

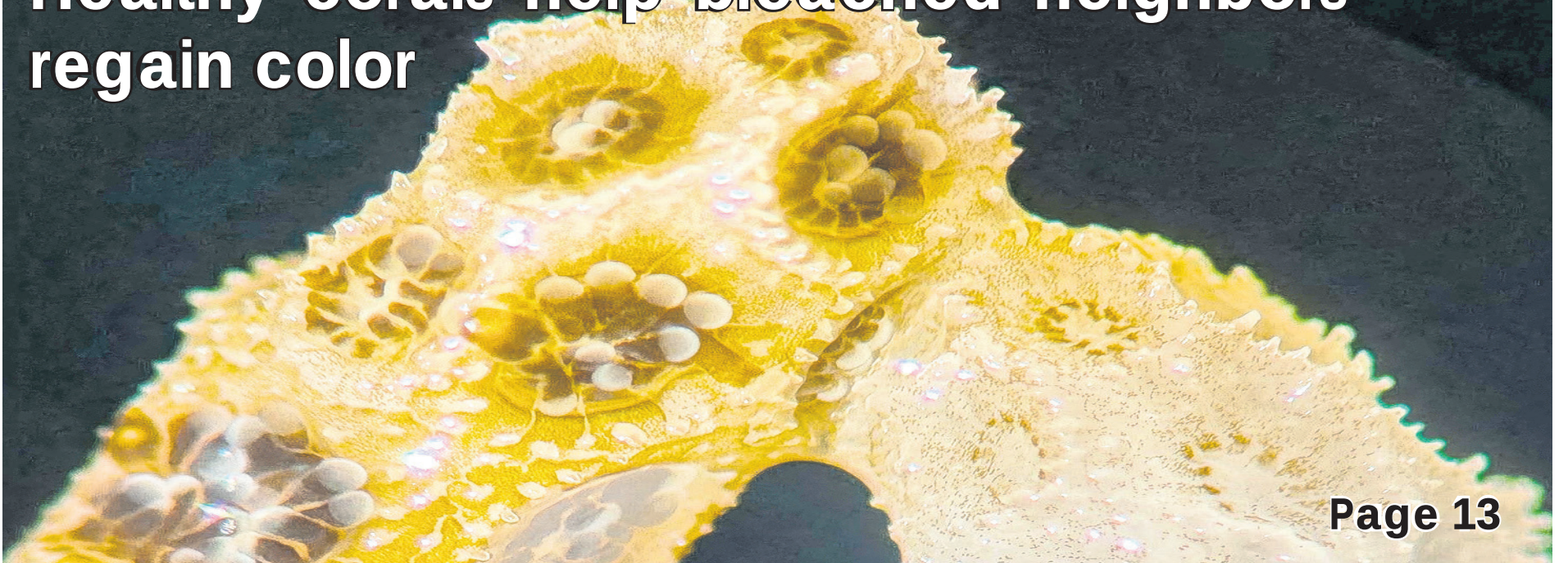


National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation



Page 8

Healthy corals help bleached neighbors regain color



Page 13

BELGIAN BISTRO

L'AVENUE

- ARUBA -

FULL RACK OF RIBS
ONLY \$29!

WWW.LAVENUEARUBA.COM



OPEN EVERY DAY DINNER
LUNCH - WED-SUN

1 FREE
BELGIAN BEER
WITH ENTREE

COUPON

LOCATED IN THE COVE, PALM BEACH, ARUBA



Demonstrators with the feminist-led movement Women's March hold signs and chant in protest in Washington, DC on October 8, 2026.

Cornell suspends frat parties after alleged gang rape

New York, United States

Cornell University on Tuesday suspended fraternities' parties and social events for the remaining academic year following outcry over an alleged gang rape at one of the elite college's all-male clubs.

The 2024 incident, as alleged in a graphic lawsuit filed last month, has drawn accusations that the Ivy League institution in New York state failed to properly punish the men involved. The accuser claimed that she was pressured to take ketamine, assaulted and raped by seven members of the Chi Phi fraternity one of several "Greek life" organizations common across US colleges.

Cornell President Michael Kotlikoff said the suspension "will provide time for a thorough review of fraternity life at Cornell to determine whether and how it can safely continue." "I am deeply sorry for the harm Jane Doe suffered in 2024, and appalled that this act of sexual violence occurred within our Cornell community," he added, referring to the accuser's pseudonym. Following her initial allegations, Cornell shut down the fraternity and temporary

ly suspended the accused male students, two of whom were later expelled. But critics have said the university's response was too lenient, prompting it to launch an independent review.

Thousands of students and faculty members rallied at Cornell this month to demand justice for the accuser, displaying signs reading "Hold them accountable" and "Protect survivors." Protesters have also gathered in New York, Boston and other US cities to show support for the accuser, while social media users have shared the hashtag #IAmJaneDoe on TikTok, X and Instagram.

- 'Zero tolerance' -

Cornell has named a former top US prosecutor, Sally Yates, to assess the university's response to the rape allegations. But, addressing the Cornell community, Kotlikoff said Tuesday "it is clear that we cannot wait for these findings to take action." He said the suspension on fraternity social events was effective immediately and there would be "zero tolerance" for any violations. "Any fraternity holding an in-house party or social

event will receive an immediate emergency suspension," Kotlikoff said. He announced other measures including the appointment of a dedicated staff member to support individuals reporting sexual misconduct, and inviting specialized New York State Police detectives to probe future sexual assault allegations. Meanwhile, prosecutors have reopened an investigation into the alleged gang rape, with Governor Kathy Hochul appointing state Attorney General Letitia James to lead the case. That came after local authorities said they declined to prosecute in 2024 because the complainant's testimony did not establish a lack of consent.

In the United States, one in four female undergraduates experienced forced sexual contact or sexual contact for which they could not consent, according to a 2020 study of 33 institutions by the Association of American Universities. Mental health nonprofit the Jed Foundation has reported that men in fraternities which are routinely criticized for shielding sexism are more likely to commit sexual violence. □



Attendees hold placards during a news conference about early voting in the midterm election, outside the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC, on October 14, 2026.

U.S. Democrats recruit 100 election observers over Trump interference fears

Washington, United States

U.S. Senate Democrats said Wednesday they had recruited and trained more than 100 congressional staffers to monitor voting and ballot counting in November's midterm elections, citing fears of interference by President Donald Trump's administration.

The observers will be deployed across nine states with closely contested Senate races, including Ohio, Georgia and Michigan, Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and Senator Alex Padilla told reporters.

Their mission will be to document possible voter intimidation, threats against election workers and other irregularities, including during the counting and certification of ballots after the November 3 vote. "Their role is very clear: to observe, to document, and report the facts," Schumer said.

The initiative comes amid growing concern among Democrats and civil rights groups over Trump's repeated allegations of election fraud and his refusal to rule out extraordinary federal intervention around polling places. "Donald Trump does not get to decide who votes. He doesn't get to decide which votes count," Schumer said. Padilla, the senior Democrat on the Senate committee overseeing election rules, said the observers could remain deployed for days or even weeks after the election if necessary.

"I don't put anything past the Trump administration to try to interfere with the election," he said, warning that Democrats were preparing for possible challenges to the results.

The president has sought restrictions on mail-in voting and tougher proof-of-citizenship requirements, while his administration has pursued access to state voter records. The Justice Department says its election monitoring efforts are intended to ensure compliance with voting laws and protect election integrity. Padilla stressed that the new Senate observers would have no role in administering elections or handling ballots.

"They're not there to interfere. They're not there to cause a scene," he said.

The program, announced earlier this year, is an official congressional initiative rather than a campaign operation.

Padilla said Democrats hoped to deploy observers alongside Republican Senate staff where possible, following the example of a longstanding House of Representatives program. □

Saudi employee arrested for allegedly bugging OpenAI office

San Francisco, United States

A Saudi employee of OpenAI was arrested after allegedly planting a recording device in one of the company's San Francisco offices, the AI firm and federal prosecutors said Tuesday.

"We discovered a sophisticated recording device that was hidden inside one of our offices" and "referred the matter to the FBI," OpenAI told AFP in a statement.

OpenAI's security team found the device late last month and the employee, Saudi national Abdulrahman Alfozan, was arrested on October 9, the US Justice Department said.

Alfozan, a 35-year-old engineer who had worked for OpenAI since July 2025, allegedly wrapped a USB device in toilet paper and inserted it into a television located in an "executive conference room," according to a Justice Department statement.

He was allegedly caught on camera "near" the conference room multiple times but was not authorized to participate in meetings located there.



A smartphone displaying the OpenAI logo and colorful "dots" is pictured in front of an OpenAI logo, illustrating the development of artificial intelligence technologies, in Tunis, Tunisia on October 6, 2026.

He used a "productivity tool" to search for more information about OpenAI's office buildings, meeting rooms, calendars, schedules and people's locations, according to the statement.

A chatbot account connected to Alfozan's spouse also allegedly contained queries related to remote audio recording and encrypting memory cards.

"This serious situation underscores why winning the global super intelligence race is a national security prerogative," Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton said in the statement.

"The intelligence community remains committed to safeguarding America's cutting-edge intellectual property from foreign threats," Clayton added. The arrest and allegations

come amid a fierce global race to dominate in artificial intelligence, which the Trump administration has pushed to be rebranded as "superintelligence."

Saudi Arabia's state-backed AI firm Humain invested \$3 billion in Elon Musk's xAI shortly before the American billionaire's space company, SpaceX, acquired the AI division in February.

Now known as SpaceXAI,

the division announced last year that it was teaming up with Humain to build a 500-megawatt data center in Saudi Arabia.

- Multiple devices -

It was not immediately clear what, if any information the recording device was able to collect.

"At this time, we have no indications of this individual inappropriately accessing or exfiltrating model weights, source code, or customer data," OpenAI told AFP in a statement.

A second device was found by OpenAI's security team when they searched an unattended bag that belonged to Alfozan, according to the Justice Department.

Alfozan was caught on security footage from inside the restricted conference room where he appeared to look behind the television where the recording device had been placed, the Department said.

A LinkedIn account matching Alfozan's name and resume show that he previously worked at Facebook-owner Meta, as well as an AI startup and a venture capital firm. □

Trump's new press secretary faces scrutiny over credentials

Washington, United States

The White House was facing mounting questions Wednesday over new press secretary Katie Zacharia's legal credentials, after a faltering first day in the job when she gave an inconclusive answer about where she had passed the bar exam.

A US watchdog group filed a complaint with the State Bar of California, asking it to investigate whether President Donald Trump's spokeswoman -- the public face of the administration -- had broken the law by repeatedly presenting herself as a lawyer without a license.

Campaign for Accountability said Zacharia had described herself as a lawyer during television appearances and listed herself as general counsel of

a California-based conservative nonprofit.

"Ms. Zacharia has represented herself as a lawyer repeatedly to buttress her reputation and credibility," said the group's executive director, Michelle Kupper-Smith.

"The State Bar should investigate whether Ms. Zacharia has misled the public about her credentials," she added.

Trump described Zacharia as "an attorney" when announcing her appointment Friday, but journalists have found no record of her being licensed to practice law in any US state.

"I practiced international transaction law, with all the appropriate credentials," Zacharia said in a statement to AFP, without clarifying whether she held a US law license.

Zacharia has not specified where, if anywhere, she was admitted to the bar. Asked by reporters Tuesday where she had passed the bar exam, Zacharia replied: "When I moved to China."

California's state bar confirmed to US media that it had no record of Zacharia holding a license under either her married or maiden name.

Zacharia, 41, graduated from Pepperdine University's law school in 2011, but obtaining a law degree does not automatically qualify someone to practice law.

Foreign nationals cannot sit China's bar exam, although they can undertake certain legal work at Chinese law firms.

Zacharia previously worked for a law firm in Beijing, ac-

cording to her professional profile.

The controversy followed a rocky first appearance as White House press secretary on Tuesday, when Zacharia read extensively from prepared notes during a briefing lasting just 14

minutes.

She took questions from only three news organizations, all considered sympathetic to Trump, and stumbled over some answers, at one point accidentally referring to the president as her husband. □



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.

For exiled Russian director Zvyagintsev, triumph without belonging

Paris, France

Exiled Russian director Andrey Zvyagintsev's latest film, *Minotaur*, won the second-highest honor at the Cannes Film Festival and was selected to represent France at the Oscars.

But despite his triumphant return to filmmaking after a nine-year absence, and with his first feature produced in exile, a sense of displacement still hangs over the filmmaker's life.

Zvyagintsev, 62, who has made France his new home despite neither speaking French nor holding French citizenship, said he felt like a "guest" in the country.

"I don't know whether I will ever belong here," he said in an interview in Paris conducted in Russian, offering a rare glimpse beneath his guarded public persona.

In *Minotaur*, an adaptation of *La Femme Infidèle* (The Unfaithful Wife) by French director Claude Chabrol, Zvyagintsev focuses on a ruthless businessman who suspects his wife of adultery, set against the backdrop of Russia's war in Ukraine.



Andrey Zvyagintsev (R) and Anastasia Mischenko talk at the intro for the screening for "Minotaur" during the 64th New York Film Festival at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center on October 03, 2026 in New York City.

Widely viewed as a favorite for the Palme d'Or, the film received the Grand Prix, finishing just behind Cristian Mungiu's *Fjord*.

It will be released in French cinemas on October 14.

As he accepted the Grand Prix for *Minotaur*, Zvyagintsev urged Russian leader Vladimir Putin to end the "carnage" in Ukraine, saying he was the only person

who could bring the four-and-a-half-year war to an end.

But speaking to AFP, the director said that even Putin might no longer be in a position to stop the fighting any time soon.

"I understand that it is difficult for him to do that himself. Things have now gained such momentum that he could easily end

up becoming the victim of such a decision."

- 'Outsider' -

Last month, *Minotaur*, produced primarily by French companies but filmed in Russian in Latvia, was selected to represent France at the 2027 Academy Awards, beating Antonin Baudry's *The Battle of Gaulle*, one of the year's

biggest French box-office successes.

Zvyagintsev said he was grateful to France's Oscar committee and understood why some might have disagreed with the decision.

"I understand the criticism from the film community, which is entirely entitled to say: 'We have our own directors. What, we don't have French films?'" he said.

"But since that decision was made, I have no words other than gratitude for those who made it. Because it commands respect.

"It is a noble gesture to give way to another person who is, essentially, an outsider," he said.

Shortly after France announced its Oscar selection, Moscow designated Zvyagintsev a "foreign agent", making the director one of the most high-profile Russians to carry the label, alongside Dmitry Muratov, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning founder of Russia's independent newspaper *Novaya Gazeta*.

Used by Russian authorities to target critics, the designation carries social stigma and imposes legal restrictions.

The Oscar-nominated director of *Leviathan* and *Loveless* said he did not know whether the designation would affect his life and had little time to dwell on it, having spent the past month focused on promoting the film.

- 'Transformation of human nature' -

Zvyagintsev is known for the haunting beauty of his cinematography and exacting eye for detail.

During the interview, he wove literary and cinematic references into reflections on "Minotaur," saying he was fond of long sequences without dialogue and naming Italian director Marco Ferreri's nearly dialogue-free "Dillinger Is Dead" among his inspirations.

He turned to Greek mythology and Honore de Balzac's *The Physiology of Marriage* to elaborate on the title of his film. □

Van Gogh work unseen in public for 60 years on show in Hong Kong

Hong Kong, China

Hundreds of people queued on Tuesday outside a Hong Kong gallery to see a Vincent van Gogh painting on public display for the first time in six decades.

The Dutch artist's "Châtaigniers en fleurs" ("Chestnut Trees in Blossom") was

on show in Hong Kong ahead of its November 18 auction in New York, where it is expected to smash records and fetch around \$180 million, according to Sotheby's.

It was one of 12 works owned by late Argentine collectors Nelly Arrieta de Blaquier and Carlos Pedro

Blaquier. Others by Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro and Paul Cezanne will also go under the hammer.

The van Gogh, which according to Sotheby's was unseen by the public for over 60 years, portrays a blossoming chestnut tree with a solitary man walking past three women in Japanese attire.

Completed in 1890, it is from the last two months of van Gogh's life.

"It's one of the last, most expressive and hopeful works by van Gogh in this final phase of his career," Scott Nitchel, a vice chairman at Sotheby's, told AFP.

It is one of approximately 70 works van Gogh created after leaving the psychiatric asylum of Saint-Remy, where he had created his famous "The Starry Night".

During these final days of his life, van Gogh was producing at a frantic rate averaging around one work a day.

He died shortly after at the age of 37, two days after shooting himself in the chest following well-documented mental health struggles. "This manic frenzy of paint application suggests he has so much more to give, and he's just racing to put it to canvas," Nitchel said, noting the thickness of the paint layers.

"Orchard with Cypresses" set the current record for a van Gogh price point, selling for \$117.2 million in a 2022 auction.

Nitchel said that "anything is possible" for who might claim the painting in November.

"Our revealing in Hong Kong suggests that Asia is certainly a possibility." □



A visitor looks at the "Châtaigniers en fleurs" (Chestnut Trees in Blossom) painting by Vincent van Gogh at an auction preview in Hong Kong on October 13, 2026.



Student activists shout slogans during a protest demanding the resignation of the nation's Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged voter roll irregularities linked to the "special intensive revision" (SIR), in New Delhi on October 14, 2026.

India shuts down iconic Delhi protest site after three decades

New Delhi, India

For more than three decades, a stretch of road in central New Delhi was where Indians came to be heard, staging rallies to press their demands and hold those in power accountable.

Trade unions, retired soldiers, anti-corruption campaigners, women's rights groups and student activists all protested beside the capital's iconic 18th-century Jantar Mantar observatory, drawn by its location near the city's commercial heart and the seat of political power.

But this week, the country's most recognizable stage for public dissent officially lost its status as an authorized protest venue, prompting concerns among activists over shrinking democratic space.

"Jantar Mantar as a protest venue has been de-notified," Delhi Police said in an order issued Monday.

The move comes days after a confrontation between authorities and anti-government protesters led by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) online movement.

The youth-led group has mobilized thousands to take to the streets over a revision to electoral rolls that critics say could disenfranchise eligible voters,

months after separate protests over exam irregularities forced the education minister to resign.

While authorities have designated three alternative demonstration venues in Delhi, campaigners say visibility and proximity to lawmakers are central to the right to protest in the world's largest democracy. "Jantar Mantar is in the centre of the town, it is connected, it is next to parliament... it was a very important space for all protests," human rights activist Shabnam Hashmi told AFP.

"This is nothing but a move to curb dissent."

- 'Spirit of resistance' -

Jantar Mantar, meaning an instrument to calculate in Sanskrit, is designed for the observation of astronomical positions with the naked eye.

The roughly 1.6-kilometer (one-mile) street next to Jantar Mantar became synonymous with protest after being designated a demonstration site in 1993. In July, thousands of students led by the "cockroach" movement gathered there before attempting to march towards parliament over irregularities in competitive examinations. For nearly a month, Jantar Mantar transformed into a

vibrant hub of Gen-Z dissent, its walls transformed into canvases for angry slogans, defiant messages and graffiti challenging the government.

Tensions resurfaced this month when police denied permission for a CJP protest at the site demanding the resignation of the chief election commissioner over the contentious voter roll revision.

On Wednesday, two of CJP's top leaders, who clambered over the barricades to "reclaim Jantar Mantar" a day before, were sent to jail for five days for alleged trespassing.

"Jantar Mantar is not just a location but a spirit of resistance that nobody can ever take away," the group's founder, Abhijeet Dipke, said.

Delhi Police on Tuesday defended their move, citing a directive from the Supreme Court that "suitable alternative sites" for protest "need to be identified and designated".

The developments have reignited debate over where citizens can now take their grievances.

Activist Hashmi said protests at Jantar Mantar had already become increasingly restricted in recent years through limits on space and timings. □



Motorcyclists queue to refuel at a gas station in Denpasar amid a fuel supply shortage on Indonesia's Bali island on October 13, 2026.

Fuel shortage triggers queues on Indonesia's Bali island

Denpasar, Indonesia

Moldovan tourist Raisa Neagu spent hours on Wednesday waiting to fuel up her scooter, one of many people snared in a petrol shortage on resort island Bali that Indonesian authorities blamed on supply disruptions.

Officials urged people to stay calm, noting there was enough fuel to go around on the island that relies on shipped-in gasoline and diesel supplies but lines still snaked up to a kilometre (0.6 miles) in places, witnesses said.

"We were stuck with no petrol. So we couldn't move. We had to cancel all our plans," 43-year-old tourist Neagu told AFP.

"I had big plans for my vacation. I wanted to be in the north of Bali and now I don't know really what to do," she added.

Bali Governor I Wayan Koster ordered government employees to work from home for three days starting Thursday, while schools and universities switch to online learning over the same period, according to a statement.

Wayan said the measures were meant to help make fuel distribution easier.

Petrol stations in some areas will open 24 hours, while deliveries from depots will be carried out around the clock to speed up distribution, he said.

The supply disruption was due to delays in distribution after a tanker had trouble discharging its cargo, Simon Aloysius Mantiri, president director of state-owned oil and gas firm Pertamina, said Tuesday along with an apology.

The tanker carrying more than 22 million litres of fuel had arrived in Bali Tuesday, with the supplies expected to be able to meet demand on the resort island for up to the next seven days, Wayan said Tuesday.

"People don't need to worry because the fuel is available," he added, noting more fuel shipments are expected to arrive within this week.

Ni Wayan Susiani, 22, said she had to wait around five hours before she managed to buy fuel for her motorbike, adding that the situation had left her "annoyed".

"My hope is that this is the last day like this. Hopefully it can return to normal in the days to come," the hotel worker told AFP. □

Ukraine war reaches shores of Bulgarian fishing village

Krapets, Bulgaria

After a series of drone attacks on ships off the coast, the conflict in Ukraine has taken on a new immediacy for residents of Krapets, a tiny Bulgarian Black Sea fishing village.

When Stefan Irinkov, 82, heard a loud bang in the early hours of Tuesday, he thought little of it until he learned that a ship had been hit by a drone nearby.

"What am I supposed to make of this? We're going to war," Irinkov told AFP as he trimmed the plants in his garden on a windy day.

Two ships were hit off the Bulgarian coast on October 6, followed by another two on Tuesday the first time the conflict has spilled over into the waters off the country.

A total of 21 sailors are still missing after the attacks.

One of the ships, the HS Dignity, struck on Tuesday was hit 17 nautical miles off the coast of Krapets. Of the 16 crew members on board, only five were rescued.

Four of them three Syrians and one Egyptian were brought back to the port of Varna on Tuesday evening by a border guard vessel.



Krapets resident and engineer Valeri Baronov, 81, shows the wreckage of a drone, which he claims is Russian, a day after suspected Russian drones struck two cargo ships off Bulgaria, sinking one vessel and leaving 11 sailors missing in the latest spillover from the war in Ukraine, on the Black Sea coast near Cape Shabla on October 14, 2026.

They refused to speak to the media.

Krapets, which lies on Bulgaria's northeast coast around 10 kilometres from the Romanian border, has only around 200 permanent residents.

But in the summer the village with its low houses surrounded by vegetable gardens and fruit trees becomes a tourist hotspot thanks to its long sandy beaches.

"Terrible things are happening, but it's far out at sea," said Todorin Ibovski, 66, a surgeon picking apples and figs with his wife. Though he said "if someone was awake at that hour, they surely heard something".

- 'Knocking at our door' -

As well as the Guinea-Bissau flagged HS Dignity, a Ukraine-owned vessel was also hit on Tuesday, and EU

and NATO member Bulgaria often seen as one of the more Russia-sympathetic countries in the bloc summoned Russia's ambassador over the attack.

Prime Minister Rumen Radev, a former army pilot who advocates dialogue with Moscow, called for "concrete evidence" of who was responsible, though he added that "logic suggests the outcome works to the advan-

tage of the Russian Federation".

Most people in the village "cannot regard Russia as an aggressor", said Jivko Jeliazkov, 64, who keeps bees, grows vegetables and fishes for shellfish for a living.

But "of course it's the Russians", he added.

Jeliazkov said the war could also be felt in the village through a spike in the cost of living.

"Everything has gone up. The tourist season was very bad. Fuel prices have increased, electricity too," he said.

While Russian strikes on cargo ships docked in Ukrainian ports or close to the Ukrainian coast are common, strikes have also lately started hitting ships much closer to the coasts of Romania and Bulgaria.

At least 163 civilian and commercial vessels were hit on the Black Sea in the first eight months of this year, according to Turkey's IMEAK chamber of shipping.

"The war has been palpable for a long time. It's knocking at our door," said Valeri Baronov, a 71-year-old entrepreneur from Krapets. □

Colombia opens embassy to Israel in Jerusalem

Jerusalem

Colombia on Wednesday officially opened its embassy in Jerusalem, joining a small group of countries including the United States in taking the symbolic step of backing Israeli sovereignty in the contested holy city.

The vast majority of countries keep their embassies to Israel in Tel Aviv on the grounds that the status of Jerusalem will be settled in a final resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"This is an important date for the State of Israel. It's also an important date

for the city of Jerusalem," Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said during a ceremony while signing the Colombian embassy's guest book.

Colombia's new hard-right president, Abelardo de la Espriella, in July announced that he would move his country's embassy to Jerusalem, a sharp shift from his leftist predecessor.

In 2024, president Gustavo Petro severed ties with Israel, one of Colombia's key security partners, over its offensive in the Gaza Strip.

Colombian Foreign Minister Omar Bula said Tuesday's move was "a concrete step toward the restoration of our diplomatic relations; a relationship that should never have been interrupted."

"Israel is a strategic partner; it always has been, and from now on it will be so with even greater determination and strength," said Colombian ambassador Tania Gilinski.

"This is the beginning of a golden age in relations between our two countries," Saar said.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the move. In a statement, its Foreign Ministry said that "opening an embassy to Israel in occupied Jerusalem constitutes a violation of international legitimacy resolutions..., undermines the international consensus on the legal status of the holy city, and infringes upon the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

President Donald Trump shattered international

consensus in 2018 during his first term by moving the US embassy to Jerusalem, which is home to Israel's parliament, prime minister and most other major governmental institutions.

Since Trump's move, only a handful of small, U.S.-aligned countries have followed suit Fiji, Guatemala, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay and Nauru. Kosovo and Somaliland, which are not member-states of the United Nations, have also opened what they consider their embassies in Jerusalem.

Argentine President Javier Milei, another right-wing Latin American who is an outspoken supporter of Israel, has promised to move his country's embassy to Jerusalem. □



The headquarters for the Colombian embassy to Israel is pictured in Jerusalem on October 14, 2026.

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!



(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and

Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations



started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the

island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of

coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐

Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

How to make "funchi"

(Oranjestad)—One of the most famous Aruban snacks or appetizers is "funchi hasa" (fried polenta sticks), a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Before we start, get to know the basics

What is funchi hasa? Funchi, or Aruban polenta, is a popular side dish for local dishes, like soups, stews and fried fish. Made from a corn flour, water and butter mixture, this appetizer is traditionally eaten alongside a warm meal. However, locals also like to fry sticks of funchi for a quick and filling snack.

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour/Funchi flour
2. Water



3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to be-

gin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the



mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

When your funchi is firm enough, cut it into strips (size is up to you). Heat up some oil in a pan and fry those babies up! After frying, you can top it with some cheese or enjoy it with your favorite dipping sauce. ☐

Photo credit of fried funchi sticks: Jacqueline Felida on Pinterest.

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the bright blue Cododo or mighty Warawara.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

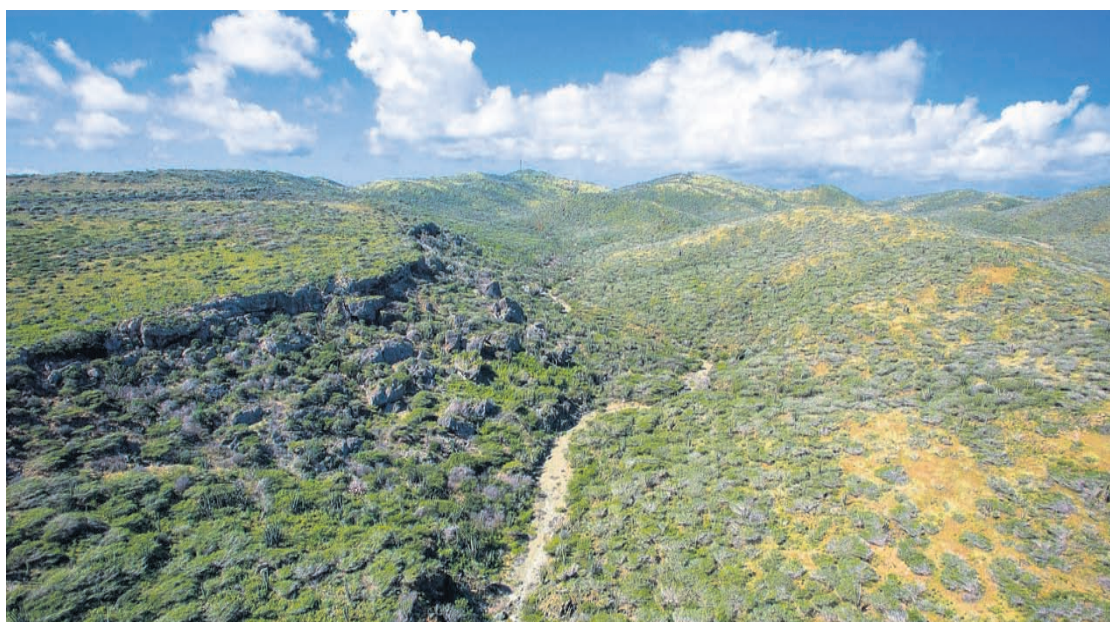
Did you know that four of the seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sternula antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: A majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heading back to the ocean after laying her eggs during breeding season. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough



hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most important natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, or 4x4 vehicle. As of 2020, ATV's and UTVs are not allowed in the park due to its significant impact on nature.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also

residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount

of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: <https://acf.aw/>.

Visit the National Park Arikok to see the wonder of Aruba's nature. The visitor center in San Fuego and entrance in Vader Piet (San Nicolas) is open daily from 8:00 AM to 16:00 PM. Contact the ACF via e-mail, info@acf.aw or call +297 585 1234 for more information. □



Escape the workday for a tranquil executive lunch with refined flavors and ocean views

Step away from the day's demands and enjoy a thoughtfully curated three-course executive lunch in a tranquil oceanfront setting. Whether indoors or on our open-air deck, experience refined service, elevated cuisine, and a relaxed ambiance overlooking Eagle Beach at Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort



Adults-only Cashless Ideal for business lunches (max. 6p.)	Available daily from 12.00 pm to 3.00 pm \$23.50 per person	Reservations: +297 583-1100 ext. 109 elements@bucuti.com
---	---	---

Celebrating Forty Years – Weekly Free Slot or Table Play for all Qualified Club Members

BONUS
B I N G O
THURSDAY!

Bonus 4-Card BINGO
starting at 1pm!

\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play

\$1,500 in Cash Prizes

SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME

Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200

Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our
Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you
purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

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

Alhambra
CASINO AND SHOPS

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

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



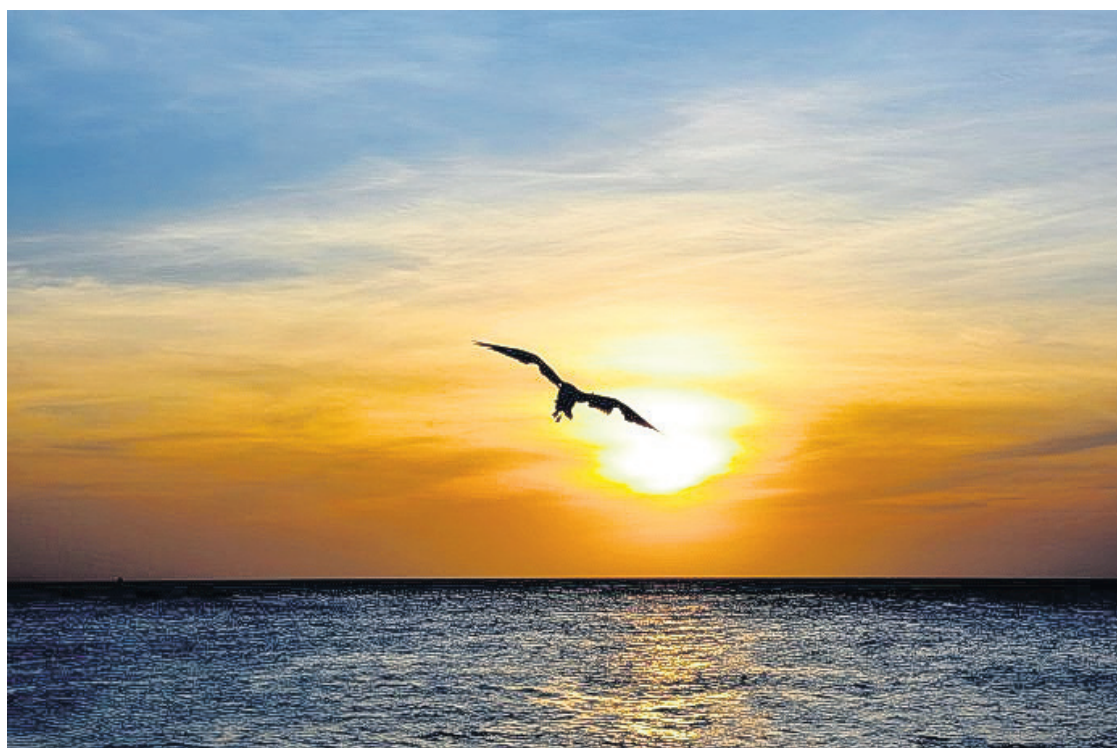
Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest points easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

Manchebo & Eagle Beach
Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots for viewing the sunset on



the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with

the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing it can only be described as an experience!

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to

be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the

Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward. Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back. hue.□

What Aruba means to Phyllis!

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 Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we

strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from Phyllis Richford.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is heaven. Next year will be our 25th year coming. We first came to Aruba on our 25th Anniversary in 2000 and last year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with our whole family. What better place to celebrate such a special event



but in our home away from home. We're here now and absolutely love it! Thank you for sending us

this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers!□

Snakes of Aruba

Arikok National Park is home to various unique plant and animal species such as Aruba's rare endemic rattlesnake *Crotalus unicolor*). This rattlesnake is locally known as the 'Cascabel'. But Aruba has two more snake species living on the island: the Santanero and the Boa.

Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzz-

ing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in



which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive.

However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They

frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. New-born Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white

or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus.

Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens.

When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitat.

CASCABEL
(*Crotalus unicolor*)



SANTANERO
(*Leptodeira bakeri*)



BOA
(*Boa constrictor*)



Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you’re ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can’t recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here’s some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It’s a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun.



Why it’s called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an ex-

citing catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults

within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too. They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close

or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately recognizable, even with small variations in these colors.

Dorado has clear differences between adult females and males. The male is larger and can easily reach 50 to 80 pounds and has a much flatter head compared to the female. Therefore, male Dorados are also called “bull Dorado”.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others.

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Aruba’s kite flying tradition



(Oranjestad)—Every year for King’s Day, Arubans gather with friends and family to fly kites. Big or small, paper or plastic, blue skies fill up with these colorful flying contraptions, brightening our yearly celebration of the Dutch Monarch.

The tradition of flying kites starts at home in the weeks

leading up to King’s Day.

These kites were traditionally made with things found in the nearby mondi* and in the kitchen at home.

Using dried up cactus sticks for the frame, old news papers, and glue made from flour, water and salt to dry faster (some people even use cornstarch slurry as

glue), kids usually make their own kites with their friends, parents or other close family members.

Tails are made from old bed sheets, ripped and tied together to create a long string of fabric trailing behind the back end of the kite.

To finish off the process,



people used fish lines or thin rope to tie three corners of the kite together.

Another long string of rope is tied in the knotted center and bundled up, used to steer the kite as it flies in the air.

Decorating the kite was especially important, and children would use paint to create their own designs the more colorful, the better!

People usually fly their kites

in big open fields, like empty soccer and baseball fields found all around the island around noon, when the sun is at its brightest.

In the past few years, kite flying has become a sport in which groups of people would battle against each other to see whose kite is the biggest, the prettiest, and whose could fly flawlessly and longer in the air.

***Mondi: Aruban woods.**

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

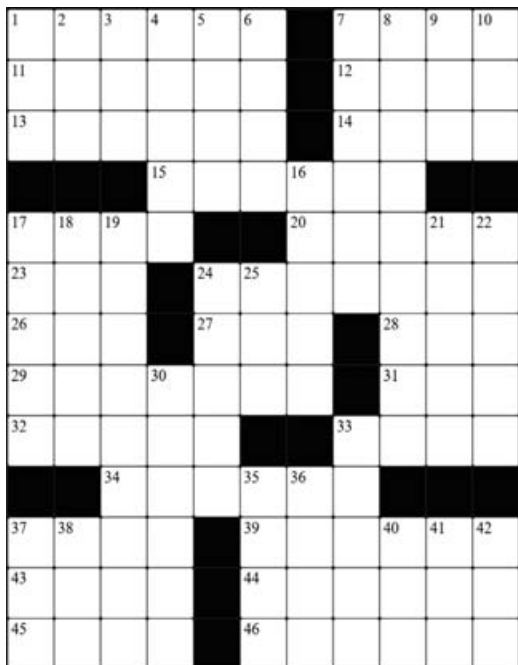
ACROSS 45. Fresh
1. Suspects' stories
7. Musical work

DOWN 1. Bleaching chemical
12. Civil rights great
13. Clash on
14. Resting on
15. Web site feature
17. Guitar bar
20. Coldly distant
23. Hoopla
24. Kneecap
26. Turn bad
27. Hurricane part
28. Poorly lit
29. Satellite
31. Genesis name
32. Director Sergio
33. Wilma's husband
34. Jordan neighbor
37. Bulldog's school
39. Queen Anne's house
43. Company bigwig
44. Hearty dish



Yesterday's answer

19. Hack novel
21. Green shade
22. Pro-minent
24. Piper of rhyme
25. Yeoman's "yes"
30. Fly, e.g.
33. Champagne glass
35. Pharaoh symbols
36. School near Windsor
37. Slangy agreement
38. Feller in the woods
40. Clumsy galoot
41. Ahmed of "Sound of Metal"
42. Casual top



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

S D G Q J J N M S G
I M C I O W V S B X I Q V ; M
I C Q B S Q D H H D C S O X M S M Q V .
- - - T C O I Q J Q Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: DELICIOUS
AUTUMN! MY VERY SOUL IS WEDDED TO IT.
--- GEORGE ELIOT

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



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 tourists 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.

Supermarket hours

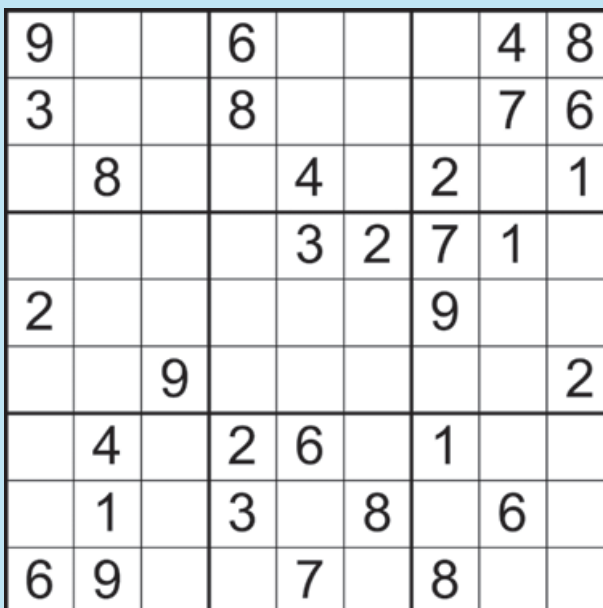
Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or

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 CORAL PRINCESS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: B Arrival: 6:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: C
13 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON CELEBRITY REFLECTION GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C 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



Difficulty: ★★★

10/15

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

10/14

Healthy corals help bleached neighbors regain color: study

Washington, United States

The world's coral reefs face an existential threat from rising seawater temperatures that trigger widespread bleaching, a problem driven by climate change and compounded by this year's intense El Nino phenomenon.

But a new lab study by scientists at Stanford University finds that simply placing healthy, colorful coral in contact with their bleached counterparts is enough to bring the dying ones back from the brink -- a finding that could eventually pave the way for real-world interventions if it can be scaled.

"It's stunning," lead author Daniel Collins told AFP about the outcome of the experiments, recalling the "eureka moment" when he first saw positive results and rushed to his PhD supervisor's office to share the news.

The paper was published Wednesday in the journal Science Advances. Coral reef recovery is a highly active area of research, with efforts ranging from using artificial nurseries to rescue reefs to finding and cultivating more heat-tolerant species. Bleached corals had been largely written off because of their high mortality rate, said Collins though the new work instead demonstrates they "really shouldn't be thought of as a lost cause."

- Helping hands -

The Stanford team ran a series of tests with pairs of cauliflower corals, finding five days of contact between healthy and bleached fragments was all it took for the latter to mount a spectacular recovery, at which point they could be safely pried apart.

The key to the success of the method which the team informally dubbed "helping hands" is the transfer of healthy photosynthetic algae, also known as symbionts, from which corals derive their



This undated handout photo from Danny Collins/Stanford University shows the recovery of a bleached coral by contact with a healthy coral.

color. Corals are marine invertebrates made up of hundreds to thousands of tiny, soft-bodied organisms called polyps.

They have a mutualistic relationship with symbionts, which produce the vast majority of food the corals require, in return for shelter, as well as water and the carbon dioxide they need

to photosynthesize. But in times of heat stress, algae can produce toxins, forcing their hosts to expel them.

Collins said the idea for the experiment came from two sources. The first was a study that showed plastic waste in the ocean can promote disease in corals by transferring harmful pathogens, which made him wonder

whether it would be possible to flip that mechanism on its head with a health-promoting transfer.

The second was a happy accident observed by Stephen Palumbi, the study's senior author, also at Stanford, who noticed in his lab that a healthy coral and bleached coral had tipped over and were touching each other, and the bleached coral had started to recover.

- The scaling challenge -

The experiments revealed important constraints.

Three days of contact was the minimum required for a bleached coral to begin to recover, and five ensured full recovery. They also had to be in direct contact a few millimeters apart, and nothing significant happened.

A major limitation was that the process only worked when the two corals shared the same genetic background, or "genet." □



Editor

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

Editors

Pilar Flores
Richard Brooks
Angenette Figuereo
Oriana Geerman

Sales

Mark Gomes
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

classified@cspnv.com

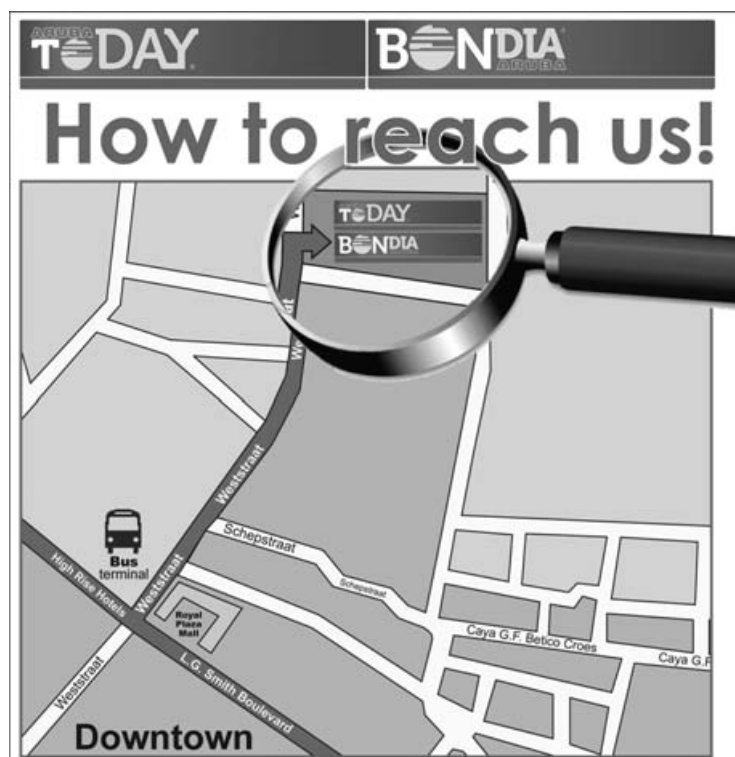
Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
f @ArubaTodayNews



HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

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

San Nicolas
IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

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

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on
Facebook



ARUBA TODAY NEWS

AI worms, 'major' incident fears spur safety calls at industry summit

Dublin, Ireland

From the spectre of refrigerator-infecting AI worms to warnings of "major" security incidents at the horizon, calls to prioritize safety in the development of artificial intelligence dominated an industry summit Wednesday.

Concerns about AI guardrails have soared after models developed by OpenAI and Anthropic were involved in security incidents during testing, piling on pressure to regulate the technology.

Google DeepMind chair Demis Hassabis warned AI capabilities were growing fast, telling the conference in Dublin such instances were "early warning shots" fired by systems that "aren't that powerful yet".

"So the incidents aren't that major," he said. "But they could be, looking into next year and the next couple of years, if we don't do more work as an industry and individually as companies and governments on securing these systems," Hassabis warned.

New AI models should likely first be tested in offline "sandboxes", after other



Delegates attend the International AI Summit in Dublin, on October 14, 2026.

companies' models escaped the closed environments used to assess their capabilities, he added.

- Milk and worms -

Microsoft president Brad Smith called for regulation saying industry and governments must "act with urgency" to create "real and effective safety standards" to contain the risks linked to artificial intelligence.

"There are more safety rules

for a carton of milk than for AI. There are more safety rules for your oven than for AI," he told the conference.

"We need to recognize that the power of AI has moved faster than the safety for it. Safety needs to catch up. And we're going to need some new AI safety laws and rules."

AI agents should be equipped with "safety brakes" that users could

activate in the event of an incident and AI providers should face mandatory incident-reporting obligations, he said.

Highlighting worries about the technology, Smith pointed to a recent Anthropic report suggesting small AI models may be only months away from behaving like computer worms, copying themselves from one internet-connect-

ed device to the next.

As tech companies race to build ever more powerful AI directly into phones, laptops, cars and household devices rather than running it in distant data centers, Anthropic said such AI might eventually autonomously hop from device to device.

"I mean, seriously? I don't want AI worms in my refrigerator," Smith told the Dublin conference. "I just don't want any worms of any kind in my refrigerator. And I think most of the public feels that way too."

- Speed and control -

A self-replicating AI worm would be hard to stamp out, because there would be no central switch to turn off, Anthropic said.

The European Union's tech chief, Henna Virkkunen, told the conference AI firms needed to invest more time into testing their systems to retain control over them.

"The competition is so hard globally that it seems that all the companies, they are not investing enough time and resources really to test their models," Virkkunen told reporters upon arrival. "They have to be able to

control... these systems," she said, noting that the European Union has sent information requests to all major AI companies asking what safety and security measures they have in place.

The European Commission gained new regulatory powers in August under the AI Act, the world's most far-reaching rules to curb potentially dangerous uses of the technology.

But OpenAI CFO Sarah Friar warned a "balance" needed to be struck so that safety rules did not pull the brakes on innovation.

"We want to be open, we want to make sure the right people can review models, but again we need to make sure that doesn't slow us down to the extent that we then end up behind the folks who are on the malicious side of deployments," she said. □

IBM executive warns of risk of quantum computing hacks

London, United Kingdom

Organizations are unprepared for the risks posed by quantum computing, IBM's Europe and Africa vice-president Alessandro Curioni told AFP Wednesday, referring to the high-speed technology that

could crack security encryptions and enable large-scale cyberattacks. "If you look at the world, how many organizations became quantum safe? I would say less than 10 percent today," Curioni said on the sidelines of a

London conference organized by the American technology pioneer.

IBM, a leader in the field competing against Microsoft and Google, aims to develop a "large-scale, fault tolerant" quantum computer for commercial clients by 2029.

It aims to develop a quantum computer that can reliably perform calculations beyond the capabilities of classic computers.

Quantum computing machines would rapidly process data by using the properties of quantum physics and could help solve complex problems such as the development of new drugs or materials. But they could also be used to break encryptions that protect vital data

and communications, with countries including Britain urging organizations to bolster their information systems.

Curioni's warning comes amid mounting concerns about artificial intelligence's ability to hack into computer systems following a string of high-profile global attacks.

Curioni, who is also the head of the IBM Research Lab in Zurich, voiced concerns about potential fallout for "the internet, all the blockchains, the banks, financial contract, digital signature." "First, maybe they are going to attack the financial institution, then the industry, then the banks," Curioni said of possible malicious actors. □



Visitors tour interactive exhibits inside the ATOM Museum complex located at the Exhibition of Achievements of National Economy (VDNH) in Moscow, Russia, on September 27, 2026.



Belarus's Aryna Sabalenka reacts after a point against USA's Ann Li during their women's singles match at the Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, in China's Hubei province on October 14, 2026.

Top seed Sabalenka falls at first hurdle in Wuhan

Wuhan, China

A frustrated Aryna Sabalenka suffered a second successive early exit as her bid for a fourth Wuhan Open title was foiled by American world number 31 Ann Li 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (7/5) in round two on Wednesday.

The top-seeded Sabalenka fell to Nikola Bartunkova in the third round at the China Open last week and squandered a 6-3, 4-2 lead against Li to stumble at her very first hurdle in Wuhan. The Belarusian four-time major winner lost her number one ranking to Elena Rybakina last month and has not won a title since March.

Playing with protective taping around her right knee, Sabalenka was in control of the match until Li swung the momentum in her direction halfway through the second set.

Sabalenka asked for the trainer when she was broken early in the decider and appeared to be struggling with her movement. Still, she was able to wipe a 2-5 deficit, saving nine match points along the way.

Listeadied the ship, though, and finished the job in two hours and 27 minutes on her 10th opportunity, to set

up a last-16 clash with Indonesia's Janice Tjen. Meanwhile, second-seeded Jessica Pegula, the runner-up in Wuhan last year, was also sent packing. The American suffered a 2-6, 7-6 (9/7), 6-3 upset at the hands of Jelena Ostapenko, wasting three match points en route.

Ostapenko is the first player to beat Pegula in her opening match at a WTA 1000 event since Indian Wells two and a half years ago, snapping Pegula's 22-event winning streak in openers at this level.

- Relentless Swiatek -

Earlier, six-time Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek launched her Wuhan Open campaign by triumphing 6-2, 6-1 in an all-Polish battle against lucky loser Magdalena Frech. Swiatek posted her 40th victory of the season in one hour and 42 minutes and no longer has Sabalenka as a potential roadblock in the quarter-finals.

"We know each other pretty well, so I just wanted to focus on being consistent and playing as good as possible," Swiatek, the seventh seed, said of Frech.

"I know she is running to every ball always and sometimes using the power of

the opponent, so I wanted to not play too crazy but play solid and I'm happy that I did that," said Swiatek, who is chasing a qualification spot for the year-end WTA Finals.

Despite the lopsided scoreline the opening set was tight, lasting over an hour and requiring Swiatek to erase a 0-2 deficit and save seven of eight break points before she finally took the lead on her fourth set point. Upping the pressure with her relentless forehand, Swiatek breezed through the second set to advance to a round of 16 meeting with American lucky loser Ashlyn Krueger.

Wimbledon finalist Karolina Muchova weathered a three-hour storm to come through 3-6, 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/4) against American qualifier Caty McNally to extend her record in tie-breaks this season to a perfect 10-0.

The sixth-seeded Muchova will face Diana Shnaider in the round of 16.

British world number 170 Sonay Kartal, who missed six months this year with a spinal stress fracture, upset ninth-seeded Belinda Bencic 6-0, 7-5 to book a third-round date with Italian 15th seed Jasmine Paolini. □



Harrison Mevis #92 of the Los Angeles Rams attempts to kick a field goal against the Buffalo Bills during overtime of the game at SoFi Stadium on October 12, 2026 in Inglewood, California.

Rams axe kicker Mevis after misses cost victory over Bills

Los Angeles, United States

The Los Angeles Rams on Tuesday released kicker Harrison Mevis, less than 24 hours after his blocked field goal effort cost them victory against the Buffalo Bills. The transaction, confirmed by the NFL, follows the Rams' 37-34 overtime loss to the Bills on Monday night, in which Mevis had a 48-yard attempt that would have sealed the game blocked by Greg Rousseau's fingertips.

Mevis had also missed a 50-yard field goal effort in the first quarter. Moments after Mevis's overtime miss, his Bills counterpart Tyler Bass kicked a 45-yarder for a dramatic Buffalo win.

Head coach Sean McVay said the Rams' kicking game had "cost us the game."

"I thought offensively and defensively we battled. Thought some of the coverage units, we did some really good stuff," he told a post-game press conference. "And then the kicking game, especially with our PAT (point after touchdown), field goal, not even close to good enough. It cost us the game tonight."

Mevis, who signed but never played for the Carolina Panthers in 2024, was brought in by the Rams last season to replace Joshua Karty.

In the 2025 season and post-season, Mevis made 18-of-19 field goal attempts. But Monday night's misses sank his total this year to 5-of-9.

Mevis is expected to be replaced by Blake Grupe, the former New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts kicker who has spent the past few weeks with the New York Jets practice squad, NFL.com and The Athletic reported.

The NFL confirmed Grupe had terminated his contract with the Jets.

NFL sides often act decisively when kickers misfire. The highly scrutinized position has a higher turnover than many others. Kickers frequently join teams as free agents rather than through the draft system, and are often on shorter contracts.

Also on Tuesday, the NFL suspended Rams player Alaric Jackson for two games without pay for punching the Bills' Bradley Chubb following the game.

Offensive tackle Jackson was caught on camera striking defensive linebacker Chubb in the face, following an apparent verbal altercation close to where on-field interviews were still taking place.

Jackson was suspended for "an act of unsportsmanlike conduct" while his fellow players "were shaking hands and exchanging jerseys," the NFL said in a statement. □

Rays punish error to beat Guardians 3-1 and level MLB playoff series

Miami, United States

Freddy Peralta pitched six scoreless innings as the Tampa Bay Rays exploited a costly Cleveland error to beat the Guardians 3-1 and tie up their American League Championship Series on Tuesday.

A fired-up Peralta, acquired mid-season from the floundering New York Mets, struck out four through his first two innings to put the pressure on Cleveland. The Rays took the lead as Ben Williamson's fourth-inning grounder bounced through the legs of Jose Ramirez to score Victor Mesa Jr, before Liam Hicks hit a two-run single on the very next pitch. Peralta completed six



Freddie Peralta #51 of the Tampa Bay Rays reacts against the Cleveland Guardians during the fifth inning in game two of the American League Championship Series at Tropicana Field on October 13, 2026 in St

scoreless innings for the first time in a post-season game. He struck out six, finishing with the strikeout of Petey Halpin on his 99th and final pitch, giving up four hits and two walks.

"It felt like that might have been his highest velocity we've seen... when you have that arsenal, no reason not to be confident," said Rays manager Kevin Cash.

"We were very fortunate to get him... we have certainly reaped the benefits."

Cleveland's Chase DeLauter drove in a one-run double in the top of the seventh, but it was not enough to prevent the Rays levelling the best-of-seven series 1-1.

The Rays had the best regular-season record in the AL, with 98 wins, but had lost 7-3 to a late-rallying Guardians team in Monday's game one.

That was the latest comeback for the Guardians, who had trailed their best-of-five division series to the Chicago White Sox 2-0 before improbably progressing.

The first three innings on Tuesday were scoreless for both teams.

But the Rays got on the board in the bottom of the fourth, capitalizing on Ramirez's huge two-out error to rack up three unearned runs.

With Mesa already on third base, Williamson struck the ball through the legs of third baseman Ramirez, who uncharacteristically appeared to misjudge the low bounce.

"It's a little bit faster here, this type of surface... the ball bounced right on the edge between the third and the tarp. So that's what made it more difficult for me. I tried to knock it down," said Ramirez.

Mesa dashed across home plate, and on the next pitch Hicks compounded the damage with a two-run single to right-center field to score Chandler Simpson and Williamson. □



Come and join the FUN!
Everyday from 10am till 6pm
We have DOUBLE points

BINGO
Play Every Day
Bingo starts at 4:30PM

Slot Play \$10
Match Play \$15

Sign up and become a VIP Member.
ID required upon redemption!

Operations Hours
Slots: 10am
Table: 4pm







Located at RIU Antillas. For more info call: 5257777 or Follow us on