

A brief history of the California Light House



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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	MONDAY: ANDERSON BAHAMON SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	TUESDAY: JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	WEDNESDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	THURSDAY: MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.	FRIDAY: MAILLEYN ALVARADO VIOLINIST 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.	SATURDAY: RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.
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Spy chief Clayton, the Trump loyalist tech bosses trust on AI



U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Jay Clayton arrives to testify during a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on his nomination to be Director of National Intelligence, on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on July 15, 2026.

Washington, United States The 60-year-old lawyer, Jay Clayton, Donald Trump's pick for AI czar, is the nation's top spy, and a rare figure trusted by both the president and the tech bosses determined to keep the AI boom roaring.

grows among American voters.

"Jay Clayton is a golden asset for the administration because he's so well respected by tech leaders as well as many in the government," said Dan Ives of Yorkville Ives & Co, an investment company.

"He is not a typical Beltway bureaucrat," Ives added, calling the appointment "bullish for the industry because you can't just have a regular political appointee."

A regular golf partner of Trump, Clayton entered politics when Trump picked him to lead the Securities and Exchange Commission, the national markets regulator, in 2017.

A longtime Wall Street lawyer at Sullivan & Cromwell, where he represented

Goldman Sachs during the 2008 financial crisis, Clayton ran the market regulator without ruffling feathers. He brought cases against crypto companies, an industry that has since become closely aligned with Trump and his family.

His wife, Gretchen Butler Clayton, worked as a wealth manager at Goldman Sachs but stepped down when he joined the government in 2017.

- No David Sacks -

Trump picked Clayton to lead the US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York at the start of his second term, where he took on cases dear to the president, including a probe ordered by Trump into ties between prominent Democrats and the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

His office also signed off on controversial subpoenas against New York Times reporters days before his confirmation hearing for the intelligence post. The Senate confirmed him in July.

But Clayton is no David Sacks, the Silicon Valley venture capitalist who held the AI role at the start of Trump's second term.

Clayton has no technology background, but does hold an engineering degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also earned his law degree, as well as an economics degree from the University of Cambridge.

"Jay Clayton doesn't have the same deep background in technology that Sacks brought to the role, but he has a rich federal resume and significant experience navigating the federal bureaucracy," said Aalok Mehta of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"He also seems to be highly in sync with the president's thinking right now -- though of course we have seen plenty of examples of other advisors that started out that way but ultimately fell out of favor," Mehta added.

Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of

Richmond, said juggling two major jobs would be a challenge, though Trump has handed multiple roles to trusted officials in his second term, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent.

- National security -

"Jay Clayton ultimately is going to have to do what the president wants," said Connor Martin, a national security fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

But by giving the AI portfolio to the nation's top spy, Trump seemed to be accepting arguments that the technology poses real dangers for cybersecurity and is key to the geopolitical rivalry with China, he added.

A tech industry source in Washington said the industry largely welcomed the appointment, but cautioned against expecting major change.

"Jay Clayton is not going to preside over some big regulatory effort," the source said. "If he brings coherence to the policy, or provides details that bring clarity, those would be wins." Clayton will not be the only voice in Trump's ear on AI, however.

Sacks, along with tech bosses including Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, will continue to hold significant sway over how the president approaches the industry.

Elon Musk is also back in Trump's good graces after their falling out in 2025.

Clayton takes on the role days after tech bosses signed a commitment at the White House to self-police their AI models, an accord Trump called "morally binding."

Mehta said he expected Clayton to coordinate the government more effectively while sticking to Trump's goal of not slowing the industry.

"But at the same time, the problems he is facing -- like around AI safety and sentiment -- are bigger and harder now, and they are happening at a much faster clip," he said. □

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Cornell president vows review in wake of alleged student gang rape

New York, United States

The president of Cornell University voiced support Saturday for an external review of the institution facing widespread outcry over the alleged gang rape of a student in 2024.

The incident was detailed in a graphic lawsuit filed last month, drawing harsh backlash against the Ivy League institution and New York prosecutors for not filing any criminal charges against the accused perpetrators.

"In conjunction with our board of trustees, I welcome the independent review by an outside law firm into all aspects of Cornell's handling of the 2024 matter," President Michael Kotlikoff said in a video shared on Cornell's website.

The plaintiff claimed in the civil suit that she was drugged with ketamine, assaulted and raped by seven members of the Chi Phi fraternity, a social club for male students.

"This has been one of the most difficult weeks in our history, and I know many of you are angry, saddened, and struggling," Kotlikoff continued.

"What happened to Jane Doe in 2024 is deeply dis-



This photo taken on October 2, 2026, shows the Chi Phi fraternity house on the campus at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

turbing and will weigh heavily on our community for years to come."

The criminal investigation into the gang rape was reopened Monday, with New York Governor Kathy Hochul appointing the state's top prosecutor, Attorney General Letitia James, to lead the effort.

Hochul slammed how the initial investigation into the complainant's claims unfolded at Cornell, which is

located in Ithaca in central New York state.

"She sat for hours and told (police) exactly what happened to her. And according to new reports, she could not have been clearer that she was 100 percent confident that she had been raped," Hochul said.

Kotlikoff said in the video the school supported the decision to reopen the criminal investigation, but

added that Cornell "will not wait for the investigation or the review to be completed before we act."

"We will continue taking every step necessary to make Cornell an institution that leads not just in what we say about these issues, but in the work that we do to address them."

Meanwhile, thousands of American women have taken to social media to support the alleged victim after a political commen-

tator threatened to reveal her identity.

Messages of support with the hashtag #IAmJaneDoe have proliferated on TikTok, X and Instagram, with users claiming to be the alleged victim in a bid to make it harder to identify her.

Some U.S. media outlets have compared the wave of online support to the #MeToo movement in 2017, when millions of women took to social media to share stories of sexual assault and harassment following revelations about Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein.

Following the rape allegations, Cornell shut down the fraternity and temporarily suspended the students allegedly involved, several of whom were later expelled. Local authorities said they declined to prosecute in 2024 because the complainant's testimony did not establish a lack of consent. In the United States, one in four female undergraduates reported forced sexual contact or sexual contact for which they could not consent, according to a 2020 study of 33 institutions by the Association of American Universities. □

Justice Alito frets over future of U.S. Supreme Court

Washington, United States

Justice Samuel Alito warned Sunday he was worried about the future of the US Supreme Court due to what he called an extreme level of public rhetoric and pressure over its rulings.

The court in recent years has issued decisions that rocked U.S. society to its core: eliminating the decades-old federal right to abortion and granting President Donald Trump -- indicted four times in his first term -- broad immunity from prosecution for official actions taken while in office.

The court is traditionally seen as being above the noise and fray of American politics, but recent polls show it is increasingly unpopular and untrusted.

And public pressure has in-

tensified, most notably from Trump himself, who has waged an unprecedented campaign of speaking out loudly on how he thinks the court should rule on everything from tariffs to birth-right citizenship.

When judges he appointed have ruled against him, Trump has slammed them by name, calling them disloyal.

In a rare interview granted as he plugs a book he just published, Alito, 76, told Fox News Sunday that he and the other eight justices on the conservative-dominated court try to ignore statements from public figures.

"There has been a concerted effort to intimidate the court and justices on the court to try to influence us to decide cases," he said. "I am concerned about the

future of the court," Alito said.

Alongside disappointment over a series of rulings giving Trump broad leeway on several issues, many Americans are angry over news that justices including Clarence Thomas have over the years accepted gifts and luxury travel from wealthy people, raising ethics issues.

A Gallup survey released last week said Americans' views of the institution are at their least positive since the organization began polling on the court in 1972. Only 34 percent of U.S. adults approve of the job the court is doing, essentially unchanged from the record-low 33 percent approval tallied in July, Gallup said.

Alito also addressed again the bombshell event of



U.S. Associate Supreme Court Justices Samuel Alito, Jr., Clarence Thomas and Brett Kavanaugh and U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts look on during inauguration ceremonies in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol on January 20, 2025 in Washington, DC.

May 2022 when someone leaked the court's upcoming ruling that would do away with the right to abortion. He reiterated that he has an idea of who did it.

"I do have an opinion, but

the evidence available at this time is not strong enough for the court or for me to say this is the person who was responsible," Alito said. □

Chanel: unpicking one year of 'Blazymania'

Paris, France

Exactly a year since he unveiled his first collection at Chanel, Franco-Belgian designer Matthieu Blazy has proved himself to be a shrewd and hugely profitable recruit by the family-owned French fashion label.

Some of Blazy's designs have proved so popular they have sparked a neologism -- "Blazymania" -- which has come to mean the frenzied buying in stores of items that often cost thousands of dollars.

When his first collection -- Spring-Summer 2026 -- arrived in stores in March this year, videos of buyers streaming into Chanel shops went viral on social media.

And while the luxury sector as a whole is going through a tough spell, sales at the company increased 16 percent in the first half of this year compared with 2025, according to confidential sales data reported in August from financial news agency Bloomberg.

"When he arrived, I was unsettled, a little shocked, and frankly sceptical. But there's no denying that he offers more designs, more novelty," Rita, a Lebanese businesswoman who declined to give her surname, told AFP while browsing in a Chanel shop in Paris.

"It's no longer about buying the same bag or the same



French-Belgian fashion designer Matthieu Blazy acknowledges the audience at the end of the Chanel Women Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2026-2027 collection as part of the Paris Fashion Week, in Paris, on July 7, 2026.

slingbacks every year in a different colour, but about buying new objects," she added, holding a "31" bag in which she hoped to fit her laptop.

Alix Morabito, director of buying at luxury Paris department store Galeries Lafayette, has also gauged the extent of "Blazymania": every new delivery is eagerly awaited and it can sometimes be difficult for shoppers to get hold of pieces because the waiting lists are so long.

"There's a new balance to find between desirability, scarcity and generosity," she told AFP.

Blazy's Spring-Summer 2027 collection will be unveiled on Monday in Paris at 8 pm (1800 GMT).

- 'Joy' -

Eric Briones, director of the Paris School of Luxury, told AFP that only the fourth designer in Chanel's history had "brought joy" to the brand.

"Before, it wasn't exactly all smiles. Now there is joy everywhere, even in sales at a pop-up store in Shanghai" despite weak sales in China, he explained.

Appointed in 2025 to succeed Virginie Viard, Karl Lagerfeld's discreet succes-

sor, Blazy landed one of the biggest jobs in fashion aged just 40.

Said to have impressed with his in-depth presentations during the recruitment process, he embodies "a new generation with sincere humility", Chanel fashion president Bruno Pavlovsky said of him at the time.

That was seen as good a fit for Chanel's discreet family owners, Alain and Gerard Wertheimer.

Blazy began his career at Maison Margiela in 2011, before moving to Celine and then Calvin Klein in New York, where he worked

under Belgian designer Raf Simons until they were both sacked in 2018.

Named as Bottega Veneta's creative director in 2021, he helped reinvent the Italian leather goods brand, earning him the nickname the "magician of Milan".

- New items -

So what is Chanel's magic formula now?

"He has broken down the brand's codes, projecting them into a new era," Pierre Groppo, fashion and lifestyle editor-in-chief at Vanity Fair, told AFP.

The emblems of the house founded by Coco Chanel in 1910 remain visual cornerstones: tweed, often woven in highly modern iridescent and metallic tones; the camellia; pearls; the double C; black and white; and the silhouette of the 1920s dress falling below the knee.

At the same time, everyday accessories and clothing have been introduced, along with denim, humour and pop references.

Groppo highlighted the enthusiasm among a new male audience for Chanel ready-to-wear, including "loafers, trainers, blazers and bags".

The house has also taken on male ambassadors this year, including actor Pedro Pascal, but still has no officially designated men's line. Just "pieces that suit everyone", Blazy says. □

Music links past, present for Pedro Pascal's cellist in 'Behemoth!'



Pedro Pascal speaks onstage at the "Behemoth!" Intro & Q&A during the 64th New York Film Festival at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center on October 02, 2026 in New York City.

New York, United States

Pedro Pascal learned to play the cello for his starring role in upcoming film "Behemoth!" from Oscar-winning

writer-director Tony Gilroy.

"I was so taken by what the story was and the... intimacy of all of it, in the way that I guess how intimate it can

feel to listen to music and to be guided by music," the 51-year-old actor told AFP on Friday.

Jumping between past and present, the film tells the story of Alex Serian, a cellist who moves to Los Angeles to care for his dying mother and escape an overbearing ex played by Olivia Wilde. While there he joins an orchestra that performs film scores, and the music they play serves as a link for both Alex and the audience, connecting fragments from his past that appear to have overwhelmed him.

Chilean-American Pascal said his character "just seemed like a person who is as much of a kind of pas-

senger to his life as you are a passenger to his experience...as a viewer."

As he goes from city to city, lover to lover, the score for "Behemoth!" -- written by nine composers and which serves as the score performed by the orchestra in the film -- triggers the main character's memories.

The film marks a departure for Gilroy, who cut his teeth writing action movies like the "Bourne" films and legal thrillers like "Michael Clayton."

"I never wrote a character quite like this before that wasn't escaping or rushing towards" crises, the 70-year-old filmmaker said, adding that he was inspired by

the legendary Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni, who "manages to be... a passenger in the movie, but never passive."

"And that's the trick to this: is to put him on the train and not have him run over by it. And that became possible when (Pedro Pascal) came on."

US actress Eva Victor, who plays one of Alex's partners in the movie, questions whether the main character is as passive as he appears to be.

"I feel like it's very active to be running from things and to be not engaging with things in your life... I think that's very actively self-sabotaging," she said. □

Hungary's dwindling paprika producers battle to save signature spice

Kalocsa, Hungary

Working from before dawn until midnight, farmers Niko-letta Pajsan Nagy and Laszlo Pajsan fought Europe's driest summer ever to save their red pepper harvest in Hungary.

Unable to irrigate much of their two-and-a-half-hectare (six-acre) land because power lines run across it, they repeatedly loosened the soil around the plants, which are used to make the central European country's signature spice, paprika.

"I was absolutely convinced that we'd have to take on part-time jobs because they'd burn out," Pajsan Nagy, 44, told AFP, while selling her family's products at the annual town fair in Kalocsa, in southern Hungary.

"But somehow the crop turned out bigger and more beautiful than in previous years. It was a miracle," she said, recalling some 20-hour days in the field.

The couple see themselves as a dwindling profession, as cultivation of paprika -- an indispensable ingredient in traditional cuisine -- has declined over the past several decades in Hungary, with many small producers going out of business.

- Squeezing producers -
The area devoted to paprika peaked at 13,029 hect-



A participant shows the base material, the local grounded paprika during the Paprika and Gastronomy Festival in Kalocsa on September 19, 2026.

ares in 1979 and had fallen to 1,410 hectares by 2024, according to official statistics.

While cheap imports from China and parts of South America are squeezing producers, climate change is making paprika production more difficult and costly, according to Robert Braj, an adviser at Dutch-owned BWA Kft, one of Hungary's top food-seasoning manufacturers.

"There are longer droughts, more extreme heatwaves, while new pests and dis-

eases are spreading," Braj told AFP.

Along with some other EU nations, Hungary experienced its driest summer since records began in 1901 and its second-hottest on record, according to national weather service HungaroMet.

Labour shortages are also a problem.

At the fair, paprika seller Agnes Toth recalled picking up peppers as a child, taking part in the family business.

"Back then, we grew paprika on six hectares. Now it's around three hectares be-

cause there aren't enough seasonal workers to harvest it by hand," the 44-year-old told AFP.

"A family couldn't make a living from this anymore... Everyone has a full-time job. I'm a teacher, my brother is a firefighter," she said.

Hungary's Agriculture and Food Economy Ministry told AFP it seeks to strengthen producers' competitiveness, but it is yet to announce any new measures.

- 'A wonder' -

At last month's annual fair in Kalocsa, one of Hungary's

main paprika-growing regions, the aroma of meat stews and fish soups laced with the vibrant scarlet spice filled the air as teams poured generous amounts into their cauldrons at a cooking contest.

"For us Hungarians, paprika is a wonder," one of the competitors, local fast-food restaurant owner Imre Zseni said, while stirring a beef stew.

Booths were adorned with strings of dried red peppers -- the raw ingredient used to make paprika -- recalling a sight once common on houses in the surrounding countryside every autumn. Originating from the Americas, peppers found their way to Hungary's sun-drenched, fertile river plains around Kalocsa and Szeged in the 16th century.

The two historic paprika-production centres are now recognised with the EU's protected designation of origin status.

Ethnographer Imre Romsics said paprika became an important symbol of Hungarian identity during the 19th century, "alongside costume, folk art and other traditions". But younger generations cook fewer traditional Hungarian recipes, and they prefer food "that is faster and easier to prepare," according to specialist Braj. □

'I fear it could drag on': anxiety takes hold in Ethiopian city wrested from rebels

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

As federal Ethiopian troops patrolled the streets of Mekelle on Sunday, a day after having seized the regional capital from Tigrayan rebels, Tewodros found himself torn between cautious optimism and the fear of further fighting.

"The fact that the war is beginning to wind down quickly brings relief," the Mekelle resident, who wished to remain anonymous, told AFP. "On the other hand, as it is seems to be becoming regionalized, I fear it could drag on," he added, pointing to widespread fears that neighboring Eritrea might soon be drawn into the conflict, as it has in the past.

Since the army retook Mekelle from the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front (TPLF) with the help of an allied militia on Saturday, internet and phone service has finally been restored to the city for the first time since fighting broke out again on September 23.

With it came the return of mobile payment services, while residents are hoping that the banks will open their doors again from Monday. But no widespread celebrations greeted the Ethiopian soldiers nor their paramilitary allies in the Tigray Peace Force (TPF) as they entered the city aboard trucks on Saturday, a local journalist told AFP.

Although caution was the order of the day, some residents braved the outside world on Sunday to take stock of the situation. Conversation flowed freely with their fellow Tigrayans in the TPF, who had taken up positions on the avenues and several key sites, including the northern region's presidency building and the police headquarters.

- Call for calm -

All, however, steered well clear of the federal Ethiopian soldiers on guard at the university and the Tigray Martyrs Memorial Monument, which commemorates the TPLF's 16 years of struggle against the Marxist-Leninist Derg govern-



Members of the Ethiopian pro-government Tigray Peace Force (TPF) gesture as residents welcome them while they ride in a pickup truck during a street patrol after Ethiopian federal and allied forces entered the Tigray capital of Mekelle, on October 4, 2026.

ment. After finally toppling the Derg in 1991 following the civil war, the TPLF would go on to lead Ethiopia until Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed rose to power in 2018. Ahmed, who hails from the

Oromia region, would go on to sideline the TPLF from Ethiopian politics. Tensions boiled over with the devastating civil war of 2020-2022, whose long shadow looms over the fresh outbreak of fighting. □

Cry for help as French-Swiss lake dries up

Les Brenets, Switzerland

The picturesque Lac des Brenets between France and Switzerland has dried up after a record-breaking hot summer, leaving locals crying out for help to save the lake.

Indeed, the words "HELP" and "SOS" have been scratched out in the weeds now flourishing on the exposed lake bed.

The drought has ruined pleasure boat tourism, while some question whether the lake will ever return to enduring full health.

"It's absolutely heartbreaking. It really is emotionally devastating, because it's utter despair: no more lake," said amateur local historian David Favre, who lives in the Swiss village of Les Brenets.

"As children, we used to spend all our summers swimming at the beach, having fun by the water, diving, jumping in and sometimes even fishing," the 76-year-old told AFP.

But "since the last drought in 2018, it's been a disaster. Unfortunately, the lake empties out every couple of years, or soon, perhaps every year," he added, saying he felt the authorities have "completely abandoned" the lake.

The Doubs river rises in the French Jura mountains and normally forms a lake at Les Brenets, where it begins to



This aerial photograph shows a giant 'Help' written by local residents on the grass-covered bed of the previously parched Lake Brenets (Lac des Brenets), part of the Doubs River forming a natural border between eastern France and western Switzerland, in Les Brenets, on October 1, 2026.

mark the border between France's Franche-Comte region and Switzerland's Neuchatel canton.

The lake ends at 27-metre-high waterfall, which has now stopped flowing.

The lake has dried up due to a combination of factors, including geological fissures that drain water underground, below-average rainfall and repeated heat-waves.

The months of June, July and August were each the hottest ever recorded in Switzerland since measurements began in 1864.

- 'It's unbearable' -

Every day Yvan Durig, owner and captain of the Lac des Brenets navigation company, measures the level of the remaining basin of water which is shrinking away at the very deepest bit of the lake.

"Normally, we have 25 or 30 metres of depth here," but now there are only nine metres of water left, and within it "the fish are really chock-a-block", he said.

While locals are used to periods of low water, this particular spell is alarming, with the record low of 1906 set to be surpassed imminently.

A task force was set up by French and Swiss authorities in 2022, notably to explore ways of limiting the water draining into the fissures, but has not resulted in decisive action.

"We had to halt boat operations on July 20," said Durig.

"Just imagine: having to stop right in the middle of the season like that. It's unbearable for a company like ours," he said.

"Normally, these are times when we transport 200 to 300 people a day," said Durig.

Pontoons and dozens of

boats lie stranded on the dry lake bed.

- Losing soul of Les Brenets -

The water level monitoring station for the lake is now so far out of the remaining basin that Durig does the measurements manually.

The water line is dropping around 20 to 22 centimetres a day.

On October 1, it fell to an elevation of 735.34 metres above sea level -- fully 14.66 metres below where it should be.

Within days, it is expected to surpass the 1906 record drop of 15.35 metres.

A tiny stream now trickles through the weeds on the lake bed.

Maxime Fallet, who works at a Doubs riverboat excursion company, fears the lake is "destined to disappear", for lack of a plan to save it.

"The atmosphere in Les Brenets these days, when talk turns to the Doubs, is often tinged with a certain sadness, a melancholy at the thought that we could lose this lake -- a lake that has been part of the soul of Les Brenets for generations," he told AFP.

Durig feels time is running out.

"We must take action -- indeed, be proactive -- and seal the lakebed," he said.

"But this can no longer take years. That is simply not an option anymore." □

UK Green party adopts 'Zionism is racism' policy



People visit the Jewish Western Wall against the backdrop of Dome of the Rock at Al-Aqsa mosque compound, in Jerusalem on October 4, 2026.

London, United Kingdom

The UK's left-wing Green party voted Sunday to define Zionism as racism at the party's annual conference,

drawing sharp backlash from three British Jewish groups, the ruling Labour Party and Israel's government.

Members of the Green party, which has five MPs in Britain's 650-seat parliament and which enjoyed a boost in recent local and special elections, backed the motion at the party's conference, with 1,022 votes in favour and 813 against.

According to the motion, Zionism would be "treated as any other form of racism" and the party supports the establishment of a "single democratic Palestinian State in all of historic Palestine".

"This has been a serious and deeply felt debate within our membership," a Green spokesperson said.

The Greens have enjoyed a surge in popularity under

the charismatic leadership of Zack Polanski, attracting voters dissatisfied with the centre-left Labour government's stance on the Israel-Hamas war.

However, Polanski's popularity has taken a hit in recent months, polls show, following several missteps. "This motion would make the Green Party the first electorally significant UK political party in living memory to adopt what appears to be an overtly antisemitic political platform," three Jewish community groups said in a letter to the party ahead of the vote.

"We also emphasised the implications for the safety and welfare of all British

Jews," the heads of the Board of Deputies, Community Security Trust and Jewish Leadership Council warned.

- Israel's anger -

Israel's president, Isaac Herzog, called the Green party's decision "a disgrace".

"Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people, and it forms the basis for the Jewish people's right to a state and a national home in the Land of Israel," Herzog said on X. Bridget Phillipson, chair of the ruling Labour Party and Minister for Women and Equalities, also condemned the Green Party's conference decision. □

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Planning on visiting Aruba? Make sure you have your ED card!

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to any country, it's important to make sure you have the right documents with you. For Aruba, one document that always seems to confuse people is the ED card. Scammers have taken advantage of the confusion, with dozen of fake and identical website overcharging visitors. To avoid this happening to you, here's a brief guide on how to obtain the ED card the right way: What website to use and how much it actually costs.

The Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. The ED Card has been in a requirement for visitors for decades and in 2020 it was digitalized. In 2024, the government of Aruba implemented a sustainability fee for all visitors of the island, which include a \$20 contribution for the improvement, updating

Aruba Online ED Card

The Aruban Government welcomes you and your family to Aruba.

The online Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. As per the country's immigration policy, all incoming tourists must fully complete the online ED card application. It's an essential entry requirement that you can complete quickly and easily online. Simply enter your details into the relevant fields, and upon a successful submission you'll receive an affirmation by email. A passenger that claims to be exempted from completion of the ED Card application due to citizenship, must provide basic information to confirm his status. Pursuant to his status he will receive a confirmation by email.

What you'll need:

1. A valid passport
2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)

What you should note:

1. The online ED card is not a visa.
2. The successful submission of your online ED card does not guarantee entry into Aruba. On arrival to Aruba, your eligibility for entry will be assessed on its own merits. It is crucial that all information you provide, or on your behalf by a designated third party, must be true and correct, as this is a key factor in your entry assessment.

START

and maintenance of the local waste water plant. First things first, make sure you have the right website. The official website for the ED card is www.edcarda-aruba.aw. It is important to note that there are NO alternatives for this website; this website is the ONLY way you can obtain an official

ED card. Other website that may look similar are not official and may possibly be a scam. Be careful not to fall for the trap! Next up, make sure you have the right information with you when you apply for an ED card. You should have on hand:

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2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)

We mentioned a \$20 contribution mandatory for every visitor. Keep in mind that this is a YEARLY fee; so if you

plan on visiting Aruba more than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

We should clarify that the ED card is not a substitute for a visa. Visitors who need a visa for Aruba must apply for both a visa and an online ED card. You can also start applying for the ED card 6 days before your flight.

If you extend your trip, you don't have to reapply for or edit your ED card. However, you must reapply if you missed your flight and/or your flight got canceled and your traveling to the island on another flight.

For more info, visit the official website for ED card of contact the immigration office of Aruba at (+297) 523 7404 or email them at info@dga.aw

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 your 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. □



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CasaPlaya Aruba: Discover the Aruba Most Visitors Never See



There are places you visit. And there are places that become part of your story.

Next July 2026, we proudly open the doors to CasaPlaya, our newest luxury waterfront development in the heart of Oranjestad, Aruba. With only 65 exclusive residences overlooking the historic Paardenbaai (Bay of Horses) and the shimmering Caribbean Sea, CasaPlaya offers something increasingly rare in today's real estate market: authenticity, opportunity, and a lifestyle that cannot be replicated.

For buyers from the United States and Canada seeking more than just another vacation property, CasaPlaya represents a chance to experience a different side of Aruba—the real Aruba.

Excellent Potencial for Capital Growth

While ocean-view condominiums in Palm Beach and Eagle Beach have reached record prices, CasaPlaya remains attractively positioned at approximately 40% to 50% below comparable luxury ocean-view properties on the island—a pricing gap rarely seen in Aruba's premier residential market.

Early buyers have the rare chance to be part of a neighborhood on the rise. As Oranjestad experiences a renaissance unlike anything seen in decades, CasaPlaya is positioned at the center of that transformation—creating the potential for significant future appreciation while delivering an authentic Caribbean lifestyle from day one.

This creates a compelling opportunity for early buyers.

Wake Up to the Caribbean Every Morning

Imagine opening your curtains to panoramic views of Paardenbaai and the endless blue waters beyond.

Watch cruise ships arrive in the distance. Feel the ocean breeze from your private terrace. Enjoy spectacular sunsets that paint the Caribbean sky in shades of gold, orange, and crimson.

At CasaPlaya, the sea is not just something you visit.

It's part of your everyday life.

Walk to Everything

One of CasaPlaya's greatest luxuries isn't found inside the residences—it's outside your front door.

Downtown Oranjestad has evolved into a vibrant destination filled with acclaimed restaurants, trendy cafés, local markets, boutique shopping, cinemas, casinos, luxury hotels, spas, waterfront bars, and cultural attractions.

Leave your car behind.

Stroll through colorful streets rich with history and character. Meet local artists, entrepreneurs, and families. Enjoy authentic island life in a way few visitors ever experience.

And when you're ready for a beach day, Aruba's world-famous white-sand

beaches are just a five-minute drive away.

Freedom to Generate Rental Income

Unlike many residential developments that impose strict rental limitations, CasaPlaya offers owners the flexibility modern investors demand. There are no restrictions on short-term rentals.

While many inland communities limit rentals to only 90 days per year, CasaPlaya owners can take full advantage of Aruba's strong year-round tourism market and maximize the income potential of their investment.

Whether you plan to use your residence seasonally or as an income-producing asset, CasaPlaya gives you the freedom to choose.

Beyond the Tourist Strip

Many visitors know Aruba through the familiar chain restaurants, crowded tourist zones, and predictable resort experiences.

CasaPlaya offers something different.

A more sophisticated Aruba.

A more authentic Aruba.

An Aruba where you can enjoy local cuisine, connect with residents, discover hidden gems, and become part of a community rather than simply passing through.

This is not the Aruba of postcards.

This is the Aruba that residents cherish.

Limited to Only 65 Residences

With just 65 luxury condominiums available, a rooftop pool, fitness center, library and valet parking, CasaPlaya is an intimate development designed for those who value exclusivity, location, and long-term potential.

Some opportunities are measured by square footage.

Others are measured by timing.

As Oranjestad continues its renaissance and waterfront living becomes increasingly sought after, CasaPlaya stands at the intersection of lifestyle and investment.

We are incredibly proud to introduce CasaPlaya to the world.

And we invite you to discover the Aruba most people never see. □



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — Are you back or still enjoying your vacation?... We would like to give you a shout-out by inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island!

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note:

By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation. Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □

A brief history of the California Light House



(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curaçao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck.

These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were

the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they dismantled it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curaçao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many de-

tails: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets,

until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how



it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □

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The stories of "Compa Nanzi"

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as "Compa Nanzi". Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, "Compa Nanzi" is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the "new world" by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to

get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king
One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! "Soldiers, get him!" he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

"Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!" the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and



pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

"Compadre, listen here!" Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. "What is this?"

"Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see," Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. "Let me see!" he said.

"Well if you must insist," Nanzi said, "I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second." The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to con-

tinue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: "This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago." That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. "Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?"

"I was, Your Majesty," Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones," Nanzi told the king.

"What is that you say?" the king was intrigued. "I want to see it too!" The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from "Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)" by Nilda Pinto. □



The legend of the Kibrahacha tree

ORANJESTAD—The Kibrahacha is a famous tree known locally for its bright, yellow flowers that blooms for just three days. Scientifically known as *Tabebuia billbergii*, and in English as the Yellow Poui, this tree is native to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao, and is considered among locals as one of the most spectacular trees on the island. But did you also know that the beautiful yellow flowers have a story behind them?

The Kibrahacha is said to have extremely hard wood—so hard that it can break an axe. In fact, that's what its name means in Papiamentu: "kibra" (break) "hacha" (axe). The flowers bloom around April and May, but this only last for about three days, as the flowers start to fall off and the tree starts growing its green leaves.



The Kibrahacha is especially particular, as it's the only one among its neighboring trees to start blooming first.

The legend of the Kibrahacha

Written by Hubert (Lio Booi)

One day Aterima, who lived west of the hill Sero Warawara, woke up one day to find her father sleeping in his hammock, suffering a bout of terrible fever. Her mother was very worried, and as was the custom in the olden days, asked Aterima to go fetch Kudawecha, who was an epistemophile, to come see his father.

Aterima wasted to time and went to go fetch Kudawecha. Upon telling Kudawecha that her father was sick, he immediately accompanied Aterima back to her hut, where he encountered her father in a bad state. Not willing to waste any time, he told Aterima that the only thing that can cure her father is a home-made potion made out of the Kibrahacha flower. At the time the Kibrahacha was not yet in her blooming season, but the stubborn Kudawecha was determined to bring back Aterima's father back to health, and so off they went to the nearest Kibrahacha tree.

When they arrived at the tree, they saw that it was covered head to toe in thorns, with only a few closed flowers at the very top. Kudawecha, experienced veteran in all things Aruban flora and fauna, told Aterima to start plucking the thorns of the tree to climb to the top where the flowers are. Aterima, just as determined to save her father, didn't hesitate to start.

To her surprise, every time she plucked a thorn of the tree, a bright, yellow flower bloomed in its place. The thorns were hard to pluck out, but Aterima continued plucking with enthusiasm and wonder at the unfolding sight before her.



Not too long after she was able to fill her entire satchel with the yellow flowers.

Kudawecha, satisfied to see Aterima so happy and encouraged to help her father, took her back to her hut.

Upon arriving back at the hut, Aterima's mother quickly made a tea out of the flowers and gave it to her sick husband. Miraculously, after just one sip of the tea, the father's fever left his body immediately, and he opened eyes and sprung up feeling new.

The next morning, they all visited the same Kibrahacha tree that saved the life of Aterima's father and they saw another miracle. The tree was covered again in the same bright, yellow flowers, with not a thorn in sight. And as the legend goes, from that day on, the Kibrahacha tree no longer produced any more thorns. □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

ORANJESTAD—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

Candelchi, Squirrelfish, *Holocentrus adscensionis*:

Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are

heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

In Aruba:

Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active

during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

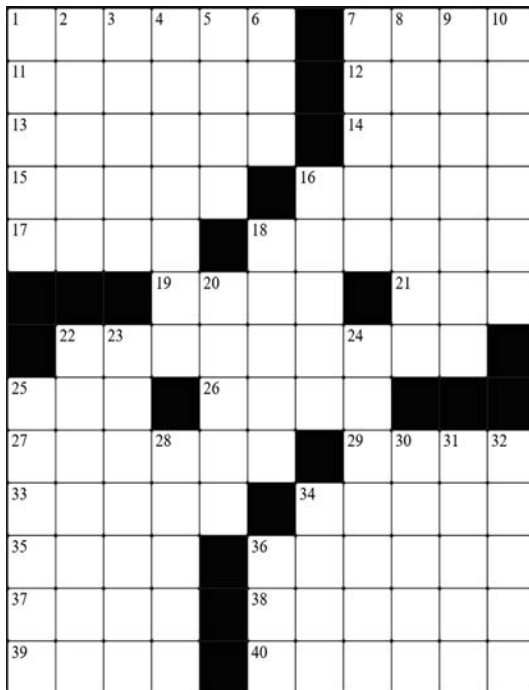
1. Start a round
7. Tiara adorners
11. Top NFL player
12. TV's Falco
13. Medieval weapon
14. Appropriate
15. Doing impressions
16. Long rides
17. Takes in
18. Split item
19. Tombstone lawman
21. Do a yard job
22. Diviners read them
25. Racket
26. Take it easy
27. Certainly
29. Rope material
33. Unemotional
34. Indonesian island
35. Polar explorer
36. Fake front
37. Vaulted area
38. Axis foes
39. Woodwind part
40. Immune system components

DOWN

1. Spanish appetizers
2. Skip the ceremony
3. Kemper who played
4. Mariner's place
5. Grenade, in video games
6. Sly one
7. Arrive
8. Green soybeans
9. Greek island, to Greeks
10. Play-ground sight
16. Bolivia's largest city
18. Bakery output
20. Strike setting
22. Old photo
23. Back
24. Truck or trolley
25. Keep from practicing
28. Over
30. Some messages
31. Runway worker
32. Printer's need
34. Soft mineral
36. Diet concern



Saturday's answer



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.

10-3

CRYPTOQUOTE

HE HR HZ JHSfIZJ EDGE H
YKZZFYE NHED KEDFCR, NHED
EDF NKCXQ GZQ NHED EDF
QHSHZF. —HRGAFX GXXFZQF
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN ONLY
OFFEND ME IF YOU MEAN SOMETHING TO ME
—CHRIS ROCK

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power

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

Drinking water



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

buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as



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

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
OCTOBER	
03 SAT	ISLAND PRINCESS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: C
04 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
06 TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
07 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: I FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
10 SAT	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★

10/5

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/4

World powers gather in Pacific to chart climate battle



Pacific Ocean waves hit the coast of Funafuti Atoll in Tuvalu on February 19, 2004.

Wellington, New Zealand

World powers are flying delegates to the Pacific to haggle over the fight against global warming, and to see the plight of island nations surrounded by a rising ocean.

Ministers, climate negotiators and a handful of leaders will meet in the Fijian city of Nadi for the October 5-8 talks.

They will be charting the course for a major UN-sponsored global climate summit, known as COP31, to be held in November in Turkey's Antalya province. For Pacific nations, hosting the preliminary talks in their region offers an opportunity to draw the world's attention to life on the front-line of climate change. Pacific leaders are pushing for the world to stick to a target of limiting global warming to 1.5C, enhance access to climate finance, and give more attention to the impact on oceans.

The sea level is rising at a record pace, driven by warming oceans and glacier melt, according to a UN report.

Up to 1.2 billion people could be displaced by 2050, with Pacific island countries experiencing sea level rise at twice the global average, said the report released in August.

It also highlighted a financing gap, with developing countries needing US\$310-US\$365 billion to adapt, yet having only US\$26 billion in adaptation finance available in 2023.

Top delegates to the Pacific

talks will hold a one-day retreat on low-lying Tuvalu, a small island nation laying plans to relocate the population if it is consumed by the ocean.

They will be shown Tuvalu's land reclamation efforts.

The island capital Funafuti's highest point is just two metres above sea-level, and two of its nine coral atolls are already largely swamped by rising seas.

- 'Act now' -

"Sea-level rise is not a future threat, it is a present reality," Tuvalu Prime Minister Feleti Teo told the UN General Assembly ahead of the climate talks.

"Tuvalu's message is clear: the world must act now decisively, collectively, and with urgency to protect the future for generations to come."

Last year, Australia bowed

out of a contest with Turkey to host the COP31 summit in a deal that let it preside over negotiations and bring the preparatory talks to the Pacific.

As leader of the climate talks, however, major coal exporter Australia has faced heat over the scale of its fossil fuel extraction. Chris Bowen, the country's climate minister, says Australia is rapidly expanding its renewable energy sources, which are essential for a transition away from fossil fuels.

Bowen, president of the COP31 negotiations, also rejected media criticism that the pre-COP talks in the Pacific had failed to lure enough world leaders. Fewer than a dozen world leaders have so far publicly confirmed that they will attend the meetings in Fiji and Tuvalu, mostly from the Pacific.

Fiji said last month it expected the heads of state for Antigua and Barbuda, Cape Verde, Thailand, the Maldives and Timor-Leste would attend.

"It's not normally a leaders meeting," Bowen told reporters in the run-up to the talks, which are usually held at the ministerial and senior-negotiator level.

- 'Very, very sad' -

Organisers have not released detailed figures on attendance.

Bowen said last month 4,000 people from 60 nations would attend, without

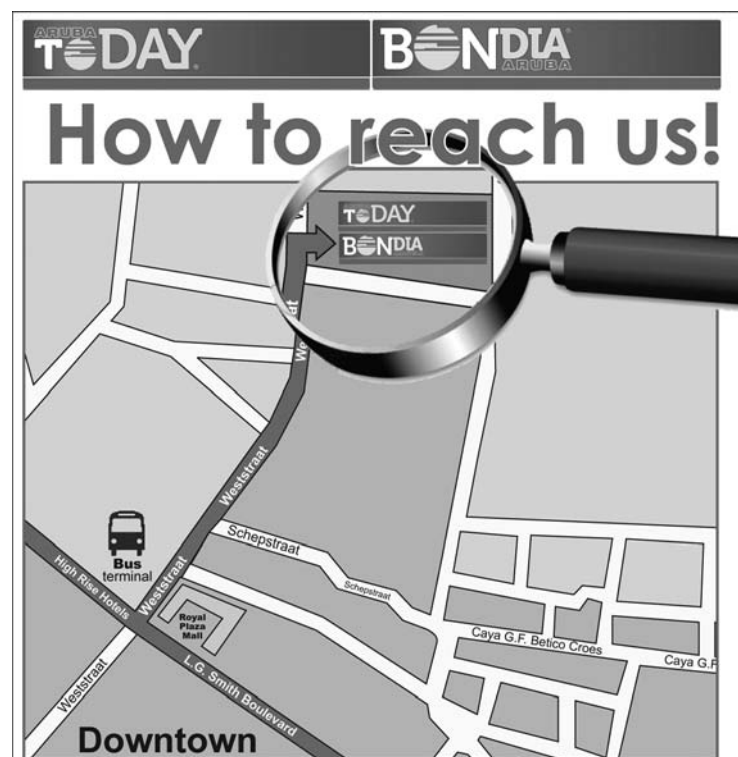
providing a full breakdown. Marine scientist Rajneel Singh -- part of a team that reported large-scale coral death around Tuvalu from a 2024 marine heatwave -- said he was disheartened by a perceived lack of attention to the climate challenge.

"It's very, very sad. There's no awareness of what's happening," Singh told AFP.

Nepal's foreign minister, Shirsir Khanal, has confirmed he will attend the Pacific climate meeting, after the August 26 Himalayan flood disaster.

A tsunami-like wall of water and debris triggered by a glacial and rock collapse on the Nepal-China border on August 26 killed nearly 1,500 and left 5,800 missing in the two countries.

"What we're trying to convey to the world is this: these issues of climate change are not theoretical anymore," Khanal told AFP in an interview in New York. □



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Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
Tel. 587 9011

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

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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

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Battling Djokovic stuns top seed Zverev at China Open



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates his victory over Germany's Alexander Zverev during their men's singles quarter-final at the China Open tennis tournament in Beijing on October 4, 2026.

Beijing, China

Novak Djokovic rolled back the years to oust Alexander Zverev from the China Open on Sunday, beating the top seed 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 to set up a blockbuster semi-final with Daniil Medvedev. The 39-year-old Serbian electrified a packed crowd in Beijing, where he extended an astonishing winning streak to 32 matches and is a firm fan favourite.

Djokovic called it one of his best matches of the year, alongside his epic five-set win over Italy's Jannik Sinner to reach the final at the Australian Open.

He told reporters such battles were "evidence to me that I can still beat the best players in the world on the biggest stage".

"Things are a bit different nowadays. It's hard to be consistently playing on the highest level like the youngsters," he said.

He needed to play a mix of shots in "high-risk tennis" against the German, but he said feeling "physically pretty good" on the court after dealing all year with health issues helped him fight back.

Djokovic got off to a poor start, double-faulting twice in the first game to help Zverev, a decade his junior, break serve instantly.

Boos filled the stadium soon afterward when the umpire

agreed to replay a point Djokovic had won, after Zverev complained about a flicker in the LED panels during play.

The German saw out the first set from there, but a valiant Djokovic roared back to seal the second with a cross-court winner to break serve and force a decider.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion faced 19 Zverev aces throughout the match but held steady on his own serve to go 5-4 ahead in the final set.

He then broke the world number two to take the set and the match, seemingly defying his recent physical difficulties with victory in a gruelling two hours and 34 minutes.

Djokovic will face Medvedev in the final four after the former world number one dispatched Francisco Cerundolo 7-6 (7/4), 6-3.

Poland's Hubert Hurkacz also advanced to the semi-finals after beating Karen Khachanov, and will play Australia's Alex de Minaur, who survived a gruelling test to beat Andrey Rublev 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

- Sabalenka swept out -

Aryna Sabalenka was swatted aside in straight sets in the third round, leaving the women's draw without its top two seeds.

Czech player Nikola Bar-

tunkova, 20, sent down four aces to beat the former world number one 6-4, 6-3 in one hour and 35 minutes. "I focused on myself, to be calm," 34th-ranked Bartunkova said.

"She's a legend... so I'm really happy that I won the match," she said of the four-time Grand Slam champion.

Bartunkova next faces Austria's Sinja Kraus in the round of 16.

A frustrated Sabalenka tossed her racquet at a break down in the fourth game of the second set, and lost on the first match point when she returned into the net.

Top seed Elena Rybakina -- who replaced Sabalenka as world number one weeks ago -- is also out, having lost to Alina Charaeva in the second round.

French Open champion Mirra Andrejeva of Russia set up a fourth-round match with Ukraine's Daria Snigur, while Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova breezed past Viktorija Golubic 6-2, 6-1.

Noskova next faces 28th-ranked Russian player Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Naomi Osaka, the 2019 champion, beat Sara Bejlek and will face either Karolina Muchova or Liudmila Samsonova, scheduled to play each other Sunday night. □

Evenepoel puts worlds 'disappointment' to bed with European crown



Belgium's rider Remco Evenepoel (L) crosses the finish line to win ahead of Italy's rider Giulio Ciccone the men's elite road race of the UEC European Road Cycling Championships in Sencur, near Ljubljana, Slovenia, on October 4, 2026.

Sencur, Slovenia

The 2024 Olympic road racing gold medalist Remco Evenepoel said on Sunday taking the European championship title helped him to get over failing to claim the world crown earlier this month.

The Belgian pipped Italian Giulio Ciccone at the finish line in Slovenia having finished with the elite clique that trailed winner Brandon McNulty home at the worlds last Sunday in Montreal.

Cicconi's compatriot Christian Scaroni was third almost a minute behind.

"It's incredible," the 2022 world champion Evenepoel said.

"I thought I had won, but you can never be sure.

"This performance was honestly really tough for me after the disappointment of the worlds.

"It's a big relief to be back on a good level today and to complete my championship jerseys so it feels amazing," the 2019 and 2025 European time trial gold medalist added.

Evenepoel was the pre-race favourite with the all-conquering Tadej Pogacar, who won the race 12 months ago, missing due to injury with the race held in his home country.

Other stand-out riders like Dane Jonas Vingegaard, Paul Seixas, Tom Pidcock and Mathieu van der Poel were also absent.

Despite not competing, joint-record five-time Tour de France champion Pogacar was still present, with the starting gun in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, as he appeared from the window of a car on the route, to the joy of local fans.

With 36 of the 196km to go, in the postcard setting of the Alps, Belgium launched Red Bull-Bora hansgrohe's Evenepoel with Ciccone following on.

Evenepoel then slid on the tarmac on a corner but caught up with Ciccone, who had slowed down to save energy going into the final kilometers.

The pair were neck and neck until the end in Sencur, the location for five laps of 22.1km, before Evenepoel needed a photo finish to complete his European-worlds double, having finished second in the continental race in 2021 and last year. □

Patriots inflict first Bills defeat as Rams surge late

Los Angeles, United States

The New England Patriots inflicted Buffalo's first defeat of the season as quarterback Drake Maye bounced back with three touchdowns in a 29-26 win, while the Los Angeles Rams surged late to win at Philadelphia.

On a packed day of drama, the Dallas Cowboys also edged a thrilling Texas showdown in Houston, while the Indianapolis Colts ran out as winners in the NFL's latest foray to London.

New England's Maye -- who reached the Super Bowl last season, but endured a nightmare start to this campaign -- grabbed victory against the AFC East rival Bills, with a late go-ahead touchdown pass to Efton Chism III for a superb one-handed take. That came after Buffalo quarterback Josh Allen appeared to have orchestrated a fourth-quarter comeback with a 34-yard hurl to Keon Coleman that made it 26-21.

Maye ended the game with 269 passing yards and another 54 rushing. Romeo Doubs grabbed a pair of touchdown receptions, before Chism's game-winner, which was followed by a successful two-point conversion.

Even in defeat, Allen's 88th career touchdown made him the leading touchdown scorer in Bills history.

Philadelphia looked set to pile more misery on the Rams, who entered the season as Super Bowl favorites but were 1-2 after their opening three games.

Trailing 10-20 deep in the fourth quarter, Los Angeles' underwhelming start looked likely to worsen.

But a pair of late Kyren Williams touchdowns sealed a 24-20 victory, made all the more painful for the Eagles by a hamstring injury to star running back Saquon Barkley early in the game.

Philadelphia quarterback Jalen Hurts twice found Darius Cooper in the end zone. At Houston, CeeDee Lamb capped a superb personal performance by snaffling his 17th reception of the day for a touchdown to put the Cowboys ahead 34-30 with 40 seconds remaining.

CJ Stroud attempted a 50-yard hail mary pass with nine seconds remaining, but could not salvage a game that the Texans had largely led.

Javonte Williams led the Cowboys comeback with three rushing touchdowns in the second half.

In the NFL's latest London game, Indianapolis running back Jonathan Taylor ran for two touchdowns as the Colts defeated the injury-hit Washington Commanders 30-13. Taylor had ample opportunity to unveil his London-themed celebration, miming sipping tea after finding the end zone late in the first half at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium and again early in the third quarter to give the Colts a 17-6 lead.

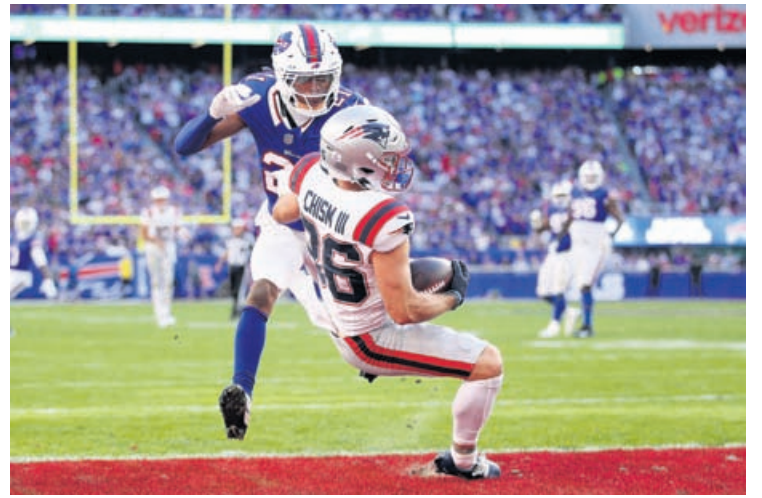
"The crowd was electric, the

energy was amazing and I can't wait to come back to London," said Taylor, at the Tottenham Hotspur stadium.

The Commanders, already missing star quarterback Jayden Daniels with a dislocated left elbow, saw veteran backup Marcus Mariota depart with a right knee injury in the opening minutes. Mariota -- who led Washington to an upset win over the Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks last week -- was replaced by rookie seventh-round draft pick Athan Kaliakmanis.

Elsewhere, Baltimore defeated the hapless Tennessee Titans 24-18, though the victory was tarnished by an ankle injury for quarterback Lamar Jackson, who did not return after halftime.

The New York Giants sealed



Efton Chism III #86 of the New England Patriots scores a touchdown against Davison Igbinosun #21 of the Buffalo Bills during the fourth quarter at Highmark Stadium on October 04, 2026 in Orchard Park, New York.

a 36-24 win over Arizona with a walk-off pick-six. With Cardinals quarterback Jacoby Brissett seeking a late go-ahead touchdown, cornerback Deonte Banks intercepted and raced 98 yards to the opposite endzone.

The Jacksonville Jaguars improved to 3-1 with victory over Cincinnati, the Chicago Bears eased past the New York Jets 23-12 thanks to two Kyle Monangai rushing touchdowns, and Green Bay edged Tampa Bay 17-14. □



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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