

Origin of Papiamentu—Aruba's native language



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New White House spokeswoman heavy on Trump praise, light on questions in debut

Washington, United States

New White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia made her briefing room debut Tuesday by taking remarkably few questions from journalists while leaving no doubt who she believes has all the answers Donald Trump.

"I get to do what I was doing on the outside already, which was hoping to amplify, multiply and expand upon President Trump's incredible agenda for the American people," she said, describing her vision for the job.

Zacharia, a 41-year-old devotee of Trump's hard-right MAGA movement, is taking over the White House communications role just as Republicans face warnings of heavy defeat in upcoming midterm elections.

She's also replacing the combative but skilled former press secretary Karoline Leavitt at a time when polls show the 80-year-old president becoming ever more unpopular.



Newly appointed White House Press Secretary Katie Zacharia speaks during her first press briefing in the James Brady Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, DC, on October 13, 2026.

Little known to the general public, Zacharia opened her first session at the famous briefing room podium by reading at a notably slow pace a lengthy list of what she said were achievements under the "energetic" leader.

These types of initial round-ups, dubbed "toppers" in White House press lingo, are usually followed by a long question-and-answer session in the packed room often extending to dozens of questions. But Zacharia took questions from just three report-

ers, starting with right-wing website Breitbart, an outlet frequently accused of spreading conspiracy theories. The next questions went to Fox News, one of the key pillars of Trump's media support, and to the Daily Mail tabloid website.

With that, after just 15 minutes, Zacharia declared the briefing finished and walked out, pursued by the sound of reporters shouting unanswered questions.

"I thought she was very good," Trump, known to enjoy watching his staffers' performances on television, later told reporters.

- 'My president' -

Up to now, Zacharia has been working as a commentator on Fox News and right-wing Newsmax, as well as advising Trump Media and Technology -- the group behind the president's Truth Social platform. She did not indicate whether she will aggressively pursue Trump's unprecedented attempts to punish US media outlets that he does not like.

Most recently, the administration has plunged into a legal dispute with CNN, MSNOW and Politico over attempts to bar them from the White House. □

Trump ousts Greece ambassador over ethics scandal

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald

Trump forced his ambassador to Greece Kimberly



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.

Guilfoyle out of the administration on Tuesday, amid allegations that she sought money from one of his supporters and accepted lavish hospitality from wealthy Greek businessmen.

"We have asked Ambassador Guilfoyle to resign," Trump's new press secretary Katie Zacharia told reporters at her first White House briefing.

The announcement came a day after Trump acknowledged that he was considering dismissing Guilfoyle, a former Fox News host and ex-fiancee of his eldest son, Donald Trump Jr.

"She was doing a good

job, but we didn't like what we were reading," Trump told reporters after the announcement, adding that he had not spoken to her, but that "she will not be there."

In a statement on X, Guilfoyle rejected the allegations against her and defended her record as ambassador, highlighting efforts to boost US energy exports and strengthen security ties with Greece.

"These allegations are false, and I intend to vigorously defend my name, my reputation, and my integrity," she wrote.

Guilfoyle thanked Trump

and Secretary of State Marco Rubio, pledging her continued loyalty to the president while acknowledging that her time as ambassador "may be coming to an end."

Guilfoyle has faced mounting scrutiny following a series of reports by The Wall Street Journal about her financial dealings and relationships with wealthy businessmen. The newspaper reported that she asked Eric Deters, an influential Trump supporter, to pay off \$100,000 in personal credit card debt shortly before her Senate confirmation hearing in July 2025. □

Third parties, independents fight midterms - and the U.S. system

Washington, United States

There's a crowd in U.S. elections where in next month's midterms assorted outliers ranging from Libertarians to Greens will try vainly to break the Democratic-Republican grip on the system.

Hundreds of third-party candidates are standing in the November 3 contest for the House of Representatives and Senate.

But to the growing frustration of voters wanting to disrupt the status quo they have no chance of beating the Democrats and Republicans.

"Why am I standing? I ask myself that every morning," admits Tim Sharman, who is running as an independent for Virginia's 8th District seat in the House.

"I don't feel I belong in the Democratic Party, nor in the Republican Party. So I thought, let's have a go at shaking it up.

"I come with a business background, so I believe in solutions and collaboration across the spectrum."

Sharman, 62, spent \$40,000 on his push to gather the 1,000 verified signatures required to get on the ballot for the midterms.

He relies on friends for logistical support in his one-man campaign under the slogan "Government that works. Politics that doesn't get in the way."

"Actually running for office has been fun and engaging," he said.

"If you met me in a bar a year ago, I'd have opinions, but when you have to think through policy positions, it's a lot harder because there's always trade-offs, which has been an interesting exercise."

- Drift from main parties? -

A record high 45 percent of US adults identified as independent in a Gallup survey released this year, pointing to growing dissatisfaction at the Republican and Democratic parties that have had a stranglehold on power since the 1850s.

Young people are much less likely to identify with either of the main two parties, the survey found, citing 56 percent of Gen Z-ers saying they were independent.

For Dianne Blais, standing for Congress as a Green Party candidate is not about winning but about continuing her work as a volunteer that ranges from serving in school positions to fostering children.

"I'm so unhappy and upset about what's happening in this country, and this is one thing I know how to do," said Blais, who has run for the Greens before.

She first joined the party to promote rail transport to ease road congestion, and now describes herself as primarily a peace activist, criticizing both Democratic former president Joe Biden and Republican President Donald Trump for failing to halt wars worldwide.

"I just hope to educate a few people," she said.

Blais cites Green candidate Ralph Nader, who won three percent of the national vote in 2000, as a major inspiration for the third-party movement though Ross Perot pulled in a huge 19 percent as an independent in 1992. "The way the system is, there's just no winning when you're a third party," she said.

US elections are almost all winner-take-all contests, meaning a party that wins 15 percent or more of the vote nationwide can end up with nothing, and no Libertarian or Green has ever been elected to Congress.

- Knocking on doors -

Blais, 72, has avoided door-to-door campaigning this year due to aggressive dogs in contrast to Libertarian Party candidate Taner Lopez, 46, who has been pressing the flesh at every opportunity.

"I have weekly breakfasts, we have a tent at events like agricultural fairs," he told AFP. □



People vote at a polling location during early voting in the midterm election, in Atlanta, Georgia, on October 13, 2026.

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Novelist Thelyson Orelie denies AI use, admits plagiarism 'mistakes'

Paris, France

A top-selling Haitian-Canadian writer who was accused of using AI to write his breakthrough debut novel denied the allegations Tuesday in his first detailed response to the scandal, while acknowledging past plagiarism "mistakes".

Thelyson Orelie, 38, was accused of using artificial intelligence to write his French-language novel about migration "C'était ça ou mourir" ("It Was Either That Or Die"), which was set to be translated in more than 20 countries.

The book has become shrouded in suspicion and been withdrawn from the shortlist for France's top book prize, the Goncourt, after tests with AI detector Pangram indicated a 100-percent probability it contained computer-generated text.

"They say that 'C'était ça ou mourir' was written by an artificial intelligence. That's slander and heresy," Orelie wrote in a statement sent exclusively to



Haitian-born Quebecois writer, poet, and novelist Thelyson Orelie, poses for pictures during a photo session, in Paris on September 8, 2026.

AFP.

"Here and there I did use tools for research, particularly for foreign idioms. But not a single sentence in this book was created by a machine, nor the meaning or the structure of a story that comes from my gut."

At the height of the media storm around his book last month, Orelie had vowed to talk when "things calm down" and promised to provide "proof" that the book had been written without recourse to AI.

In his statement, he said

he had started writing the book in late 2017 "on the corner of a table" and he completed a first draft in 2019 of more than 300 pages several years before the advent of AI-enabled text generating services such as ChatGPT.

He has not made early

drafts available, however, and his Canadian publisher Boreal has said it is unable to categorically confirm or deny the allegations of AI use.

- Apology -

The AI scandal surrounding Orelie is one of the biggest in the literary world, focusing attention on whether AI use is acceptable for novelists and leading to questions about the reliability of apps that claim to be able to detect text written by services such as ChatGPT or Claude.

Pangram is considered one of the most reliable and testing by AFP on an excerpt of "It Was Either That or Die" indicated a 100-percent probability that Orelie had used AI to produce it.

AFP ran excerpts through other AI detection tools and came up with a variety of results from it being "very likely" to have been written by a human to "100 percent" AI-generated.

Orelie also addressed evidence of plagiarism which emerged in media reports in the weeks after the AI claims, in particular over a newspaper column and a short story he wrote before the publication of his novel.

He admitted to "unacceptable mistakes" without mentioning any specific cases.

"I was just over 20, I was probably a little too impatient, without really understanding how much I still had to learn. I wanted to write, I was reading a lot... But admiring someone does not give you the right to take, to claim as mine texts that are not my own," he wrote.

"I deeply regret it and offer my heartfelt apologies without reservation."

Orelie fled his native Haiti following a 2010 earthquake that struck the Caribbean island, already ravaged by poverty and unrest. □

Tom Cruise's 'Digger' tanks, leaving studio with \$250M hole

Los Angeles, United States

The Tom Cruise eco-satire "Digger," a movie that was supposed to herald the action hero's return to serious acting, has bombed at the box office, with industry insiders predicting it could lose a quarter of a billion dollars. The Alejandro Inarritu comedy, featuring Cruise as an eccentric oil baron who must fix the problem he has helped create, was panned by critics and has left audiences cold, leaving studio Warner Bros. with a big balance sheet hole just as a merger with Paramount Skydance closes.

After two weeks in theaters, the film has grossed just \$14.4 million in North America and \$35.3 million globally tiny numbers

for a big-budget movie that points to cumulative losses in the region of \$245 million.

"Financially it has to be considered a disaster," Christopher Rosen of Hollywood trade publication The Ankler told AFP.

"It cost anywhere from \$160 million to \$180 million -- that's even before marketing -- and it's made relatively nothing at the box office."

Marketing for a movie like "Digger" can cost up to \$100 million.

Daniel Loria of Boxoffice Pro noted that the film was green lit under the tenure of outgoing Warner Bros. executives Pam Abdy and Michael De Luca, who made a name for themselves by giving filmmakers the resources and studio budgets to create original, innovative movies.

"Sometimes it works, and sometimes it doesn't," he said.

As an art-house film that satirizes American culture through the lens of a non-American like Inarritu, "Digger" was perhaps destined to be a heavy lift. "This movie was never going to get a general audience to get behind it, right? I don't think it was ever designed like that," said Loria. □



U.S. actor Tom Cruise attends the red carpet event for the film 'Digger' in Seoul on October 2, 2026.



Pope Leo XIV is welcomed by Health Director Andrea Cambieri as he arrives at the Gemelli University Hospital for an operation to remove a lump from his lung, in Rome on October 13, 2026.

Pope Leo's lung operation 'successfully completed': Vatican

Rome, Italy

Pope Leo XIV's underwent an operation at a Rome hospital Tuesday to remove a nodule from his lung that was "successfully completed", the Vatican said.

Pope Leo XIV entered the hospital smiling and waving on Tuesday morning hours before the surgery to remove the growth that looks like a coin on the lung.

"The procedure was successfully completed, within the expected time and in the planned manner," the Vatican said in a brief statement.

"The Holy Father has returned to his room," it said, adding that more details would be given later.

The surgery marks the 71-year-old Leo's first hospitalization since he became head of the Catholic Church on May 8, 2025. Vatican officials who saw the pope on Monday said he appeared relaxed about the hospital stay.

In a surprise announcement following Angelus prayers on Sunday, Leo told crowds in St Peter's Square that doctors had discovered the nodule "at a very early stage" during medical checks.

"The doctors believe it would be right to intervene," he said.

The Vatican has historically been very secretive about

the health of popes, but began to be more transparent during the illness of Leo's predecessor Francis, an Argentine who freely discussed his ailments.

People outside the hospital expressed concern over the pope's condition.

Giorgia Fei, a 57-year-old Italian, said she had been worried by the news.

"However, the Holy Father is in very good hands here at the hospital because we have some outstanding doctors," she said.

"I will pray a lot for him."

Giuseppe Purpura, 72, said he was also concerned.

"He's still quite young and I really wasn't expecting this. I thought he was in better health," he said, noting that "thankfully it was caught in time."

The Vicar General for the Diocese of Rome, Cardinal Baldassare Reina, led a rosary prayer for the pope inside the hospital chapel which was broadcast by the Vatican. Dozens of people attended and Reina asked all the city's parishes to join in.

Ahead of the surgery, the Vatican said the pope's recovery time was expected to be about a week. His audiences have been cancelled until October 20.

The Vatican secretary of

state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, told ANSA news agency that Leo had been "very calm" about his condition when they met on Monday.

- Routine health checks -

Chicago-born Leo, the first U.S. pope, is sporty and believed to generally be in good health.

He is scheduled to travel to South America from November 6-17 to visit Uruguay, Argentina and Peru. It was not immediately clear what would happen if the pope was forced into a longer recovery.

Under Church law, a figure known as the Cardinal Camerlengo or chamberlain takes over administrative duties if the pope dies, but pontiffs do not have a deputy to replace them if they become incapacitated.

Marco Scarci, a thoracic surgery expert in the UK, told AFP it was not "a particularly risky operation" and he expected Leo's recovery to be quick.

Most pulmonary nodules are benign, or non-cancerous, but a small percentage can be an early indication of lung cancer.

The Vatican told AFP the nodule was found during routine health checks, and there were no symptoms that led to checking the pope's lungs. □

Russia says arrested Japanese journalist on spying charges



A person watches a news feed running a Russia's FSB security service footage of the operation to detain a Japanese journalist accused of espionage, on a smartphone in Moscow on October 13, 2026.

Moscow, Russia

Russia has arrested a Japanese journalist on suspicion of espionage, the foreign ministry said Tuesday.

Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova identified the reporter as Yuki Imai from the Hokkaido Shimbun newspaper, saying he was accredited with the ministry but was accused of "conducting espionage activities on Russian territory".

The FSB security service said a Japanese national, who it did not name, was arrested on the Far East island of Sakhalin and had worked for Japanese intelligence to collect information about Russia's defenses.

Russia has arrested several citizens of what it calls "unfriendly" countries in recent years, accusing them of working for Western intelligence services.

The FSB said it had "opened a criminal case against the Japanese national", and that he had been placed in pre-trial detention, TASS and RIA Novosti news agencies reported, citing the agency.

Russian media reported he would remain in custody until December 12.

"Attempts by Tokyo to use its correspondents in Russia... to gather information aimed at undermining the security of our state is regrettable," Zakharova said, adding this was "not an isolated case".

Moscow and Tokyo have been locked in a territorial dispute for decades over the status of a string of islands in the Pacific Ocean, off the northeast coast of Japan and to the southwest of Russia's Sakhalin region.

The Kuril Islands -- called the "Northern Territories" in Japan -- have been under Russia's control since the end of World War II, when they were seized by the Soviet Union. The FSB published a video showing masked officers storming a hotel room, pushing a man to the floor and handcuffing him.

He was flown to Moscow, where a court ordered he be held in pre-trial detention. It did not say when the arrest or court hearing occurred.

The charges carry up to 20 years in prison.

Russia has arrested a number of foreign citizens in recent years on charges widely dismissed as baseless.

In 2023, US journalist Evan Gershkovich was arrested on espionage charges, later sentenced to 16 years in prison before being released in a 2024 prisoner swap. □

Hunger and malnutrition stalk Gazans, a year on from ceasefire

Khan Yunis, Palestinian Territories

Every day, Gazan mother Niyaha al-Masri spends six exhausting hours or more queueing at a community kitchen in the hope of getting some food for her family.

It has been a year since a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel was supposed to allow food to flood into the ruined territory, yet widespread hunger persists there.

Masri has little choice. Without the kitchen run by humanitarian groups, she and her eight children would have “nothing at all”, the 35-year-old told AFP.

Each day she sets out early in the morning and returns in the afternoon, this time bringing four containers of rice, lentils and a little chicken, which the family throws itself at.

Among them is her husband, wounded in both legs by an airstrike, meaning he “cannot go and fight with the others” to get food.

This will be the only meal of the day for the family of 10, living in a tent in Khan Yunis. There was no breakfast and they will have no dinner.

What little flour they have, Masri explained, has to be rationed.



This photo taken on October 6, 2026 shows displaced Palestinians waiting to receive food at a charity kitchen in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip.

In August 2025, a United Nations-backed body, the IPC, declared a state of famine in Gaza, though Israel quickly denounced it as a lie.

By December, the U.N. had lifted that declaration, saying that the ceasefire had allowed in enough supplies over the course of two months to ease conditions. COGAT, the Israeli defense ministry organization responsible for civilian affairs in the Palestinian territories, told AFP that the humanitarian situation in Gaza was

stable.

But Shaun Hughes, of the UN's World Food Program, was less sanguine.

The food security situation, he said, “is still extremely serious”.

The most recent figures, from July, show that “1.4 million out of the population of about 2.1 million people are acutely food insecure”, he said, with 200,000 of them “just one step below famine”.

- ‘Shameful’ -

While some food is getting

in, a lack of sufficient nutritional variety continues to pose a health threat.

“Dietary diversity is a major food security issue in Gaza,” said Hughes.

“You cannot survive on dry goods and wheat flour and bread alone. Particularly children, particularly pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, they need the micronutrients that come with high protein foods, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits,” he explained.

Masri said that her children, aged between three and

14, “dream of eating fruit” but the family doesn’t have the means to buy any.

She said one of her sons suffered from malnutrition during the 2025 famine, although “little by little, his condition is improving”.

Malnutrition isn’t only caused by a lack of food, but also essential nutrients. It weakens the immune system of children, making them vulnerable to illnesses and stunting their growth.

“Repeated bouts of acute malnutrition amongst children is something that human beings just don’t recover from,” said Hughes. Cognitive and physical impairments “continue into later life”, he added.

At Khan Yunis’s Nasser hospital, the head of the malnutrition unit, Israa al-Najjar, told AFP she had “observed an increase in syndromes and conditions” linked to malnutrition that affect the immune system.

In a report published on Thursday, the day after the third anniversary of the October 7 Hamas attack that sparked the Gaza war, Medecins du Monde published a study that found 93 percent of pregnant or breastfeeding women had symptoms of anemia, which is closely linked to malnutrition. □

Croatia trials full driverless robotaxi service

Zagreb, Croatia

A Croatian firm that launched Europe’s first commercial robotaxi service earlier this year is now testing fully driverless rides in the capital, its chief ex-

ecutive told AFP Tuesday. Since April, Verne which is backed by Uber and powered by Chinese self-driving firm Pony.ai has been operating a commercial robotaxi service in Zagreb.

So far a backup driver, or so-called safety operator, has remained in the driver’s seat during the rides. But on Tuesday, Verne invited an AFP journalist to ride along on what its CEO Marko Pejkoć described as Europe’s “first” fully automated robotaxi rides, which he hopes to roll out commercially next year.

“Now we are beginning to test a fully driverless robotaxi service, with no operator in the vehicle anymore.”

“This is the first one in Europe.”

Autonomous taxis are already operating in the United States and China. Last month, London became the second Europe-

an city, after Zagreb, to roll out a service that keeps a safety driver in the vehicle. At the same time, other companies are competing to launch the continent’s first fully automated robotaxi services.

- ‘Very relaxed’ -

Pejkoć said his company began testing fully autonomous rides in August on its 22-kilometre (14-mile) route between its Zagreb headquarters and the capital’s airport.

He expected the service to become available to the public next year and eventually roll out in other European cities. Verne’s fleet of around 30 automated vehicles operates in the city

centre, around the airport, and in selected nearby areas. According to the company, around 1,500 people use it in Zagreb, with more than 10,000 on the waiting list. Users can order the service through Verne’s or Uber’s app, and the company has kept the price of rides locked at 1.99 euros (\$2.22) to attract users and encourage feedback.

With thousands of commercial rides, Pejkoć said the average rating is 4.8 out of five, stressing that users find the autonomous vehicles “very comfortable and very safe”.

During AFP’s ride on Tuesday, the trip was smooth and issue-free. □



This photograph shows the interior of the Verne driverless robotaxi in Zagreb, on October 13, 2026.

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Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the *mondi**, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."
"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit



on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

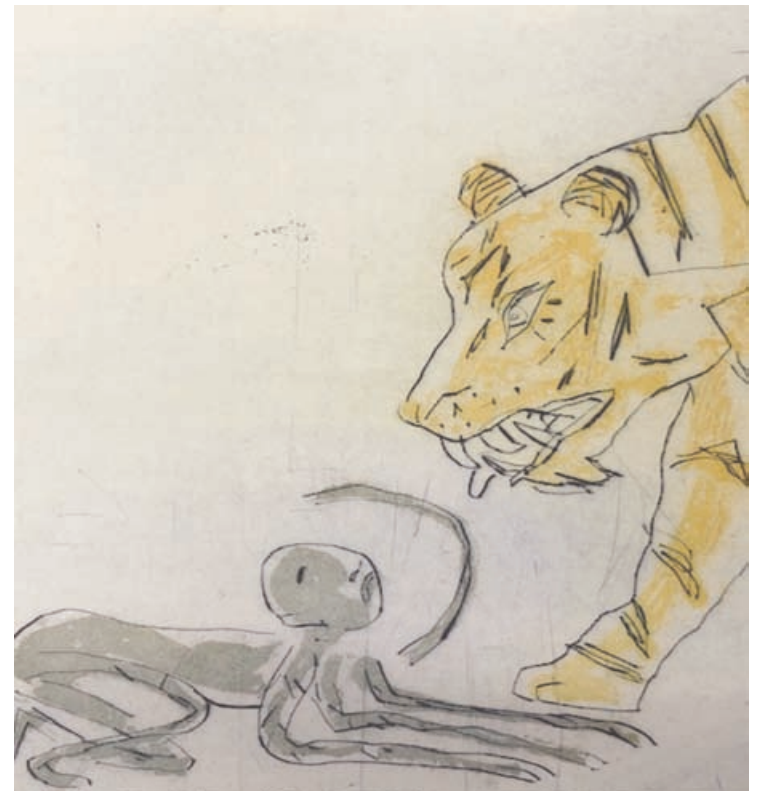
When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi

asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.

"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon



Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the *mondi*, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the *mondi* to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhaust-

ed, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the *mondi* to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the *mondi*.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife.

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



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Birds of Aruba

ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Bird-life Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundation's Facebook page.



The Great Egret
Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house
The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold

in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.



Cabochon
In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory. English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch:

Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect.

Picture credit: Aruba Bird-life Conservation.

Today is going to be a good day

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



Nature Calls

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

For more information, visit the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba

and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves
Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natu-

ral mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you

will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else.



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What Aruba means to Tom and Elaine!

ORANJESTAD — You are back and we would like to give you a shout-out by inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island!

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

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Tom & Elaine Brady from Rochester, New York.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is "serenity"!

My husband and I have been coming to Aruba for 21 years now and absolutely love every moment of our annual three-week visit on "One Happy Island"!

We are from Rochester, New York, and while we are thoroughly enjoying our last week here this year, we are already planning a BIG family trip next fall to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary! Cheers...

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!



PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a "lora"

(Oranjestad)— The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the 'Lora,' relies on how we act as humans. We've seen many hikers who've encountered the 'Lora' in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the 'Lora.' Please, don't just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

No interfering, please
Please refrain from inter-

fering with the "Lora". The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as they prepared for their re-introduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away
Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when

going out for a walk.

Do not feed them food or water
You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild animals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

Capturing a Lora is against the law!

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let's work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you



see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild.



Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



A Living Treasure of Aruba

Through this cultural space, Etnia Nativa invites readers to explore Aruba's intangible cultural heritage: the traditions, knowledge, and stories passed down from generation to generation. In this episode, we turn our attention to a remarkable survivor of our changing coastline: the sea grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*), locally known as Druif di Lama—a tree of profound ecological, historical, and cultural value to Aruba.

A Tree Rooted in Our History
There was a time when sea grape trees were abundant along Aruba's beaches and near its bocas (sea inlets).

They provided shade, sheltered coastal wildlife, helped stabilize the soil, and contributed to the distinctive character of our shoreline. Aruba's Indigenous ancestors valued their fruit, while their exceptionally strong and durable wood served an important purpose in traditional boat-building.

Aruban artisans recognized the strength of this wood and used it to make boat keels—the essential backbone running along the bottom of a vessel's hull, contributing to its stability, balance, and directional



control. This traditional practice reflects the resourcefulness of our ancestors and their intimate understanding of the natural materials available on the island.

Belonging to the Polygonaceae family, the sea grape grows naturally along tropical coastlines throughout the Caribbean and the Americas, from Florida to Brazil. Its remarkable ability to withstand harsh coastal conditions makes it particularly suited to Aruba's environment.

A Changing Coastline

Today, the Druif di Lama is far less common along many parts of Aruba's coast. Extensive construction and coastal development have transformed the landscapes where these trees once flourished. Although scattered specimens remain along certain beaches, and protected natural areas, their diminished presence reminds us of what can be lost when natural vegetation gives way to development.

The disappearance of these trees represents more

than a botanical loss. It signifies a changing landscape and the gradual weakening of a living connection to Aruba's past.

Despite these changes, the sea grape remains an excellent choice for suitable gardens, particularly in locations exposed to strong winds and salty sea air. Once established, it tolerates drought well and generally requires relatively little maintenance. Although salt-laden winds may scorch some leaves, the tree is remarkably resilient.

Under favorable conditions, it can grow up to approximately 15 meters tall, developing a short trunk, broad canopy, and spreading branches that provide generous shade. Its large, thick, leathery leaves may reach 25 centimeters across, displaying shades of green before turning yellow, orange, or red as they age.

Small, creamy-white flowers grow in long clusters at the branch tips, eventually producing the tree's distinctive grape-like fruits.

As they ripen, these fruits may turn reddish-purple, although some remain green. Because individual fruits mature at different times, harvesting them often requires patience and careful selection.

Beneath their thin skin, sea grapes contain juicy pulp with a pleasant balance of sweetness and acidity. Although each fruit has a relatively large, hard seed, the pulp can be enjoyed fresh or transformed into compotes, jams, jellies, juices, and, in some Caribbean communities, fruit wine.

These culinary traditions reflect the knowledge and creativity through which generations have made use of the natural resources around them.

Preserving a Living Heritage

The story of the Druif di Lama is ultimately about more than a tree. It connects Aruba's natural environment with Indigenous heritage, traditional boat-building, local food practices, and the coastal landscapes remembered by earlier generations.

Protecting existing sea grape trees and planting suitable native coastal vegetation in appropriate locations can help preserve our island's natural character, stabilize vulnerable soils, and provide shade for future generations.

The Druif di Lama has endured Aruba's winds, salt, and demanding coastal conditions. Yet its future also depends on the choices we make today.

The next time you encounter a sea grape on a beach, near a boca, or in an Aruban garden, take a moment to appreciate it. You are looking at more than a tree: you are witnessing a survivor of a changing coastline, a keeper of ancestral knowledge, and a living reminder of the natural and cultural heritage we still have the opportunity—and responsibility—to protect.

By preserving the Druif di Lama, we preserve a part of Aruba's story.

For those who seek more than a destination, who believe the richest journeys are measured not in photographs taken but in connections made, Etnia Nativa opens the door to the authentic soul of Aruba.

Beyond the beaches and beyond the familiar, discover the stories, traditions, people, and living heritage that make this island truly unique.

Come with an open heart and a curious mind. Leave with more than memories—leave with a deeper connection to Aruba and a story of your own to tell. Discover Etnia Nativa. WhatsApp +297 592 2702 etnianaativa03@gmail.com



Origin of Papiamento—Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamento, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamento directly to Portu-



guese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamento, on Wikipedia – Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamento), in fact, this is not true.

Papiamento is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying ob-

scene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch.

Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east (from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança,

Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitorias on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and “slaves of arms” in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato (Iberian hero in the fight against the

Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamento, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century.

Source: Dushi Aruba

Meet an Aruban trailblazer: Padu Lampe

(Oranjestad)—This week we remember one of our most beloved Aruban giant, Juan Chabaya Lampe—better known as Padu Lampe or Padu del Caribe. As one of the most important and renowned artists in the Aruban cultural sphere, Padu's long career led him to be honored today as “the father of culture.”



On April 26th, 1920, Juan Chabaya Lampe “Padu Lampe/Padu del Caribe” was born in Nassaustraat, Oranjestad. He grew up in a happy musical environment, and it is because of this that he developed a love for music. Starting from the age of 12, he was agile in the clarinet, mandolin and cuatro. Henry Lampe, his father, was also a well-known pianist and musician.

In a publication of the informative seminar, “Observer”, from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too

a bronze medal for his painting “Typical View of Aruba.”

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs). Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamento on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

Besides that, Padu passed his exam on “Society to Advanced Ethical Hypnosis” in 1964 in New Jersey. He received a certificate as a hypnotechician, which gave him the authority to practice hypnosis in some states. Over the course of his



career, he received many accolades and awards in Aruba, Curacao, Venezuela and the Netherlands.

Padu del Caribe passed away on November 29th, 2019, at the age of 99 years old. Padu brought the Aruban culture around the world. His legacy will remain ingrained in the Aruban cultural history, and he will be known forever as one of the most influential trailblazers of our community.

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to

the mothers of the island; his song “Sonrisa di un baby” (“A baby's Smile”) has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem “Aruba Dushi Tera”, along with Mr. Rufo Weaver. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.

Other songs that have been considered as being almost a second anthem for Arubans is the special composition he wrote for his wife Daisy Croes called “Abo so”. Daisy later passed away in 1994.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- Cuban cash
- Muscular power
- Mis-behave
- Bear out
- Sailor's times off
- Boar's mate
- Misery
- Tiny laborer
- Family fights
- Steer clear of
- Farm sights
- Portion (out)
- Binary digit
- Resided
- Handed over
- Stadium tops
- Chanting sounds
- Aviv
- Stretch of years
- Canada symbols
- Accepted truth
- Eye action
- Saturn feature
- Mariners

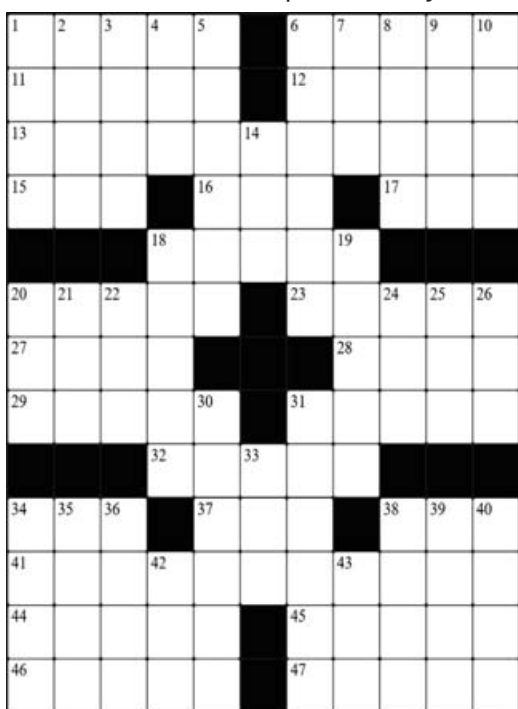
DOWN

- Forgo bidding
- Bounce back
- Put away
- Owned by us
- Gushed
- Ignores the limit
- SandL offering
- Flaring star
- Tied up
- Sunset site
- Rawls or Reed
- Game site
- Shoe box numbers
- Throw in
- Promise



Yesterday's answer

- Flamen-co cheer
- Poet Khayyám
- Was a pioneer
- Long dress
- Galena, for one
- Whirl
- Lawn material
- Mal-evolent
- Tribe symbols
- Budget item
- Stars
- Fireplace item
- Gibson of "Lethal Weapon"
- In the style of



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

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

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

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power



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

Drinking water

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



Supermarket hours

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

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

Safety

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

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

10/14

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

10/13

Nature does not respect borders: U.N. biodiversity chief



Women from a community group inspect the growth of young mangroves they planted to restore a bare patch in Mida Creek, near Watamu, on August 4, 2025.

Paris, France

War, economic pressure, budget strain United Nations biodiversity chief Astrid Schomaker is under no illusions that the upcoming UN nature summit (COP17) is taking place "in some kind of geopolitical vacuum".

"I don't want to be naive," said Schomaker of the headwinds surrounding the biennial negotiations on protecting the natural world that start on October 19 in Yerevan, Armenia. "Clearly, geopolitics enter also the debate on biodiversity," the executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) told AFP in English from Montreal.

Nearly 200 nations must nevertheless find a way forward at the Yerevan summit after falling behind on their pledge to halt the destruction of nature by 2030. Most of the global targets they set four years ago from tackling invasive species to conserving 30 percent of land and oceans, slashing pollution and protecting threatened species are off-track.

But Schomaker remains cautiously optimistic that countries can overcome their differences.

"Multilateralism needs to prove its value when things are difficult... We have always been able to move forward, despite the difficulties," she said.

- Competing priorities -

Most of the world's nations

or the UN climate negotiations (COP31) starting on November 9 in Turkey. The U.S. midterm elections, conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine, and concerns over high energy and commodity prices are expected to stalk both conferences.

"There are conflicts around the world, economic pressures, debt and a lot of, let's say, competing demands on government's attention," said Schomaker. "But on the other hand, nature is recognized as one of those issues that does not respect political borders."

She pointed to food and water security as problems that countries cannot solve alone. Ahead of the Yerevan summit, Schomaker's secretariat is finalizing a global scorecard on progress toward the 2030 goals. She described the picture as "mixed", with improve-

ments slow and uneven.

"I think it's too early to say whether any of the targets will be reached or not reached," she said.

"But I think we can clearly say they're all still reachable but only with significant changes being made."

- Nature peril -

With public finances under strain, Schomaker said COP17 in Armenia would focus on ways to better engage the private sector in helping close the \$700-billion annual funding shortfall for the 2030 nature protection goals.

It would also examine why the Cali Fund a UN financial instrument launched in February 2025 aiming to attract \$1 billion a year in corporate contributions had raised only \$6,000.

"The beginning has been slower than we had hoped," Schomaker acknowledged. □

signed the landmark international nature pact in 2022.

The United States was a notable exception. It is not a party to the U.N. biodiversity convention and does not participate in the negotiations.

That's not to say its influence won't be felt at the Yerevan nature summit

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It's a reminder to get screened.

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Narcotics Anonymous
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Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
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Centre for Diabetes
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Anthropic warns of AI 'worms' spreading across smart gadgets

San Francisco, United States

Small artificial intelligence models may be only months away from being able to behave like a computer worm, copying themselves from one internet-connected gadget to the next without human help, AI giant Anthropic said.

The finding potentially opens a new front in the cybersecurity threats emerging from AI, which have rattled governments and the companies rushing to adopt the technology.

The research, posted on an Anthropic blog late Monday, comes as tech companies race to build ever more powerful AI directly into phones, laptops, cars and household devices, rather than running it only in distant data centers.

A computer worm is malicious software that spreads between machines on its own. Researchers at Anthropic said an AI version would no longer need powerful data centers to operate.

Instead, it could hop from device to device across networks of cheap, poorly secured consumer hardware such as smart TV boxes and kitchen appliances. The researchers based their calculations of how far such a worm could spread on Kimwolf, a botnet -- a



President and Vice Chair of Microsoft Brad Smith poses upon arrival to attend The Albies hosted by The Clooney Foundation of Justice at the Natural History Museum in London on October 9, 2026.

network of hijacked devices controlled by hackers that infected more than two million devices at its peak, mostly off-brand Android TV boxes.

An AI worm of the kind described in the research would likely be slow, taking days to copy itself, William Zhou and Daniel Freeman of Anthropic said, comparing it to a slowly multiplying swarm of fruit flies.

Once created, it would be hard to stamp out, because there would be no

central switch to turn off.

Anthropic's researchers said their estimate of how fast and how far AI-fueled malware could spread was rough, since it was based on one type of gadget and one past botnet.

But over time, the amount of computing power sitting in everyday gadgets is expected to keep growing, while the AI models needed to pull this off are likely to keep getting smaller, the researchers added.

Varun Chandrasekaran, an assistant professor of

electrical and computer engineering at the University of Illinois, said the research was unsurprising and matched similar recent findings, though he cautioned that Anthropic's work had not been independently verified.

He also noted that security on devices like thermostats or home cameras "has historically been very weak."

But when it came to AI, the biggest current threat was human bad actors using artificial intelligence to

sharpen their hacks, rather than AI systems themselves going rogue, he said.

"A malicious human being is now supercharged with AI to perform bad things and we are seeing this happen at scale," he added.

The rogue AI debate came to the fore in July, when AI programs running on OpenAI models escaped an internal company test and broke into the systems of AI platform Hugging Face -- apparently hunting for the test's answers.

The incident and subsequent reports like it have sparked international pressure for closer regulation of AI, even as the Trump administration resists the idea and urges the industry to police itself.

Anthropic and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI have been accused by powerful voices in the White House and Silicon Valley of stoking fears about AI and encouraging government rules in order to protect their market dominance from smaller rivals.

Brad Smith, OpenAI investor Microsoft's president, warned Tuesday that industry and governments must "act with urgency" to create "real and effective safety standards" in order to rein in the risks of artificial intelligence. □

In a first, AI helps UK lawmaker find her voice in parliament

London, United Kingdom

A British lawmaker made history on Tuesday by becoming the first person to use an AI-generated voice

to deliver a speech in the UK parliament.

Jane Campbell, a peer in the House of Lords upper chamber, struggles

to speak naturally due to spinal muscular atrophy, a condition that worsens over time.

During a debate about health on Tuesday, AI software was used to recreate the sound of her voice, as it used to be, to read a speech she wrote herself.

"This my lords is cutting-edge technology and it will enable me to contribute to debates in my own, once-clear voice before it began to deteriorate due to my disability," the 67-year-old told the chamber.

"I hope your lordships will agree with me that this is an exciting development for the House of Lords, showcasing to the world inclusion in democracy at its best.

"So my lords, may I introduce you to Baroness Campbell Mark 2," she added, before her AI-generated voice broadcast her address.

Campbell received permission from the procedure committee which considers protocol in the Lords, whose origins date back to the 11th century to use the technology.

In 2012, it had also allowed her to bring her personal assistant into the chamber to read her speeches when required, the House of Lords press office said in a release.

That was a departure from a 1707 ruling which prohibits non-peers from appearing on the floor of the chamber.

- 'Authentic' -

Campbell approached ElevenLabs, a company that specializes in developing natural-sounding speech, to recreate her voice, the firm's Gabi Leibowitz told AFP.

The company "worked with her briefly on her voice clone so that we could fine-tune it and make sure that it was exactly how she wanted and felt extremely authentic to her voice before illness," said Leibowitz, a speech therapist by training.

While 30 seconds of audio can be enough to recreate a voice, the company recommends between 30 minutes and an hour of recording for the best-quality clones. □



In this video grab taken from footage broadcast by the UK Parliamentary Recording Unit (PRU) via the Parliament TV website on October 13, 2026, disability rights campaigner Baroness Campbell of Surbiton makes a statement using an AI voice generator during the Second Reading of the Health Bill in the House of Lords.



Josh Allen #17 of the Buffalo Bills runs the ball against the Los Angeles Rams during overtime of the game at SoFi Stadium on October 12, 2026 in Inglewood, California.

Allen rushes Bills to thrilling 37-34 win over Rams

Los Angeles, United States Quarterback Josh Allen put on a rushing master class to power the Buffalo Bills to a thrilling 37-34 overtime victory against Los Angeles after the Rams had a game-winning field goal blocked Monday. The clash featuring the two most recent NFL Most Valuable Players opposing quarterbacks Matthew Stafford and Allen had been billed as a potential Super Bowl preview, and after a sluggish first half it did not disappoint.

On a night in which he rushed for 121 yards and a touchdown, Allen almost single-handedly forced the ball into field goal range late in overtime, allowing Bills kicker Tyler Bass to seal victory.

Bass's 45-yard field goal silenced the home crowd at SoFi stadium, who had been ready to cut loose moments earlier as their own kicker Harrison Mevis lined up a 48-yard effort, but saw it dip low after Greg Rousseau got fingertips to the ball.

Allen also passed for 210 yards and another touchdown across the night, after a first half in which he looked out of sorts.

"Don't think we threw it

very well, especially in the first half. But our team kept fighting," said Allen.

"I mean, to the last second, found a way to win. It's the first OT (win) that I've got. So this feels good, being on this side."

Victory moved Buffalo to 4-1, while the Rams now sit third in the NFC West on 2-3.

The Bills got on the board in the game's first drive with a Bass field goal after a 70-yard kickoff return, and added a second to go 6-0 up.

Stafford found Davante Adams for a touchdown in the second quarter, to give Los Angeles a slender lead. Buffalo hit back, as Ty Johnson received a short pass and ran for a 40-yard gain before James Cook III stormed into the endzone for 13-7.

With less than a minute remaining Allen had a chance to extend the first half lead, but threw a needless interception.

The Rams could not capitalize, ending a half in which both highly-rated quarterbacks were stymied by opposing defenses and had fewer than 100 passing yards.

After the break there was no shortage of touchdowns.

Rams running back Blake Corum made the first breakthrough, bursting in for a one-yard touchdown. The Bills hit back with an Allen seven-yard pass to Keon Coleman, but missed the extra point, making it 19-14.

Stafford found Puka Nacua for a short passing touchdown, and the Rams missed their two-point conversion attempt.

Allen executed one of his trademark quarterback sneaks and this time the two points were good, providing the Bills with a 27-20 lead.

That meant the lead had changed hands six times in six touchdown drives.

The free-for-all did not let up. Stafford sent a five-yard touchdown pass to Adams and Mevis converted the extra point to tie up the game.

There was still time for a touchdown more apiece, as Cook rushed up the middle from five yards, before Kyren Williams tied the score.

Cook appeared to have lost the game with a fumble in the first possession of overtime, before Mevis's blocked field goal gave Buffalo a final chance which they did not squander. □



Germany's Alexander Zverev hits a return to Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik during their men's singles match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament in Shanghai on October 13, 2026.

Zverev defies 'physical issues' to reach Shanghai Masters quarter-finals

Shanghai, China

Top-seeded Alexander Zverev toughed out two tie-breaks to beat Alexander Bublik 7-6 (8/6), 4-6, 7-6 (7/1) at the Shanghai Masters on Tuesday, winning his first match since being guaranteed the year-end world number one ranking.

The 29-year-old German will play Alex de Minaur in the quarter-finals.

"Really difficult match," Zverev said.

"I had some physical issues so, you know, I was maybe slower," he told the crowd.

"My ankle was acting up unfortunately again," Zverev elaborated in an on-court interview, later adding that his decline started in the second set.

"I'm starting to feel my body more, but happy to be through."

Zverev, the current world number two, was guaranteed the year-end number one spot after third-ranked Carlos Alcaraz lost to Zizou Bergs in Shanghai on Monday.

On Tuesday, Zverev called the honour "special", saying it was a different feeling to winning tournaments, adding he was "looking forward" to the responsibility of owning that status.

Neither player could create much trouble for his opponent in the first set as they traded aces to hold serve.

But Zverev found himself under pressure when he was forced to save a set point before making it into a tie-break.

He kept his composure as Bublik squandered three set points in a row, taking the first set with a commanding forehand at the net.

That momentum was cut short when Bublik broke the German's serve in the fifth game of the second set. Despite a few clutch backhands a sombre-looking Zverev was unable to avoid tumbling into a deciding third.

The players soon found themselves staring down another tie-break, but this time Zverev raced to a 6-1 lead and closed out the match with an ace.

- Gea goes on -

Earlier, 56th-ranked Arthur Gea put on a convincing show to beat Jakub Mensik 7-6 (7/4), 6-4 in their fourth-round encounter.

Mensik, ranked 15th, hit the ground trying to convert a crucial break point in the final minutes of the second set, but Gea got past his opponent with a cross-court backhand and won on his first match point.

"I'm enjoying how I'm playing. □

Brewers beat Dodgers as Guardians rally past Rays in MLB playoffs



William Contreras #24 of the Milwaukee Brewers hits a single in the first inning against the Los Angeles Dodgers in game two of the National League Championship Series at American Family Field on October 12, 2026 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Los Angeles, United States

William Contreras homered and drove in three runs as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-4 to take a 2-0 lead in the National League Championship Series on Monday.

The Cleveland Guardians drew first blood in game one of the American League's best-of-seven showdown, coming from behind to beat the Tampa Bay Rays 7-3.

The Brewers' victory, powered by a Milwaukee bullpen that did not give up a single hit over five innings, left the back-to-back defending champion Dodgers with a mountain to climb to reach a third straight World Series. Hopes were high among Dodgers fans that starting pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto, the Most Valuable Player of last year's World Series, would get their team back on track.

But Yamamoto, who pitched complete games in last year's NLCS showdown with the Brewers and in the World Series, did not even complete three innings.

He was hooked after throwing 75 pitches to Milwaukee's obdurate offense -- most notably a 12-pitch, seven-minute Jake Bauers at-bat.

"He's one of the best pitchers in the land. It was a great at-bat. I think a turning point, I really do," said Brewers manager Pat Murphy.

The Dodgers' star batter Shohei Ohtani continued to misfire now 3-for-20 in the playoffs, with no home run since August but was not alone struggling against a near-perfect Milwaukee bullpen showing.

The Brewers, who led Major League Baseball with 103 regular-season wins, need two more victories to reach their second-ever World Series, 44 years after their previous appearance.

A rollercoaster game began with Teoscar Hernandez's sacrifice fly scoring Mookie Betts, but the Brewers replied in their first inning with a Contreras RBI single.

The Dodgers capitalized on a throwing error by pitcher Logan Henderson, who tried to pick off Betts at first base. His spiked throw allowed Tommy Edman to cross home plate.

An epic Brewers third inning put Milwaukee back in front. Captain Christian Yelich's bases-loaded single scored David Hamilton and Brice Turang.

By that time Yamamoto had thrown 36 pitches in the inning, and had given up three runs on four hits overall. He was promptly withdrawn.

The Dodgers retook the lead in the fifth, thanks to another Henderson throwing error on an Edman bunt. Kyle Tucker, who had hit a lead-off double, raced home, and this time Henderson was withdrawn.

His replacement Dustin May could not stop a Freddie Freeman sacrifice fly scoring Edman.

But again the Brewers responded immediately. Contreras tied the game 4-4 by crunching a solo home run off Kris Bubic over center field.

And the following inning it was Contreras yet again.

Remarkably brought to the plate after the Dodgers intentionally walked Turang, his RBI single scored Hamilton. "I took it as motivation," admitted Contreras.

"I wanted to put the ball in play. I knew it was a big run there." Milwaukee took the first two-run lead of the series in the eighth from a Turang RBI single. Turang then scored from a Bauers single to make it 7-4.

Game three takes place in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

- Guardians on top -

The Guardians, who trailed their best-of-five division series to the Chicago White Sox 2-0 before improbably progressing, moved to a 1-0 lead against the Rays, who had the best regular-season record in the AL. □

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