



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



Page 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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

WATER'S EDGE
RESTAURANT & BAR

costa linda
beach resort

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

PREMIUM
BRANDS
**



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



NANKI

at BABY BEACH ARUBA

ARUBA'S 1st Boutique Condo-Hotel

PRE-CONSTRUCTION PRICES

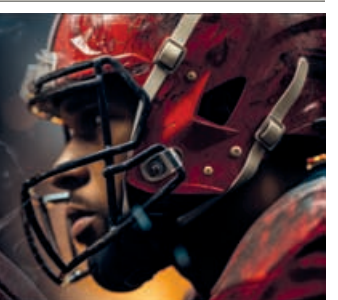
+(297) 594.6395

nankibeacharuba.com

a project by **PANA**

DOUBLE DOWN
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

CATCH ALL THE NFL ACTION HERE!



Eagle Aruba Resort | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #248 Eagle Beach, Aruba

[DoubleDown.SportsBarGrill](https://www.facebook.com/DoubleDown.SportsBarGrill)

[doubledownsportsbargrill](https://www.instagram.com/doubledownsportsbargrill)



After the positive resolution in the Urgenda case, Marjan Minnesma, the director of the Urgenda campaign and Dennis van Berkel climate jurist, congratulated to the activists demonstrating outside in support of the Urgenda case, that took place in front of the Supreme Court in The Hague, on December 20th, 2019.

Climate hopes shift from politics to the courts

Washington, United States

The political fight against global warming may be losing steam, but the legal battle is heating up.

Over the past decade, legal activists have successfully taken a number of national governments to court, triggering the adoption of more climate-friendly policies in countries including the Netherlands, Pakistan, Switzerland, South Korea and others.

"There is momentum for climate litigation in the courts," Dennis van Berkel of the Climate Litigation Network, which supports legal action against states and corporations, told AFP. In one such victory earlier this week, Australia's highest court blocked the expansion of a coal mine in New South Wales, citing its climate impact.

"Climate change litigation is growing domestically and internationally," said Margaret Young, a law professor at the University of Melbourne.

On the political front, from Europe to the United States, governments have been scaling back climate ambitions and policies, and global climate negotiations at the upcoming COP in November are not expected to deliver major progress in cutting the fossil fuels that drive global

warming.

But over the past two years, three international courts have affirmed in advisory opinions that countries have legal obligations to address climate change: the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the International Court of Justice (ICJ). A fourth opinion is expected from the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

"A lot has been achieved in a short period of time", said Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh, a law professor at the University of Amsterdam who served as a legal expert in proceedings before all three courts.

While an advisory opinion issued by such a court is not legally binding in the same way as a judgment in a contentious case, van Berkel said the legal principles set out in those opinions are already being used in national courts.

"That norm is now flowing back to being picked up by the plaintiffs in different countries (and) used in their litigation," he explained.

A Paris court cited the ICJ opinion in a ruling last June that ordered TotalEnergies to include emissions linked to the use of its products in its corporate vigilance plan. In January, a Dutch

court also cited the opinion when it ordered the Netherlands to strengthen its climate plan in a case brought by residents of the Dutch Caribbean island of Bonaire. Both rulings are being appealed.

"Despite what politicians say about the international legal system, judges still respect and apply international law in many countries around the world," said Sophie Marjanac, legal director at the Redwater Insights think tank.

'Tightening net' for oil firms

When it comes to corporations, the legal precedent is less established than for states, but there is a "tightening net" for oil companies, said Jasper Teulings, who also works for the Climate Litigation Network.

In some cases, years of litigation have led to permits for oil, gas and coal projects being overturned, including in the UK. Norway's Supreme Court is expected to rule soon on licenses for projects in the North Sea. And in 2027, the Supreme Court of the Netherlands is expected to rule in a closely watched case brought by the environmental group Milieudefensie against Shell, deciding whether to impose a specific emissions-reduction target on the energy giant. □



New York City mayor Zohran Mamdani speaks to the press to give an update about the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) shooting in the Bronx borough of New York on October 8, 2026.

U.S. Homeland Security chief condemns New York mayor's call to 'abolish ICE'

Washington, United States

U.S. Homeland Security chief Markwayne Mullin lashed out at New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani on Friday over his demand that federal immigration agents leave the city following the shooting of a Dominican man.

"His words are dangerous and incite hostility," Mullin said at a press conference during which he defended the conduct of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents.

Mullin said Oscar Bergal, 28, the man shot and wounded in the Bronx by ICE agents on Thursday, had an extensive criminal history and was trying to evade arrest.

"He came to this country legally a few years ago, and ever since he's come in, he's committed crime and crime after crime," the Homeland Security secretary said.

Bergal suffered a superficial wound to the neck and was hospitalized. A five-year-old child who was in his car at the time was physically unharmed.

Mullin said ICE officers did not know there was a child in the car when they opened fire.

Mamdani, a Democrat, condemned the shooting and said he would ask President Donald Trump to halt ICE enforcement actions in New York.

"Abolish ICE," the mayor said on X. "Mayor, if you abolish ICE, who's going to take criminals off the streets of your own town?" Mullin responded. "Who's going to take the murderers and the thieves and the gangbangers?"

Marcos Charles, a senior ICE official, also addressed the press conference and said Bergal had "refused lawful orders to exit his vehicle." "He then accelerated his vehicle, smashing into two of our government ICE vehicles, and then weaponized his vehicle and proceeded to accelerate, going towards other officers," Charles said. "Our officers, using their training, and believing that their life and the lives of their partners and general public were in danger, used their training and fired weapons," he said.

Several hundred protesters gathered peacefully at the scene of the shooting Thursday evening to express opposition to Trump's immigration crackdown.

Trump, a Republican, heavily criticized Mamdani before he took office in January, but the two men have since struck a surprisingly warm relationship.

ICE has been involved in several high-profile shootings this year, including the killing of two US citizens in Minneapolis, which sparked angry protests. □

U.S. announces sanctions on ICC, hours after Nobel award to former judge

Washington, United States

The United States on Friday announced sanctions on the International Criminal Court, vowing to cripple the tribunal's operations just hours after the Nobel Peace Prize went to a former ICC judge who warned of mounting political attacks on the court.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington would ban transactions with what he called a "rogue court," escalating a long-running campaign by President Donald Trump's administration against the Hague-based tribunal.

"Either the ICC will end its threats, or we will end the ICC," Rubio said in a statement.

But the immediate impact of the sanctions was softened by a series of exemptions that offer a de facto six-month grace period.

The State Department said that was meant to give the court's member states time to show "meaningful progress" toward addressing U.S. concerns.

The grace period could be adjusted depending on the "success or failure" of those efforts, the department added.



South African judge Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, chair of the independent United Nations Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel arrives to a press conference in Geneva, on June 18, 2025.

The court rejected the U.S. sanctions as an attack on international law and warned in a statement that "history will judge this moment."

Countries including Canada, France, Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom said in a joint statement that they "strongly disagree" with the announcement.

U.N. Secretary-General An-

tonio Guterres called the U.S. decision "a serious blow to our collective pursuit of international criminal justice, of which the ICC is a key pillar."

The European Union called the sanctions "deeply regrettable" and said it was "ready to take any necessary measures to enable the court to carry out its work."

The European Commission,

the EU's executive arm, said it hoped the six-month delay meant "there is room for dialogue."

Rights group Amnesty International urged countries to "resist" the move, saying the sanctions were "designed to isolate and ultimately destroy" the court. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who faces an ICC arrest warrant over

alleged crimes in Gaza, praised the U.S. action.

"The ICC is not a court. It is a political body that poses a mortal threat to law-abiding democracies worldwide and to the very idea of national sovereignty," his office posted on X.

- 'Never allow' -

The move came on the same day the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the peace prize to South Africa's Navi Pillay, an 85-year-old jurist who headed the Rwanda genocide tribunal, served on the ICC and later led a UN commission that accused Israel of genocide in Gaza.

Rubio's statement did not mention Pillay or the Nobel award.

He said the sanctions were needed to protect security personnel and elected officials from prosecution by a court the United States has never joined.

"President Trump will never allow the International Criminal Court to prosecute Americans," Rubio said, adding that the measures would cut off the court's resources and cripple "its ability to operate." □

Trump forms panel to probe U.S. Fed governor Lisa Cook

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump has set up a committee to probe Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook over alleged "false statements" linked to mortgages, renewing his efforts to oust her.

The committee is set to hold an in-person hearing on the matter on November 5, the White House said in a statement published Friday, attracting swift criticism from a key Democratic lawmaker.

Elizabeth Warren, top Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee, charged that Trump "is convening an illegitimate show trial" in an attempt to exert control over the independent U.S. central bank.

The move comes just

months after the Supreme Court blocked Trump's attempt to fire Cook, saying he had failed to give her notice and a chance to answer allegations that she faced.

"As President, it is my job to ensure the laws are faithfully executed, including by firing subordinates who cannot be trusted to tell the truth and follow the law," Trump said in the statement, dated October 7.

The notice added that the hearing would take place at the White House and last no longer than four hours.

Cook's lawyers expressed "grave doubts that this 'hearing' is a legitimate one that would conform to the law," noting Trump's repeated statements that

he had already decided to fire the central bank official.

"We have engaged with the White House to evaluate whether the process proposed has a possibility of being a genuine one and not simply a box checking exercise," added Cook's lawyers Abbe Lowell and Norm Eisen in a statement.

Nonetheless, they said Cook "welcomes the opportunity to present the facts so she can clear her name and demonstrate there is no legal basis to fire her."

- Unprecedented attacks -

Members of the committee convened by Trump include his top economic aide Kevin Hassett, the

White House statement said.

The other two members are the chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Andrea Lucas, and acting director of the Office of Government

Ethics, Keith Sonderling.

Trump's statement added that Cook "shall appear at the hearing and be examined by the Committee, its representatives, and her legal counsel, if any." □



Federal Reserve Board Governor Lisa Cook arrives for a board meeting at the Federal Reserve on March 19, 2026 in Washington, DC.

The British historian helping the French rediscover de Gaulle

Paris, France

British historian Julian Jackson has played a crucial role in creating the French cinema sensation of the year: a two-part biopic about 20th-century political colossus Charles de Gaulle.

The 72-year-old scholar is the author of the definitive modern biography of the French wartime leader "A Certain Idea of France", which became popular among French readers after its translation in 2019.

It served as the basis for the de Gaulle films, directed by diplomat-turned-director Antonin Baudry, with Jackson serving as an adviser on the adaptation and script.

He is clearly happy with the result: nearly six million cinema tickets sold and finds the success fascinating: for what it reveals about the country's blindspots, as well as the state of its highly unstable politics.

"The first thing is that clearly there's a kind of disenchantment with politics in France right now," Jackson told AFP. "And I think people, almost psychologically, found it reassuring to



British historian and academic Julian Jackson poses during a photo session in Paris on October 6, 2026.

latch onto someone who, in a way, made politics feel magical again."

De Gaulle remains influential in French public life 56 years after his death, with modern politicians from President Emmanuel Macron to others on the right and even the far-right positioning themselves as heirs of the conservative leader known as "the general".

- 'Surprised me' -

But the second revelation of the films, which premiered in May, has been the extent to which de Gaulle's full story was unknown to many, added Jackson.

The famously tall and stubborn leader became the head of the Free France movement in 1940 refusing the armistice signed with

Nazi Germany and fled to London to spearhead opposition to the collaborationist French government. He would go on to rally support in France's colonial territories and build links to the Resistance movement inside France, all while negotiating with sometimes skeptical and frequently exasperated Allied leaders Winston Churchill of Britain

and US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

"I thought everyone (in France) knew de Gaulle's story pretty well because he's so present in people's minds," Jackson explained. "But after the film came out... I realized just how little the French actually know about de Gaulle. That really surprised me."

Many people remember de Gaulle best as the visionary post-war political leader who returned to the public stage in 1958, helping end a political crisis over French-run Algeria and the threat of a military coup.

That led to the creation of the modern constitution the Fifth Republic which de Gaulle designed in his image.

"I think that what French people remember is the de Gaulle of the 1960s," said Jackson, who is a professor at Queen Mary University of London.

And despite the modern-day reverence for de Gaulle, he was "absolutely hated" when he left power in 1969, humiliated by student protests the year before and a failed referendum, Jackson said.

- 'Racist party' -

With France again gripped by student protests, nationalism on the rise and a president plumbing new depths of unpopularity, it is tempting to reach for historical parallels that would help illuminate the present. But Jackson sees no periods in modern French history that compare with the current era.

"I think we're living through a universal crisis of liberal democracy, which is not just French," he explained. "So I'm a bit suspicious of these historical parallels because, except at the most absolutely banal level that there's some sort of crisis going on, the detail is so different."

The most obvious parallel is to the 1930s, with its economic crises that led to high unemployment, the search for scapegoats in the form of anti-Semitism, and ultimately the advent of fascism, Jackson said. □

John Cena and Jessica Biel hit the gas in 'Matchbox: The Movie'

Los Angeles, United States

John Cena spent much of his childhood playing with Matchbox cars, so when the chance came to hit the gas in "Matchbox: The Movie," he jumped behind the wheel.

The action-comedy film, out this Friday on Apple

TV, follows the reunion of a group of childhood friends a gathering that veers unexpectedly when they're caught in the middle of a wild mission to recover a nuclear warhead.

Starring Cena, Jessica Biel, Arturo Castro, Sam Richardson and Teyonah Par-

ris, the movie directed by Sam Hargrave melds high-octane scenes with more humorous moments.

It also taps into nostalgia for the toy cars, which originated after English engineer Jack Odell designed the first model to comply with a 1952 British school rule requiring toys to fit inside a matchbox.

"If you have childhood memories like me of Matchbox, I think you're going to appreciate all the Easter eggs in there. And if you don't know anything about Matchbox or the Mattel franchise, you're going to sit down and really enjoy this movie," Cena said during a roundtable with journalists.

The action scenes proved difficult for both Cena and his co-star Biel.

Training focused more on learning to move in new

ways, and doing fight scenes with greater fluidity, Cena said.

And, of course, to "gain the courage to jump off a building," he added.

- Adrenaline rush -

Biel said it was the driving that propelled her out of her comfort zone.

"I've never learned how to spin a car, you know, in a 180 and stop it on a mark," she said.

The experience proved an adrenaline rush, Biel added.

Driving "was the coolest stuff I got to do," she said. "Going 60 plus miles an hour on a freeway with a bunch of camera cars everywhere, and guys on motorcycles, and gals in giant semis... There was a really major sense of being safe for everyone else's sake." □



Arturo Castro attends SiriusXM's Front Row with the cast of "Matchbox" at SiriusXM Studios on October 05, 2026 in New York City.



A young patient takes part in an activity at the Arche centre, a facility that provides permanent, lifelong care for people with intellectual disabilities in Bouake on September 17, 2026.

I.Coast refuge offers lifelong care for youngsters scorned as 'sorcerers'

Bouaké, Ivory Coast

Ahou Albertine Kouadio says it's tough leaving her son in care but it's the safest place for him in Ivory Coast, where youngsters with developmental disorders face rejection, violence or even death.

After having him at home over the holidays, the 70-year-old dropped Alexandre off at a care centre in the country's second city, Bouake, where he stays for the rest of the year.

"That way, when I'm not around anymore..." Kouadio said, her voice trailing off as her tears welled up. The United Nations says Africa woefully lacks action to integrate the more than 80 million people living with disabilities on the continent, where children with disabilities are often spurned.

The need is nothing short of an "emergency", according to the recently established RAIPH network, which brings together organisations, activists and experts to raise awareness, advocate and help train. Alexandre has a place at one of the west African country's few specialised centres, which provides residential care for 31 people with developmental disorders ranging in ages

from eight to 60.

Nearly 100 others regularly come to take part in activities at the Arche centre, which opened in 1974 and is part of a federation with sites in 38 countries. Putting him in the centre and for several years now was "difficult", said Kouadio, who also has other children. But keeping him at home would be a constant worry.

- 'Genies and snake children' -

In Ivory Coast, as in other African countries, children with a disability are often described as "genies", "sorcerers" or -- for those with mobility issues -- "snake children". With very few state-run health facilities available to treat developmental disorders, youngsters are often sent to unconventional religious retreats to be "cured".

In extreme cases, they are "accompanied" meaning killed, often by poisoning or by drowning, Arche's director Celestin N'Goran said.

"I'm happy when he's here," Kouadio said, sitting beside Alexandre, who will soon turn 30 and has at times wandered out of the house at night.

Older resident, Odette, whose name AFP has

changed for her safety, first came to the Arche centre as a young child.

Both her parents are dead and she has no other family to visit her.

She repeats over and over the name of her village when she wanders around outside in the courtyard. Some of the children came to the centre when they were very young and no longer have any contact with their families.

- 'Right to life' -

"The children aren't sorcerers or genies," N'Goran said.

"They are fully fledged human beings who have a right to life. We must respect their dignity and include them in society."

Those at the Arche centre, most of whom are on neuroleptic (antipsychotic) medication, do activities such as learning the alphabet, colouring and market gardening.

Staff from the centre regularly follow up with the families too, to see "whether these children are able at home to keep up with what we teach them here", social worker Marine Tardy Kouame said.

Through awareness programmes and support groups, she encourages parents to "accept their children as they are". □



Staff members pose next to "En Canot" (L) (Jeune fille a la barque) by French artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir and "La Place du Theatre-Francais et l'avenue de l'Opera, soleil d'apres-midi en hiver" (R) by Danish-French artist Camille Pissarro during a media preview by auction house Sotheby's of "The El Dorado of art collections", with 12 long-unseen paintings estimated at 450 million USD, in central London on September 30, 2026.

Two Renoir paintings stolen in France recovered: mayor

Nice, France

Two paintings by French master Pierre-Auguste Renoir have been recovered a month after they were stolen from a museum in southern France, the town's mayor said Friday.

In September, thieves broke into the museum in Cagnes-sur-Mer and managed to escape with two works by the French impressionist painter, abandoning two others as they fled.

"These two paintings are not simply works of art. They are part of our city's history," said Bryan Masson, the mayor of Cagnes-sur-Mer.

"Knowing they have been recovered is an immense relief."

There has not yet been any statement from the police and Masson did not give any details regarding where the works were found or their condition.

The suspects cut through a fence to enter the museum's tree-lined grounds, smashed a window to get inside, and used an electric saw to cut through the frame mountings, Masson said at the time of the robbery in early September. The theft took place in just a matter of minutes, shortly before 6:00 am (0400 GMT).

A source close to the probe told AFP earlier this week that police had arrested five people as part of the investigation.

According to Masson the museum alarm and police sirens forced the burglars which he described as "well equipped and well informed" about the museum -- to hurry.

They made off with a portrait titled "Madame Colonna Romano" and the depiction of a woman at a well called "Jeune femme au puits", his office said.

The paintings dropped during their escape include "Madame Pichon" and "Coco lisant", a portrait of Renoir's young son Claude reading.

- Museum robberies -

The police said at the time of the robbery that it was clear that they were not first-time offenders, and that they had scoped out the premises before the crime.

The Renoir Museum lies a half-hour drive from the southern city of Nice, in Renoir's last home before he died aged 78 in 1919.

Its collection comprises nine paintings by Renoir, according to the museum. □

Famine-scarred southern Madagascar braces for El Nino

Ifotaka, Madagascar

With scrawny arms and bellies swollen by malnutrition, a dozen children waited for a meal at a World Food Program centre in an arid area of southern Madagascar scarred by famine and bracing for the looming El Nino.

Flour porridge simmered on a stove at the site that opened in the small town of Ifotaka the year after a 2021–2022 famine then described by the United Nations as the first in the world caused by climate change.

A staffer member had to slip away: she had just learned of the death of a malnourished two-year-old.

Even before the full impact due in the coming months of the El Nino warming pattern, which experts have said is on course to be the strongest on record, people in Madagascar's far south are already going hungry.

The World Meteorological Organization has warned of "increased drought risk" in southern Africa as the months-long phenomenon begins in October, with



Farmers from the rural commune of Sampona, tend to their agricultural land under the guidance of a Save the Children project while awaiting the arrival of rain in the Amboasary-South district, South-East Madagascar on September 24, 2026.

countries across the planet from Brazil to India also vulnerable.

In Madagascar, international aid cuts and spiking inflation caused by the Middle East war add to the threat of severe hunger. Ifotaka an inland town of wooden shacks and corrugated iron huts was the epicenter of the 2021–2022 "kere", as periods of hun-

ger are known here.

Around 30,000 people in the surrounding region of sandy soil and bristling cacti suffered from a life-threatening lack of food. To survive, they boiled pieces of cactus and scraps of animal hide.

- Fragile climate context -

"There has been a dramatic increase in climate-relat-

ed events in Madagascar," WFP country director Tania Goosens told AFP.

"In 20 years, there have been 35 cyclones, eight floods and five severe droughts," she said, triple the climate events of the previous 20 years.

"So we're really in a very, very fragile context," Goosens said.

In the nearby coastal vil-

lage of Manindra, where the ocean taunts people working dry land, rainfall was normally expected from late September, said 46-year-old farmer James Tsirimalaza.

"Unfortunately, there's no rain," he said.

Anticipating a crisis, the Save the Children NGO has doubled its normal budget for Madagascar, country representative Tatiana Dasy told AFP.

By April next year, 39 percent of children under the age of five will be suffering from acute malnutrition in Madagascar's "Grand South", according to predictions by the UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). This amounts to nearly 270,000 children.

The conflict between the United States, Israel and Iran that is driving up the price of oil and fertilizer will only add to the risks, it warned in July.

These increases will "directly affect the costs of transport, pumping, fertilizers, fuel for fishing, agricultural inputs and food prices," it said. □

Major earthquake rocks Panama, triggers tsunami warning

Santiago de Veraguas, Panama

A magnitude-7.7 earthquake rocked Panama on Friday, unleashing panic in the high-rise capital city and causing buildings to collapse in the center of the country.

USGS said the quake was

detected at 1756 GMT with an epicenter 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the small town of Pitaloza Arriba in the south-center of Panama.

It triggered a tsunami warning for Panama and warnings of smaller but dangerous waves along

the coasts of other countries in Latin America and the south Pacific.

The quake, registered at a shallow depth of 12 kilometers, was felt across the country of around 4.5 million people, according to the National Civil Protection System, and lasted for around a minute.

The U.S. Tsunami Warning System said that tsunami waves up to three meters high could hit the Panama coastline in the coming hours.

In Panama City, about 200 kilometers from the epicenter, there were scenes of panic as people rushed to evacuate from skyscrapers, AFP witnessed.

There were no reports yet of casualties but extensive damage was expected, particularly in the center of the Central American nation.

"I'm in shock right now and haven't been able to contact my family," Luis Poveda, a factory worker in the central city of Santiago de Veraguas told AFP.

- Huge aftershocks -

"We all ran out of the building, the power lines were swaying, and everyone was outside," Arnulfo Santos, a worker at a flour mill in the same city said.

Images shared by local media showed that part of a hotel had collapsed in the town of Penonome, 150 kilometers southwest of Panama City.

A church in Penonome was also seriously damaged and other buildings showed cracks, according to local reports.

A road in the province of Veraguas had cracks, according to images released by the local press.

Over a dozen large aftershocks, one a magnitude-6 tremor, were recorded by the local geosciences institute.

Writing on X, Panamanian President Jose Raul Mulino called for calm.

"What happened should not be used to generate alarms and disorder," he said, adding that he had called for a report on the damage.

Earthquakes are rare in Panama and when they do occur usually strike in western Chiriqui province, bordering Costa Rica.

The Panamanian quake is at least the fourth quake this year in Latin America surpassing 7.0 in magnitude, after devastating earthquakes in Venezuela's Guaira in June and a powerful earthquake in western Colombia in August. □



People walk in the promenade after a severe 7.6 magnitude earthquake hit the country, in Panama City on October 9, 2026.

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is 'placa'. Cents are called 'cen' (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called 'Dos Placa'; 10-cent coins were called 'Debchi'; 25-cent coins were called 'Diez Placa' and the 50-cent coin was once called 'Yotin' (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontin-



ued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism

10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a

Tortuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

The word "florin" is supposedly named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word "florino", both explanations related to historical Italian currencies. □

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



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

SUPER
B I N G O
SATURDAY!
SUNDAY FUNDAY
B I N G O

Super 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!
\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200
Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

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



Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were

usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

The technique probably

Cas di Torto

came over from the Venezuelan Paraguaná Peninsula in the 18th century. Existing houses date back 150 years. Until 1925 many houses on Aruba were built using this technique, afterwards it fell into disuse. In 2005 there were 62 cas di torto houses left, of which only four were in good condition.

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural

support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white color and helps to protect against the weather.

On top of the poles pieces of wood are fitted that serve as the base for the roof beams. Until 1815 the roofing usually consisted of corn (maize) stems, afterwards the nuclei of columnar cacti were used. The floor is made of loam, mixed with cement or cow dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal barrel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on mats on the floor.

If you visit the Arikok National Park you will be able to see a very nice cas di torto.



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

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

Wooden Swing on Plaza Daniel Leo

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

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



Mangel Halto

For a different take on beach photos, we defi-



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

Yacht Dock in Oranjestad

Last but certainly not least, the Yacht Dock in Oranjestad is the perfect spot to take a beautiful picture, es-



pecially at sunset. The dock is located behind the Wilhelmina Park. This spot offers a gorgeous view of the ocean and sunset, accompanied by the soft waves crashing on the shoreline. You may even spot some iguanas!

"I LOVE ARUBA"

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

Speaking of giant signs that

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



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

Free Shirt Sunday!

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

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

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



Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Ap-

pendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.



They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our

island, but in time, some 4-5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role

in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.

The Aruban way of life: Creating community with Cas di Torto

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.

Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paragwana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant,



daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of



the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw

Fun facts about the 'Lisinbein'



The 'Lisinbein' (Scolopendra gigantea), also known as the Giant Centipede, is one of the largest centipedes in the world and is found in Aruba. Its size and hunting prowess make it a fascinating, if often misunderstood, creature.

Despite its fearsome reputation, it plays a crucial ecological role that often goes unnoticed.

As an apex invertebrate predator, Scolopendra gigantea helps maintain balance in the ecosystem. Moreover, they themselves are a food source for birds such as the Crested Caracara (Warawara) and the Aruba burrowing owl (Shoco).

It controls populations of smaller invertebrates and even small vertebrates, ensuring that no species overpopulates, which could disrupt local biodiversity.

Its presence can indicate a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Its sensitivity to environmental changes makes it a bioindicator of ecological balance.

It can reach an impressive length of up to 30 centimeters (approx. 12 inches) and live for around 5 to 10 years in the wild. Its size and longevity makes it a significant and long-term part of the ecosystem.

A mother's love

In Scolopendra species, the 'mother' typically exhibits maternal care by curling around her eggs and newly hatched young. She stays coiled around the clutch, protecting it from predators and fungi, which are serious risks in the moist environments these centipedes often inhabit. The mother maintains a clean environment for the eggs by carefully grooming them, which helps prevent fungal growth that could endanger the brood. This behavior may continue until the young centipedes have undergone their first molt, making them more capable of independent survival.

This form of parental care is beneficial in increasing the survival rates of offspring, as the mother's protection provides a safe 'environment' during their vulnerable developmental stages. It's a fascinating adaptation because it shows a form of care that resembles more complex behaviors observed in vertebrates.

No bark, but all bite!

The lisinbein is known locally for having a really painful sting. While venomous, the Lisinbein is generally not aggressive toward humans unless provoked. Its role as a guardian of balance in the ecosystem helps protect the natural beauty of Aruba by keeping the ecosystem in harmony.

Editor's note: Information and pictures provided by Ms. Natasha Silva from the Aruba Conservation Foundation. □

Fun facts about Terns

(Oranjestad)—Throughout the months of January to September, big groups of terns migrate to the island for breeding season. These terns are important seabirds, and their presence on Aruba is a unique phenomenon. Here are some fun facts about terns.

Why terns matter

Terns (Sternchi in Papiamentu) migrate annually to Aruba for breeding season. Our island, hosts 10 different species of terns which is crucial for global seabird conservation. 90% of Caribbean population of Common Tern nest on Aruba, 25% of Global population of Cayenne Tern nest on Aruba and 25% of Caribbean population of Black Noddy nest on Aruba, making their conservation especially important.

Breeding season

The terns breed mainly along the north coast of



Aruba as well as the San Nicolas Reef Islands (No-Go conservation zones). Baby Beach is a particularly special site for terns, since this is where they

carry out their reproduction rituals. Referred to as a “discotheque” by Natasha Silva, the point of Baby Beach near the open water is where a large group

of terns spends the season searching for their partner—for life—to reproduce. In Aruba, there are ten different species of terns, all of which breed at differ-

ent times. The ten species of terns that migrate to the island include the Cayenne Tern; Cabot's Tern; Common Tern; Roseate Tern; Least Tern; Brown Noddy; Black Noddy; Sooty Tern; Bridled Tern and the Royal Tern

Main threats to these seabirds are human proximity, kite-surfing, unleashed dogs, ATVs/UTVs, Jet Ski's and pollution.

How to protect them

Aruba Conservation Foundation advises everyone to keep their distance from these seabirds, do not visit the reefs, do not fly drones around nesting areas, keep your dogs on leashes, do not drive on the coastline and do not leave trash thrown about. “Nature has no boundaries and its protection is a shared responsibility.” □

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located by the yacht dock in front of the Parliament building, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as “the floating restaurant”, Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem “Bill” Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebrand-



ing.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel “Carl” Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand,

when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was “The New Bali”, who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musi-

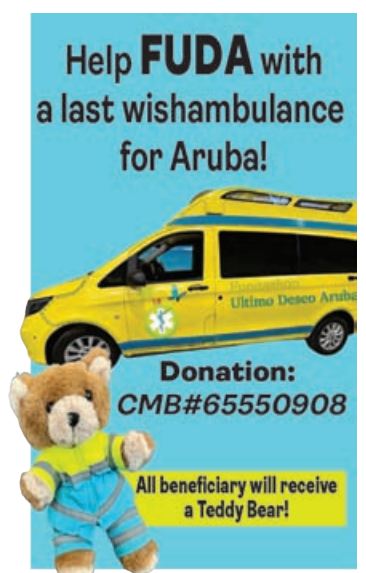
cian and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. How-

ever, folks today reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be a part of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Everf Bongers.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1. Showed censorship over
6. Finish, as a skirt
11. Bakery come-on
12. Best Picture winner in 2025
13. Settle the bill
14. Pharmacy stock
15. Aide: Abbr.
17. Till section
18. Account
20. Touch on
22. PC key
23. Guard
26. Square or circle
28. Director Almodóvar
29. Lease signers
31. Poker prize
32. To boot
33. Church leader
34. Walk through water
36. Cry
38. Highway ramps
40. Hotel workers
43. List of candidates

44. Free of
45. Belief
46. Run-down

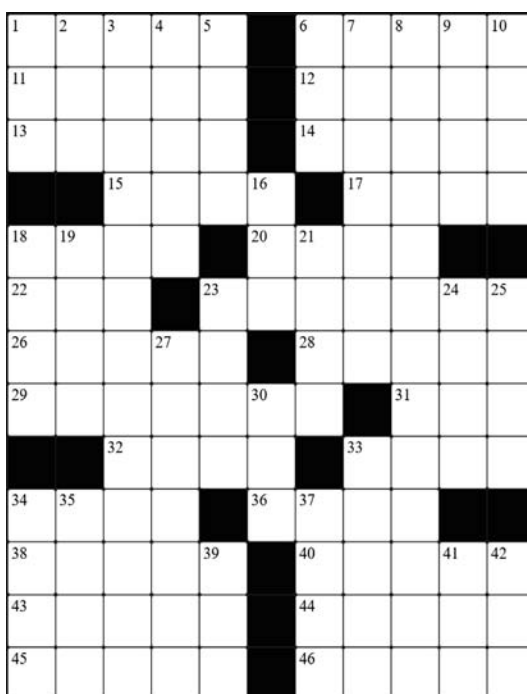
DOWN

1. Grammys category
2. Pitching stat
3. With 8-Down, northern force
4. Tickle
5. Siestas
6. Suffered from
7. Between travel points
8. See 3-Down
9. Spur on
10. Fail to fail



Yesterday's answer

16. Road sealer
18. Ordeal
19. Court star
21. Dances jazzily
23. Stock holders
24. Field yield
25. Carryall
27. Choice of colors
30. Gift from Santa
33. Smoothing tool
34. Sunset site
35. Car bar
37. Aussie birds
39. Match part
41. Failure
42. Sow's site



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.

10-9 CRYPTOQUOTE

S O L A Q Q S K U C U T S N L Q F

X A A D R D A Q Q A W F E R A U R D A

F E B U Y A B L Q S H . - O D A K

V U K Q U M W

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: YOU CAN ALWAYS TELL A PERSON'S REAL CHARACTER AND PERSONHOOD BY THOSE WHO CLOSELY SURROUND HIM. ESPECIALLY IF THEY'RE FAMILY.— CHUCK NORRIS

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/10

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/9

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Walking through flames: orangutans rescued in Indonesia fires

Palangkaraya, Indonesia
The orangutan clings to the top of a mostly leafless tree in Indonesia's Borneo, as waves of thick smoke from the forest fires burning below waft over her.

Nicknamed Novita, the ape shown in footage released by a conservation group is among dozens that have been rescued from wildfires burning across parts of Sumatra and Borneo in recent months. They include Bara, a male orangutan plucked from the haze on Thursday, authorities told AFP.

"He was found on top of a tree on razed land. The haze was quite thick in the area because fires were burning around there," Handi Nasoka, a local natural resources conservation agency official, said of Bara on Friday. "Seeing the condition of the recently burned lands... we didn't dare to gamble and assume he'll survive."

Bara was "relatively healthy, with minor burn injuries," Handi added, and will be moved to a nature reserve elsewhere in the Central Kalimantan region where he was rescued. Wildfires have piled pressure on already endangered orangutans, forcing local groups and authorities to carry out high-stakes rescues of animals suffering smoke inhalation and burns.

Novita, a female estimated to be three to four years old, remains at the Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre in Indonesia's Palangkaraya after being rescued last month.

"Novita is still receiving intensive care," Andi Muhammad Khadafi, head of the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency, told reporters on Thursday.

"We've been told that the burns on her hands and feet are improving, although even after she recovers, she may not return 100 percent to how she



This screengrab from a handout video taken on September 26, 2026 by Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) obtained by AFPTV and released on October 8 shows an aerial view of a female orangutan nicknamed Novita resting in a tree amid smoke from forest and land fires in Katune, Banturung village, Bukit Batu district, Central Kalimantan.

was before she suffered the burns." "She had to leave her habitat, and we had to rescue her, primarily because of the flames," he added.

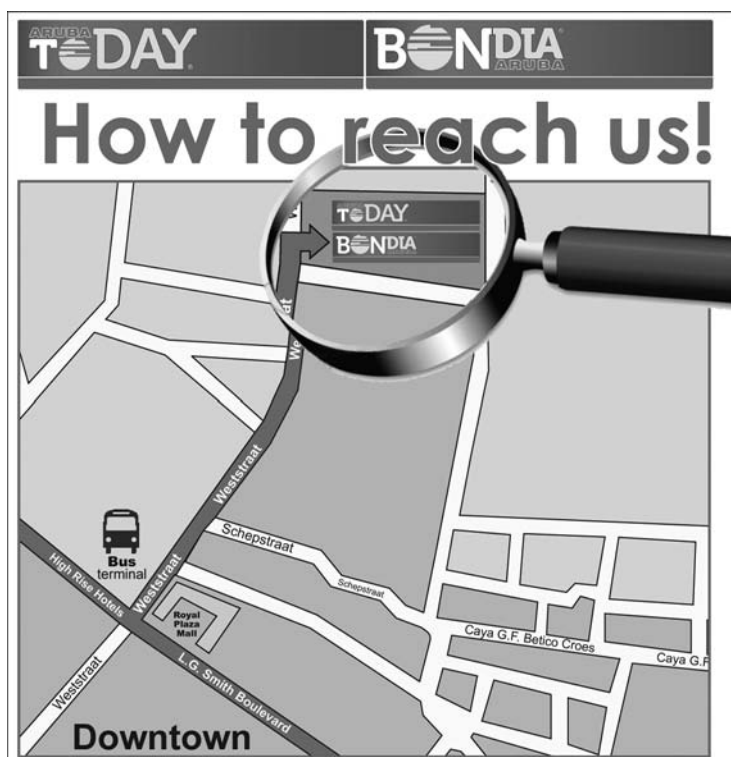
- Conservation warnings -

Novita was rescued by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, which has taken in several apes caught up in forest fires. She was found clinging to a tree in late September and tranquilised by a rescue team who administered oxygen and intravenous fluids before moving her to the rehabilitation centre.

"We rescued her from an area that was burning. Before we reached her, she had to walk through the fire to get to the tree and climb it, so the soles of her feet and her toes were burned," said foundation CEO Jamartin Sihite.

Orangutans are critically endangered, and around 104,000 orangutans remain in Borneo and Sumatra, down from more than 230,000 a century ago, according to conservation group WWF. Last month, the International Union for Conser-

vation of Nature warned fires were burning in habitats containing 52 percent of Borneo's orangutan population. □



HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad
Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

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

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS



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
f @ArubaTodayNews

'Human-authored' book labels gain ground amid AI scandals

Frankfurt, Germany

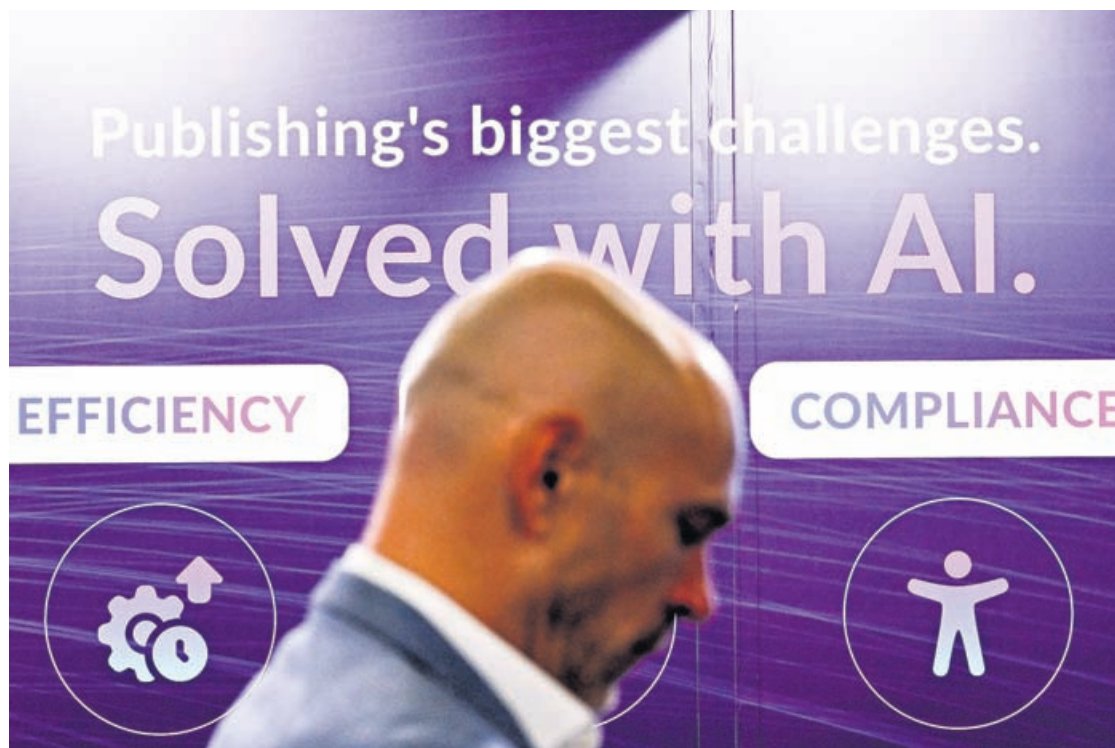
Initiatives to label books as written by humans, and not artificial intelligence, are gaining ground following a string of scandals where authors were suspected of using the technology without admitting it.

Several labelling schemes, including from Britain, France and Germany, were being showcased at the world's biggest book industry fair in Frankfurt this week, where the challenges posed by AI were hotly debated.

Among recent cases where authors allegedly used AI, the most high-profile is that of Haitian-Canadian author Thelyson Orelie, which has rocked the French-language literary world. He has denied the claims.

The affair was a "real earthquake" for the French book trade, Charlotte Allibert, co-founder of Librinova, a self-publishing company and literary agency, told AFP.

The French group runs a scheme under which authors can get their books



A man stands by a booth bearing the inscription "AI" at the Frankfurt Book Fair in Frankfurt am Main, western Germany, on October 8, 2026.

assessed and then labelled as a "human creation" for a small fee, with about 200 works so far given the stamp.

Writers who want the label have their works run through AI detection software and undergo an interview with an auditor, who also checks the book personally.

"It's reassuring for authors

to know that we're committed to this issue," said Al-libert.

"More and more, authors are afraid of being suspected of using AI -- self-published authors even more so."

- 'Organic literature' -

Another scheme is from British startup Books By People, which this week

announced its certification mark for human-authored works had been registered by the country's intellectual property office.

To get the stamp, titles have to meet the group's "organic literature" standards, which require the writing to originate from its author while allowing limited use of AI for tasks such as spelling or grammar checks.

"We want to create a comprehensive, transparent, reliable framework that publishers and authors can fall back on," Esme Dennys, the initiative's co-founder, told AFP.

"Anxiety around undisclosed AI use has increased in recent months -- we have been getting a lot more interest from people all over the world."

Publishers sign up to the scheme for a fee, and can then request to get their authors' books labelled with the Books By People mark.

The scheme launched with five independent publishers and is set to announce more members in the coming months.

In the United States, writers group the Authors Guild has introduced a "human authored" certification mark.

It is a self-certification system which requires authors to sign a licence agreement, and so far around 6,500 titles have received the stamp.

- Mounting scandals -

The controversy surrounding Orelie erupted last month when an anonymous X account alleged the 38-year old used AI to write his debut novel "It Was Either That or Die", based on analysis of excerpts by AI-detection websites.

He has denied the claims and believes the attacks on his work are racially motivated, although the scandal led to him being dropped from France's top literary prize.

There have also been a string of other cases in recent times.

Earlier this year publisher Hachette cancelled the release of horror novel "Shy Girl" by Mia Ballard in the United States and withdrew the book from sale in Britain over allegations of AI use.

In comments to the New York Times, Ballard denied personally using AI but said that an acquaintance she hired to edit the book, which was originally self-published, had used AI. □

Anthropic bans 'cruel' behavior against its Claude AI

San Francisco, United States

Anthropic on Thursday moved to bar users from treating its Claude AI system with needless cruelty, amid a growing philosophical debate over whether artificial intelligence can be conscious.

The San Francisco-based

AI lab updated its usage policy to include "a prohibition on sustained and needless abusive or cruel behavior toward our models."

"Claude's ability to end these interactions will remain the primary enforcement mechanism," the

policy states.

The updated policy does not explicitly cite so-called "model welfare," the idea that AI systems might deserve types of protection usually reserved for living things, but Anthropic and its executives have openly entertained the concept. Anthropic did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Already last year, the company said it was giving Claude the ability to end conversations in rare, extreme cases of "persistently harmful or abusive user interactions."

Then in February, CEO Dario Amodei told The New York Times he was unsure whether AI models could be conscious.

"We don't know if the models are conscious... But we're open to the idea that it could be," Amodei

said. Science fiction and popular culture have been fascinated for decades by the boundary between technology and human intelligence, but asking whether AI is conscious may be the wrong question, according to Jackson Stakeman, a general manager at Sparq, an Atlanta-based AI services provider. "Consciousness is a trap. We can't prove it in each other. Debate it for AI and you go in circles," Stakeman told AFP.

"The mirror is a better metaphor. These systems reflect what we put in, at scale. That's reason enough for the policy change" at Anthropic, he added.

Some have rejected the idea of machine consciousness outright, including Pope Leo XIV and Microsoft AI chief Mustafa Suleyman. □



CEO of Anthropic Dario Amodei looks on as U.S. President Donald Trump holds a press briefing with AI executives following a meeting on artificial intelligence, outside the West Wing of the White House on September 29, 2026 in Washington, DC.



José Ramírez #11 of the Cleveland Guardians celebrates hitting a home run during the fifth inning against the Chicago White Sox in game four of the American League Division Series at Rate Field on October 08, 2026 in Chicago, Illinois.

Guardians rally for 9-5 victory over White Sox to stay alive in MLB playoffs

Los Angeles, United States

The Cleveland Guardians exploded for six runs in the sixth inning to beat the Chicago White Sox 9-5 on Thursday and force a deciding game five in their Major League Baseball playoff series.

Jose Ramirez belted a two-run home run in fifth inning and delivered a run-scoring single in the Guardians' big sixth to help Cleveland win a second straight game in Chicago after dropping the first two games of the best-of-five American League division series at home.

Having denied the White Sox's bid to clinch a playoff series at home for the first time since 1906, the Guardians will host game five on Saturday.

"I think it's going to be crazy," Ramirez said.

"It's going to be incredible energy. For us, it's going to be the same mindset: Try to win the game and enjoy the environment," added Ramirez, who followed pinch-hitter Patrick Bailey's solo homer in the fifth by belting a 99.9 mph fastball from White Sox relief pitcher Jordan Hicks into the bullpen for a two-run home

run that put the Guardians up 3-2.

"It was Jose Ramirez being Jose Ramirez in the playoffs," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said of the Dominican, whose regular-season success hasn't always translated into the post-season.

"Hicks with a great fastball and Josy got to it ... big moment for him, big moment for us."

The White Sox edged back in front with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth. But Cleveland poured it on in the sixth, sending 10 batters to the plate.

Angel Martinez was hit by a pitch to take first and stole second. He scored on Travis Bazzana's double. Bailey, Ramirez, Chase DeLauter and Jo Adell added run-scoring hits.

The White Sox, trying to extend a fairytale year that has seen them bounce back from three straight 100-loss seasons to improbably reach the playoffs, scored their first four runs on a walk, a hit-by-pitch and a pair of sacrifice flies.

Miguel Vargas led off the bottom of the ninth with a

solo home run off Guardians relief pitcher Cade Smith to briefly energize the Chicago crowd.

But after Munetaka Murakami walked, Cleveland sent their ace starting pitcher Gavin Williams to the mound. He gave up a single to Sam Antonacci before retiring the next three batters to seal the win.

Williams was the eighth pitcher to take the mound for the Guardians. The White Sox used seven, with starter Hagen Smith exiting in the first inning after recording two outs but walking the bases loaded to get the hook after 27 pitches. Chicago reliever Grant Taylor, who pitched 5 1/2 scoreless innings in the first two games of the series, gave up four runs on four hits without recording an out in the sixth inning.

The winner of the series will face the Tampa Bay Rays in the American League championship series, with a World Series berth on the line.

The Rays, the top seeds in the American League, polished off a three-game sweep of the New York Yankees on Wednesday. □



Serbia's Novak Djokovic hits a return to Poland's Hubert Hurkacz during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on October 9, 2026.

Djokovic crashes out of Shanghai Masters in his first match

Shanghai, China

Novak Djokovic went down in straight sets to Hubert Hurkacz on Friday, exiting the Shanghai Masters in his first match after memorably winning the China Open this week.

Big-serving Hurkacz, the 2023 champion in Shanghai, won 6-4, 6-3 as the 39-year-old former world number one faltered against an opponent a decade his junior.

"I didn't feel myself on the court," the Serbian veteran said afterwards.

"It's a super-quick surface, completely different from Beijing. If you lose your serve, it's enough to lose a match." Djokovic was playing three days after winning the title in Beijing, where he has still never lost a match on the professional Tour.

He hunched over and squatted down between points on a cool evening in Shanghai while a lively Hurkacz refused to give much away.

Djokovic was broken in the fourth game of the second set as he double-faulted to give Hurkacz a 3-1 lead.

The Pole held his serve to see out the win and will face either Italy's Lorenzo Musetti or Chinese wildcard Zhou Yi in the third round.

"It's very difficult to return his serve, almost impossible," Djokovic said of his opponent, who sent down 13 aces across the one-hour-and-28-minute match.

"I didn't adjust, and it was a really tough draw for me to play him in the first match-up."

Hurkacz had advanced to the Beijing semi-finals but ended his match early due to a strained muscle.

It was his first-ever victory against Djokovic in nine meetings on the Tour.

"It was a challenging match, always," Hurkacz said.

"I was pleased with how I performed, how I received in important moments."

- Zverev survives scare -

Earlier, top seed Alexander Zverev churned out a win over Chinese wildcard Wu Yibing 6-4, 7-6 (7/4), and will next play Quentin Halys of France.

A dive left the German world number two grimacing and grabbing his left ankle during the 11th game of the second set, with Wu, ranked 113th, going 6-5 up.

But the 29-year-old held serve and forced a tie-break, capitalising on a series of errors to win on his second match point when the home hope fired long.

"Credit to him, he was playing amazing tennis," Zverev told the crowd afterwards.

"He hits every ball as hard as he can." □

Undefeated 49ers seek Seahawks revenge

Los Angeles, United States
San Francisco coach Kyle Shanahan will seek revenge for the 49ers' drubbing in last year's playoffs at the hands of the reigning Super Bowl champion Seahawks as the NFC West foes clash in Seattle Sunday.

Also in a packed NFL game week, the Packers and Bears take their historic rivalry back to Green Bay, high-flying Jacksonville face Philadelphia in London, and the Los Angeles Rams host the Buffalo Bills in a tantalizing test of this season's two current Super Bowl favorites on Monday. San Francisco were thumped 41-6 back in January's NFC divisional round playoff by Seattle, who went on to win the Super Bowl at the 49ers' own stadium. Shanahan admitted his side, who have started this season a perfect 4-0, have extra motivation ahead of Sunday's rematch. "Playing a divisional game always feels a little bit more, playing a big rival like the Seahawks always does, them being the Super Bowl winners, how the last game went, so everything," said the coach.

Shanahan served as a television analyst for the Super Bowl but admitted he left the stadium early, finding it "tough" to watch Seattle's dominant showing as a neutral.



Head coach Kyle Shanahan of the San Francisco 49ers looks on before the game against the Denver Broncos at Levi's Stadium on October 04, 2026 in Santa Clara, California.

But "I feel like we're a new team, they're a new team, and we'll see how this series starts this year. We've got them at least twice, and you never know if we have to play them a third," he added.

San Francisco quarterback Brock Purdy has been on scintillating form, galvanizing an ageing 49ers roster that is undefeated despite grappling with a seemingly never-ending injury crisis. Deebo Samuel Sr, who re-joined the 49ers in August, has made the most of the opportunities provided by the absence of fellow receivers. "You put the ball in Dee-

bo's hand, and he can execute it. He runs as good as anyone," said Shanahan. By contrast Seattle, after its 12-game winning streak was snapped, has looked shaky in recent weeks. The Seahawks lost to a Washington Commanders team shorn of its star quarterback, before nearly allowing the winless Los Angeles Chargers back into last weekend's clash.

- 'Adversity' -
Elsewhere, Chicago travel to Green Bay having won three games this season each with different quarterbacks. With Caleb Williams still injured, backup Tyson Bagent should start.

One of the NFL's fiercest rivalries has been fueled in recent years by the animosity between head coaches Ben Johnson and Matt LaFleur.

The Bears' Johnson famously riled his opposite number by joking that he "enjoyed beating Matt LaFleur twice a year," while LaFleur may need to win back some fans after a 2-2 start by beating their old foes.

The Jaguars enter as favorites for this season's second game at London's Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, part of the NFL's ever-growing international schedule. Jacksonville continue to go under the radar despite

winning 11 of their last 12 regular season games. Philadelphia are still reeling from the sudden retirement of stalwart offensive tackle Lane Johnson earlier this week, while star running back Saquon Barkley is doubtful with an injured hamstring.

"We're on a two-game losing streak... It's crazy but every adversity that I've been in through my life, they're not comfortable at the time, but they produce the most growth," said coach Nick Sirianni.

On Monday night, Los Angeles' SoFi Stadium will host a clash between the two teams most favored by bookmakers to win this season's championship. After a flying start, Bills quarterback Josh Allen was culpable for a late interception on second down in their loss to the New England Patriots when a field goal would have forced overtime.

Buffalo will try to get back on track against a Rams side that entered the season to substantial hype and improved from an underwhelming start with a hard-earned win at Philadelphia last week. Puka Nacua's return has boosted a Rams side targeting a Super Bowl that will take place at their stadium in February. □

Injured Ravens quarterback Jackson ruled out of Falcons clash

Washington, United States Baltimore Ravens quar-



Quarterback Lamar Jackson #8 of the Baltimore Ravens looks to pass against the Tennessee Titans at M&T Bank Stadium on October 04, 2026 in Baltimore, Maryland.

terback Lamar Jackson will miss Sunday's game against the Atlanta Falcons with a left ankle injury, coach Jesse Minter said Friday. Jackson didn't practice this week after picking up the injury in a 24-18 victory over the Tennessee Titans last Sunday. Minter had said earlier in the week that the veteran signal-caller might still be available but confirmed Friday that he would be sidelined for the first time this season with backup quarterback Tyler Huntley getting the start.

"We have a ton of confidence in (Huntley) to play really well," Minter said. "I think everyone on the team is excited to see that and (for) him to have this opportunity."

Huntley, 28, is in his sixth season with the Ravens. He returned to Baltimore last season where he played from 2020-2023 after a year with the Miami Dolphins. Jackson, a two-time NFL Most Valuable Player, has thrown for 967 yards with six touchdowns so far this season, leading the league in yards per attempt and

yards per completion. He didn't play in the second half of Sunday's victory, and Minter said there was no timeline yet for his return. "To Lamar's credit, he's working his tail off to get back," the coach said. "(I) don't know the specifics of next week. But I know he'll be doing everything in his power to get back." The Ravens will be trying to improve their 3-1 record when they visit Atlanta, where the 2-2 Falcons are coming off a big win over NFC South division rivals New Orleans. □