in the popular TV series "Heroes" and "Nashville," died from a cocktail of drugs that included fentanyl, a U.S. coroner said Tuesday.

The 36-year-old former child star was discovered unresponsive at a home in South Carolina last month, reportedly by long-term

partner Brian Hickerson and his brother.

U.S. media said Hickerson handed paramedics a bag of medications as they gave the unconscious Panettiere Narcan a drug used to counter the effects of a fentanyl overdose but she was declared dead at the scene.

The Greenville County Cor-

oner's Office said Tuesday an autopsy showed no signs of trauma and classified the death as an accident.

Tests revealed the cause of death to be the toxic effects of fentanyl, in combination with a generic version of Xanax, a muscle relaxant, and an anti-psychotic drug.

An investigation into Panettiere's death is likely to focus on where she obtained the drugs, and could echo the probe into the circumstances surrounding the overdose of Matthew Perry, who died in a hot tub in his Los Angeles home in 2023.

Five people were sentenced for their roles in supplying the "Friends" actor with the drugs that killed him.

Born in 1989, Panettiere's credits include "Remember The Titans," "Ice Princess," "Scream 4" and

"Scream VI."

She worked in Hollywood all her life, appearing in commercials at just 11 months of age and winning a Grammy nomination for voicing the "Princess Dot" character in the 1998 movie "A Bug's Life" when she was nine.

But behind the successful career lay a dark personal history.

In a memoir released in May, "This Is Me: A Reckoning," she described the pressures of being a child star and her experiences with alcohol and opioid addiction and recovery.

Panettiere had a daughter with Ukrainian boxer Wladimir Klitschko in 2014. In one of her final interviews before her death, she told parenting magazine Mome that the extremely painful and dangerous birth had left her depressed and made her turn to alcohol. □



A picture of late US actress Hayden Panettiere is projected on screen as U.S. singer/songwriter Noah Kahan performs during the 78th Primetime Emmy Awards at the Peacock Theatre at LA Live in Los Angeles on September 14, 2026.

A Buckingham Palace spokesperson last week issued a rare reaction from the 77-year-old king.

"His Majesty is mindful that the pain of fraternal grief can cloud reason, affect judgment and color memory in ways others do not recognize, even many years after such a loss," it stated. But Spencer insisted to the BBC that Charles told him Diana would soon be forgotten, saying "those are exactly the words he said". He apologized however to former tabloid editor Piers Morgan for factual errors about him in the book, while doubling down on some aspects of his account of a phone conversation. Morgan, who has pledged to sue despite the apology, added: "If Earl Spencer can be so incredibly, defamatorily wrong about such basic facts involving me, well, why should we believe anything else he puts in this book?" □



Zimbabwe farm workers harvest blueberries into punnets and crates ready for export into global markets at Forrester Estates in Mvurwi, on August 20 2026.

Zimbabwe farmers seek funds to cash in on China blueberry boom

Mvurwi, Zimbabwe

Under the morning sun, women moved briskly through neat rows of bushes, plucking blueberries for Zimbabwe's export market thrown wide open by new trade deals with China. Managers of the Forrester Estates farm about 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Harare want to more than double their planting area to 50 hectares (124 acres) next year to capitalize on the booming demand. "The funding, that's the problem," farm manager Albert Chakala told AFP.

The southern African country dispatched its first shipment of blueberries to China in July after a phytosanitary agreement signed a year ago and Beijing's scrapping of tariffs on imports from 53 African countries in May.

"The crop that we have is not enough to satisfy our market," Chakala said. Each new hectare of blueberries requires an upfront investment of between \$50,000 and \$55,000, mainly for irrigation, planting material and other infrastructure, he said.

Lack of access to affordable finance is one of the biggest barriers to growth for many of Zimbabwe's farmers, according to the Horticultural Development

Council (HDC), which represents growers and exporters.

Yet, the promise of new global markets clashes sharply with Zimbabwe's ongoing monetary realities, where a scarcity of foreign exchange routinely leaves farmers unable to fund the very expansion needed to meet demand.

"We are expanding bit by bit, according to what we are getting back from what we sell," Chakala said.

Zimbabwean blueberries already reach European, British and Middle Eastern markets, but China one of the world's largest consumers of the fruit widely promoted for its purported health benefits offers a potentially transformative new destination for the farmers who can afford to scale up.

- Financing 'a big worry' -

Zimbabwe is Africa's third-largest blueberry producer after Morocco and South Africa, and one of the world's fastest-growing blueberry producers, according to the HDC.

This year, the industry expects to export about 12,000 tons from around 850 hectares, up from 9,500 tons produced from 650 hectares last year, CEO Linda Nielsen said in a statement in June.

To support growth to meet the potential offered by China's hunger for blueberries, the sector was engaging with the government over more competitive export financing and targeted tax incentives for irrigation, solar and cold-chain investments, she said.

"The lack of adequate financing is a big worry for growers," she said.

Most of Zimbabwe's blueberry producers are established white commercial farmers whose families have farmed for many years, said Clarence Mwale, chairman of the Export Produce Growers Association of Zimbabwe.

"With the opening of new markets like the Chinese market, it gives an opportunity for indigenous farmers to find space to also grow crops like blueberries," he told AFP.

But this would require securing cheaper, long-term capital, he said.

"If we can attract foreign direct investment, foreign loans, patient money, patient capital, then perhaps we can start talking about better platforms for new farmers to come in," Mwale said. "As it is, we have access to money locally, but it's very expensive money," he said, referring to high interest rates on bank loans. □



Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen (R) and Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen deliver a press conference following a signing ceremony for a trilateral security agreement between the United States, Denmark and Greenland on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 22, 2026.

U.S. to build two military bases in southern and eastern Greenland

Copenhagen, Denmark

The United States will build two military bases in southern and eastern Greenland under a wide-ranging security agreement signed Tuesday between the United States, Greenland and Denmark on Tuesday.

Since returning to the White House in January 2025, Trump has repeatedly insisted that the U.S. needed to control Greenland for strategic reasons, even refusing to rule out the use of force at one point, alarming NATO ally Denmark and sparking fierce pushback from the alliance.

On Tuesday, Washington, Copenhagen and Nuuk signed a 10-page agreement in New York, on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, giving the U.S. control over security in Denmark's autonomous Arctic territory. The prime ministers of Denmark and Greenland expressed satisfaction at finally having a deal in place. "With this agreement, it is our clear assessment that the Kingdom of Denmark stands in a better place than we did yesterday. And tomorrow is a new day, and as everyone knows, we live in uncertain times," Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told reporters after the signing. "I hope the agreement will bring more peace of mind in Greenland, because it has been a tough time," she noted. Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen echoed that sentiment. "This is a step in a really good direction," he said. "But back home we need to rebuild trust, and that will be a process for us."

- Stopping China, Russia -

Under the deal which reaffirmed "the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Denmark" and recognized Greenland's "right to self-determination" Washington will establish military bases in Narsarsuaq in the south of the island and Mestersvig in the east, in addition to the Pituffik base it already operates in the north. In a section aimed at barring U.S. adversaries China and Russia from gaining a foothold on Greenland, the agreement blocks non-NATO, non-EU countries from strategic sectors on the island. "The Parties agree that states or investors from a state that is not a member of NATO, a NATO partner, or an EU member state shall not be allowed to have control, significant influence, or access to non-public information that may constitute a threat to national security or public order within particularly sensitive sectors or activities in the territory of Greenland (including the Territorial Waters), unless agreed between the Parties that the activities of such states or investors would not constitute a threat to national security or public order," the agreement says. □

In Brazil's Amazon, the hunt for oil fuels hopes and fears

Oiapoque, Brazil

Indigenous chief Wagner Karipuna gazes worriedly at the tranquil river flowing past his village in the Brazilian Amazon as he imagines the nightmare scenario of an oil spill being carried here by the tides.

His village, Manga, is located around 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the center of Oiapoque, a town bordering French Guiana that has been buzzing since Brazilian oil giant Petrobras began offshore exploration in the region a year ago.

The state-run company announced in August that it had identified signs of oil in a well about 175 kilometers (109 miles) off the coast of northern Brazil's Amapa state.

Leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is seeking reelection on October 4, promptly visited the area, calling the oil a "passport to the future."

Reaching Oiapoque requires travelling 600 kilometers (370 miles) from state capital Macapa, part of it along a red dirt road riddled with potholes. Make-shift wooden bridges are used to cross waterways. Many streets in the town have no sidewalks, and are lined with low-rise buildings with run-down facades, although numerous construction projects are underway.



Wagner Karipuna, chief of the Manga Indigenous village, poses for a photo during an interview with AFP in the Manga Indigenous village, home of the Karipuna people, in Oiapoque, Amapa state, Brazil on September 5, 2026.

- 'Disappointed' with Lula -

While many residents are excited about a potential oil bonanza in their poverty-stricken town, Karipuna is far from convinced.

"In the event of a spill, we will inevitably be affected. Water has no borders," said the 57-year-old chief.

He fears an "immense disaster" if an oil leak off the coast is carried into the Curipi River, which runs alongside his village of 1,800 inhabitants.

Petrobras has said its analyses do "not indicate the probability" of oil "reaching the coast in the event of a spill."

"There is no such thing as zero risk in offshore exploration," Jean Paul Prates, who headed Petrobras in 2023-2024 and now chairs the energy and natural resources think-tank Cerne, told AFP.

"It is a low-probability risk, but with potentially high consequences."

Karipuna says he is "disappointed" with Lula, who presents himself as a defender of the environment and Indigenous peoples.

Lula has said that while he is against fossil fuels, he believes the world cannot live without them yet, and that oil can finance the transi-

tion to clean energy.

Karipuna said he is already feeling the impact of oil exploration because of "the noise from planes and helicopters," which he said scares away birds and game.

His concerns are shared by Joelso Mendonca, vice president of a group of nearly 400 traditional fishermen.

"If there is an oil spill, nobody is going to want to buy our fish," the 50-year-old said, while repairing his net in a stilted shack on the riverbank.

Petrobras told AFP it had "maintained continuous

dialogue" with civil society and Indigenous communities.

Regarding air traffic, the company said it had made "adjustments" following consultations with Indigenous leaders.

- 'Starting from scratch' -

While some see the potential oil as a curse, Jacqueline Cadete considers it a "sign from God."

The 45-year-old evangelical pastor moved to Oiapoque at the end of 2025, attracted by oil "opportunities" after living abroad for many years in French Guiana and metropolitan France.

According to a study by the National Industry Observatory, more than 50,000 jobs could be created in Amapa.

And any royalty payments Petrobras will have to make once production begins could provide a considerable windfall for local authorities.

However, Petrobras president, Magda Chambriard, announced in August that production was not expected to begin for another "six or seven years."

In the meantime, Mayor Inacio Monteiro Maciel is "very optimistic" about the future, even though the city will have to "practically start from scratch" in terms of infrastructure and social policies. □

Iceland's last whaling company threatens to sue if hunt is banned



This handout photo taken on July 31, 2026 and obtained from the Captain Paul Watson Foundation UK on August 1, 2026 shows the Bandero vessel (R) belonging to the foundation of animal rights activist Paul Watson docked next to a ship of the Icelandic Coast Guard in the harbour of Reykjavik, after the foundation's vessel was seized at sea after monitoring Hvalur 9, one of the last two active commercial whaling vessels operating in Iceland.

Reykjavik, Iceland

The boss of Iceland's last active whaling company told AFP on Tuesday that he would sue the government if it were to introduce a whaling ban.

Iceland is one of three countries in the world that still hunts whales, drawing fierce criticism from animal rights groups. The island nation's government has announced that it plans to put forward a bill in February 2027 that could see the practice banned in Iceland.

Kristjan Loftsson, CEO of whaling company Hvalur, said he would comply with a ban but take legal action if it were enacted.

"We will not whale of course," 83-year-old Loftsson told AFP.

"We will sue the government... so I don't think they will dare to do it.

"You know, it will cost them a lot of money

and these ministers don't care because they don't pay it themselves. They send it all to the taxpayers."

Two factors have prompted the government to consider a ban.

One is commercial interests, as the activity is barely profitable, and on the other, animal welfare, according to the Icelandic Ministry of Industries.

But despite plans of bill being put before parliament, Loftsson was not worried.

"I am not worried about this at all. I am quite confident this will never materialize," he said, while noting other similar proposals had been floated in the past.

"But it all ended up in nothing," Loftsson said.

Hvalur employs about 150 people during hunting season, which is usually from early June to early September, and between 40 and 50 the rest of the year. □

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Roundabouts

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in both at maximum and minimum speed is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.



Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the high way before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could and has caused confused among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra;

one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from

the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located farther west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two ex-

its on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □





*Perfect swings.
Paradise feeling*

Tee Times starting after 1PM
Gather your friends and enjoy an unforgettable afternoon on the greens for just

\$195
PER PERSON + TAX

Your golf experience includes:

- 18 Holes of Golf
- Golf Club Rental
- One Sleeve of Pinnacle Golf Balls
- One Complimentary Drink at the 19th Hole Bar after your round

For more information or reservations
tdsgl5@iberostar.com







Caya House
 CayaHouse
 J.E Irausquin Blvd 372
 www.caya.aw
 reservations@caya.aw

Explore Aruba!

(ORANJESTAD)—Aruba Today collected some things to do **BEYOND** the beach. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Arikok National Park

The Arikok National park is worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots.

If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruis-

ing through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In total, the park consists of 34 square kilometers of protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center. For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

Natural Bridge

One of Aruba's favorite tourist attractions is the Natural Bridge. For thousands of years, pounding waves and strong winds have slowly chiseled away the limestone cliffs along Aruba's north coast to create several natural bridges. The largest of these bridges used to be the famous Natural Bridge. The bridge was a formation of coral limestone cut out by years of pounding surf, and was one of the largest of these types of spans in the world. It stood some 23 feet (7 me-



ters) above sea level and spans more than 100 feet (30 meters). Unfortunately the bridge collapsed on September 2, 2005. Despite this, it is still the most photographed natural bridge and it remains a popular tourist attraction in Aruba, with the adjacent and intact Baby Bridge also meriting a visit.

The Natural Bridge is the perfect stop while touring Aruba. There is no admission fee or set hours for visit-

ing. Quench your thirst with refreshing beverages & refuel your tank with local snacks.

The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to

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

Enjoy one of the best views on Aruba at the top of the Hooiberg Hill



(Oranjestad)—If you are a regular hiker, or maybe want to spice up your morning work out session, then you might enjoy one of the most popular climbing sites on the island: The Hooiberg Hill. Accompanied with a 600-step staircase, this hill overlooks a great part of the island, the Caribbean sea, and sometimes even the Santa Anna mountain located in the coastal state of Falcon in Venezuela, providing one of the best views you can get on Aruba.

located at the center district of the island, Santa Cruz, the Hooiberg Hill is the second highest point on the island at 165 meters above sea level (or about 540 feet above sea level). The highest point is Jamanota Hill at 189 meters (620 feet), located in the

Arikok National Park.

The staircase that run on the side of the hill was first built in 1951, when Mr. Eduardo Tromp constructed it. At that time, the staircase consisted of 900 steps. Over time, as the steps faced erosion, the government decided to renovate these stairs in 1991. This new project delivered the newer staircase with only 587 steps. However, don't be fooled it may still be a work out to get on top. In addition, there is now a gazebo placed halfway up the stair for a little rest. The view at this resting stop is also a sight to see.

The best time to climb the hill would be early in the morning or right before sunset, as it may not be as hot. However, the hill is of course open all day, every day. □

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

WILDER
Wednesday

— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —

\$1,000 in
Free Slot Play

Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight

Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.
Play up to five times each Wednesday.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.

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

Create museum memories with the entire family!

Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you to these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruban Museum Foun-

dation (FMA), which is a foundation that maintains, preserves, and protects the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page: Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown

Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1,700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Ar-



chaeological Museum Aruba uses approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit showcases archaeological objects and conveys modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum regularly hosts public seminars, special exhibitions and workshop for visitors to enjoy.

The museum is open daily from 9 am till 5 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page National Archaeological Museum Aruba or website: www.manaruba.org

Editor's note: Pictures are property of the respective museums.

The tree that points west: The 'Watapana'

(Oranjestad)— Standing proudly and always pointing west, the Watapana (also called Divi Divi—though some say erroneously so) played an important role in one of the island's first industries. Since then, it has been recognized as Aruba's national tree. Here are some facts about the sturdy Watapana.

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

The name 'Divi Divi' originated in Curacao during the 17th century when Watapana beans were exported from the Antilles to Europe to produce dye. The fruit of the Watapana con-

tains tannin, a chemical compound that naturally produces a dye that was used for tanning leather back then.

In Aruba, the tannin industry gave many locals temporary work. Watapana beans were collected and taken to the *cunucu** owner in exchange for 25 cents for every 20 kilos. After collecting the beans, workers would have to pick out the best ones for exportation: Deep red pods were preferred; green or black pods were considered premature or damaged. The end of the tannin industry in Aruba faded out with the introduction of synthetic dyes. This proved to be a much cheaper option than processing tannin.

In 1979, the Watapana was inaugurated as Aru-



Aruba's national tree.

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

Source: Chabalito magazine - E Watapana (2010)



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!
Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Episode CCCLXX-370

Our Grandmothers' Hands: A Non-exportable Memory

Through this cultural space, Etnia Nativa invites readers to discover Aruba's intangible cultural heritage—the traditions, knowledge, and stories passed down from generation to generation. In this new episode, we explore the vital role of documentation as a powerful tool for preserving and safeguarding this living heritage for generations to come.

During the 1970s, the large-scale illegal export of qudies, grinding stones, became a silent threat to an irreplaceable part of Aruba's heritage. As discussed in Episode 318, which focused on the "pie d'mula" as a heritage asset, this trend also affected other elements of our lithic heritage, including petroglyphs and pre-Columbian artifacts. In the process, the island lost an important part of its material memory.

Decades later, this is not simply a problem of the past. The illegal market for pre-Columbian stone artifacts continues to place Aruba's cultural heritage at risk. What may appear to be nothing more than an old stone can represent something far greater: a tangible connection to Aruba's history, ancestors, and cultural identity.

Protecting our heritage begins with understanding it. Qudie, or pie d'mula, are tangible traces of our ancestors' daily lives. They reflect generations who ground grain, prepared food, worked stone, and passed knowledge from one generation to another—long before museums, heritage inventories, and archaeological records existed. They are part of a silent memory that remains in our homes, on our land, and throughout Aruba's cultural landscape.

The premise is simple: documentation is a form of protection.

To help protect qudies and reduce the risk of their leaving the island, Etnia Nativa is spearheading a heritage inventory and documentation project that goes beyond basic archaeological identification. Led by the Etnia Nativa curator, an independent researcher dedicated to the archaeological and geological study of Aruba, the initiative aims to transform accumulated knowledge about these objects into a practical tool for their protection.

At first glance, an inventory may seem simple. In practice, it can have significant value. A verifiable inventory can document the existence and unique characteristics of each piece while helping establish its provenance and, where possible, its ownership history. It can distinguish family heirlooms and inherited objects from pieces that may have been illicitly excavated, stolen, or traded. It can also provide technical and visual information that may help identify Aruba's qudies if they are encountered outside the island.

Each documented object could have a record containing relevant information about its owner or custodian, dimensions, photographs, markings, fractures, wear patterns, and other distinctive features. Such documen-

tation can support future investigations, ownership claims, or recovery efforts. It can also help distinguish an authentic Aruba artifact from objects appearing on collectors' markets, being moved outside the territory, or being falsely presented as originating elsewhere.

In this sense, an inventory is not merely an academic exercise. It is a preventive tool against illicit removal and export.

Many qudies are not found in museums or institutional collections. They remain in private homes, on family land, or in places where they have been preserved for generations. Protecting them does not necessarily mean removing them from their homes. It means identifying them, documenting them, and recognizing their historical and cultural value.

An owner may possess a qudie inherited from a parent, grandparent, or other relative without realizing its archaeological significance. Registering the piece creates a record of its existence, characteristics, and, whenever possible, its family history. That record can help protect both the object and the person who legitimately cares for it.

It also allows us to make an important distinction: a documented family heirloom should not automatically be confused with an object obtained through illegal excavation, looting, or theft.

These stones are more than objects from the distant past. They carry traces of the hands that used them, the families that preserved them, and the knowledge passed down through generations. When a piece leaves Aruba without documentation, part of that story may leave with it.

Documentation cannot bring back everything that has already been lost. However, it can help ensure that what remains is known, recognized, and protected.

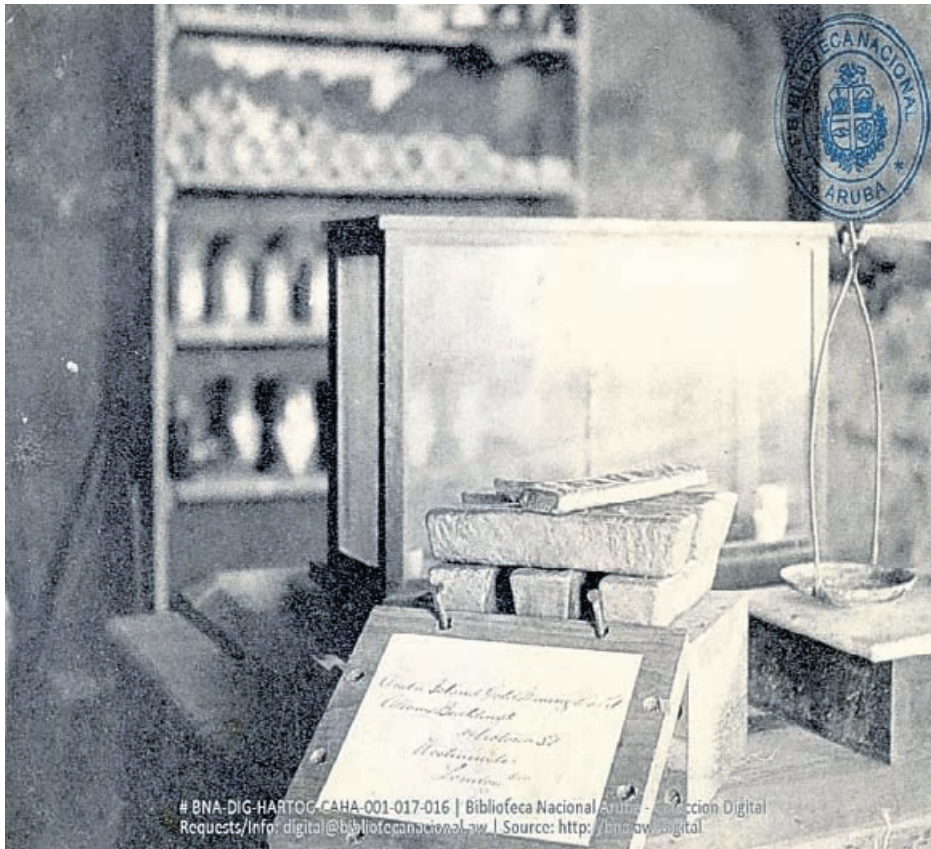
Some memories belong in museums. Others live within us.

Don't just visit Aruba—feel its soul. Discover the island's authentic heritage and cultural roots with Etnia Nativa before your journey ends. Book your visit today: WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etniana-tiva03@gmail.com 



Etnia Nativa's Qudi Collection

Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, 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 specks of gold, it was not 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 farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. 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 searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.



By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1. Cuban cash
- 6. Muscular power
- 11. Mis-behave
- 12. Bear out
- 13. Sailor's times off
- 15. Boar's mate
- 16. Misery
- 17. Tiny laborer
- 18. Family fights
- 20. Steer clear of
- 23. Farm sights
- 27. Portion (out)
- 28. Binary digit
- 29. Resided
- 31. Handed over
- 32. Stadium tops
- 34. Chanting sounds
- 37. -- Aviv
- 38. Stretch of years
- 41. Canada symbols
- 44. Accepted truth
- 45. Eye action
- 46. Saturn feature
- 47. Mariners

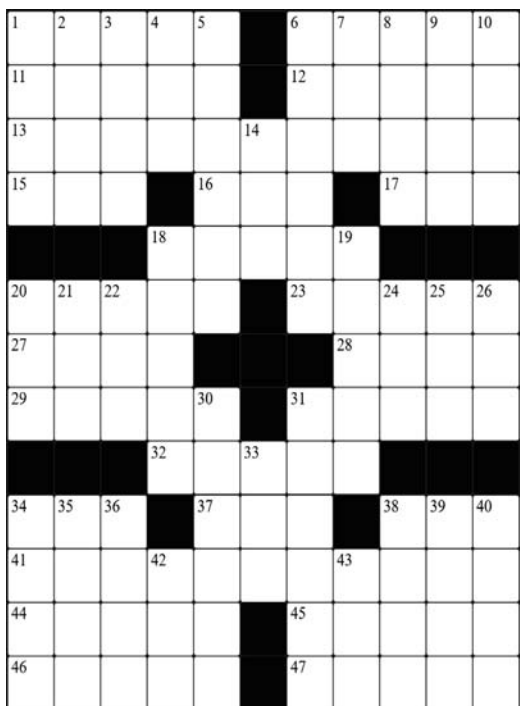
DOWN

- 1. Forgo bidding
- 2. Bounce back
- 3. Put away
- 4. Owned by us
- 5. Gushed
- 6. Ignores the limit
- 7. SandL offering
- 8. Flaring star
- 9. Tied up
- 10. Sunset site
- 14. Rawls or Reed
- 18. Game site
- 19. Shoe box numbers
- 20. Throw in
- 21. Promise



Yesterday's answer

- 22. Flamen-co cheer
- 24. Was a pioneer
- 25. Galena, for one
- 26. Lawn material
- 30. Tribe symbols
- 31. Stars
- 33. Gibson of "Lethal Weapon"
- 34. Poet Khayyám
- 35. Long dress
- 36. Whirl
- 38. Mal-evolent
- 39. Budget item
- 40. Inquires
- 42. Fireplace item
- 43. In the style of



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.

9-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

V U S O J O X A B Q A L A D H !
D T M U Y T B X A S O B
G U V V U V L X O L . --- C U X Y C U
U S O X L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: AH, SEPTEMBER!
YOU ARE THE DOORWAY TO THE SEASON
THAT AWAKENS MY SOUL --- PEGGY TONEY
HORTON

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power



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

Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.



Supermarket hours

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

10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

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

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

9/23

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

9/22

Chile's Atacama Desert blossoms with life after El Nino rains



Cacti are seen behind blooming wildflowers in the Atacama Desert near Copiapo, Chile, on September 18, 2026.

Chile

A resplendent display of flowers has bloomed across Chile's Atacama Desert, one of the driest places on earth, after the El Nino climate phenomenon brought heavy rain to the region. Underneath the normally parched earth, millions of seeds and bulbs from around 200 different species spend their days lying in wait for water.

Heavy rain caused by the El Nino weather pattern recently lashed northern Chile, prompting this abundant ensemble of living things to emerge from their hiding place.

Now, vast stretches of violet carpet the desert, and angelic white buds peek out from the cracked ground.

Dozens of tourists pull over to snap pictures of the breathtaking scenery that, with any luck, might even include a rainbow superimposed over a deep red sunset.

Seasonal rain of over 180 millimeters in some parts "had never been recorded before," Cesar Pizarro, head of Atacama biodiversity for Chile's forestry body CONAF, told AFP. Rainfall seeped deeper than usual into the sand, giving a new lease on life to

the nature reserve located about 800 kilometers (500 miles) north of Santiago.

The "flowering desert" phenomenon will peak in October, according to CONAF, which estimates that 15,000 hectares will blossom into a floral paradise.

The current iteration of El Nino is predicted to be the strongest since comparable records began four decades ago.

The phenomenon raises surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean and causes global changes in winds and rainfall as well as erratic weather

conditions.

The torrential rains that pounded Chile in July killed 13 people and destroyed or severely damaged around 4,000 homes.

- 'Generates life' -

While acknowledging these devastating effects, Pizarro also highlights that nature can benefit from El Nino.

"Although there is great concern... about the impacts it is causing in many places, it also generates life," he said.

Atacama is witnessing "more than flowers," he added, explaining that insects, snails, birds, reptiles and mammals proliferate

too.

Bees get busy with pollination, while beetles feast on their leftovers and fertilize the soil with their nitrogen-rich excrement ahead of the next rainfall.

Pizarro hopes that a massive influx of tourists won't wreak too much damage on the natural haven, stressing the importance of using established footpaths and leaving pets at home. "For our country, the flowering desert is a source of pride. It is part of our heritage," he said, admiring the yellow beauties sprouting all around him. □

CLASSIFIEDS

Time share resales

Want to sell your Time -Share In Aruba ? Call the expert ! 40 years doing business on the islands

Do all legal transaction
Call :011-297-630-1307
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

Le Vent

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

Property land

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

Marriott Surf club

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

Marriott Surf club

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

Marriott surf club

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

HEALTH DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad Hospital 7:00 pm/10:00pm Tel. 527 4000	San Nicolas IMSAN 24 HOURS Tel. 524 8833
--	---

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: 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

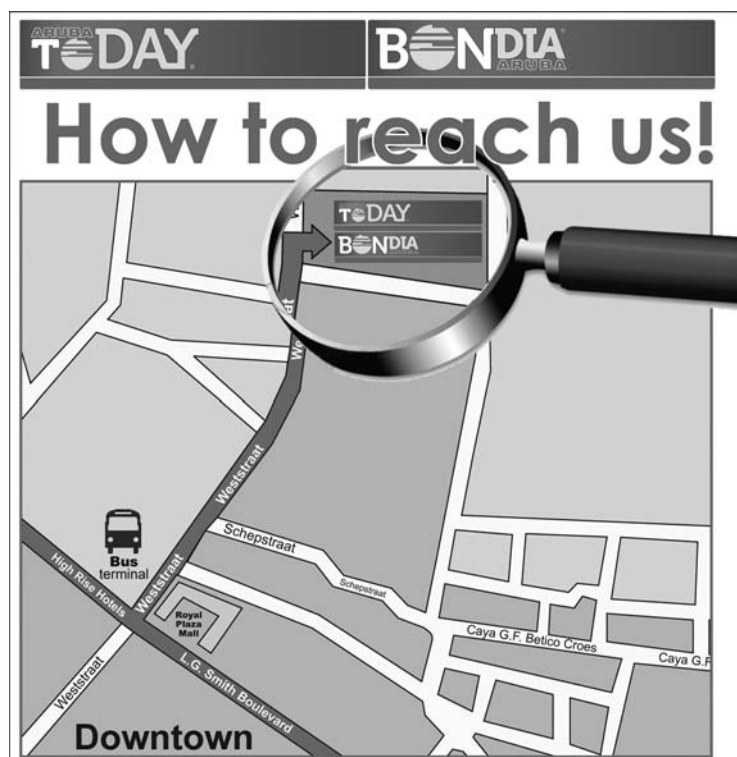
Aruba Food Bank Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR) Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory	Tel. 118
------------------------	-----------------

Like us on Facebook

ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Could a U.S.-China 'hot line' be set up for AI risks?

Paris, France

With unchecked development of artificial intelligence sparking deep fear even among leaders in the sector, the United States is looking at establishing a dedicated communication channel with China on the issue.

The link was suggested during talks on the weekend between senior U.S. and Chinese officials, ahead of a summit later this week between US President Donald Trump and Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

"The U.S. has proposed that we have a notification mechanism between the two countries" on AI, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said after his talks on Sunday with Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng.

The goal was to reach "a shared vision of common goals and common threats", he said, without providing further details. Trump has publicly dismissed concerns voiced by some in the AI sector that



U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent speaks as U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer (R) looks on during a media briefing after a meeting with China's Vice Premier He Lifeng in New York on September 20, 2026.

humanity could be wiped out by highly advanced AI systems within a decade if adequate safeguards are not put in place.

Fears have risen with reports that several models from Anthropic and OpenAI broke out of confined environments to access the internet.

Work towards "recursive superintelligence", where AI models build future versions of themselves in ways that humans may not be able to grasp, have sharpened the anxiety, as have moves towards AI controlling unmanned weapons.

The United States and China, engaged in competition for leadership in AI development, are reluctant to impose significant restrictions on domestic companies for fear of losing an advantage.

"We are seeing both sides starting to realise that there are possibilities of an incident occurring and of misuse, to the detriment of both countries," said Jean-Marc Rickli, head of global and emerging risks at the Geneva Centre for Security.

He drew a parallel with the US proposal for a communication channel with China on AI and the Cold War "hot line", which was established after the 1962

Cuban missile crisis.

- 'Difference in views' -

AI has not yet triggered alarm on that scale. But Rickli noted a CNN report last week that said the United States military almost boarded a Chinese ship on the basis of an incorrect report drawn up using AI.

"If the United States and China ... are going to safely navigate this brave new world, they will need the ability to communicate quickly and effectively about an emerging AI crisis," said Lucy Luo, of the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace think tank. Yet the priorities and interests of the two superpowers are not always aligned.

A French researcher, Mathilde Viellet of the French Institute of International Relations (IFRI), noted that, since 2023, there has been a non-governmental dialogue between experts and research centres on the world's most advanced AI models, including those from OpenAI, Anthropic, DeepSeek and Alibaba.

And there, both sides show "a difference in views on safety", she said.

"The Chinese say that they have been working for several years on things such

as deepfakes, information security, social disruption" while the Americans "are mostly worried about a loss of control and 'misalignment' of AI, when it acts in an autonomous way". The U.S. consultancy Teneo said that "neither government is yet willing to commit to binding constraints on AI development".

There is also the U.S. preference for the development of proprietary AI models, owned by just one company, whereas China leans more towards open source models, for accelerated development and scale. Rickli said the challenge, for Washington and Beijing, will be to find "the smallest common denominator", which might involve coordination on crisis response or "possible 'misuse' by third actors".

He said he believed "a hot line makes sense" in the military sphere, where AI is increasingly being used for targeting and accelerated decision-making.

"But is that realistic, when operational speed is a key criterion for strategic advantage?" he asked.

- Communication options -

For IFRI's Viellet, there are two issues on which Washington and Beijing have a shared interest in commu-

nicating: "Loss of control (of AI) and its use by bad actors."

She said three paths were available to them.

One would be a hot line to use if an AI model started acting in a harmful or unexpected way.

Another would be as a mechanism to divulge the malicious use of AI such as Anthropic's revelation that its Claude model had been used in a way that could go towards developing biological weapons.

The problem on that point, though, could be defining the perimeter of what that might cover.

"If cyber groups close to the Russians used AI to attack U.S. interests, would the Chinese have an interest in sharing that with the Americans?" Viellet asked.

The third path could be sharing information on the evaluation of the safety of AI models, she said.

Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, last week told Fortune magazine: "Even if just the US and China could agree on some shared standards and testing for development of this technology, I think that'd be a wonderful accomplishment."

Such an achievement would merit Trump and Xi earning the Nobel Peace Prize, Altman said.

But, for Matt Sheehan, at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, "the most important actions on AI governance and safety will be domestic actions that the U.S. and China take not international or bilateral agreements".

ARUBA TODAY

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

Editors
Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette 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

Help FUDA with a last wishambulance for Aruba!

Donation: CMB#65550908

All beneficiary will receive a Teddy Bear!

THE WEST DECK
 ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR
 @THEWESTDECK

WEEKLY SPECIALS
 RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL: 567-2667
 SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM

MARGARITA MONDAY
 Starting at \$10

TACO TUESDAY
 Beef, Chicken or Shrimp
 Tacos starting at \$15

WING WEDNESDAY
 By the dozen \$18

Japan's Kojima sounds Marchand warning with Asian Games gold

Tokyo, Japan

Japan's 17-year-old Yumeki Kojima said he was determined to cut the gap on French superstar Leon Marchand before the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after winning Asian Games gold on Tuesday.

Marchand said earlier in Tokyo that Japanese swimmers were his biggest rivals for gold in LA, admitting that he was "scared" and "stressed" about racing them.

Watched by the Frenchman, Kojima won the 400m individual medley in an Asian Games record time of 4min 07.02sec, coming from behind to finish 2.62sec ahead of countryman Tomoyuki Matsushita.

Kojima's time was far short of Marchand's world record of 4:02.50 but the Japanese swimmer believes he is on track to challenge the Frenchman.

"Right now, Marchand is the highest target that I'm aiming for," said Kojima.

"I want to keep getting closer to him, even if it's little by



Silver medallist Japan's Tomoyuki Matsushita (L), gold medallist Japan's Yumeki Kojima (C) and bronze medallist China's Wang Shun (R) celebrate on the podium during the victory ceremony of the men's 400m individual medley swimming event during the 2026 Asian Games at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre in Tokyo on September 22, 2026.

little, and eventually surpass him."

Matsushita won the 200m IM on the opening day in the pool and he led the way heading into the breaststroke section of the 400m IM.

Kojima began to reel him in and they were neck and neck going into the final freestyle section.

Kojima surged clear to claim gold and said he was happy to get "revenge" on Matsushita after losing to him by

0.06sec in the 200m IM. "I knew it would be no good if I panicked," said Kojima.

"I focused on not rushing and swimming my own race, and I think that's one of the reasons why I won." Marchand named Matsush-

ita as one of his main rivals for gold at the LA Olympics.

- 'Cut me down to size' -

Matsushita said he would learn from losing to Kojima and use it to his advantage. "If everything went perfectly, it wouldn't be interesting," said the 21-year-old. "Experiences like this cut me down to size and let me get back to steady, grounded training."

Marchand also identified Japanese breaststroke swimmer Shin Ohashi as a likely Olympic rival.

Ohashi won 100m breaststroke gold this week in Tokyo and he was in action again as part of Japan's 4x100m medley relay team. Japan finished second to China and Ohashi said Marchand's praise would spur to him work even harder.

"I respect Leon Marchand, we are totally different types and he is an amazing athlete," he said.

"I want to keep improving my times so that I won't lose to him at the Olympics." □

Snedeker backs Spaun for Ryder Cup after Presidents snub



U.S. golfer J.J. Spaun poses with the trophy after his victory in the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth Golf Club in the town of Virginia Water in Surrey, southwest of London, on September 20, 2026.

Los Angeles, United States

United States captain Brandt Snedeker is backing .J.J. Spaun to make next year's Ryder Cup team despite snubbing the former U.S. Open champion for this week's Presidents Cup in Medinah.

Spaun was left bemused after failing to earn a pick in Snedeker's U.S. team for this week's edition of the Presidents Cup outside of Chicago.

The world number 12 gave Snedeker a timely reminder of his talents last weekend with a brilliant victory at the European Tour's PGA Championship at Wentworth. Spaun said after that win that his victory had been fueled by Snedeker's decision to omit him from the U.S. team, saying he had "played with a huge chip on my shoulder." "I wanted to prove that I deserved to be on that team," Spaun said after the victory.

Responding to Spaun's comments on Tuesday, Snedeker said the omission had been a "gut" decision.

"Being captain, you have to make tough decisions unfortunately. We had 15 guys, 16 guys that we were really looking at," Snedeker said. "The best advice I got from all the captains I talked to and even coaches, you've got to trust your gut. My gut was telling me one thing. You've got to make those decisions. It's tough."

Snedeker said though that he was pleased Spaun had made him "look like an idiot." "I feel awful for J.J., and I always will, because he's a great dude and I love the guy to death," Snedeker said.

"That being said, he's a competitor... I told all the guys that didn't make the team, like your job is to go make me look like an idiot as quick as possible." □



TOURIST SIM

EXPERIENCE ARUBA LIKE NO OTHER

* Every bundle offers a 5GB daily data allowance based on our Fair Use Policy.
* International Minutes and SMS includes calls and text to other providers and the following countries: Bonaire, Canada, Colombia, Curacao, Saba, St. Eustatius, St. Maarten, The Netherlands, Panama, USA.

Data	Unlimited*	Unlimited*
SETAR min	200	300
Other min	30	60
SMS	50	50
Duration	7 Days	14 Days
Price	\$30	\$50





Czech Republic's Linda Noskova hits a return to Britain's Katie Boulter during their women's singles quarter-final match at the Billie Jean King Cup tennis tournament in Shenzhen, in China's southern Guangdong province on September 22, 2026.

Wimbledon champ Noskova sends Czechs into BJK Cup semi-finals

Shenzhen, China

Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova helped the Czech Republic into the semi-finals of the Billie Jean King Cup with a 6-2, 7-6 (7/3) victory over Great Britain's Katie Boulter in Shenzhen on Tuesday. Noskova's win secured a 2-0 win for the Czechs, who will next face either Kazakhstan or Spain as they seek their 12th title in the competition. "The first match is never easy, no matter what. So, I was surprised by the way that I played in the first set, especially," said the sixth-ranked Noskova, who fired 15 aces and faced no break points. "Obviously, second set was a lot tougher. Katie served really well and didn't give me many chances, so I had to kind of use anything that I have in the tie-break, and that worked." Noskova breezed through the opening set and came up with clutch serves at

crucial moments in the second to wrap up the match. Earlier, Czech captain Barbora Strycova selected Marie Bouzkova as her No.2 singles player instead of the eighth-ranked Karolina Muchova and was rewarded for her choice. Bouzkova used her all-court prowess and clever net play to put the Czechs in front, surviving a three-hour tug of war with Sonay Kartal to record a 7-6 (7/2), 4-6, 6-4 victory. World number 127 Kartal was playing her first competitive match in six months after recovering from a spinal stress fracture, and she did well to challenge the 26th-ranked Bouzkova but ultimately faded in the deciding set. "I think she played incredible. I think not playing for half a year and coming out the way she did, yeah, huge respect for her," said Bouzkova of her 24-year-old opponent.

Quarter-final action resumes on Wednesday at the Shenzhen Bay Sports Center with the clash between Spain and Kazakhstan. Ukraine face Belgium on Thursday morning, before defending champions Italy take on China in the evening. The Italians are seeking a third successive crown but their top singles player Jasmine Paolini is taking nothing for granted as the team prepare for a tough affair against the hosts, led by Olympic champion Zheng Qinwen. "Qinwen, she played amazing in the U.S. Open," Paolini told reporters on Tuesday. "We expect really high level of tennis from her. I think also the support from the Chinese fans will be great for them. "She's a great player. Very powerful. She can play really well on every surface. It's going to be a tough match."



Byron Young #0 of the Los Angeles Rams tackles Jaxson Dart #6 of the New York Giants after a pass during the first quarter of the game at SoFi Stadium on September 21, 2026 in Inglewood, California.

Rams bounce back as Giants reel from Dart injury

Los Angeles, United States

The Los Angeles Rams bounced back from their season-opening flop in Australia to score a stylish 28-6 victory over the New York Giants on Monday. Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford returned to form with 327 passing yards and four touchdowns for Los Angeles as the Giants never recovered after suffering an early injury to signal-caller Jaxson Dart. The Rams had been trounced 27-7 by San Francisco in Melbourne last week, when the team's decision to travel to Australia on the eve of the game backfired. But the team hyped before the season as potential Super Bowl contenders looked vastly more convincing with a dominant victory back on home turf at the SoFi Stadium. Reigning NFL Most Valuable Player Stafford made 22-of-31 passes and linked brilliantly with wide receiver Davante Adams, who scored two touchdowns with 195 receiving yards from eight receptions. "He's a fantastic football player and we're lucky to have him," Stafford said of Adams afterwards. "He delivered for us big time, which is awesome." Stafford though felt the Rams could have been more clinical. "Obviously we executed at a higher clip and made some explosive plays, but to be honest with you I felt we could have been more efficient," he said. "We had some plays left out there that we know we can make." Giants quarterback Dart meanwhile left the game after a brutal double tackle from Rams defenders Byron Young and Josaiah Stewart on the visitors' opening drive. Replays of the incident showed Dart's left leg buckle awkwardly at the knee, and the the quarterback hobbled off before being taken to the locker room with what was later reported to be sprained knee ligaments. With Dart out of the picture, the Giants' offense struggled to generate any kind of momentum with back-up quarterback Jameis Winston coming on for Dart.