

## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names



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# 'Devastating' waves leave California beach homes on brink of collapse

**Los Angeles, United States**

Emergency repairs and cleanup were underway Monday in California's wave-battered city of Long Beach, where several homes appeared on the brink of collapse and remained too dangerous to enter.

Tropical Storm Rachel brought less rain than forecasters had predicted but the heavy surf driven by a confluence of factors including the abnormal storm system, high tide, the impact of El Nino and human-caused climate change was enough to severely damage some coastal properties.

Dramatic photos and video footage showed homes along the city's peninsula teetering precariously, while its historic boardwalk was partially swept away.

"These kind of impacts are not normal. They're unprecedented for our community," said Long Beach Mayor Rex Richardson during a weekend press conference.

"This is a sobering reminder of the power of nature," he added.

Some residents who lived on particularly threatened blocks were issued mandatory evacuation orders through Tuesday.

Richardson urged people to take seriously warnings to prepare, including picking up city-provided sand-



**Storm waves created due to Tropical Storm Rachel crash into the boardwalk and homes in Long Beach, California, on October 11, 2026.**

bags, saying "our infrastructure was not built for this."

"This accelerates all of our urgency to address climate resiliency on our coastline," he added.

The local leader pointed to warnings that El Nino's effects will worsen into the winter and are expected to wreak more havoc along California's coast.

City official Tom Modica detailed a plan at the press conference for immediate and longer-term resiliency strategies, including repair of the damaged boardwalk as well as its failed bulkhead, a vertical retain-

ing structure that's meant to stabilize waterfront property.

Modica also pointed to a dredging project intended to widen the beach by about 200 feet (60 meters) by adding some 415,000 cubic yards (317,000 cubic meters) of sand, a project he said was now accelerated to begin October 19. The National Hurricane Center said the worst of Rachel was over but "hazardous coastal conditions" could persist for days, with the highest waves coinciding with high tides, causing life-threatening surf and rip currents.

## - 'Devastating' -

Pacific hurricanes that impact southern California to this degree are rare.

Rachel was the latest named entrant in this year's unusually active season, weather charged by the recurring El Nino pattern that this time around is particularly extreme.

El Nino raises surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean and causes global changes in winds and rainfall.

In the Atlantic, it tends to rein in the strength and frequency of hurricanes, but in the Pacific it has the opposite effect.

Human-caused climate change can worsen El Nino's impacts. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, allowing rains to turn more intense.

Paris Henken, a U.S. competitive sailor, said in a viral Instagram post that she had been a tenant of one of the buildings now on the brink of collapse.

"An ocean front 1 bedroom that had everything we could have ever wanted. As an Olympic sailor aiming for LA2028 I was steps away from my playground (maybe a little too close)," she wrote in the caption.

"To see three storms undo a place that brought so much peace is devastating," Henken continued.

She also referenced the chorus of criticism that many homes along California's coast belong to the wealthy or are second homes, and that they never should've been built on such a vulnerable landscape.

"Although it's true the Peninsula is home to many multi-million-dollar homes, our little community was far from that," wrote the athlete.

"We are renters and can get up and move, but the sense of stability this apartment gave us was everything to me." □

## Trump weighs firing U.S. ambassador to Greece: reports



**U.S. Ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle speaks during a dedication ceremony at the chancery of the US Embassy in Athens, on October 7, 2026.**

**Washington, United States**

U.S. President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio are considering firing the U.S. ambassador to Greece, Kimberly Guilfoyle, who has come under pressure following a series of damaging revelations, American media reported. Trump is expected to decide soon on the fate of his eldest son Donald Trump Jr.'s former fiancée, CNN reported Sunday. In recent days, the Wall Street Journal has published a series of highly embarrassing articles about the former Fox News host, who became a prominent figure in Trump's Make America Great Again movement.

According to the newspaper, Guilfoyle asked Eric Deters, an influential supporter of the president, to write off \$100,000

in personal credit card debt. The allegation became public as Rubio was touring Europe last week, with Athens among his stops.

In its latest revelation, the Wall Street Journal reported Saturday on recorded conversations in which the ambassador boasts of luxury trips and stays paid for by wealthy Greek businessmen.

In another exchange quoted by the newspaper, Guilfoyle launches into an expletive-laden tirade over being left off the guest list for a dinner on the sidelines of the Davos economic forum last January. American media have also reported in recent days on other possible conflicts of interest involving Guilfoyle, who was previously married to California's Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom. □



A sign marks the entrance of the Rikers Island correction facility in the Queens borough of New York City on October 5, 2026.

## New York's notorious Rikers jail awaits elusive closure

### New York, United States

New York's notorious Rikers Island jail, long criticized for unsanitary and violent conditions, will miss a deadline for the vast complex to close down, prompting disappointment from activists. The jail, which opened in 1932 and has counted John Lennon's killer Mark David Chapman, rapper Tupac Shakur, and Sex Pistols musician Sid Vicious among its residents, was due to shutter by 2027. That was a pledge by former mayor Bill de Blasio, responding to persistent issues ranging from staff shortages, broad drug use and broken cell doors and windows. He promised to replace Rikers with smaller facilities, but their construction is lagging behind schedule. Lauren Stossel, a former psychiatrist at the jail who now sits on New York City's independent Board of Correction, has raised several concerns about the jail.

"Conditions generally, I think, are very poor," she told AFP, adding that violence is "rampant." Rikers, which sits on the East River between the Bronx and Queens boroughs, primarily holds people who are awaiting trial in New York, as was the case for disgraced producer Har-

vey Weinstein.

Mayor Zohran Mamdani, who took office this year, has strongly supported closing Rikers but has acknowledged the city will not meet the 2027 deadline.

### - 'Hopeful' -

"We are very focused on advancing the closure of Rikers Island on the fastest timeline possible," said Dana Kaplan, who is overseeing the mayor's efforts to shutter the jail.

"This can't just be a project that's about replacing one set of buildings with the other. It really is about a transformational vision of our city's pretrial justice system."

"We see the closure of Rikers Island as part of shutting the door on what has been a stained history in our city of a correctional system that does nothing to serve the people in its custody or the staff that work there every day," Kaplan said.

The first calls to close Rikers date back to the 1960s, driven by dangers for both inmates and correction officers -- three of whom were injured by an inmate in early September.

Politicians and public opinion rallied to the cause in the 2010s partly due to fierce campaigning by

families and former inmates.

Darren Mack, who was once held at Rikers and co-founded the Freedom Agenda criminal justice nonprofit, pointed to the "human cost and the financial cost" of the jail. The Vera Institute of Justice nonprofit, which wants to see Rikers closed, has attributed 48 deaths in New York City jails from 2022 to 2025, while Rikers has an annual operating budget of nearly \$3 billion.

Insha Rahman, president of Vera, said both the Covid-19 pandemic and the previous administration of mayor Eric Adams produced delays in shutting down Rikers.

But, she added, "I feel more hopeful today about the progress and the opportunity in front of us than I have at any other moment."

Until the jail can be closed, activists and city officials are calling for basic repairs such as to hundreds of cell doors that are broken.

They also want better social and educational programs, as well as a reduction in the inmate population from over 6,500 to 4,000 driven by quicker court proceedings and transferring people to other units. □



U.S. President Donald Trump speaks to the media alongside posters of his proposed White House ballroom amid construction at the White House on May 19, 2026 in Washington, DC.

## U.S. judge orders Trump to cancel taxpayer-funded TV ads

### Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump must cancel any remaining taxpayer-funded television advertisements promoting himself, a federal judge ordered Sunday, following backlash from both sides of the political divide just weeks ahead of crucial midterm elections.

According to U.S. media reports, the Trump administration has used \$20 million from Department of Homeland Security funds to pay for pro-Trump ads.

US District Judge Jennifer Rochon issued a temporary restraining order, preventing the administration from creating or airing such ads for 14 days.

"Defendants shall not enter into, renew, or expand any agreement authorizing the development, creation, dissemination, placement, or airing of the challenged advertisements," Rochon said in the court order.

The plaintiffs alleged the ads "exceed the purposes authorized by Congress and violate restrictions on publicity and propaganda," according to the court order.

"We are pleased the court acted swiftly to prevent more taxpayer dollars from being used for such blatantly unlawful political propaganda," the plaintiffs said in a statement issued by Democracy Forward, the nonprofit legal organization that represents them.

"There is no legal justification and no precedent for the president to use the machinery of the government and funds set aside by Congress for other uses to influence electoral outcomes that further his own agenda."

While Trump is not on the ballot in the November vote, he has been campaigning for Republican candidates he hopes would help the party keep control of Congress.

The White House has defended the use of taxpayer funds, saying the ads were public service announcements.

The first ad, broadcast in late September, featured a song saying "Love Me" while Trump proclaimed "America will never be a communist country."

Another ad showed Trump warning of a "final battle" over black-and-white footage of him walking down a hallway, with an onscreen message saying: "Paid for by the U.S. Government."

The ads have drawn criticism from both Democrats and Republicans.

Democratic Senator John Hickenlooper called the ads "illegal" and "propaganda," while some senior Republicans expressed reservations. □

## Film shot in secret of Iranian arts scene hits UK festival

**London, United Kingdom**

Shot in secret in Tehran, "The Friend's House Is Here" shown at the London Film Festival, is a "love letter" to young Iranian artists caught up in the turbulence of war, its directors told AFP.

The feature film, which had to be smuggled out of Iran, explores the daily lives of best friends and roommates in Tehran. Pari, a playwright and actress, and Hana, a dancer.

They belong to a community of young, underground artists who collaborate on projects such as Pari's plays performed in secret because she refuses to seek authorization from the Iranian authorities.

"The Friend's House Is Here," directed by husband and wife team, Hussein Keshavarz and Maryam Ataei, won a Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in January. It will be released in the United States on December 4.

It is a huge achievement for a film that nearly did not see the light of day due to the hurdles posed by the U.S.-Israeli 2025 bombings in Tehran as well as the



(L-R) Hossein Keshavarz and Maryam Ataei, winners of the U.S. Dramatic Special Jury Award for Ensemble Cast for "The Friend's House Is Here," attend the 2026 Sundance Film Festival Awards Ceremony at The Ray Theatre on January 30, 2026 in Park City, Utah.

authorities cutting internet communications.

"We want to show that within this kind of tumultuous time, these people are still living their lives and still doing their art," Keshavarz told AFP.

While he is glad the world is discovering this "love letter" to the Iranian people and

an "amazing generation of artists", the experience has been "bittersweet".

"The war (with the United States) is basically never ending ... the economy is really in a free fall. So, it's a very difficult time in Iran," said the filmmaker, who along with his wife Ataei has divided his time

between the United States and Iran for some 20 years.

### - 'Independent women' -

In Tehran "we used to go to see so many underground plays ... and when we met this group of improv actors we were so inspired", Ataei said.

The filmmakers decided to

highlight the lives of these young actors, drawing inspiration from artists arrested after posting dance videos or performing in secret. They also wanted to show "independent women and girls that are living together" and "helping each other", the director said.

But in the middle of preparations, the couple was awakened by Israeli and US strikes on Tehran in June 2025.

The film was shot clandestinely over a few weeks between September and October last year, using a small camera and sound equipment concealed in a bag.

For outdoor scenes, "usually, it was me and Hossein and the sound guy was somewhere far away from us. Sometimes we were only rehearsing with our iPhone" before the actual shoot, Ataei said.

Even on the streets or in cafés, the actresses do not wear the headscarf, like many Iranian women in defiance of the law, she pointed out.

That made filming "more difficult" especially as the movie was shot in continuous takes, including scenes

where the characters walk through Tehran.

### - Act of courage -

Filming was "joyous" resulting in a film that feels "very alive", said Keshavarz.

"When we were shooting it, the whole time, we were saying 'we have to finish quickly because there's going to be another war'." In December 2025, the film's sound mixing was nearing completion in Iran when anti-government protests erupted.

The regime's crackdown left thousands dead, according to NGOs, and was accompanied by a nationwide communications blackout.

Just a week before the Sundance festival, a member of the team drove to the Turkish border smuggling the film on a hard drive, hidden among the rushes of a religious film.

The directors were deeply "honoured" by this act of courage, said Keshavarz.

## French star Cassel dubs Napoleon in English for violent video game

**Cologne, Germany**

French film star Vincent Cassel dubs Napoleon Bonaparte's voice into English for a new video game released on Tuesday that sets the French emperor on a violent quest to take over Eastern Europe.

"Valor Mortis" by the Polish studio One More Level shows Napoleon's 19th

century army fuelled by a mysterious substance that makes them stronger before turning them into zombies and half-animal creatures.

Much of the action is straight out of a blood-soaked horror film.

One More Level co-founder Radoslaw Ratusznik said the studio originally approached agents for

Cassel who starred in "Ocean's Twelve" and "Black Swan" as well as a host of award winning French movies to do the voiceover as "a joke".

"We reached the agent and we had some conversations. And they were on board. And we were, 'oh, my God, that's so amazing'," Ratusznik said of the team's surprise when Cassel agreed.

Cassel said he had been tempted because like Napoleon he has Corsican roots.

"It did ring a bell for me because I'm from Corsican origins on the side of my mother, and I always heard about Napoleon at home, and you know, as a lot of Corsican people,

you know, in their house, they have a lot of portraits of Napoleon, so that's how I grew up somehow," the 59-year-old actor said in a promotional video for the game.

"My grandmother and my auntie used to tell me that he's a cousin of the family. Cause you know, it's a very small island, Corsica."

Cassel does not discuss having to make Napoleon speak English. But Ratusznik said it was a commercial choice for the studio based in Krakow and which is known for having developed the "Ghostrunner" game.

"As a small team we have to make tough decisions about what we can ship," he said. French voices will only be added if there is enough demand.



French film star Vincent Cassel



Alice Cerutti, owner of Cascina Oschiena, walks in a Carnaroli rice field at the farm in the countryside of Crova, near Vercelli, northwestern Italy on September 28, 2026.

## Italian rice farmer beats heat with biodiversity haven

### Crova, Italy

Four hundred years after monks transformed a patch of marshlands in northwest Italy into rice fields, farmer Alice Cerutti has restored a third to their natural state, prioritizing biodiversity over crop yield.

Golden rice fields stretch across the Vercelli plain between Milan and Turin, a parceled landscape broken only by the wood and wetlands created by Cerutti, now home to rare birds and insects.

"We have planted over 10,000 native plants, such as oaks, alders, ash, and hornbeams. It is amazing to see how quickly nature responds," Cerutti told AFP, as she stood in a coppice set around a natural spring.

"Since the first trees were planted, there has been a spectacular increase in butterflies, dragonflies, and biodiversity in general," said the 43-year-old, who took over running the family's Cascina Oschina farm in 2012.

In the fields around the woods, Cerutti grows red and black rice along with historic varieties such as Carnaroli Classico and Arborio Classico, which are more resilient and produce smaller but higher-quality yields than modern ones. She says her Carnaroli Classico was grown without us-

ing "a single gram of chemical fertilizer."

That is because she uses green manure and legume crops. Some 1,200 sheep are brought in to graze on the crops in between rice harvests, and they leave behind organic matter, which enriches the soil naturally.

### - 'A desert' -

Italy is the largest producer of rice in Europe but the sector is in crisis due to a flood of Asian imports, a rise in production costs, and droughts made more frequent and intense by man-made climate change.

Agricultural organization Coldiretti has estimated some 25 percent of rice production may be lost this year due to heat.

After centuries thriving in the Po basin, producers are now trying dry-seeding, which works without continuous flooding.

But flooding paddies plays a vital role in "recharging the aquifer", which stores water like a sponge underground, "holding thousands of times more than surface basins and retaining it for geological eras", agronomist Giovanni Molina told AFP.

"Dry-seeded rice farming, which is spreading (in Italy's rice belt) due to a misconception about water sav-

ings, is transforming one of Europe's most fertile plains into a desert," he said.

### - 'Biodiversity resilience' -

Cerutti, who has buyers in Britain, Dubai and the U.S., acknowledged her production has suffered from the heat too, to some extent.

But the historic varieties "withstand drought and extreme heat better", particularly Carnaroli Classico which has awns -- slender, bristle-like extensions -- which are thought to help protect it against both heat and cold.

"Farming in a way that creates biodiversity resilience such as by flooding the fields very early has also helped combat drought", she said. Cerutti was speaking ahead of a U.N. biodiversity summit which will look at efforts made by countries to protect 30 percent of the world's land and oceans by 2030, dubbed the 30x30 goal.

Meeting such a target will mean rethinking priorities when it comes to agriculture and nature.

Cerutti has re-naturalized about a third of her 110 hectare property, including 25 hectares that have been turned into wetlands, which are now home to rare species such as the Large Copper butterfly. □



UNDP Administrator Alexander De Croo addresses the media as he visits a carpet factory in Mazar-i-Sharif on July 6, 2026.

## Global poverty index rises for first time since its 2010 creation

### Washington, United States

A U.N. global poverty index has risen for the first time since its creation in 2010, bringing the number of people affected to 1.2 billion, the United Nations Development Program reported Monday.

In the 2026 edition of their annual report, the UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative research center counted 51.5 million more people living in "acute" poverty compared to the previous year. UNDP Administrator Alexander De Croo said the increase in poverty should be a "wake-up call for the world."

"Behind these figures are 1.2 billion people facing hardships that reinforce one another: hunger, missed schooling and a lack of clean water or electricity. This is unacceptable," he said in a press release.

More than half of those in acute poverty were children. However, UNDP said a major factor in the recorded increase was population growth, and new data was only available for 13 of the 108 developing countries covered by the report.

While the total number of people in poverty has increased, the report provides a mixed picture. Some 33 nations have halved the percentage of their people living in poverty as defined by the index in the past 15 years.

Those included six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Among the countries that have made the most rapid progress were countries in Asia China and Vietnam-UNDP said.

As in the previous year, the report found that the majority of the poorest people live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, specifically the Indian subcontinent, the most densely populated region on Earth.

"In Egypt, Nepal, and Tajikistan, both the poverty rate and the number of people experiencing multidimensional poverty have decreased significantly," the press release said.

In Angola and Zambia, the poverty rate has also declined, but population growth has more than offset this decrease, resulting in an increase in the number of people living in poverty.

The poverty index used in the report includes indicators such as the lack of adequate housing, sanitation, electricity, cooking fuel, food and education. □

## Far-right influencer shows Israel's coarse political turn

### Tel Aviv, Israel

Sporting a baseball cap and brandishing his smartphone like a weapon, Mordechai David dedicates his time to filming people against their will.

On a recent day, his target was the family of an Israeli filmmaker whose documentary "NAZA", which won plaudits at the Venice Film Festival, severely criticizes Israel's conduct in the war in Gaza.

"You are not welcome!" he shouted in a megaphone as he livestreamed footage of dozens of fellow demonstrators outside the home of the parents of Rachel Szor, who co-directed the film with Yuval Abraham.

The 27-year-old David is one of the most striking figures driving a coarsening of the political discourse in Israel, which holds elections on October 27 that will be a verdict on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his hard-right government. David's speciality is tracking down and publicly berating left-wingers or others considered "unpatriotic" and then posting everything online, much to the delight of his 150,000 social media followers.

"Social media can be stronger than television," David



Israel's far-right influencer Mordechai David speaks during an interview with AFP in Bnei Brak on September 3, 2026.

told AFP in a rare interview. "This very week I posted a few videos that got more than one million views."

His targets, whom he peppers with insults, have included Lucy Aharish, an Israeli Arab who made history as the first Muslim anchor on Hebrew-language television, and Aharon Barak, a 90-year-old former Supreme Court president and outspoken critic of the government's judicial reforms.

"Age doesn't get you a free pass," David said, likening the judge to Iran's

former supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in an Israeli attack earlier this year.

David accused the retired judge of "taking control of the State of Israel", a hyperbolic charge that echoes Netanyahu's campaign against the judiciary as he faces charges of corruption.

### - Channeling anger -

As in many nations, a growing number of Israelis, especially the young, have pivoted away from traditional media in favor of online

influencers promoting provocative, ideological messages.

In Israel, the divisions are especially acute. The country held five elections between 2019 and 2022.

This month's vote will be the first since the trauma of October 7, 2023, when Hamas carried out the deadliest attack ever against Israel.

Achiya Schatz, founder of the research group Fake Reporter that tracks online debates and disinformation, said David showed "the level of polarization in Israeli society and the way

in which belligerence" has been normalized.

"A significant section of the Israeli right wing feels ignored and sidelined," he said.

"Mordechai David channels their belligerence into political expression and entertainment."

David has faced repeated complaints that his visual clips amount to harassment.

His infamous behavior has made him a darling of Channel 14, a television network close to the ruling right-wing coalition.

David is closely aligned with Itamar Ben Gvir, the far-right national security minister who has raised his own profile with violent statements including calls for the killings of Palestinians.

Ben Gvir has recruited David as part of his campaign team, filming content that has ensured a fan base for the 50-year-old Jewish supremacist among young voters.

David got his start as an ordinary counter-protester during the mass movement before October 7 against a judicial overhaul planned by Netanyahu, who has sought to decrease judges' independence. □

## South Korea completes trial of Arctic shipping route

### Seoul, South Korea

A South Korean container ship returned on Sunday from a trial voyage through the Arctic, testing an alternative route opened by melting sea ice as conflict in the Middle East disrupts global shipping.

The "PanStar Acro" made the round trip to Europe in less time than the conventional route through the Suez Canal, officials said, but the initiative has drawn concerns that increased traffic could accelerate Arctic ice loss.

The Arctic route could also expose operators to sanctions-related risks because it runs along Russia's northern coast.

"The 'PanStar Acro', which embarked on a trial voyage along the Arctic shipping route on August 22, docked at Jaseongdae Pier in Busan Port," the South Korean oceans and fisheries ministry said in a statement to AFP.

The vessel sailed through the Arctic's Northern Sea Route before making port calls at Felixstowe in Britain, Rotterdam in the Netherlands and Gdansk in Poland, and returning via the same route.

President Lee Jae Myung hailed the successful voyage, saying it "shortened the one-way sailing time by 10 days compared with

the conventional route via the Suez Canal".

"It also allowed us to gain valuable experience operating a South Korean container ship in polar waters and to collect navigational data," Lee said on X. The Middle East conflict, sparked by US-Israeli strikes on Iran in February, has roiled global shipping, prompting governments and operators to explore alternative routes.

Environmental advocates, however, warn that expanded commercial shipping along the Northern Sea Route could threaten the fragile Arctic ecosystem.

Major shipping companies, including CMA-CGM, MSC and Hapag-Lloyd, have

pledged to avoid Arctic routes, citing environmental concerns.

The Northern Sea Route is generally more accessible during the warmer months, when reduced sea ice makes navigation easier, although ice conditions remain unpredictable and some vessels still require icebreaker assistance.

Without making any reference to the environmental concerns, Lee said the successful trial mission would help his country "prepare for the era of Arctic shipping routes".

"We will transform Busan and the southeastern region into a 'southern maritime capital region' and ensure that this new sea route becomes a new engine of growth," he said. □



The container ship "Panstar Acro" is docked at Jaseongdae Pier in Busan Port in Busan on October 11, 2026, after completing a trial voyage along the Arctic shipping route.

## Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

**(Oranjestad)—It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass.**

Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery.

The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf.

These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass.

The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.

It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea

glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach.

The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches.

But thanks to natural pro-



cesses, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea

glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the

people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home.

A few of those pieces make great souvenirs.

You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

## Need a ride down town? Now you can check taxi rates from you phone!

**(Oranjestad)—If you were planning on taking a trip downtown but want to check how much a taxi**

**ride costs, do we have great news for you.**

Now you can plan your trip ahead on taxi.aw. With just

a few clicks, you'll know exactly how much it costs to take you to your destination.

Although an official fare list already existed, the previous version was very outdated and created confusion among both drivers and customers.

The lack of updates and easy access to the official fares contributed to situations where some taxi drivers charged arbitrary or excessive prices, particularly

in tourist areas.

The fare is calculated based on the distance and number of kilometers between different locations on the island.

The digital system allows customers to use the same calculation to determine the official fare that the taxi driver must charge during a trip.

The website also incorporates different surcharges that officially form part of

Aruba's taxi system.

The system provides a range of different locations and zones to select. Be mindful that there are also conditions that apply to the rate of your trip, all of which are explicitly explained on the website's home page.

With an easy interface that's accessible to everyone, taxi.aw can make planning a trip easier, secure and reliable. □



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## Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies



(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

### Trupial

Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright

orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

**Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez**

### Prikichi (parakeet)

The Brown-throated Prikichi (*Aratinga pertinax*) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

**Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez**

### Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature. □

**Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation**



## Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

### How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

### Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour  
1 cup grams of fine corn-meal

2 tbsp baking powder  
1 1/3 cup of milk  
1 pinch of salt  
2 tbsp of granulated sugar  
Oil for cooking

### Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is



also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □

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## Adriaan Lacle: One of Aruba's richest men in the twentieth century

(Oranjestad)—The name Adriaan Lacle may ring a bell to locals as one of the main roads on the island, but about a century ago, Adriaan Lacle was a rich businessman, well-known for his generosity, wealth, and taste.

Adriaan was born in 1866 and was the eldest of six children. Not much is known about his childhood upbringing or any of his earlier business ordeals, but during his hay day he often helped people get loans, was a well-established trader, and owned several plots of land. In fact, he commissioned the construction of the famous La Quinta Carmen manor—now a restaurant. Though he himself never lived in the beautiful manor, his own house also reflected



his success and good taste. Currently, renovations are taking place to restore the Lacle house. It can found in the back streets of main

street Oranjestad.

Regarding his personal life, it has been said that he was married twice during

his lifetime. He had his first daughter during his first marriage but lost his wife soon after her birth. During his second marriage, he

fathered 16 children. However, it has been said that only 11 of those 17 made it past 18 years of age. Perhaps two of his most well-known daughters are Maria Monica Lacle and Maria Veneranda Lacle, who went on to marry successful brothers Eloy Arends and Maximilian Arends, respectively. Their houses are still standing; Eloy and Maria Monica's mansion functions as the townhall, used to host civil marriages, while Maximilian and Maria Veneranda's house stands on the opposite side of the road to them though currently under renovation after years left in ruin. □

**Source: De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba) by Evert Bongers.**



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

**Baby Beach in San Nicolas**  
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there

## Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

### Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big

and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

### Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent

chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

### Boca Catalina in Malmok

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

# Aruba: the legend behind its name

**(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the Aruba name.**

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curacao and Bonaire to gather salt.

On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Cacique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find



any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which

today we call Hooiberg. The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curacao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-dis-

covered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded they kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to

Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names\*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who

was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.□

**Source: Un storia di e Indian Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock.**

## 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](mailto: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.

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# Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

## Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.

The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of



Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Ana-boio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the Second World War and later, this area was



used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxuri-

ous villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that

took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

## Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess. □

**This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.**



**(Oranjestad)—Though Aruba's traffic is relatively easy to manage, driving here—especially if it's your first time visiting can be foreign. To help you out, here's a breakdown of some traffic signs you might encounter on the road.**

Speed limit in certain areas As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated

to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign whether it's a circle or triangle usually signal a warning, prohibition or preference.

## Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out. Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving

on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com) for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

**Picture credits: [aruba-travelguide.com](http://aruba-travelguide.com)**

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

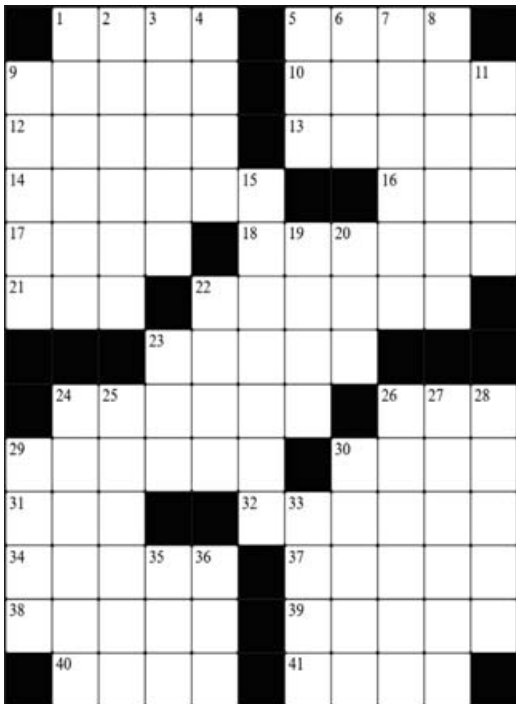
40. Graceful bird  
41. Hourglass fill
1. Barber-shop sound  
5. Crazy talk  
9. Make amends  
10. Attests  
12. Hunter's weapon  
13. San --, California  
14. Moves furtively  
16. McKellen of "X-Men"  
17. Approve  
18. Bad doctors  
21. Neither follower  
22. Ward workers  
23. Property claims  
24. Brawl  
26. Long sandwich  
29. Alex of "Jeopardy!" fame  
30. List of choices  
31. Tie the knot  
32. Orates  
34. Joined the crew  
37. Let in  
38. Use the rink  
39. Goddess of the hunt

### DOWN

1. Plastered  
2. "Don't worry!"  
3. Mosaic work  
4. Subtle look  
5. Flock father  
6. Director DuVernay  
7. Catch sight of  
8. Fine-tunes  
9. Fiery crime  
11. Some babies  
15. Mouse sounds  
19. Coffee dispensers  
20. Cart puller  
22. Pleasant place  
23. Chemist's  
24. Anomalies  
25. Change, as boundaries  
26. Mariner  
27. Nasty  
28. Rapper Rhymes  
29. Noah count?  
30. TV, radio, etc.  
33. Knee protectors  
35. Greek H  
36. Fox hole



Yesterday'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.

### CRYPTOQUOTE

R G , L I K U I O C I P ! D E A R P I U G I  
J E E P H R D U E U G I L I R L E M  
U G R U R H R T I M L O D L E A Z .  
- - - K I F F D U E M I D G E P U E M

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** TAKE BREAD AWAY FROM ME, TAKE AWAY WATER IF YOU WISH; BUT NEVER DENY ME YOUR SMILE.--- PABLO NERUDA

## 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

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 SAT | <b>FREEWINDS DEPT.</b><br>Arrival: .....   Departure: 24:00   Berth: E                                                                                                                                                             |
| 11 SUN | <b>FREEDOM OF THE SEAS</b><br>Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C                                                                                                                                                          |
| 12 MON | <b>QUEEN ELIZABETH</b><br><b>CORAL PRINCESS</b><br>Arrival: 6:00   Departure: 17:00   Berth: C                                                                                                                                     |
| 13 TUE | <b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b><br>Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B<br><b>CELEBRETY REFLECTION</b><br>Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C<br><b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b><br>Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: I |
| 14 WED | <b>CARNIVAL VENEZIA</b><br>Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 16:00   Berth: C                                                                                                                                                             |
| 17 SAT | <b>STAR PRINCESS</b><br>Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 16:00   Berth: C                                                                                                                                                                |

## 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

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   | 2 |   |   |   | 8 |   |   | 9 |
| 3 |   | 1 |   |   |   |   | 8 |   |
| 9 | 8 |   |   | 7 | 3 |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   | 1 | 9 |   | 4 |
| 2 |   | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 |   | 1 |   |
|   |   |   | 8 |   |   | 7 |   | 6 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 |   | 2 | 4 |   |   |   |
|   |   | 2 | 7 |   |   | 6 | 9 |   |
|   | 7 |   | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 4 |   |

Difficulty: ★★

10/13

### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

10/12

# Super El Nino could make 2026 record hottest year: climate monitor



Lawn sprinklers are watering the lawn in front of the Reichstag building this morning. In June and July, Western Europe experienced its hottest summer months on record.

## Brussels, Belgium

An intensifying El Nino pattern set an all-time temperature high in a key Pacific zone in September and could help make this year the hottest globally on record, the director of the EU's climate monitor said Monday.

Global forecasters have been warning for months that this El Nino would likely become the strongest ever observed and the latest record has tumbled even before the episode's expected peak later this year.

The warming phase of a natural climate cycle, El Nino temporarily raises sea temperatures in the tropical Pacific, triggering changes in weather that can increase the risk of drought and flooding, and exacerbate man-made global warming.

The Copernicus Climate Change Service said sea surface temperatures in a tell-tale El Nino monitoring region of the Pacific, known as Nino3.4, had reached an "all-time high" of 29.70C last month.

This exceeded the peak temperatures of previously strong El Nino events of 1982/1983, 1997/1998 and 2015/2016, the EU monitor said.

This year's El Nino, which

emerged in June, is "very exceptional" but it is too early to say whether it is the strongest ever observed, Copernicus director Carlo Buontempo told AFP.

As climate change raises ocean temperatures, it can make recent El Nino events appear stronger than past ones, complicating historical comparisons. Copernicus said it had adopted a new index, which accounts for the warming of tropical oceans, that suggested the current event is not yet stronger than past ones.

"It's a very large event even in that metric," Buontempo said. "This very

large event today is happening in a much warmer climate."

Not all forecasters use the same scale to interpret El Nino.

On Friday, Japan's weather agency said that El Nino conditions had reached their "strongest intensity on record".

## - Record ocean temperatures -

As El Nino gathers strength, global average sea surface temperatures hit a record 21.05C for September, topping the previous high of 20.92C for the same month in 2023, according to Copernicus.

Experts have warned that this El Nino, combined with human-induced climate change, could make 2027 the hottest year on record as heat stored in the Pacific is released into the atmosphere.

The weather phenomenon, which typically occurs every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months, can drive world temperatures higher the year after its peak.

But Buontempo said even 2026 could wind up a record breaker as this El Nino builds toward its peak.

"If we follow the pattern we have seen in the past, we may have a record-breaking 2026, followed by a record-breaking 2027," he told AFP.

After a record-breaking August, the world experienced its second hottest September ever observed, with surface air temperatures averaging 16.27C, the EU service said.



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San Nicolas  
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Tel. 524 8833

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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

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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

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

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FAVI- Visually Impaired  
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Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952  
Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989  
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)  
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Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888  
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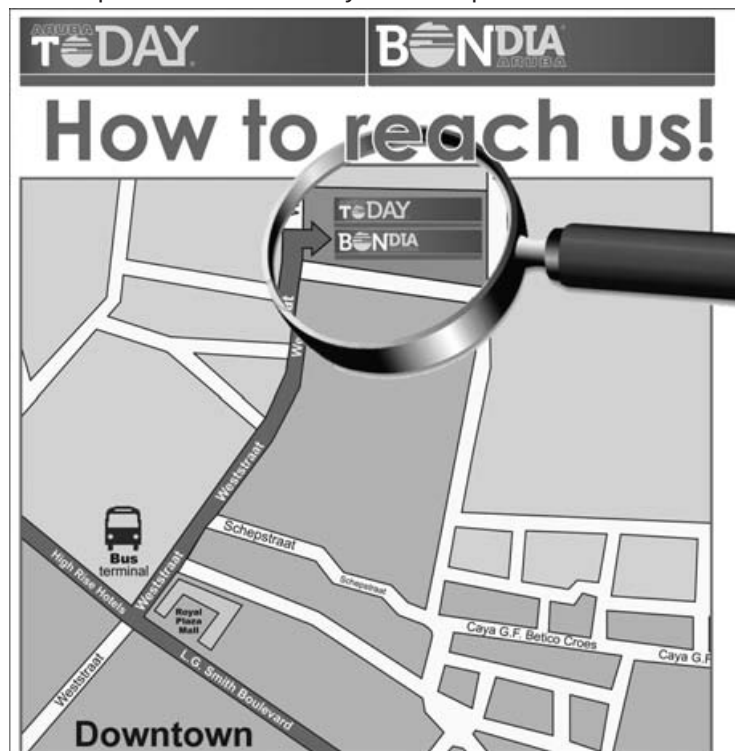
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# Trump's 'super intelligence' rebrand to sell AI faces uphill battle

**Washington, United States**

Donald Trump's campaign to rename artificial intelligence as "super intelligence" is unlikely to win over a wary public and could make matters worse, experts say, even as the US president threatens to treat holdouts as enemies.

On Thursday, he warned that anyone refusing to adopt the term would be considered an "ENEMY" by the White House, without saying what that would mean.

He had floated the name change in September before the UN General Assembly, saying it sounded much better.

"The use of the word artificial makes intelligence fake. It makes it sound fake, and it is not fake. It's actually amazing," he said.

He later signed an executive order mandating the term in government communications.

According to Jean-Pierre Dube, a marketing professor at the University of Chicago, there is a genuine concern at the White House that the backlash against AI and data centers could "stifle one of the



**U.S. President Donald Trump watches a video about his uncle, John G. Trump during the Golden Age of American Innovation Summit at the Institute of Peace on October 08, 2026 in Washington, DC.**

key drivers of economic growth right now" and "cede technological dominance to China."

However, "the idea that a re-brand that mis-characterizes the technology will turn around some of the public sentiment seems like wishful thinking," he told AFP.

**- 'Poor choice' -**

But expert opinion matters little to Trump, who wrote in his book "The Art of the Deal": "I don't trust fancy marketing surveys. I do my own surveys and draw my own conclusions." He even polled users on Truth Social, where "super intelligence" beat out the other option, "superior intelligence."

Americans see Trump as

overly enthusiastic about artificial intelligence, which many already use but whose consequences for safety and jobs they fear, while also worrying about the rapid construction of massive data centers.

In a recent Quinnipiac University poll, only 25 percent of voters said they were satisfied with how the 80-year-old Republican is

approaching AI, against 58 percent who were dissatisfied.

"If we believe that 'artificial' already encourages fear, 'super' seems like something far more worrisome," said Dube, calling it "a poor choice of new brand."

For Ronald Kline, a historian at Cornell University, "the phrase 'super intelligence' means more than simulating human intelligence, it means going beyond human intelligence," he told AFP.

The term "artificial intelligence" was born in 1956 at an austere summer workshop at Dartmouth College.

Deliberately abstract, it was chosen to bring under one banner the research of scientists from varied backgrounds mathematicians, psychologists and engineers driven by the same ambition: teaching computers, at the time enormous calculating machines, to "think" like humans.

Seen by some as a catch-all, the term never won unanimous support from the scientific community, which nonetheless came to accept it as did Herbert Simon, winner of the 1978 Nobel Prize in Economics, who wrote as early as 1969: "'artificial intelligence' seems to be here to stay, and it may prove easier to cleanse the phrase than to dispense with it."

For Kline, the name truly took off when it became the acronym AI, associated with the stratospheric growth of companies such as OpenAI.

The ChatGPT maker is not forced to change its name by Trump's executive order, which applies only to the federal government. But some of the sector's top executives have chosen to follow the president, who closely tracks whether his various unilateral name changes are adopted.

The Associated Press news agency drew his wrath for refusing to adopt the name "Gulf of America" in place of "Gulf of Mexico." □

## Microsoft bets on homegrown AI chip to challenge Nvidia

**San Francisco, United States**

Microsoft said Monday it will roll out its in-house Maia artificial intelligence chips on a massive scale starting in 2027, making them the main hardware for running AI across its products -- a move that could reduce its

reliance on Nvidia.

Chips like Maia are the technology inside the vast data centers powering the AI boom, and Microsoft plans to deploy enough of them to draw several gigawatts of electricity roughly the output of several large

nuclear reactors.

Nvidia has held a near-lock on the chips used to train AI models, but tech giants and rival chipmakers are now racing to stake out positions in inference the work of running those models to answer questions and carry out tasks once they are up-and-running.

That market is expanding fast as companies roll out AI assistants and so-called agents that perform multi-step jobs on their own, with Nvidia, AMD, Amazon and Google all pushing out new products in the space. "Today marks a new phase for Microsoft's AI infrastructure," Microsoft executive vice president Scott Guthrie wrote in a blog post announcing the plans.

The company said the

Maia 200 chip is already operational, including for the Microsoft 365 Copilot assistant, while a more powerful successor, the Maia 300, will launch in 2027.

Maia 200 runs models from OpenAI, Microsoft's own in-house MAI models and leading open-source models.

The chip is deployed in the United States, Europe and Australia, and delivers up to 1.7 times more output per watt than leading GPU-based systems for AI features built into Teams and Copilot, according to the company.

Microsoft said the Maia 300 will squeeze 40 percent more AI work out of the same amount of electricity than leading systems, and more than twice as much as its own previous chip. □



**CEO of Microsoft Satya Nadella attends the Golden Age of American Innovation Summit at the Institute of Peace on October 08, 2026 in Washington, DC.**

# Unbeaten 49ers edge Seahawks while Vikings stay perfect

**London, United Kingdom**  
San Francisco scored three touchdowns off Seattle turnovers and the unbeaten 49ers edged the reigning Super Bowl champions 32-29 on Sunday while Minnesota improved to 5-0 as well.

Eddy Pineiro's 44-yard field goal with 1:56 remaining gave the 49ers the final margin and San Francisco's defense forced a turnover on downs with 47 seconds remaining to beat their NFC West division rival.

Thirty-eight points -- 21 by the Niners -- scored off seven turnovers, four by Seattle, were the most in an NFL game since 2017.

Mike Evans caught seven passes for 113 yards, including a two-yard touchdown toss from Brock Purdy after a Renardo Green interception and a crucial two-point conversion.

"Toughness and heart," Evans said. "We knew it was going to be a dogfight. They're a great team. We showed we're a great team as well."

Fred Warner knocked lose a fumble by Emanuel Wilson that Malik Mustapha recovered one play before Christian McCaffrey ran for a San Francisco touchdown.

Gracen Halton recovered a George Holani fumble in the end zone to give the 49ers a 21-13 halftime lead. Seattle's Nehemiah Pritchett picked off Purdy to set



**Eddy Pineiro #18 of the San Francisco 49ers kicks a field goal against the Seattle Seahawks during the fourth quarter at Lumen Field on October 11, 2026 in Seattle, Washington.**

up Sam Darnold's 16-yard touchdown pass to Jaxon Smith-Njigba to give Seattle a 23-21 lead.

Purdy flipped a seven-yard touchdown pass to Brandin Cooks and the conversion to Evans for a 29-26 49ers' lead, only for Jason Myers to equalize from 40 yards on his fifth field goal, setting up the final drama.

The Minnesota Vikings stayed undefeated with a 23-13 triumph at New Orleans.

Justin Jefferson snagged a superb touchdown catch under triple coverage and Aaron Jones ran for 113 yards and a touchdown for the Vikings.

Also undefeated are the Kansas City Chiefs (4-0),

who are idle this week.

An epic overtime blunder by Washington resulted in a 27-27 tie with the New York Giants.

After recovering a Giants fumble deep in Washington territory, the Commanders made a final drive, but Jayden Daniels was stopped on a late run rather than throwing an incompleteness to halt the clock.

Washington, with no timeouts, could not prevent time from running out before setting up a field goal attempt.

"Leaving with a tie feels like a loss," said Commanders coach Dan Quinn, whose team led 27-13.

"We have to stop the clock," Daniels added. "Ultimately, it's on me."

Cam Little kicked a 57-yard field goal on the final play to give Jacksonville a 19-17 victory over Philadelphia in London.

Jake Elliott booted a 48-yard field goal with eight seconds remaining to lift Philadelphia ahead 17-16, but Ameer Abdullah raced 53 yards on the ensuing kickoff return and was tackled with one second remaining to set up Little's kick.

"It was just a roller coaster," Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence said. "It was pretty crazy."

The Green Bay Packers thumped arch-rivals Chi-

cago 31-7 as Jordan Love completed 25-of-31 passes for 367 yards and two touchdowns and the Bears surrendered five turnovers.

## - Ravens rally -

The Baltimore Ravens, with Tyler Huntley standing in for injured quarterback Lamar Jackson, beat the Atlanta Falcons 30-23 in overtime.

Huntley directed the game-tying drive in the final minute of regulation and rushed for a one-yard TD in overtime to put the Ravens ahead.

Baltimore's Kyle Hamilton intercepted a pass by Falcons backup quarterback Tua Tagovailoa to seal the victory.

Aaron Rodgers threw for 235 yards and three touchdowns as Pittsburgh beat Indianapolis 34-22, and New England routed Las Vegas 45-17.

Detroit's Jared Goff threw for 271 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another in the Lions' 45-21 romp at Arizona.

Braelon Allen ran for 116 yards and the winning fourth-quarter touchdown to power the New York Jets over Cleveland 17-12.

Bo Nix threw for one touchdown and J.K. Dobbins ran for another as visiting Denver beat the winless Los Angeles Chargers 23-17.

The Houston Texans snapped their winless streak with a 26-3 victory over Tennessee. □

## LIV golfers to be denied European Tour membership: CEO

**London, United Kingdom**

Players who opt to compete on the breakaway LIV Golf circuit in 2027 will not be allowed to be members of the European Tour, officials said on Monday.

Some of the world's leading players have been given conditional releases in recent seasons, which meant they could compete on both circuits.

But DP World (European) Tour chief executive Guy Kinnings said players must now "make a choice".

In order to be eligible for Europe's Ryder Cup team, players must be members of the European Tour.

"Players need to make a choice," Kinnings told the BBC. "We have rules and regulations which are there to protect our tour and which our members must all abide by.

"Players who are not willing to comply with our rules and regulations should not be seeking to join our tour."

LIV players such as Jon Rahm and Tyrrell Hatton are currently eligible to play on the European Tour under one of its membership categories.

LIV Golf's future is uncertain after it filed for bankruptcy protection in September following the withdrawal of financial backing from Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund.

New lead investor BC Partners Credit has pledged an initial funding commitment of a potential \$300 million to help LIV relaunch in 2027.

Two-time major winner Rahm is set to quit LIV Golf after refusing to accept new terms. □



**Legion XIII's Spanish player Jon Rahm reacts after missing a putt during the playoff on the 18th hole on the fourth day of the LIV Golf South Africa tournament at The Club in Steyn City on March 22, 2026.**

## Alcaraz exits Shanghai Masters in straight-sets loss

### Shanghai, China

Carlos Alcaraz fell to Zizou Bergs in straight sets at the Shanghai Masters on Monday, interrupting the former world number one's in-form return to the professional Tour after being sidelined for months by injury.

The 39th-ranked Belgian beat the second-seeded Spanish star 7-5, 7-6 (7/4) in the third round to land the tournament's biggest upset yet, and will play Tommy Paul next.

"Today wasn't a good match from my side. I didn't feel good," Alcaraz told reporters, crediting Bergs for taking chances and serving big.

"In a few important moments I didn't play my best, and I would say there were a few moments that he was lucky," the 23-year-old said of their two-hour battle.

Alcaraz said he was "disappointed" by a loss riddled with errors, which came a week after he won the Tokyo Open, adding he would return home and hit practice.

"Right now, you know, all the negative thoughts come to my mind and none of the positives, but I think I will take it, you know, the good things," he said. His loss also ensures cur-



**Germany's Alexander Zverev celebrates after winning against France's Quentin Halys during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on October 11, 2026.**

rent world number two Alexander Zverev, the reigning French Open and U.S. Open champion, will replace Jannik Sinner as world number one by the year's end, with the Italian's season over due to a knee injury.

Zverev, the top seeded player in Shanghai, will face Alexander Bublik in the last 16 on Tuesday.

### - 'Disbelief' -

Alcaraz started with more quality until Bergs broke the

Spaniard's serve to go up 3-2 in the first set.

Alcaraz grabbed back that break in the next game but was uncharacteristically off-target, sending a mess of shots into the net.

He double-faulted to hand Bergs a critical break point in the 11th game, and lost the first set when a volley went short.

Alcaraz, currently ranked third in the world, was visibly frustrated during the second set as he vented

to his corner following a series of misfired shots that left him with no points in the fourth and eighth games. He forced a tie-break but could not reach a third set as Bergs closed things out on the first match point.

"It's a little disbelief and not feeling too much," Bergs, 27, said after winning.

"You're just really in the moment, being focused on the points you have to play," he said.

### - Fritz fumbles -

Earlier, Stefanos Tsitsipas came back to beat Taylor Fritz 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 and earn fourth round meeting with Daniil Medvedev, who brushed aside qualifier Dalibor Srvcina 6-2, 6-3.

A wardrobe malfunction delayed victory for the Greek world number 43 when a tennis ball tumbled out of the American's pocket a second time and forced the men to replay a match point.

A tired-looking Fritz, seeded 11th, hung on for a bit longer to save the eighth game but could not stick around beyond that, with Tsitsipas holding serve to win at the fifth time of asking.

"I could have done a few things easier, but I ended up being my biggest enemy," Tsitsipas told the crowd afterwards.

"I turned things around really well towards the end and became friends with myself and played some incredible tennis," he said.

Felix Auger-Aliassime, Casper Ruud and Rafael Nadal also went through to the last 16.

American world number 18 Paul sent off last year's winner Valentin Vacherot 6-4, 6-2 while Botic van de Zandschulp beat eighth-seeded Arthur Fils 7-5, 6-4. □

## Eala stunned by world number 217 in Wuhan Open first-round exit

### Wuhan, China

Filipina star Alexandra Eala suffered a shock 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 first-round defeat against 217th-ranked Chinese qualifier Shi Han at

the Wuhan Open on Monday.

Eala, the 13th seed, missed last week's China Open in order to compete in the Asian Games in Ja-

pan, where she claimed a bronze medal for the Philippines. Her return to the tour did not go as planned.

Just one week separates Eala and Shi in age and despite the gulf in their experience, very little separated the two 21-year-olds on Monday.

Eala is ranked 19 in the world, a title winner on the WTA Tour and a former semi-finalist at the WTA 1000 level. Shi, meanwhile, is ranked outside the top 200 and entered the clash with just two tour-level victories under her belt.

For large stretches of their showdown though, their contrasting positions were completely unnoticeable. Eala shook off trouble on her own serve and con-

verted her first break point opportunity of the match to scoop the opening set in 54 minutes.

The second set followed a similar pattern but this time Shi utilised her powerful backhand to break Eala for a 4-3 advantage and she soon drew level to force a decider.

Riding a wave of momentum, Shi grabbed a seventh game in a row to leap to a 3-0 lead in the final set as Eala faded.

Shi finished the job to claim the first tour-level top-100 victory of her career and book a second-round date with former U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez.

Earlier, world number 91 Wang Xiyu opened up the evening session with

a near-flawless 6-2, 6-0 performance against her compatriot Wang Xinyu in what was a highly-anticipated Chinese derby.

The left-handed Xiyu, who recently clinched the gold medal at the Asian Games to secure qualification for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics, won the last nine games of the contest with Xinyu to set up a second-round meeting with fellow wildcard Mia Pohankova.

Meanwhile, freshly-crowned China Open champion Zheng Qinwen announced her withdrawal from her home tournament in Wuhan citing fatigue and a right shoulder injury, a day after becoming the first Chinese player to clinch the Beijing title. □



**Philippines' Alexandra Eala hits a return to China's Shi Han during their women's singles match at the Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, in China's Hubei province on October 12, 2026.**