



Conchi: Aruba's hidden natural pool



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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

PREMIUM
BRANDS
**



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



62 units



Top-of-the Line
Finishes



1, 2 & 3 br



Security &
Valet Parking



Ocean Views



Roof top pool
overlooking
the Caribbean



High Speed
Internet



Fitness Center



In the best block of a revitalized Oranjestad

info@casaplayaruba.com info@bluearubarealty.com

www.casaplayaruba.com

A PROJECT BY
PANA
GROUP



CASA PLAYA

RESIDENCES ARUBA

+297-594-6395

+297-565-4221

Pinchos Grill & Bar

Now celebrating over 20 years in business,
proudly owned and operated by Aruban local family.

Open 7 days a week, as of 5:00PM

Full Service Bar

Live Music Fridays & Sundays

Reservations: (297) 583 2666 or reservations@pinchosgrillaruba.com



Musk back in the spotlight, but politics dims the awe

Washington, United States

With a sports car that somersaults through the air, Elon Musk is back in the headlines for technological daring -- but his plunge into politics and his return to U.S. President Donald Trump's side mean the world's richest man no longer enjoys the unqualified praise of years past.

"All the things that we were promised since the 1950s, of space travel and flying cars... he's doing all of those things," said Andrew Selepak, a social media professor at the University of Florida.

"And yet we're not giving it the attention, we're not giving it the awe that it probably truly deserves," he added.

In recent weeks, Musk has seemed to be everywhere



A grab taken on October 16, 2026 from a live feed released by Tesla shows the company unveiling on October 15 its next-generation Roadster electric car in McGregor, Texas, United States.

at once.

On September 28, SpaceX's Starship megarocket reached orbit for the first time and deployed 26 Star-

link satellites before splashing down in the Pacific -- a milestone for the rocket central to Musk's Mars ambitions.

Musk's central role in geopolitics has also been on display, with Ukraine complaining of disruptions to the Starshield satellite communications system its military relies on.

Even the platform formerly known as Twitter is enjoying something of a renaissance, with Musk's X now the go-to social media app for Silicon Valley insiders and the main marketplace for talk about artificial intelligence.

But despite his continued success, Musk's unrelenting commitment to right-wing politics has taken a toll.

No image captured that shift more than Musk brandishing a chainsaw on stage in February 2025 -- a gift from Argentine President Javier Milei -- as a symbol of his drive to slash the U.S. government as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) in the early months of Trump's second term.

Through DOGE, Musk's allies fanned out across federal agencies, driving cuts that effectively dismantled the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and contributed to a net loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs.

- 'National treasure' -

That combative imagery has been matched by Musk's posts on X, where hardline anti-immigration views and right-wing conspiracy theories sit alongside posts about rocket launches and Tesla robotaxis.

Now Musk is back in Trump's

good graces, after a spectacular falling-out that followed his exit from DOGE in May 2025.

Last week, Trump presented Musk with the nation's top science medal, calling him a "national treasure" and "our modern-day Thomas Edison."

The renewed relationship comes as Musk has spent at least \$276 million on Republican political campaigns ahead of next month's mid-term elections, in which the president's party is expected to struggle.

Of that, \$158 million is funding a massive advertising campaign in Texas, Musk's home state, where the Republican candidate is trailing in the polls.

For left-leaning pundits, Musk is now increasingly seen as an agent of Trump and the tech billionaires rather than a technology savant working for the good of humanity.

That opposition plays out in "Musk," a four-hour documentary by Oscar-winning filmmaker Alex Gibney now in U.S. theaters, which traces the life and career of the South Africa-born billionaire.

"I once described him as somebody who can jump off the edge of a cliff and invent a parachute on the way down. I think he thrives on chaos," Musk's first wife Justine Musk, who features prominently in the film, told podcaster Kara Swisher.

Yet, she added, "I always assume that there's a method to his madness," and many of his loudest actions may in fact be deflections and "sleight of hand."

The same may be true of Musk's dealings with Washington.

Few entrepreneurs depend as heavily on the federal government as Musk does. SpaceX -- which went public in June in the largest initial public offering in history -- earns billions of dollars a year from NASA and Pentagon contracts, while Tesla's bet on robotaxis hinges on how quickly regulators allow driverless cars onto US roads.

Seen in that light, Musk's millions for Republicans may be less a political conversion than an investment.□

Paseo Herencia

**WEEKLY
LIVE SHOWS
8PM**

MON	LATIN DANCE SHOW <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

**WATERSHOWS
EVERY NIGHT AT**

7:30

8:30

9:30

Stores are open from Monday to Saturday 10am to 10pm and Sunday 5pm to 10pm
Located in Palm Beach high rise area, across the Holiday Inn Hotel
www.paseoherencia.com

Across U.S., 'No Kings' events seek to boost early voting

Washington, United States

Carrying an umbrella painted with the words "vote, power, people," retired teacher Sabine Carlson said the lesson plan for Saturday's "No Kings" marches was clear.

"It's great to voice your anger, and we have long lists of complaints, but the most important thing of all is to go and vote," the 66-year-old Democrat from Washington's suburbs told AFP.

At the demonstration near the country's Capitol, Carlson joined one of the estimated 3,000 events organized by the prominent anti-Trump movement across the United States on Saturday.

Rather than holding massive marches, the latest "No Kings" events varied across the country -- with honking convoys, concerts and neighborhood gatherings. It was the fourth iteration of the demonstrations since U.S. President Donald Trump returned to office.

The stated goal of the event was to fire up voters just as Americans begin casting ballots in the midterm elections, where majority Republicans face fierce opposition. Democrats are seeking to take control of Congress by campaigning on cost of living issues and an unpopular war in the Middle East.

Focused on early voting ahead of election day on November 3, the events



People take part in a "No Kings: Vote Early" demonstration in Wilton Manors, Florida, on October 17, 2026.

ranged from New York to Los Angeles and other blue stronghold cities, to small towns across the nation.

"I think it's one of the most important votes that is coming up, and it's really important to make people aware, and also make sure they know where to look up the procedures and make sure they're registered correctly," Carlson said.

"Don't go to the wrong polling station."

- 'An act of joy' -

Most areas of the United States allow voters to cast their ballots ahead of time, sometimes weeks in ad-

vance.

Alma Couverthie, who oversees grassroots organizing efforts for democracy watchdog Common Cause, said the point of the "No Kings" rallies was "reclaiming voting for what it truly is: an act of power, an act of service, and an act of joy."

Trump has openly criticized the practice of mail-in voting, and opponents have expressed concern that the administration will attempt to undermine the results -- especially if Republicans end up losing, as opinion polls show is likely.

By advocating for voting early, "No Kings" organizers

hope to cut off the potential for any malfeasance.

"The best way to prevent any funny business from this administration after election day is to make sure that our turnout is massive, so clear and so overwhelming that our victory for democracy is impossible to question," Couverthie said.

- 'We want our country back' -

One 52-year-old military veteran who joined Saturday's protest did so seeking catharsis from the current state of American politics.

"I am so disillusioned by what I thought I was serving versus what this country has be-

come," the Virginia resident told AFP, declining to give his name.

"Over the last 18 months -- I finally came to this conclusion about six months ago -- I've been mourning my country."

Carrying an umbrella with the message "Vote for humanity. End this circus now. We want our country back," he said he hoped to see "a robust response come November 3 from the American people."

Beyond Washington, like-minded Americans echoed his hopes and fears.

Outside a church in Gastonia, North Carolina, women carried signs that read "Honk for Democracy" and "Make a plan to vote!"

In Portland, Maine, demonstrators bundled up against the autumn chill waved the American flag and carried signs reading "Your Vote is Your Voice" and "No Kings, No Cowards Collins," in reference to Republican incumbent Senator Susan Collins, who faces a tough re-election race.

In Wilton Manors, Florida, demonstrators spent the sunny day sporting shorts and sunglasses, carrying signs reading "Enough is enough."

"Trump is destroying America" and "Democracy not Autocracy," some signs read in Atlanta, Georgia. □

Trump unveils Washington golf course plan amid legal fight

Washington, United States

President Donald Trump on Sunday unveiled his plans for overhauling a beloved municipal golf course in the U.S. capital, a project already mired in a contentious legal fight.

On Truth Social, Trump posted a mockup of an 18-hole course which would dramatically change the historic East Potomac Golf Links, saying construction is set to start in November.

"When completed, it will be open to the Public while, at the same time, designed to the Highest Level of Golf and able to hold World Class Tournaments such as the U.S.

Open, the PGA Championship, the Ryder Cup, and the Presidents Cup," Trump said. A federal judge last week excoriated the Trump administration for cutting down hundreds of trees at the golf course with less than a day's notice, in an apparent circumvention of her previous order requiring prior notification of such work.

Judge Ana Reyes has scheduled a follow-up hearing for Monday and ordered senior officials with the Interior Department, which oversees the property, to testify.

The Trump administration has meanwhile asked for Reyes

to recuse herself from the matter, claiming she has shown "animus" toward the government.

The redesign of the East Potomac Golf Links, which has operated for over a century, is just one of Trump's pet projects to unilaterally remake Washington during his second and final term in office.

Others include the construction of a massive White House ballroom that required demolishing the entire historic East Wing, overhauling the Kennedy Center arts venue and plans for an immense triumphal arch.

Those projects have all simi-



Golfers continue to use East Potomac Golf Course as stumps of large trees are seen following the Trump administration's removal of at least 430 trees over the weekend in Washington, D.C., on October 14, 2026.

larly been met with various legal challenges, including claims that Congress must give its consent to such large changes.

The course is situated on an island in the Potomac River,

and is currently surrounded by roads and paths frequently used by bikers, picnickers and for fishing.

The design Trump posted Sunday appears to eliminate those public areas. □

Hollywood's fresh take on tech titans: from heroes to villains

Los Angeles, United States

Hollywood has found its new favorite villain: the onetime heroes of Silicon Valley.

From convicted biotech fraudster Elizabeth Holmes to tech giants Elon Musk, Mark Zuckerberg and Sam Altman, the marquee names are dominated by the headline makers who have wowed the world -- and the markets -- with promises of innovation.

"These figures used to be more on the aspirational side," Monica Castillo, the film critic for the pop culture website The A.V. Club, told AFP.

"They were larger-than-life figures who bootstrapped their way to multibillion dollar companies, and they were kind of seen as heroes who were like changing the world," Castillo said.

"Then now... there's sort of a level of disillusionment."

Castillo said the world is now asking "harder questions" of its tech heroes, adding: "There's a little bit more reflection because of what's happened with this generation."

Silicon Valley was once seen as a breeding ground for progressive-minded entrepreneurs, their politics running in parallel with their innovative solutions.

But lately, many of the industry's A-listers have switched allegiance to US President Donald Trump and his "America First" policies.



British-U.S. actor Andrew Garfield poses on the red carpet upon arrival to attend the International premiere of the film "Artificial" at the Royal Festival Hall in London, October 11, 2026, during the BFI London Film Festival.

"Musk," Alex Gibney's searing four-hour documentary about the world's richest man, dissects the career of the South Africa-born head of SpaceX and Tesla, from his beginnings as a tech genius to his alliance with Trump and the Republican Party. Also in theaters is "The Social Reckoning," Aaron Sorkin's follow-up to his Oscar-winning 2010 film "The Social Network."

This time around, rather than trace the meteoric rise of the Facebook wunderkind, writer-director Sorkin tells the story of company whistleblower Frances Haugen (Oscar winner Mikey Madison) and how she revealed

some of its more nefarious practices.

One of those was how its algorithms amplified hate speech by keeping users on the platform for as long as possible, and the dramatic consequences of that decision.

The films highlight how Musk and Zuckerberg amassed so much power that they were affecting US government policy, and how that reverberated around the world.

- 'Terrifying' -

No one is seen with a more skeptical and critical eye in Big Tech than Holmes, who once upended the biotechnology sector with Theranos,

which pledged that it could perform a host of medical tests using only a few drops of blood.

But the now-defunct company couldn't deliver, Holmes was sentenced to more than 11 years in prison for fraud and conspiracy, and her fall from grace is chronicled in the buzzy documentary "You Can See Everything."

Holmes unexpectedly opened her home to co-directors Nathan Fielder and Lance Oppenheim in the 34 days before heading to a Texas prison in a bid to tell her story in her own words. They eventually moved in. The result -- a strange mix of documentary and reality

television -- is earning serious Oscars buzz.

Back on the fiction side, Italian director Luca Guadagnino's "Artificial" stars Andrew Garfield as OpenAI chief Altman, who changed the world with his generative artificial intelligence tool ChatGPT.

Matt Neglia, the editor in chief of the weekly audio and video show Next Best Picture, called the film "as entertaining as it is terrifying." "It's a brilliantly written human story about power, control, ambition and greed that might be the most urgently relevant film of our time," Neglia said.

- 'Social anxieties' -

For J.M. Tyree, a professor of cinema at Virginia Commonwealth University and the editor in chief of Film Quarterly, "popular movies always are reflecting these social anxieties of the day."

"Right now, people are really worried about power being concentrated into the hands of just a few individuals at the expense of most of the rest of the citizens," Tyree told AFP.

People have lost faith in "zillionaire tech moguls," and are starting to see their flaws, he added.

"That's maybe a common thread of these films, is that they're not just holding wealth for themselves, but also their products don't seem to be very good for society," Tyree said. □



Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi walks on the red carpet during the closing ceremony of the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) at the Busan Cinema Center in Busan on October 15, 2026.

Iran's 'Midday Meal' takes top prize at Asia's biggest film fest

Seoul, South Korea

Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi's "Midday Meal" took home the top prize at South Korea's Busan film festival on Thursday, claiming along with it automatic eligibility for the Oscars' international feature category. The Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), Asia's largest, launched its first true competition section only last year. This year's lineup featured 13 contenders -- including a trio of South Korean titles.

A jury led by Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou ("Raise the Red Lantern") chose Majidi's drama about a

teacher in a poor Iranian village who is forced to turn to smuggling to keep his school afloat.

"I think it's thanks to the love and energy my mother gave me before she passed away a few months before filming began," Majidi said via an interpreter in accepting the award.

He went on to praise the Iranian people for having "never given up" despite the ongoing conflict with the United States, years of legal sanctions and a lack of access to medicine.

This year's win carries special significance as the U.S.-based Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in

May revamped longstanding rules governing the selection of eligible titles for what was once known as the foreign language Oscar.

Winning one of a group of six film festivals, a list that includes Busan, Cannes, Berlin and others, now grants immediate eligibility.

The category had previously been limited to a single film per country chosen by an Academy-approved selection committee.

The broad list of contenders is then winnowed down to just five nominees.

Busan, long an incubator for Asian film talent,

opened its 31st edition with a screening of director Kim Jong-kwan's "The Table: Day and Night", an intimate Korean drama.

Oscar-winning actress Michelle Yeoh received this year's Asian Filmmaker of the Year prize, while Hong Kong filmmaker Ann Hui received the Camellia Award for her contributions to empowering women in the industry.

A total of 315 films were screened at this year's festival, with 246 officially selected titles making up its largest lineup since 2019.

The festival drew more than 200,000 visitors, organisers said Thursday. □

Alberta separatists rally ahead of independence vote

Edmonton, Canada

Supporters of Alberta's independence from Canada gathered Saturday in the provincial capital to urge residents to vote in favor of holding a future referendum on the issue.

Albertans go to the polls on Monday to decide whether to move forward with a formal independence process, a pivotal test for the country as it experiences strained relations with the United States.

"Canada's dragging this down a dark hole, being led by somebody like Mr Carney," Jeffrey Rath, a prominent figure of the separatist movement, told AFP at the rally in front of the provincial parliament in Edmonton.

Prime Minister Mark Carney "literally wants us now to join Europe after he's obliterated our relationship with the United States of America," he said, referring to Carney's move to bolster ties with the European Union.



Protestors participate in an Alberta Independence Rally in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on October 17, 2026.

Carney welcomed a proposal for his country to become the European Union's first "associate member" in September, drawing ire from U.S. President Donald Trump.

Polls suggest only about a

quarter of Alberta's roughly five million people want to leave Canada.

But Carney has warned that supporters of Canadian unity might not turn out to vote.

"It is a dangerous bluff. This is not poker... this is the fu-

ture of our country," he said in an interview posted to his X account on Saturday.

Alberta's right-wing Premier Danielle Smith heads a coalition that includes a substantial number of separatists, who gathered signatures to trigger a citizen-

led referendum on leaving Canada.

After a judge blocked the citizen-led referendum over constitutional concerns, Smith called her own, non-binding vote, saying Albertans deserved the chance to express themselves on independence.

If a majority votes for independence, she has committed to launching a legally binding separation process.

The vote comes as Canada experiences strained relations with the United States, marked by tariffs and territorial threats.

Trump allies have taken interest in the vote. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Alberta would be a "natural partner for the U.S."

The country is also facing independence ambitions in the French-speaking province of Quebec.

The Parti Quebecois, which won the elections in early October, has pledged to hold a new referendum on independence. □

'We've never had this': Bear sightings spook Russia

Irkutsk, Russia

Seeing what looked like a brown blob in a tree while driving through Siberia's Irkutsk region, 36-year-old Daria Tyurneva pulled over, curious to get a better look. She was not expecting to find a bear cub, perched on a branch, several feet up. "We stopped, without turning off the engine or taking off the gear, because we knew the mother could be somewhere nearby," Tyurneva told AFP, showing a phone video she recorded of the bear.

Her sighting was one of several to spook Russians in recent weeks, as the country grapples with a spate of deadly bear attacks.

Russia is home to the world's largest population of brown bears. Experts say interactions with bears are becoming more common, as habitat loss and climate change force the animals to find food where humans live. Their numbers have more than doubled since 1990, from around 130,000 to almost 308,000 in 2026, ac-

cording to an estimate from Russia's natural resources ministry. While the number of bear attacks across Russia has remained constant at around 20 to 30 a year, according to the ministry, a series of recent maulings has caused alarm.

At least 26 people have been killed in bear attacks this year, seven of which were in Siberia's vast Krasnodar region, according to Russian state media.

In September, a bear was reported to have killed a 66-year-old woman after dragging her from her window, while a week later, a 39-year-old logger was killed guarding machinery in a forest.

A Siberian town reported last month that it was "under siege" from the furry animals.

- 'I started fighting it' -

Bears flee in the vast majority of encounters with humans, according to the Russian government.

The number of deadly attacks this year has not yet reached the record of

around 80 deaths, last seen in 1996, according to the state-owned TASS news agency.

This year has seen abnormally large bear sightings, said Mikhail Strelkov, a ranger in the Lake Baikal national park.

"We've never had this," he told AFP of the recent incursions of bears into urban areas.

"There is no pine nut in the forest, the main food source that the bear eats and uses to fatten before hibernation," he added.

He showed AFP videos his team had recorded of bears frolicking at the edge of Lake Baikal, one of which scampered away upon hearing their boat approach.

Vladimir Odulo, an angler from Russia's far east, told the Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper in October how a female bear rushed at him on the banks of a river.

"Believe it or not, I didn't even have time to get scared. I started fighting it off with my fishing rod," he said.

He said he escaped after a



This handout photograph taken in late May 2026 and provided by the National Park "Zapovednoye Pribaikalye", shows a brown bear in the park's area.

fight that left him with injuries across his body.

- 'Not afraid of bears' -

Authorities have introduced curfews in some municipalities and formed bands of hunters but some environmental activists say the government may be overestimating the bear population. So far, in 2026, officials have culled more than "3,400 dangerous bears", TASS reported earlier in October.

Alla, a Russian tourist whom AFP met at the entrance to

a hiking trail near Lake Baikal, said she turned back after seeing a sign warning of bears.

"Maybe I will come again to see. Maybe in summer, maybe in winter, when they're hibernating," she said.

Other tourists were unfazed. "I'm not afraid of bears," said 39-year-old Chinese tourist Nick, who also only gave one name.

Brown bears eat a mixed diet that can include up to 90 percent fruit and vegetation. □

Tiny Fiji village restores dying fishery with coral planting

Naidiri, Fiji

It had been decades since sharks last patrolled the reef off the coast of Fiji's Naidiri Village, but they returned this year following a community-led effort to protect the fishery and plant thousands of corals.

Manoa Duwai convinced his village in 2009 to create a protected area within their customary fishing grounds on Fiji's Coral Coast after concerns over the small number and size of fish he was catching.

At the time, he was lucky to catch a fish as big as his palm.

"Man, imagine 10, 15, 20 years to come, what we going to have," Duwai said after a fishing trip one night yielded only tiny, juvenile fish. "What type of species are we going to have left in our customary fishing ground? We have to do something," he said.

Duwai approached village elders with a proposal to protect part of their fishing grounds, originally a 30-by-40-metre area within the reef.

It didn't take long for the plan to bear fruit, with larger fish finding a home in the protected area and then spreading into the neighbouring waters.

In time, the village increased the size of the protected



This picture taken on October 5, 2026, shows villagers collecting healthy coral to plant within the Naidiri Marine Biodiversity Park, a marine protected area about 52 kilometers from the Fijian city of Nadi.

area to 280 by 240 metres. It is now flanked by a similar-sized area they call "the fridge", which they temporarily closed as a way to build up fish stocks.

Duwai's vision for a plentiful marine habitat that would sustain his village of 147 people has now received global praise, with academics and charities seeking his insights.

- Youth ownership -

Joseva Kunagado, 21, leads the youth of Naidiri Village in preserving the health of their protected area.

The village formed a youth group in 2011 to manage what they call the "tabu area", and the group leads the effort to plant corals and encourage a healthy ecosystem.

In 2023 alone, the group planted 18,000 corals and 10,000 mangroves.

"When we started this we were small kids," Kunagado told AFP.

"We used to take some barrels, cut it in half, tie the rope on it, and we pull it. We have to walk for maybe 20 minutes to get corals, come back

and plant. "From that to today, we can say that we are very happy on the work that we have done because we've seen big changes."

The protected area Kuna-gado and his friends have cultivated is bursting with corals and is now home to hundreds of heat-resistant "super corals" that may protect the village from the impacts of rising sea temperatures.

Sharks have started returning to the area.

Far from being scared, Duwai said he shed a tear when

they came back this year. "When things started to come back, different types of fish species, invertebrates, all back, I'm like the most happiest person in the whole village," Duwai said.

Kunagado said he'd seen sharks the morning of AFP's visit. He smiled with pride at the state of the fishery.

"We didn't see this coming, like having tourists coming, having researchers, students from universities coming. So we're proud of the work."

- Super corals -

Researchers are interested in not only how Naidiri Village has protected their marine ecosystem, but also specific corals showing extraordinary heat resistance.

Duwai said water temperatures reached up to 39C during a heatwave earlier this year, and there was widespread bleaching of the thousands of planted corals. At those temperatures, most of the coral should have died, but Duwai said 20 per cent survived and are considered "super corals".

"The only corals we have here now are the ones who survived this 38, 39 degrees."

Duwai said Naidiri is now transplanting their heat-resistant corals to deeper, cooler waters close to the capital Suva to further protect from future heatwaves. □

Venezuela opposition alliance reaffirms Nobel laureate Machado as leader

Caracas, Venezuela

An alliance of Venezuelan opposition parties on Sunday reaffirmed exiled Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Corina Machado as its leader, increasing pressure on interim authorities to allow her return.

The coalition's announcement -- part of a new "Grand National Agreement" -- comes amid a third round of political transition talks between an opposition faction and the interim government, following the US ouster of longtime leader Nicolas Maduro in January.

Machado, who is currently living in Panama and not



Gustavo Ruiz (2-L), state coordinator in Zulia for Vente Venezuela, the political party led by Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, is welcomed by party members upon his arrival at Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, La Guaira state, Venezuela, on October 15, 2026, after a period in exile.

leading those talks, has said she will not interfere in the process, which has the

backing of Washington. Members of the opposition's Unitary Democratic

Platform "recognize and support the leadership of Maria Corina Machado," according to the text of their agreement, presented after meetings in Caracas.

"We are now going to move forward with one of the initiatives that I consider the most powerful, most potent and most necessary, and that will be recognized around the world: our great agreement for rebuilding the republic," said Machado, who participated virtually.

Maduro was captured in January by the US military and flown to stand trial in New York, with his deputy

Delcy Rodriguez assuming power in his place and governing under intense pressure from Washington.

At the Caracas meeting, members of the alliance put forward 14 proposals for restoring democracy in Venezuela, along with a roadmap for holding general elections.

The alliance also demanded the unconditional release of all political prisoners, an end to political repression and the right of exiles to return home.

"We are at the beginning of a new era. We will finally make the liberal democratic republic a reality... Venezuela will be free," Machado said. □

Unique fauna of Aruba

For a small island, Aruba sure has a lot of unique treasures. Among these, we have some subspecies of animals that are unique to our island. These have evolved to perfectly adapt to our desert climate and make Aruba their home. At the same time, they are part of what makes Aruba truly one of a kind.

Shoco (burrowing owl, *Athene cunicularia arubensis*)

The shoco is a small bird which is seldom seen. They are active during the day but are more active later in the day and at night for hunting. These owls have very good night vision and very good hearing. The shoco is the national symbol of Aruba.

The shoco has about 20cm of length, and the females are slightly heavier than the males. They are light brown in color, with many white spots. The belly of the shoco is either white or light brown, and the shoco has striking yellow eyes. Its beak is yellow/green. Young owls do not have white spots and are lighter in color.

The nest of the shoco is a burrow in the ground. If the shoco cannot find a burrow, it will dig one in soft soil. The shoco lays one or two eggs every other day until all the eggs are laid – a shoco can lay up to four eggs. The first owlets hatch after three to four weeks. The shoco owl takes care of the owlets for three months until they leave the nest. Only a few owlets survive.

The owls dig burrows in the ground with low grass vegetation. An owl can live up to nine years.

Its defense mechanism is simply to fly away or retreat to its burrows. They eat mostly insects, mice and lizards, and the main threats to their survival are boas – an invasive species introduced by humans as pets – and humans through destruction of their habitat.

Prikichi (parakeet, *Aratinga pertinax*)

The Prikichi is the national bird of Aruba. On Aruba,

Bonaire, and Curaçao, parakeets can be found, but each of the three islands has a different breed. The Yellow-shouldered Amazon parakeet that we have on Aruba is also found along the coast of Venezuela. Unfortunately, there is interbreeding between the breeds due to cage birds from, for example, Curaçao being released on Aruba. The parakeet population on Aruba is in danger due to extensive deforestation occurring on the island because of the growing population.

The prikichi weighs between 90 to 100 grams. It has a greenish-brown head with some yellow around the eye. The back and wings of the parakeet are dark green, and the underside of the body is a lighter shade of green. There is also a bit of blue in the wings. The parakeet's beak is gray/black.

Parakeets often use termite nests as breeding sites. Parakeets are found in all natural environments (mondi) of the island. It defends itself by flying away and loud cries. Parakeets eat seeds from the pods of the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi, and columnar cactus. They also consume natural fruits. Its main predators are boa constrictors, humans.



Coneu (cottontail rabbit, *Sylvilagus floridanus nigrionuchalis*)

The Eastern Cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) was probably brought over to the island by Indian settlers thousands of years ago as a source of food. This rabbit, locally known as Coneu, has spread all over the island and has become part of our ecosystem. The very adaptable Coneu can live in a wide variety of habitats, including Aruba's xeric scrublands, where it

typically grazes on weeds and grasses.

The Aruban Coneu has a brownish grey color and a distinctive white belly. This white fur extends to the bottom of the tail which becomes visible as the rabbit runs. These rabbits can grow up to approximately 40 centimeters in length over their short lifespan of 3 years. Cottontail rabbits reach reproductive maturity when they are just 2 to 3 months old. A female rabbit, called a doe, finds a suitable nest spot under a shrub or rocks and lines it with fur. She can have an average of 3 to 4 litters per year averaging 5 young each. The doe only visits her young once or twice a day to nurse her babies for a period of 2 to 3 weeks. The young reach independence



at 4 to 5 weeks.

The Aruban Coneu is an endangered species and protected by Aruban law. The Coneu is thought to have drastically declined due to an increase in human activities, habitat fragmentation and predation by the invasive Boa constrictor as well as feral cats and dogs. However, recently there seem to be more rabbit sightings in

rural and wilderness areas and also in the National Park. This could be linked to a recent decline of the invasive Boa population after the long period of drought. As the Coneu can reproduce very quickly, a short break in predation pressure can lead to a fast increase of rabbits. These are but a few of Aruba's beautiful inhabitant, which we must all contribute to protect. □

TIERRA DEL SOL
by IBEROSTAR®

Perfect swings.
Paradise feeling

Tee Times starting after 1PM
Gather your friends and enjoy an unforgettable afternoon on the greens for just

\$195
PER PERSON + TAX

Your golf experience includes:

- 18 Holes of Golf
- Golf Club Rental
- One Sleeve of Pinnacle Golf Balls
- One Complimentary Drink at the 19th Hole Bar after your round

For more information or reservations
tdsgl5@iberostar.com

Discover all the benefits that Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has to offer



Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites has been providing quality service in Aruba since 1995. On the premises are a total of 73 apartments (46 Studio, 22 loft apartments & 5 suites).

Known for its cleanliness, quiet atmosphere, hospitality at affordable daily and monthly rates. All 73 apartments are fully furnished and non-smoking. There is free WIFI on the premises and free international phone calls from the comfort of your room. There is a fresh-water pool, a fitness room and a laundry room. 2 BBQ sets outside. Free parking. And a security guard at night.

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites is conveniently located less than 1 mile from Aruba's beautiful Eagle Beach, restaurants, hospital / pharmacy, casino's, 2 large supermarkets, car rentals, IMAX cinema and a golf course.

So please, for your next trip to Aruba book directly with us at Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites.

Don't hesitate to contact us... Marisella, Aislinn, Janique & Alec. ☐

Aruba Quality Apartments & Suites
Tel: (297)-582-0697
WhatsApp: (297)-734-3008

Email:
info@arubaqualityapartments.com

Website:
www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Toll Free Calls from the USA & Canada: 1-888-415-1095

Toll Free Calls from the Netherlands: 085-009-0218

Office Hours: Monday – Friday: 8am-7pm. Saturday & Sunday: 9am-5pm.

Facebook: @qualityapartments
Instagram: aruba_quality_apts



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

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

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

Aruba Online ED Card

The Aruban Government welcomes you and your family to Aruba.

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

What you'll need:

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

What you should note:

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

START

local waste water plant. First things first, make sure you have the right website. The official website for the ED card is www.edcardaruba.aw. It is important to note that there are NO alternatives for this website; this website is the ONLY way you can obtain an official ED card. Other website that may look similar are not official and may possibly be a scam. Be careful not to fall for the trap!

Next up, make sure you

have the right information with you when you apply for an ED card. You should have on hand:

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

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

than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

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

If you extend your trip, you

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

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

Help FUDA with a last wishambulance for Aruba!



Donation: CMB#65550908

All beneficiary will receive a Teddy Bear!

THE WEST DECK **WEEKLY SPECIALS** OPEN HOURS 10:30 AM - 11:00 PM
ISLAND GRILL • BEACH BAR • RESERVATIONS@THEWESTDECK.COM TEL: 587-2667 SPECIALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

MARGARITA MONDAY
Starting at \$10

TACO TUESDAY
Beef, Chicken or Shrimp Tacos starting at \$15

WING WEDNESDAY
By the dozen \$18

@THEWESTDECK

Conchi: Aruba's hidden natural pool

(Oranjestad)—Amongst the countless beaches surrounding the island that are well-known and frequently visited, there is an additional “hidden” natural pools that is situated in the northern coast of the island, two ideal stops in your tour itinerary. This is Conchi.

Conchi (Natural Pool)

For many years, Conchi was the only natural pool that we had on the island. Located in the Arikok National Park, near Boca Keto and the Daimari Ranch, Conchi—also known “Cura di Turtuga (Turtle’s Cove) or just Natural Pool—is reachable with any 4x4 vehicle or by foot if you’re up for a long hike. However, since it is part of the National Park, you must first get permission from park management to enter. You would have to purchase a day pass, and receive a wristband as



proof of payment. Once you are set! you’ve completed that,

If you decide to hike from the entrance of the Arikok

National Park, this is also possible: do bring plenty of protective clothing and enough water and food—it could take you up to three hours to hike there!

However, when you eventually do get there, you will be greeted with crystal blue water surrounded by a natural rock formation that protects you from the wild waves on the other side. Though the pool is located on the northern side of the island (where the sea is largely rough and largely no suitable for swimming), the pool itself is very calm. It’s also relatively deep, and you can climb up the rocks and jump in!

Fun fact: “Conchi” means small bowl in Papiamentu. Once you get there, you may see why we call it that. □

Why You Should Not Miss Aruba's Free City Center Street Car Tour

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's City Center Street Car – or as we call it in Dutch; “Tram van Oranjestad” – is a single track tram line in Oranjestad, the capital city of Aruba. It was inaugurated on 22 December 2012, being the first and so far the only passenger rail service on Aruba and the rest of the Dutch Caribbean. There are two trolleys, a single-deck one with 42 seats and a double-decker with 64 seats. The line was inspired by the popular battery-powered streetcar operation at the Grove in Los Angeles, USA. Aruba's streetcars are powered by hydrogen fuel cells, which are charged by the island's year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our “main street” has been devel-



oped into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the downtown area with a picture perfect scenery of the is-

land's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximate-

ly 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the

Protestant church, Aruba's high-end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The “I love Aruba” trademark also belongs to that list.

The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

The “Tram van Oranjestad” starts from a balloon loop near the Port of Call and serves the downtown area and ends at Plaza Nicky. The first ride starts at 10:00 am sharp with intervals of 25 minutes. The last trolley departs from the cruise port at 5:00 pm. Don't miss this tour of the beautiful Aruba's City Center – it is free for all! □

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Silvester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph



Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they began to build their homes

further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With

a lot of work they found the old foundations of the Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these

houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Aruban snacks and where to find them

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals. One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is

a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bit-terbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes, typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and



healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.

- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! □

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com



Aruba's Hospital Crisis Demands a Decision Patients Can Trust

Protect care now, verify the numbers and build a health system that can serve Aruba through 2051

A dispute over hospital funding becomes a test of national leadership when uncertainty threatens patients' access to treatment. Aruba's immediate priority must be a binding, fully funded agreement that protects essential hospital care while independent experts examine the disputed costs.

Public reporting already makes the urgency clear. In September, Jacco Vroegop, director of Horacio Oduber Hospital, told NoticiaCla that talks had been underway since February without a concrete resolution. He attributed the pressure to rising demand and higher costs, saying money earmarked for modernization had been used to cover shortfalls. These are the hospital's explanations, and they require independent scrutiny. They nevertheless demand a timely response.[1]

AZV has also outlined the steps it has taken. In a public statement to Aruba Native on September 11, the agency said it had provided 16 million Aruban florins (AWG) in advance payments since February and was considering additional support pending joint studies.[2] On October 2, 24ora reported the government's position: Costs must be investigated while the quality and accessibility of care are maintained, without cutting services.[3]

Those positions leave one practical question unanswered: What funded arrangement will turn those assurances into care people can count on?

Bridge funding with safeguards

Within 72 hours, the government, AZV and SZA, the foundation that runs the hospital, should agree on a 90-day plan to maintain care. This is a proposed deadline, intended to bring urgency and accountability to the response.

The amount should be determined by a verified 13-week cash-flow forecast that accounts for existing payments and advances. The plan should cover essential staff, medications, diagnostics and supplies, along with the

resources needed to safely restore capacity cut for financial reasons. Immediate needs must be distinguished from accumulated, disputed claims.

An initial payment based on verified figures should go ahead while the remaining numbers are reconciled. Funds should be released in monitored installments, with clear rules on eligible expenses and subsequent reconciliation. The agreement must preserve each party's position on disputed obligations from the past.

The ministers of health and finance should identify the legal budgetary authority for the arrangement, the source of the funds and the implications for public finances. AZV should specify its contribution and payment schedule. SZA should publish a clinically reviewed recovery plan that assigns operational responsibilities to named individuals. An independent financial reviewer should track spending, while the Health Inspectorate assesses safety and access within its mandate.

Patients need information, too. A publicly available dashboard, updated weekly, should show cancellations, wait times, available treatment capacity, critical supply disruptions and overdue payments, without disclosing personal medical information.

A formal review after 30 days should establish whether the funding is actually restoring services. Before the arrangement expires, the parties should approve either a sustainable successor or a justified extension. A temporary agreement must not lead to another financial cliff that everyone can see coming.

Delay carries a cost

Protecting emergency care alone is an inadequate policy goal. Some treatments are time-sensitive long before a patient reaches the emergency department.

A systematic review in The BMJ found an association between treatment delays and higher mortality across several

cancer treatment indications. [4] That research does not establish that Aruba's financial dispute has caused deaths. It does show why the clinical consequences of waiting must be weighed alongside the financial calculations.

There are budget risks as well. Deferred treatment may require more complex procedures later. Limited capacity can increase reliance on care abroad. Those potential costs should be measured locally, along with transportation, staffing, lost work time and the expense of clearing accumulated backlogs. Spending postponed today cannot automatically be booked as savings.

Public finances deserve a fuller explanation

In its response to the second-quarter budget execution report, Aruba's Board of Financial Supervision (CAft) recorded a provisional financing surplus of AWG 412 million for the collective sector and a surplus of AWG 45 million at AZV through that quarter.[5]

These figures do not constitute a freely available hospital rescue fund. Cash availability, reserves, existing commitments, budgetary authority and debt obligations must all be considered. The same oversight body stressed the importance of debt reduction and identified shortcomings in the financial reporting of several public institutions.

But favorable reported results make a transparent explanation essential. The government and AZV should show which funds can lawfully support continuity of care, which amounts are already committed elsewhere and what adjustments would be needed. The hospital must substantiate its costs, receivables, purchasing decisions and recovery plan.

Public funds and hospital spending both deserve scrutiny. Neither that scrutiny nor the negotiations should leave patients without a working arrangement to keep care available.

Establish who pays for care



One publicly identified point of contention concerns treatment for people not covered by AZV. In September, Aruba.nu reported Vroegop's claim that more than AWG 29 million in unpaid care for undocumented residents had accumulated.[6] That is the hospital's reported claim, not a fact established by a court. The government has said the figures must be examined.[3]

Aruba should establish an explicit budget mechanism for a defined scope of medically necessary care for people without AZV coverage. It should be accounted for separately, with clear eligibility rules, verified reimbursements and transparent reporting. Historical claims should be reconciled separately from payment for current treatment.

People who need urgent care should receive it within a clear funding framework. The institution providing that care should know which entity bears the cost.

Building for the next 25 years

The immediate agreement should launch a national health compact for 2027–2051, backed by all political parties and translated into fully funded five-year programs.

From 2027 to 2031, Aruba should establish reliable data on costs and care delivered, multiyear purchasing agreements, workforce planning and a funded maintenance and replacement schedule. Contracts should distinguish the cost of keeping essential care available from payments for treatment, with transparent adjustments as demand and costs change.

Governance must assign responsibilities clearly. The government should set policy and funding priorities; AZV should purchase care against defined access and quality requirements; providers should account for the care they deliver and its cost; and independent oversight should assess safety and financial management. Appointments should follow publicly stated qualification criteria, with dis-

closure of conflicts of interest and meaningful patient representation.

From 2032 to 2041, investment should increasingly connect hospital services with primary care, prevention, chronic disease treatment and management, rehabilitation and care for older adults. Funding should reward measurable access and quality without encouraging unnecessary treatment or the avoidance of patients with complex needs.

From 2042 to 2051, capacity and funding should be reassessed against updated projections for population trends, disease patterns and staffing. Regional partnerships should support services Aruba cannot safely or affordably sustain on its own. Technology investments must demonstrate clinical value, feasible staffing requirements and their full lifetime costs.

The compact should be reviewed every five years. Its purpose is to maintain a steady course as circumstances change.

Aruba can protect patients while demanding reliable numbers. Its leaders must now publish the funding decision, the timetable for restoring services and the names of those responsible for delivering it. Patients need an agreement they can trust.

Public sources

[1] NoticiaCla, September 17, 2026: The hospital has been in talks since February, but a solution remains elusive as October approaches.

[2] Aruba Native, September 11, 2026: AZV statement on HOH.

[3] 24ora, October 2, 2026: Government, HOH and AZV work on hospital costs.

[4] Hanna et al., The BMJ, November 4, 2020: Mortality due to delays in cancer treatment.

[5] CAft: Response to Aruba's second budget execution report for 2026, letter dated August 28, published August 31.

[6] Aruba.nu, September 20, 2026: HOH prepares legal proceedings over unpaid care.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

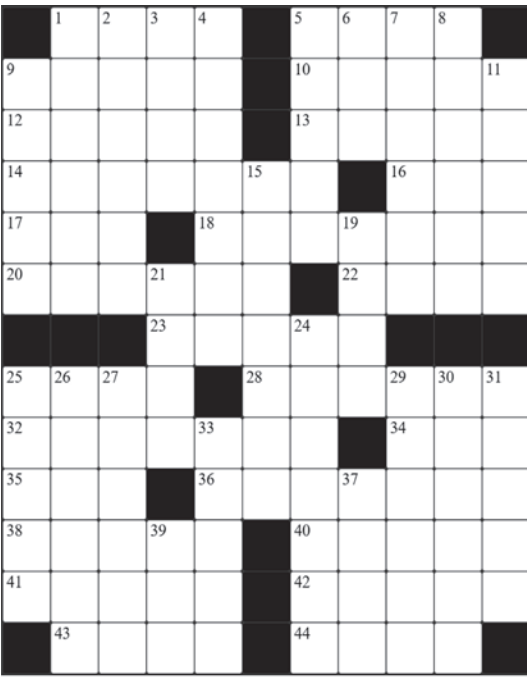
1. Trapper's wares
5. Blacken
9. Roofed patio
10. Caesar, for one
12. "I have half -- to ..."
13. Recital piece
14. Old fashioned ingredient
16. Bar concern
17. Wallet bill
18. Tops, as toast
20. Station worker
22. Wee
23. Band-leader Shaw
25. Iowa State setting
28. Still green
32. Hit seekers
34. German article
35. Volcano product
36. Im-proves
38. Map ratio
40. Wipe
- clear
41. Accolade
42. Spoof
43. Phone message
44. Spotted

DOWN

1. Drought byproduct
2. In agreement
3. Crazy talk
4. Courtroom conference
5. Wave peak
6. Sizzling
7. Lucky charm
8. Air traffic aids
9. Toil away
11. Full of info
15. Burst
19. Stadium section
21. Play group
24. Foot parts
25. Dis-concert
26. School symbol
27. Fuel gas
29. Think
30. Chapel worker
31. German steel city
33. Re-viewer Roger
37. Factual
39. Bagel topper



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

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

9-26

CRYPTOQUOTE

O I D U W G T D N , V B E I X
E I N J V E Q X V N J T E W
R H D N T V E N W , Z A N N J H L V Q J N
I O N J H L N T D L U T B H L U H
C D H T U . - - - Y V E R H E N Y T E Q I Q J

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THINK WELL OF ALL,
BE PATIENT WITH ALL, AND TRY TO FIND THE
GOOD IN ALL. - MUHAMMAD ALI

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 Tele-



graph, 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 occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

20 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
21 WED	EURODAM Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: C ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
22 THU	NIEUW AMSTERDAM Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: B CARIBBEAN PRINCESS Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
25 SUN	CORAL PRINCESS Arrival: 10:00 Departure: 22:00 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

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

Difficulty: ★

10/19

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

10/18

Leaders weigh 'huge benefit', risks of AI for global economy

Bangkok, Thailand

The artificial intelligence boom has been a key driver of global growth, but also poses economic risks should investment in the technology falter, experts and policymakers said this week at the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok.

Propelled by spending on data centres and microchips, AI has helped cushion the economic shock of rising global energy prices caused by war in the Middle East, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in a report on Tuesday.

The fund's chief economist Silvana Tenreyro noted this week that global trade rose 8.3 percent between 2023 and 2025 -- a figure she said would be closer to 4.6 percent without AI-related products.

"It is everywhere in the global economy," Bank of Canada Governor Tiff Macklem said of AI on Friday.

"You see it in GDP. You see it in the stock market. You see it in the bond market... So it is here, and it's just the beginning."

But some top officials gathered in Bangkok this week cautioned against relying too heavily on AI investment.

Federal Reserve Chair Kevin Warsh called AI the "most consequential change" to the global economy in his lifetime, and said it had "a huge benefit". Still, he warned the road ahead would be "bumpy".

"The path from where we are to there is likely to be a very bumpy one, bumpy in our understanding of the technology, bumpy because we really don't know what the market structure is going to be of these new technologies," he said.

IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva similarly noted the AI boom's boost to global growth, but she told AFP that any slowdown in the industry "would be felt across the world".

"If there is loss of confidence and money runs away from AI, that can lead to financial stability risks," Georgieva said.



IMF Chief Economist Silvana Tenreyro speaks during the World Economic Outlook press briefing at the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank Group (WBG) at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center (QSNCC) in Bangkok on October 13, 2026.

An IMF report released this week projected that a decline in AI investment could reduce global GDP by 0.4 percent by 2028.

"Weaker or less durable AI investments and profitability could be a shock that triggers a market correction," the report said.

- War and regulation -

While AI investment and trade have softened the global economic impact of the Middle East war, economists at Moody's Analytics have warned that if the conflict drags on it could "puncture" the boom.

They said higher energy

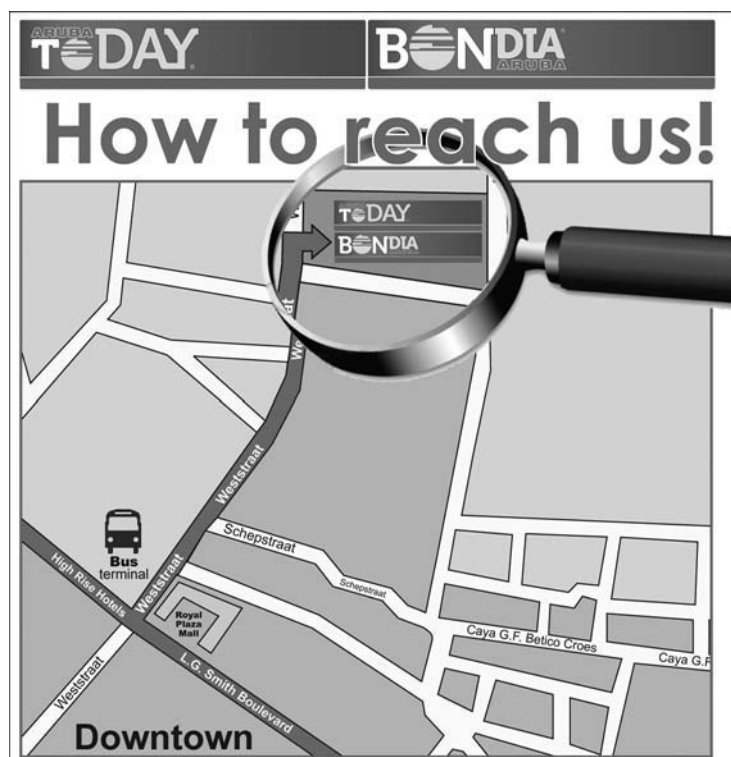
prices and tighter financial conditions could push up operating costs and interest rates, adding to doubts over "the long-term profitability and viability of AI business models".

"A drawn-out conflict would put serious strain on the economics behind AI investment," the group said.

The uncertainty around regulation has also clouded the technology's outlook. Leaders like U.S. President Donald Trump have urged more limited government regulation, even as some in the industry have called for legislation to mitigate risks. Georgieva, the IMF chief,

appeared on Friday to link such regulation to future investment.

"If there are no safeguards, then the risks may exceed the opportunities," she said in Bangkok. □



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: Dakota Tel. 588 7364	San Nicolas: Centro Medico Tel. 584 5794
--	--

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

Chwalinska fights back to win Wuhan Open in title breakthrough

Wuhan, China

Maja Chwalinska pulled off an impressive comeback to defeat Britain's Sonay Kartal 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 and claim the first tour-level title of her career at the Wuhan Open on Sunday.

The Polish 16th seed trailed by a set and a break before she turned things around to become just the fourth player to win her maiden tour-level title at a WTA 1000 event.

She joins Naomi Osaka (2018 Indian Wells), Bianca Andreescu (2019 Indian Wells) and Victoria Mboko (2025 Montreal) in that exclusive club.

The 25-year-old Chwalinska started the year ranked 146 in the world and provided one of the biggest surprises of the season when she reached the French Open final as a qualifier in June.

"(This title) tastes very sweet. I feel like I still don't realise that I won," Chwalinska said in the post-match press conference.

"But it feels special, because after French Open, it was obviously amazing, but then I had some tough moments. I feel like people also were very rough towards me. And it took a toll on me as well.



Poland's Maja Chwalinska poses with the trophy after winning against Britain's Sonay Kartal in the women's singles final match at the Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, China's Hubei province on October 18, 2026.

"I'm just a human. But I kept working really hard and I'm just very grateful that my work paid off."

The talented lefty will now rise to a career-high No.11 in the world, making her top-20 debut when the new rankings are released on Monday.

"I feel like my energy level was very low at the beginning, but also Sonay played amazing," added Chwalinska.

"Gradually I started to play much better and much more aggressive. Also, the depth on my shots improved.

"I feel what I'm proud of is the fighting spirit that I had. I just wanted to fight for every single ball and hoped that things would click at some point."

Kartal, who was contesting her second tour event back from a six-month hiatus due to a spinal stress fracture,

entered Wuhan ranked 170 in the world but will return to the top 50 after reaching the first WTA 1000 final of her career.

- 'Head high' -

The first set was one-way traffic, with Kartal dictating play with heavy hitting from the baseline and Chwalinska scrambling to defend from all corners of the court. It took three breaks of serve and 45 minutes to give Kar-

tal a one-set lead and send her closer to the biggest title of her career.

Chwalinska found her legs in the second set and began to put pressure on the Kartal serve by employing the methods that helped her knock out her compatriot Iga Swiatek in the semi-finals: extending the rallies, running down every ball, and mixing things up with her smooth touch.

Despite saving 10 out of 13 break points and holding a 2-0 advantage early in the frame, Kartal surrendered the second set after 71 minutes.

Kartal ran out of steam in the decider as Chwalinska broke twice to secure the trophy on her third championship point after a gruelling two hours and 43 minutes.

"It was a very physical battle and I think I had my chances and I think that's maybe where the rust of six months off comes in," said Kartal.

"But overall I'm very happy with my performance. Obviously not the result I wanted and it's going to sting for a little while but I think for me the positives this week outweigh that result today. So yeah I'm leaving here head out high and in a good spot overall." □

Williams lifts Valkyries past Dream in WNBA Finals opener

San Francisco, United States

Gabby Williams scored a game-high 26 points, including four key free throws in the final 1:18 as the Golden State Valkyries held off the Atlanta Dream 68-64 in game one of the WNBA Finals on Saturday. Williams, runner-up to Atlanta's Angel Reese in Defensive Player of the Year voting, has emerged as an offensive force for the Valkyries in the playoffs.

She carried the scoring load on a tough shooting night for the hosts -- who didn't have another player score in double figures.

She took some time to warm up, going scoreless in the first quarter as the Valkyries got off to a tentative start in front of a raucous crowd at Chase Center arena.

cous crowd at Chase Center arena.

"Once we all started having fun and the excitement got out, we started to kind of find our way," Williams, who erupted for 16 points in the second quarter, said in an on-court interview.

"There was a lid on that basket tonight, but that's why we rely on our defense," she said.

Golden State trailed by one with 1:18 remaining when Williams seized the rebound off a miss by Atlanta's Alisha Gray and was fouled by Reese.

Williams made both free throws to put the Valkyries up 65-64 and added another pair of free throws to seal the win with 4.1 seconds left.

Gray, the Dream's leading scorer, returned after

missing two games with a hand injury and scored 19 points.

But she was scoreless in the fourth quarter, when Atlanta made just two of their 19 attempts from the floor. Reese added 14 points and 12 rebounds, and Rhyne Howard scored 12 for Atlanta.

The Valkyries will host game two of the best-of-seven series on Monday. Both teams are chasing a first WNBA title. The Dream have come up empty in three prior trips to the Finals, most recently in 2013. The Valkyries, who last year became the first WNBA expansion franchise to reach the playoffs in their inaugural season, are now contending for the title in their second. □



Gabby Williams #1 of the Golden State Valkyries celebrates the 68-64 win against the Atlanta Dream in game one of the WNBA Finals at Chase Center on October 17, 2026 in San Francisco, California.

Browns edge Ravens for division lead, Texans beat Jags

Los Angeles, United States

Andre Szmyt's 37-yard field goal on Sunday's final play gave Cleveland a 13-10 NFL victory over Baltimore and the AFC North division lead for the first time this late in a season since 2014. Szmyt, who missed from 48 yards minutes before, delivered a kick that left both clubs 4-2 but the Browns atop the division on tie-breakers.

The Ravens, without injured star quarterback Lamar Jackson, played for the first time against Browns coach Todd Monken, who served as Baltimore's offensive coordinator the past three seasons.

Tyler Huntley flipped a two-yard touchdown pass to Josh Cuevas on the game's opening drive and Tyler Loop added a 34-yard field goal to give Baltimore a 10-0 halftime lead.

The Browns, missing top rusher Quinshon Judkins with an ankle injury, answered on a 48-yard Szmyt field goal and Audric Estime's two-yard touchdown run to equalize with 8:33 remaining.

At London, Ka'imi Fairbairn kicked a 49-yard field goal on the last play to give the Houston Texans a 34-31 victory over Jacksonville.

C.J. Stroud completed 24-of-34 passes for 312 yards and three touchdowns as Houston improved to 2-4 while dropping the Jaguars to 4-2.

"We played well as an offense and came out with the W so we'll be happy on the way back home," said Stroud. "I just felt good. I feel in rhythm and I'm having fun. It was really a team effort."

Jacksonville's Trevor Lawrence threw for 306 yards and four touchdowns in a losing cause.

Jaguars two-way star Travis Hunter made an interception and three tackles plus four catches for 59 yards and a touchdown -- the first player since 2002 with a pickoff and touchdown grab in one game.

At Tampa Bay, Aaron Rodgers flipped a six-yard touchdown pass to Germie

Bernard in overtime to give Pittsburgh a 26-19 victory over the Buccaneers.

Rodgers threw for 253 yards and two touchdowns as the Steelers matched division-leader Cleveland and the Ravens at 4-2.

- Williams sparks Bears -

Chicago's Caleb Williams, who missed the past three games with a hamstring injury, completed 30-of-36 passes for 305 yards and a touchdown and D'Andre Swift ran for two touchdowns in the Bears' 31-23 triumph at Atlanta.

"It's awesome being back," said Williams. "After the long weeks trying to get back out here, the emotions took over. Then it was getting back to having a level head and being in control of myself for the guys."

Falcons rookie linebacker Kendal Daniels suffered a severe injury when tackling Bears tight end Colston Loveland, his facemask slamming into Loveland's knee.

Daniels was down on the field for several minutes before being put onto a stretcher with his neck braced and taken off on a cart.

The team announced he was alert and had movement in all his extremities as he was taken to a hospital for more evaluation.

At New England, Drake Maye threw for 235 yards and three touchdowns to give the host Patriots a 26-19 victory over the New York Jets.

Joey Slye kicked field goals from 44 and 49 yards in the



K.C. Concepcion #1 of the Cleveland Browns runs with the ball against Marlon Humphrey #44 of the Baltimore Ravens during the fourth quarter of the game at Huntington Bank Field on October 18, 2026 in Cleveland, Ohio.

last 2:03 as previously winless Tennessee beat host Indianapolis 26-20.

Tyler Shough threw for 144 yards and three touchdowns to spark New Orleans to a 34-27 road vic-

tory over the New York Giants.

Bryce Young threw for 281 yards and two touchdowns as the Carolina Panthers dumped host Philadelphia 25-14. □



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






Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort; Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Palm Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com