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Page 8



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Golfers play on the course at East Potomac Golf Links near Hains Point in Washington, DC, October 19, 2026.

'Leave us alone!' D.C. golfers fear worst over Trump's course remodel

Washington, United States

For years, Max Salas has enjoyed teeing off at Washington's East Potomac Golf Links, a public course nestled in the heart of the U.S. capital where ordinary Americans can enjoy a round without breaking the bank.

But President Donald Trump's controversial plans to remodel the course into a facility capable of hosting major championship-caliber events have left the 74-year-old retiree exasperated.

"Leave us alone! Leave us alone!" Salas told AFP when asked what message he would send to Trump. "What the hell do we need a championship course in a public course?" he said. "We're here, we've been here for years, and it's ridiculous."

Salas is among golfers worried that Trump's proposed overhaul of East Potomac could transform an affordable public amenity into an expensive destination beyond the reach of its regular players.

At the moment, 18 holes at East Potomac costs a maximum of \$48.

That's a far cry from the

kind of rates often found at privately owned golf courses such as those owned by Trump where green fees can often run into hundreds of dollars.

Trump, a famously avid golfer, has claimed that East Potomac is not fit for purpose.

"The current Course is old, broken, dilapidated, and of no further use or effect," Trump said on Sunday.

"It is in very poor condition, with falling, dangerous, and disease-infested trees and, importantly, a collapsing and hazardous seawall."

But for Salas, the remodel which will see the course closed from mid-November also raises questions about Trump's priorities at a time of international turmoil.

"We're in the middle of a war, and he's over here trying to tinker with a golf course?" he said. "I mean, where is this guy's sense? Common sense?"

- 'I cannot afford it' -

The prospect of a championship-standard course might appeal to some golfers, but for others, the overriding concern is what the transformation could mean for their wallets.

Fidel Enrique Garcia Ren-

don, a 59-year-old Pilates studio owner, fears the cost of playing the remodeled course will put it beyond his reach.

"Unfortunately, if it goes to a championship course level, the fees are going to go from \$22 to \$250 or plus, \$350 who knows?" he said.

"So I definitely will not be able to come here and play because at that price, I cannot afford it."

His concerns were echoed by fellow retiree Tom Carmody, who questioned both the eventual cost of the revamped course and whether the project would be completed.

"It just makes me nervous, quite nervous," Carmody said.

"For one, just his ability to follow through. I mean, what's going to happen? Will he stop halfway through or quit or something like that?"

But Carmody's bigger concern is whether the promise of continued public access will mean much if green fees rise dramatically.

"He talks about it remaining open to the public, but instead of \$30 or \$40 a round, maybe it's \$120, \$150 a round, which is going to eliminate a lot of people." □



A worker inspects a Boeing 737 MAX 10 at Renton Airport adjacent to the Boeing Renton Factory in Renton, Washington on November 10, 2020.

U.S. regulators certify Boeing 737 MAX 10 after delays

New York, United States

U.S. officials gave final approval Tuesday to the Boeing 737 MAX 10, certifying the latest long-delayed version of the popular single-aisle aircraft.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a certificate confirming the largest plane in the MAX family "complies with all applicable design and safety requirements," a Department of Transportation press release said.

The move, which follows U.S. certification of the 737 MAX 7 in August, clears the way for increased plane deliveries in the coming years, a key aspect of Boeing's plan to improve financial performance after a lengthy period of weakness.

"The FAA's decision follows a thorough review of the aircraft's design and safety requirements," said FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford. "We will continue to hold Boeing to the highest safety standards as the company begins production of the 737 MAX-10."

Boeing, which expects to commence 737 MAX 10 deliveries in 2027, said it undertook more than 2,000 hours of flight testing and supplied tens of thousands of pages of documentation.

"Our flight test team ran a disciplined, methodical campaign to validate every system," said Chris Payne, general manager for 737 airplane development programs. "That rigor gives us confidence as we move toward deliveries."

- Faster certifications ahead? -

Boeing first launched the aircraft at the 2017 Paris Air Show. In 2018, Boeing said it aimed to have deliveries in 2020.

When the 737 MAX 10 had its first flight in June 2021, Boeing targeted 2023 for first deliveries.

US regulators have heavily scrutinized Boeing's designs during certifications following a pair of MAX crashes in 2018 and 2019 that together claimed 346 lives.

The process was also slowed by a near-catastrophic January 2024 Alaska Airlines flight in which a fuselage panel blew out mid-flight.

In January, Boeing unveiled a new MAX production line in Everett, Washington, supplementing output for a plane that had previously been assembled exclusively in Renton, Washington.

Tuesday's announcement came in parallel with an expected visit by US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy to Everett.

Duffy told broadcaster CNBC that the United States needs to become more efficient in certifying aircraft, saying that European regulators needed only half the time. □

Wild West Wing? Turmoil revives memories of Trump 1.0

Washington, United States

After a relatively disciplined start to Donald Trump's second term, the White House is grappling with signs of turmoil that have revived memories of his first chaotic presidency.

From the extraordinary departure of his new press secretary after five days to questions about the future of his chief of staff, there have been a series of upheavals in recent weeks.

The ructions come at the worst possible time for Trump, with many Republicans fearing that the president's dismal polling will drag on their chances in next month's midterm elections.

The White House strongly denies there is infighting in what US media called the "Wild Wild West Wing" -- with the fiercest pushback reserved for reports that Trump was looking to replace Susie Wiles, his ultra-loyal chief of staff.

"No one is distracted by FAKE NEWS. This team is strong, united, and focused on President Donald J. Trump, delivering his America First agenda, and winning the mid-terms," White House Spokesperson Danielle Alvarez said in a statement to AFP.

"The anonymous 'sources' peddling this nonsense are self-serving opportunists focused on themselves. We're focused on the President and the American people." The president himself denied the reports on Wiles last week.

On Monday he doubled down by giving Wiles a new job as head of a women's health initiative launched by First Lady Melania Trump, praising Wiles as a "tremendous fighter" for her battle against breast cancer.

- 'Ice Maiden' -

Trump calls Wiles the "ice maiden" after the Florida political operative masterminded his 2024 election win, and until recently the first ever female chief had maintained steely discipline at the White House.

Gone were the incessant leaks from disgruntled officials, the infighting between Trump family members and cabinet secretaries, and the personnel merry-go-round that marred Trump's first term.

But then came a series of controversies in the past two weeks.

First was Trump's hiring of the inexperienced Katie Zacharia as his press secretary, in a process that administration officials said had largely bypassed Wiles.

Five days after starting the job, Zacharia was fired after one halting 14-minute briefing in which she answered three questions and called her husband "my president." Trump also pushed out his ambassador to Greece Kimberly Guilfoyle the ex-fiancee of his son Don Jr amid allegations that she sought money from one of the president's supporters.

Then Trump canceled Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth's plans to livestream the firing squad execution of a convicted military base mass shooter -- a plan that Vice President JD Vance had expressed doubts over.

- 'Chaotic' -

Trump also ordered an investigation into dispute between two close allies over allegations that one of them had misappropriated a donation to the Kennedy Center (which Trump has renamed after himself).

The feuding even spread to the State Department where a close Trump ally, Paolo Zampolli, described the administration as "chaotic" after being removed from a special envoy job after a bitter feud with a top official.

At the same time, Trump's Russia policy also descended into chaos. □



U.S. President Donald Trump, sitting next to First Lady Melania Trump, hands a pen to White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles after signing an executive order during a ceremony in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washington, DC, on October 19, 2026.

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At half a century, Senegal's Orchestra Baobab bets on new generation

Dakar, Senegal

Sitting on a couch in their manager's office, three of the oldest members of Senegal's Orchestra Baobab, the legendary Afro-Cuban and west African fusion group, banter like family. Several evenings later, their guitar and saxophone melodies conjured the same convivial chemistry, electrifying a Dakar nightclub and getting partygoers dancing cha-cha steps and swaying their hips as the band has done so many times in its half-century history.

The much-loved orchestra, which blends regional Wolof griot music, Congolese rumba, Senegalese mbalax, jazz and other traditions through an Afro-Cuban filter, will release "Made in Senegal", its first album of new songs in nearly 10 years, on Friday.

Like the mighty baobab tree it is named for, Orchestra Baobab remains standing despite its age, thanks in part to a new generation



Members of Orchestra Baobab perform during a concert at Just for You in Dakar, on September 27, 2026.

of musicians slowly replacing its iconic veterans. Two groups of the oldest then youngest members of the nine-person ensemble sat down with AFP to explain the enduring magic. In the band's latest music "you can sense a freshness, something new, some-

thing exceptional, something people haven't really heard from the founders before", rhythm guitarist Yahya Fall, 76, told AFP. The group's joyful swinging sound, produced across guitars, drums, saxophones and vocals, alternately rollicks and sways, at times

highly energetic and at others seducing listeners with lilting refrains.

The handful of new members, mostly in their 30s and 40s, say they aspire to sustain the band's historic soul and core sound, adding only a dash of their person-

al flavour.

Vocalist Korka Dieng, who started singing with Baobab in 2023, jolted the group into the 21st century as its first and only woman member.

The 44-year-old said she and the other younger musicians each bring their own touch, but try "to preserve the originality that brought the legendary orchestra to where it is today."

The young members "will be able to ensure Baobab lasts a full century", 73-year-old percussionist Mountaga "Taga" Koite, the band's last remaining original member, told AFP with a twinkle in his eye.

The orchestra, which ruled Dakar's club scene and airwaves after its birth in 1970, eventually went on hiatus only to reemerge in the early 2000s and achieve international fame.

Trombone and tenor saxophonist Wilfried Zinsou, part of the new guard at 48, described the orchestra as a national treasure, touring across Europe and else-

where when not performing in Dakar.

"People view Senegal through us, we bring Senegalese culture with us. Those unfamiliar with Senegal see the country through Orchestra Baobab", he told AFP.

- Not just 'old school' -

On a recent Sunday night in Dakar, Baobab played the well-known venue Just For You.

Friends and couples swayed at their tables until a prolonged wail of the saxophone in Baobab anthem "Utrus Horas" sent a shock through the room. First two women jumped from their seats to dance, before others rushed to the front of the hall, swinging and stepping to the sultry rhythm.

"I danced to Orchestra Baobab at age 15-16 and still today", 62-year-old fan Moustapha Samb told AFP, describing the group as "a monument, it represents memory and resilience" for Senegal. □

'Clayface' gets under the skin of the superhero genre

London, United Kingdom

Superhero cinema has flirted with the grotesque before, but rarely with the level of blood-soaked commitment seen in "Clayface", DC Studios' new film from the Batman universe.

At a time when the superhero genre is struggling to excite audiences, DC's shape-shifting Batman supervillain aims for some-

thing uniquely visceral.

"I don't want just clockwork scares, jump scares, I don't want mechanical scares, I want scares that get under people's skin," British director James Watkins told AFP.

"Body horror is possibly one of the most relatable scares, because we all have fears for what can go wrong with our bodies."

Welsh actor Tom Rhys Harries, 36, who plays rising film star Matt Hagen whose face is horrifically disfigured by a mob boss and sets out to wreak revenge, sees the character as a natural fit for the genre.

"Clayface as a character is sort of like uniquely suited to the body horror genre," he said.

It was his first foray into horror, but he treated the challenge as any other form of acting, although he spent hours in the makeup chair ahead of some shoots.

"Where I could shoot something with a prosthetic, often we would do that," Watkins said, rather than using visual effects.

"If you need to augment it, you've got a very strong base. But also by shooting it for real, you've got real-time reactions from everybody."

Impatient to be free of the prosthetics, Harries admit-

ted to ripping them off at the end of each shoot and getting scolded by the makeup team.

"Somewhere, there's a costume store which has like clumps of my face in (the) pockets," he joked. The same commitment to texture shaped the setting of the film in northern Liverpool which morphs into Gotham City.

"When you're alongside the Mersey and the rain's coming in and it's heavy atmospherics, you just feel it," Watkins said.

"It creates a vibe, a mood, but you can't create that on a soundstage."

It's a philosophy he extends to the industry's anxieties about artificial intelligence.

"I still feel that conversations I have with people are with people, because the films come down to human emotion," he insisted. □



(L-R) Tom Rhys Harries and James Watkins attend the Toronto fan screening of DC Studios' "Clayface" at Cineplex Cinemas Varsity and VIP on October 16, 2026 in Toronto, Ontario.



Raptors breeding across Russia, Eastern Europe and Kazakhstan migrate through the Batumi bottleneck, formed by the Black Sea and Caucasus mountains, many bound for Africa, as seen from an observation station of Batumi Raptor Count (BRC), an international volunteer organization co-chaired by ornithologist Bart Hoekstra, the 34-year-old Dutchman from Utrecht University, in the village of Sakhalvasho near the Georgian Black Sea city of Batumi on September 23, 2026.

One million migrating raptors dodge illegal hunters above Georgia's Black Sea coast

Sakhalvasho, Georgia

Standing on a verdant hill above Georgia's Black Sea coast, ornithologist Bart Hoekstra looked out over one of the world's greatest wildlife spectacles unfolding before him -- then gunshots pierced the air. Hoekstra co-chairs Batumi Raptor Count (BRC), an international volunteer organization that counts the million-plus birds of prey that fly the route every autumn, where the Black Sea and Caucasus mountains form a migration bottleneck. "It's the third-largest place in the world in terms of raptor migration," said the 34-year-old Dutchman from Utrecht University. "Wherever you put your binoculars in the sky, there are birds." Honey buzzards dominate the early autumn passage, followed by growing numbers of black kites, steppe buzzards and lesser spotted eagles. As he spoke, rifles cracked incessantly across steep slopes cloaked in subtropical vegetation around the resort city of Batumi.

Around 9,000 of the birds are shot each autumn, according to a 2013 University of Antwerp study, the latest reliable estimate. Harriers are disproportionately vulnerable to shooting because they often fly low. "It's horrifying honestly, it's

really heartbreaking every time you hear the shots and you never get used to it... you always feel the pain," said Mitra Daneshvar, a count coordinator from Iran. "What truly hurts is when it's really rare species that get shot out of the sky," Hoekstra added. "And there's nothing you can do about it."

Georgia's Environmental Supervision Department recorded 39 hunting violations in the region during the first month of this year's season, without specifying how many involved raptors. It says it conducts round-the-clock patrols against illegal hunting, but Hoekstra said policing illegal shooting was difficult in the rugged hills around Batumi.

- Local economic lifeline - The "Batumi bottleneck", as it is known, funnels raptors from Russia, Eastern Europe and Kazakhstan south as most head for Africa after breeding.

The birds save energy by circling in the warm air that rises over land, avoiding the sea, while clouds in the Caucasus mountains can push them into a narrow corridor over Georgia's Black Sea coast.

From stations at Sakhalvasho a village perched above the resort city of Batumi, and nearby

Shuamta, deeper into the lush Georgian hills, BRC volunteers set about counting the number of birds making the annual journey. They start at sunrise, scanning with binoculars and telescopes.

As a bird crosses an imaginary line, they click a hand-held counter. Coordinators divide the passing streams into sections watched by different observers to avoid double-counting.

The spectacle is a major tourism draw for the region's poor, rural villages one volunteers hope in itself could help curb illegal hunting. Visitors flock to guesthouses in Sakhalvasho and Shuamta, giving local families an economic incentive to protect the birds.

For Ruslan Lomadze, a Sakhalvasho guesthouse owner who hosts BRC participants, the visitors have "changed life" in his community. "There is no other real source of income here," the 45-year-old said. "Without bird watching tourism, guesthouses and family hotels would close."

Describing hunting as an inherited tradition, he said some birdwatchers stay away because they cannot bear to see birds killed. "Now there is less of it, and ecotourism has had an impact," he said. □



Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tarik (L) shares a light moment with Britain's King Charles III during the State Banquet at Windsor Castle, Windsor, on October 20, 2026, the first day of a three-day State Visit to the United Kingdom by The Sultan of Oman.

King Charles lauds Omani peace efforts on Sultan's state visit

London, United Kingdom

King Charles III praised Oman's peacemaking attempts in the Middle East Tuesday as Sultan Haitham bin Tariq began the first state visit by an Omani ruler to the UK in nearly half a century.

Hailing longstanding diplomatic, military and royal ties at a Windsor Castle banquet, the British monarch paid tribute to Muscat's "noble efforts" to help reopen the choked Strait of Hormuz.

"I would especially like to recognise, at a time when conflict has returned so painfully to the region, Oman's enduring commitment as a trusted interlocutor to all parties," Charles told around 160 guests at the lavish dinner. "Oman's role across the Gulf and her 'constructive neutrality' as you put it matters far beyond Hormuz, and is worthy of our utmost respect," Britain's king added in a toast to the Omani sultan.

The first state visit to Britain by a Sultan of Oman for 44 years comes amid severe turbulence in the Middle East prompted by the US-Iran war.

Oman, a key UK military ally which borders the vital Hormuz waterway, has acted as a mediator in talks between the United States and Iran since the conflict flared in late February.

The Omani sultan is due to hold talks Wednesday in Downing Street with Prime Minister Andy Burnham, when security, trade and investment are expected to be high on the agenda.

Burnham was among those at Tuesday's banquet, alongside the bosses of Shell, BP and Airbus as well as various royals and other dignitaries.

In his remarks, Charles said Britain and Oman were "bonded by diplomacy, defence, trade, and trust". The UK has been a long-term military ally of Oman, with British forces having trained alongside Omani forces in their country for decades and the port town Duqm having hosted an enduring UK strategic military presence.

The Omani ruler kicked off his three-day visit earlier Tuesday with a royal welcome in Windsor, west of London, from the king and his wife Queen Camilla, alongside Prince William and his wife Catherine, Princess of Wales. The Oxford-educated Sultan held a private lunch with the royals, followed by a viewing of Royal Collection artefacts relating to Oman-UK relations. □

Dozens of orangutans saved from Indonesia blazes as region grapples with haze

Jakarta, Indonesia

Dozens of critically endangered orangutans have been rescued in recent weeks from rampant wildfires burning across Indonesia that have cloaked the region in toxic haze, conservation groups said.

Singapore experienced the longest duration of unhealthy air levels since Southeast Asia's most severe haze crisis hit in 2015, officials told AFP.

The fires have triggered a months-long pollution spell that has closed schools, fuelled a surge in respiratory conditions both among humans and animals and restricted outdoor activities in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and East Timor.

Pollution levels ranged from unhealthy to very unhealthy across the region on Sunday, as fires continued to burn and emit smoke on Borneo and Sumatra islands, intensified by a turbo-charged El Nino weather phenomenon.

Swiss-based air quality monitor IQAir again ranked Singapore and Kuala Lumpur among the world's top five most polluted major cities on Sunday afternoon. Singapore has now seen



Members of the BKSDA (Natural Resources Conservation Agency), the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Indonesia evacuate a 20-year-old orangutan due to forest and land fire, in Hampangen Village, Katingan Regency, Central Kalimantan, on October 17, 2026.

"the longest duration of air quality being in the unhealthy range since 2015," said Jason Evans Tan, a deputy director at Singapore's National Environment Agency, noting the current spell began on October 5.

In Indonesia, groups are working to save wildlife including orangutans from

the fires.

On Saturday, the West Kalimantan conservation agency and Indonesian non-profit YIARI said a team evacuated 51 orangutans from locations in the province from August 6 to October 19.

And figures from Indonesia's forestry ministry suggested this week that the

number rescued over recent months in Kalimantan could be as high as 96. Officials could not be immediately reached to clarify the number.

- 'Shared responsibility' -

Three conservation agencies saved a 20-year-old male orangutan in Hampangen village in Central

Kalimantan on Borneo island on Saturday.

"The evacuation process was carried out with great caution," the agencies said.

"After the orangutan was sedated, the medical team immediately conducted a health examination before taking the animal to the... rehabilitation center," it said.

"We tried to check and found that there are a few orangutans left in these small forest patches," WWF Indonesia conservation coordinator Fenky Wirada said.

Indonesia's transport ministry said around 2,400 flights across the country have been affected by the haze since mid-August.

"Haze reduces visibility around airports, which can lead to delays, disruptions, and even flight cancellations," the ministry said.

Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim late on Sunday said his country has proposed setting up a regional cooperation mechanism within the 11-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations to coordinate a response to border-crossing fires. □

Alberta separatists vow to fight on, risking turmoil for Canada

Edmonton, Canada

Separatists in Canada's Alberta province say their independence fight is not over despite a decisive referendum loss, risking long-term political turmoil in an oil-rich province crucial to the Canadian economy. The western province

chose overwhelmingly on Monday to remain a part of Canada, with 75.5 per cent of voters rejecting a plan to move forward with a binding independence referendum.

As he entered parliament on Tuesday, Prime Minister Mark Carney said he

was "thrilled that Albertans have chosen unity."

Asked what message he'd like to deliver to the separatist side, Carney, who grew up in Alberta, said: "The result is absolutely clear. It's a large majority for Canada and now is the time to work together."

But separatist leaders projected a starkly different message after the results came in.

Jeffrey Rath, a top official with the Alberta Prosperity Project who met with US officials earlier this year to discuss support for the secession project, said the fight would "absolutely" continue.

"We've created a massive movement in this province," he said. "We're continuing to move forward." Rath told reporters it was

impossible to win an independence referendum while Alberta is led by someone who supports Canadian unity.

He vowed to challenge Premier Danielle Smith, who aligned with Carney, and "to take control back" of Alberta's conservative movement.

"We will form a government, period," he said.

- 'Deep-seated grievances' -

Alberta's separatist movement is factionalized. Chris Scott, who founded Let's Talk Alberta to promote independence, told AFP on Tuesday that he will also continue pushing the cause.

But, he said, plans for separatists to immediately take over the provincial govern-

ment and launch another referendum would fail.

"Seventy-five percent of Albertans would reject that idea flat out," he said.

"People have to realize you can gain some support for an idea or a movement by sharing Facebook memes, but at a certain point you have to focus on the real work of education."

For Carney, Alberta is essential to his plans to solidify Canada's economy and reduce dependence on the United States.

He and Smith are working together on advancing a new pipeline from Alberta to the Pacific coast, hoping to export Alberta bitumen to Asia.

Experts warned that despite Carney's message of unity, there may be trouble ahead. □



An Alberta separatist supporter carries a flag ahead of the referendum in downtown Edmonton, Alberta, on October 19, 2026.

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The stories of “Compa Nanzi”



(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curaçao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a me-

dium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up,

he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.

Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by? “Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said. “Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.



Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herd-

er, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!” The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's thrown and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king. □

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



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Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. Our Island has a wide selection of various museums for our locals and visitors to see. Take this opportunity to learn about our island and experience a different day beyond the beach. Let us introduce to you to these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba

The Museum of Industry in located in San Nicolas. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is

Create museum memories with the entire family!

situated in the Water Tower and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruban Museum Foundation (FMA), which is a foundation that maintains, preserves, and protects the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page: Museum of Industry Aruba.



Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amerindian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in

downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1,700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July

2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba uses approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit showcases archaeological objects and conveys modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum regularly hosts public seminars, special exhibitions and workshop for visitors to enjoy.

The museum is open daily from 9 am till 5 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page National Archaeological Museum Aruba or website: www.manaruba.org

Editor's note: Pictures are property of the respective museums.

What Aruba means to Lynell and her friends!

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 Lynell & Lenny Manning from Virginia, and Vee & Stan Boddie from Florida.

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is sunset and beach front dining with friends. Pictured at a restaurant is my husband Lenny Manning (top left) friends Stan and Vee Boddie and me, Lynell Manning (bottom left). We have been vacationing in Aruba over 20 years. We call this "One Happy Island" our vacation home. We dine at a different restaurants every night. Come join us and enjoy the unique cuisine on the beach, island fellowship, take pics and meet new people from around the world...true blessings from God!"

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



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Cas di Torto

Cas di torto (also called cas di lodo or cas di bara) is a traditional building technique from Aruba. It refers to a type of houses made of mud with rounded corners. These houses were usually found around the plantations. The few structures that still exist are the oldest structures that are left standing in the country.

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

The skeleton of the houses is made up of round wooden poles placed with distances of 1.5 feet between them. Branches are interwoven between them, completing the structural support. On this basis, loam is applied, mixed with sand, water and paragrass. This is then coated with aloe vera juice, which gives the white color and helps to protect against the weather.

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



dung.

The houses were usually divided into a kitchen, a living room, a porch and a bedroom. In the kitchen would be a wooden or metal bar-

rel for storing water that was collected in small rain ponds. Around this barrel a thick loam wall would be erected. Often large families would live in these houses; people would sleep on

mats on the floor.

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



Beautiful areas around Aruba

(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. This bridge is located in San Nicolas,

behind The Point Lighthouse along the east point coast.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok

National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach. □

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCLXXIV - 374

The Aruba We Inherited, the Aruba We Leave Behind

A Reflection on Heritage, Identity, and Our Responsibility to Future Generations

What does it truly mean to inherit an island?

Is it to inherit beautiful beaches, turquoise waters, endless sunshine, and familiar trade winds? Or is it to inherit something far more precious: the memories of our ancestors, the wisdom of generations, the language that gives voice to our identity, the traditions that connect us to our roots, and the responsibility to protect the place we call home?

Aruba is celebrated around the world as One Happy Island, admired for its natural beauty and the warmth of its people. Yet beyond this familiar image lies a deeper story—one that began long before modern tourism transformed our coastline and introduced our island to the world.

It is the story of generations who learned to live with a demanding environment, drawing knowledge from the land and sea. Their legacy lives not only in historic places and tangible objects, but also in our language, customs, traditional knowledge, oral histories, and everyday practices that keep Aruba's spirit alive. However, what happens when the stories of those who came before us are no longer told? What happens when future generations inherit an island whose beauty remains, but whose deeper cultural meaning has faded?

Through Island Insight, its cultural space dedicated to reflection and discovery, Etnia Nativa invites readers to reconnect with Aruba's intangible cultural heritage—the living traditions, ancestral wisdom, values, and stories passed down from one generation to the next. In this new episode, we explore the delicate balance between progress and preservation, modernization and identity, and the choices we make today that will define the cultural legacy we leave for generations to come.

An Island Is More than What the Eye Can See

Imagine walking through Aruba beyond the eyes of a visitor. A cactus-covered landscape becomes a reminder of generations who understood the land and its scarce resources. An old cunucu house represents not merely a structure, but the lives, struggles, celebrations, and memories held within its walls.



"From the Etnia Nativa Private Collection"

Our island is a living archive. Its landscapes, archaeological sites, traditional foods, local expressions, and family stories preserve fragments of a heritage that cannot always be found in books.

Yet heritage can disappear quietly, one forgotten story at a time. When elders are no longer here to share their knowledge, when traditional practices are abandoned, or when the origins of familiar customs are forgotten, we risk losing connections that help define who we are.

Progress Should Not Require Forgetting

Aruba has every reason to be proud of its development. Tourism and modernization have created opportunities for many families, but progress should never come at the expense of our cultural identity.

We must learn to welcome the world while protecting our traditions, Papiamentu, historic places, and natural landscapes. Our ancestors understood the importance of adapting to Aruba's dry climate and limited resources. Their knowledge reminds us that caring for our environment is also part of preserving our inheritance. True progress means building for the future without losing what makes Aruba unique.

The Responsibility of Our Generation
Heritage lives in the rhythm of everyday life—in the stories shared by our elders, the recipes passed down through generations, the language that shapes our identity, and the tradi-

tions we entrust to our children. Preserving this legacy is not solely the responsibility of historians or cultural organizations; it is a collective responsibility that belongs to us all.

By teaching our history, documenting ancestral knowledge, and safeguarding our cultural and natural treasures, we can ensure that future generations remain connected to their roots and understand the richness of their heritage. The past should never be a barrier to progress, but rather a source of wisdom, strength, and identity—a solid foundation for the future.

What Will Remain When We Are Gone?

The children growing up in Aruba today will inherit the consequences of our decisions. They will inherit our achievements, communities, and opportunities, but also the condition of our environment, the traditions we preserve, and the stories we choose to keep alive.

What will they find? Will they inherit an island that is prosperous but disconnected from its roots or one that honors its identity while embracing the future? Inheriting Aruba means more than receiving its natural beauty. It means accepting the responsibility to understand its history, honor its people, and safeguard its living heritage.

Because the true measure of our inheritance is not only what we receive from the past, but what we choose to leave alive for the future.

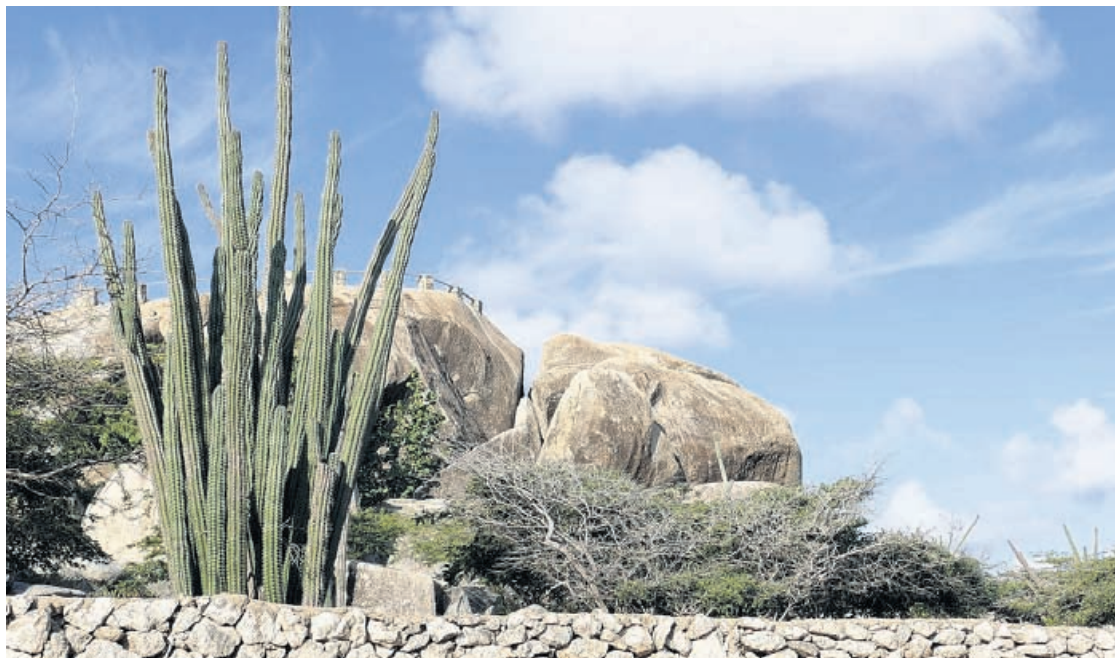
Come curious. Leave connected. Discover Etnia Nativa.
WhatsApp +297 592 2702
etniana03@gmail.com

Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of



comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

**Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! ☐*

Place names in San Nicolas and their origins

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever taking a tour of Aruba, San Nicolas would definitely be on your itinerary. From relaxing on the white, sandy beaches of Baby and Roger's Beach, to exploring the prehistoric caves of Quadirikiri and Fontein, you are taking in a full view of what San Nicolas has to offer. But did you know that you are also passing through areas whose names have historical origins? Here are a few place names in



San Nicolas and their origin story.

Sero Colorado

On your way to Baby or Roger's Beach, you'll pass by the famous Red Anchor at what was once the entrance to the Colony residential community and be greeted with red soiled hills by the coast. This is Sero Colorado. Named after the 30-meter, deep red, limestone hill, “Sero Colorado” translates to “Colored Hill”. Sero Colorado has deep historical ties with the once-thriving phosphate industry in the area. Matter of fact, there are still underground shafts and passages deep in Sero Colorado from the time of phosphate mining. In 1958, the refinery at the time, Lago, adopted this name for the residential section of its employees.

Vader Piet

Another well visited area, Vader Piet is located in the Arikok Na-

tional Park. Recognizable sites within this area include the Wind Mills and the Quadirikiri Cave. The origin of this name is part historical and speculation, as there are slight deviations from what actually happened.

In 1829, Pieter Lampe was a planter and the person responsible for governing this remote area. As the story goes, Pieter was well known and beloved for his kindness and good treatment of his employees, and was therefore also called Vader Piet (Father Piet). However, he was tragically murdered—some speculate at the hands of a slave. For his work and good heart, the area was named after him.

San Nicolas

Of course we can't forget San Nicolas itself. Much like Vader Piet, the origin of the name San Nicolas has so far two different accounts.

In the literal sense, “San Nicolas” translates to “Saint Nicolas”, leading many to believe that this district was named after a Spanish saint. Though one account does support this with the theory that the district was named after the saint by Spanish colonizers, the other account is much less divine, but does refer to an influential figure in the area.

Nicolaas van der Biest was a successful landowner during the time of the phosphate boom in late 19th century Aruba. Back then, landowners (most, if not all of them men) were referred to as “Shon” by their subordinates. So, the district was originally named after Shon Nicolaas. Over time, the name evolved into what is now San Nicolas.

Source: “Aruba: Short History” by Dr. J. Hartog.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

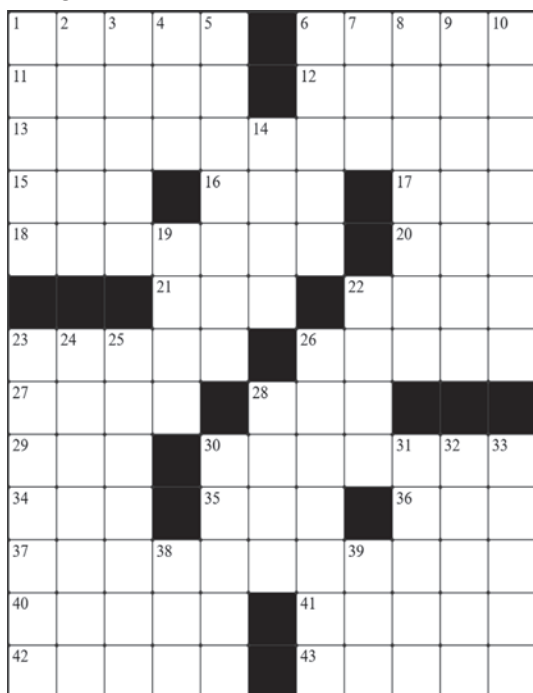
41. Omit
1. Dries, in a way
6. Bends out of shape
11. Shred
12. Vigilant
13. Song by the Monkees
15. Neither follower
16. Animation frame
17. Greek vowel
18. Fancy homes
20. Game caller
21. Auditor's org.
22. Eat in style
23. Frighten
26. Must have
27. Satyr's party
28. Deli meat
29. Maui souvenir
30. D.C. river
34. Feedbag bit
35. Anjou answer
36. "Not -- dare!"
37. Song by Reba McEntire
40. Become established

DOWN

1. Salty mixture
2. Prom transports
3. Dizzying designs
4. Soaking spot
5. Doctor No's group
6. Cries of grief
7. Pub pints
8. Daydream
9. Feign
10. Rakes with gunfire
14. Sedi-ment
19. Ethereal
22. Band sample
23. Recital star
24. Coffee additive
25. Make trouble
26. Indige-nous group
28. Clock reading
30. Weight unit
31. Studio work
32. Battery end
33. Insertion sign
38. Immoral act
39. Suffering



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.

10-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

SOKX QIM WCCX. OQ'U LTT

LDCZKX BCZ. SOKX OQ.

UICYGLUM OQ LKX BCZ'TT

UQLDQ AMTOMROKW OK OQ.

---NMUUM CVMKU

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IN OCTOBER ANY WONDERFUL UNEXPECTED THING MIGHT BE POSSIBLE. --- ELIZABETH GEORGE SPEARE

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power

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

Drinking water



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

buy bottled water from the store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the



Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

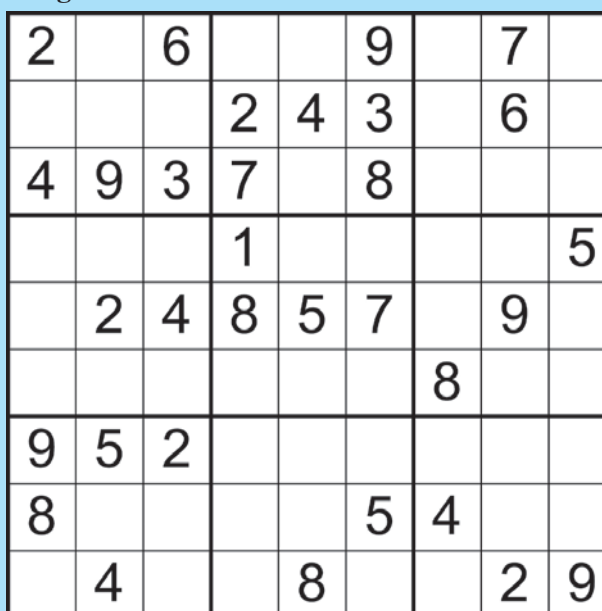
OCTOBER

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



Difficulty: ★★★

10/21

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

10/20

AI challenges maths by solving the unsolvable

Paris, France

Announcements over recent months that artificial intelligence models have cracked previously unsolvable problems are shaking to the core top-level mathematicians, who are now asking themselves: where do we come in?

"All the avenues of research I had are now gone; we're facing a new day," Hugo Duminil-Copin, winner of the 2022 Fields Medal, one of the highest honours in mathematics, recently told his colleagues at the French Mathematical Society.

Since April, AI firms have regularly been publishing solutions to previously unsolved mathematical problems as they seek to demonstrate the power of their latest models. Last week OpenAI released solutions to 719 previously unsolved problems. The advances are forcing those in the field to wonder whether this spells the end of mathematical research.

- Thinking tool -

While acknowledging the emotional shock caused by the recent publications, Stephane Mallat, 2025 Gold Medal recipient from France's national scientific research centre (CNRS), told AFP there will always be a need for mathematicians.

"Mathematics goes far beyond calculation: it's a way of thinking clearly," Mallat said.

"Beyond all the problems we face with AI, maths will remain absolutely central because it's a tool that allows us humans to think clearly and understand things," he told AFP.

An initial sign of pushback from the field has come from the Simons Foundation.

This major American patron of mathematics announced last week a \$15-million programme co-funded by OpenAI and Anthropic to support mathematicians in dealing with AI.

It will fund workshops to assess the results produced



(L-R) Emmanuelle Charpentier and Terence Tao are two winning researchers on the panel at the Breakthrough Prize Breakfast & Symposia at on November 10, 2014 in Stanford, California.

by AI and establish standards for its use.

Mallat also noted mathematicians are needed for teaching, although the rapid advancement of AI will impact this area too.

"You have a lot of young people who aren't very keen on doing maths, and when you see an impact like this, they might say: 'Oh well, even researchers are going to be replaced by AI, so why should I bother?'" said Mallat.

"That question needs to be addressed, because it's completely false that we no longer need mathematicians."

- Tractors and Columbo -

For Francois Charles, mathematician and department head at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, two separate issues are playing out.

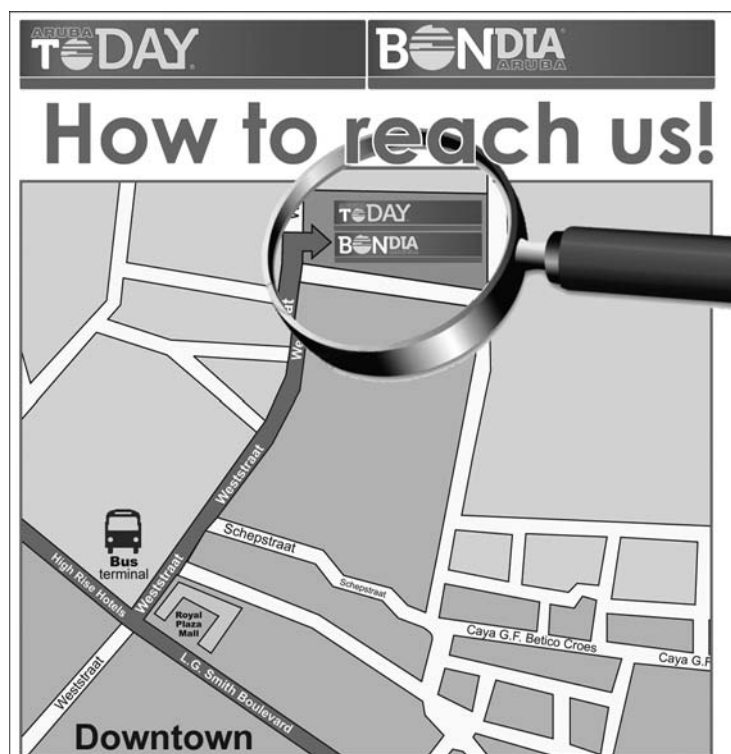
"We have legitimate concerns about how the community is organised, because AI is bringing a number of changes in how people enter the profession or at the doctoral level. But on the purely scientific side, I'm not at all pessimistic," he said.

"A certain number of obstacles may be overcome. As scientists, we need to be more ambitious."

Mallat, who has recently published a book on maths and AI, makes a distinction

between what is happening and the mechanisation of agriculture when tractors came on the scene.

"It was also a human tragedy for some who had to abandon the countryside, move to the cities, find jobs, retrain. □



HEALTH



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Oranjestad
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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

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Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
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A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
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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



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

"sandboxes", after other 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-connected 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. □

German government partnering with Nvidia on industrial AI: statement

Berlin, Germany

The German government announced a partnership on Monday with U.S. chip-making giant Nvidia aimed at accelerating the development of artificial intelligence for industrial applications.

The partnership, which was signed during an invest-

ment summit in Berlin, is intended to help develop "cutting-edge" industrial AI models that draw upon German data and industrial expertise, according to the government statement. The value of investment behind the partnership was not disclosed, nor was the deal mentioned

during a public talk between Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang at the investment event in Berlin on Monday.

But the business daily Handelsblatt reports that it could amount to several hundred million dollars.

The goal is to systematically embed industrial AI into large-scale applications and to establish a top-tier industrial AI ecosystem in Europe," the German government stated.

The statement said that a network of policymakers, industry leaders, researchers, and trade associations would be created.

While U.S.-based companies currently lead the development of large-scale generative AI models, Merz said on Monday that Germany aims to capitalise on its traditional strengths in

high-end industrial manufacturing to establish a leading position in AI applications designed for factory environments.

"The next wave of AI is physical AI," Huang said at his appearance alongside Merz on Monday, adding that the technology would "augment" German industrial expertise rather than replace it.

Developing such models requires vast volumes of data generated from production lines, something many leading traditional German industrial firms have been reluctant to share.

But Merz appealed to German companies particularly speciality mid-sized firms that play a key role in the country's economy to share more of their data for building AI applications. □



Chancellor Friedrich Merz (left, CDU) and Jen-Hsun Huang, co-founder and CEO of Nvidia, are attending the opening ceremony of the "Invest in Germany Summit" at Kraftwerk Berlin

PSG strike late to get better of Yamal and Barcelona in Champions League



PSG's French forward #14 Desire Doue (L) celebrates with teammate PSG's Portuguese midfielder #87 Joao Neves after scoring his team's first goal during the UEFA Champions League first round day 3 football match between Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and FC Barcelona at the Parc de Princes stadium in Paris on October 20, 2026.

Paris, France

Vitinha's superb late strike proved crucial as reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain saw off rivals Barcelona 4-2 on Tuesday in a dramatic game between two of the leading contenders to win this season's Champions League.

The match was poised at 2-2 when the Portuguese playmaker, who came third in last year's Ballon d'Or ranking, controlled on his chest and fired in from just outside the box in the 81st minute at the Parc des Princes.

Fabian Ruiz then sealed PSG's third victory in as many outings in this season's competition, as they aim to win the Champions League for the third season running.

It had briefly looked as though Barcelona would leave with a point when Lamine Yamal, who is hoping to win this year's Ballon d'Or, stabbed in Barcelona's second equaliser on the night.

Desire Doue had earlier opened the scoring for PSG, and Lucas Hernandez got their second goal after teenager Xavi Espot netted for the Catalans.

The defeat is a setback for Barcelona, albeit not one that is likely to seriously hurt their prospects of advancing further in Europe.

They had travelled to France on a run of 11 consecutive wins this season. That sequence is over, but the goals keep coming, and Yamal's strike was Barcelona's 50th of the campaign.

"I think it was a fantastic game from both teams but we made too many mistakes," said Barcelona coach Hansi Flick.

"But I also saw a lot of good things. It was a great test for us and we have to learn from this game. Today, in October, you cannot win titles. You win the Champions League in June."

PSG have now won seven games in a row altogether, but they lost both Ousmane Dembele -- last year's Ballon d'Or winner -- and Khvicha Kvaratskhelia to injury. It remains to be seen how seriously hurt they are, although Doue was the real star here and Luis Enrique's team are well set to comfortably reach the knockout phase anyway.

"It is just the start of the season and there will be a lot more big matches but the hunger is there and we will keep our focus," Doue told broadcaster Canal Plus.

This was the 14th meeting of the teams in the Champions League in the last 13 years, and for Barcelona it was probably not their

biggest game this week -- beat Real Madrid on Sunday and they go nine points ahead of their great rivals in La Liga.

- Rodri on bench, Dembele injured -

That helps explain why Rodri, the 2024 Ballon d'Or winner, was on the bench at kick-off, although Raphinha was back in the line-up after a spell out.

Fresh from winning 4-2 at Manchester City last week, PSG almost scored inside 90 seconds as Kvaratskhelia hit the post, but they were dealt a blow as Dembele came off after just 20 minutes with a hamstring injury. Ferran Torres replaced him, coming on against his former club, who themselves then lost Dani Olmo to injury.

Paris opened the scoring in the 38th minute following an error by Yamal -- he gave away possession in his own half, and the ball came to Doue who showed superb footwork before firing into the bottom corner from just outside the area. The home side were worthy of their lead at the interval, yet Barcelona drew level soon after half-time as Fermin Lopez released Espot who drove into the box and fired in his second senior goal. □

Reese scores 30 as Dream stun Valkyries to level WNBA finals



Angel Reese #5 of the Atlanta Dream reacts between Tiffany Hayes #15 and Kiah Stokes #41 of the Golden State Valkyries during the third quarter in game two of the WNBA Finals at Chase Center on October 19, 2026 in San Francisco, California.

San Francisco, United States

Angel Reese scored a game-high 30 points as the Atlanta Dream defeated the Golden State Valkyries 79-65 to level their best-of-seven WNBA Finals series on Monday.

Three-time WNBA All-Star and reigning defensive player of the year Reese delivered a huge performance at both ends of the court as Atlanta bounced back from their game one defeat on Saturday.

As well as leading the scoring, Reese also came up big on the defensive end with 16 rebounds, two blocks and a steal to subdue Golden State's Chase Center home crowd.

"I'm just doing whatever it takes to win," Reese said in an on-court interview following the victory.

"This environment is tough to play in. Shout out to the fans and shout to my team though -- we came and fought.

"Game one was tough for us but we moved on and turned the page and got back to who we are." Reese received scoring support from Alisha Gray with 18 points while Jordin Canada also reached double figures with 13 points.

Golden State's game one hero Gabby Williams was restricted to 14 points while Tiffany Hayes also finished with 14.

The series now heads back to Atlanta for game three on Wednesday, with game four scheduled for Friday. 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. □

With LeBron on board it's title or bust for Philly fans

Philadelphia, United States

Long-suffering Philadelphia 76ers fans haven't celebrated an NBA title in 43 years, but with newly arrived LeBron James headlining a star-studded team they are daring to dream.

"We never had a team like this," enthuses Kairee Harvey, a 32-year-old police officer and die-hard LeBron supporter.

"I still can't believe it," the resident of neighboring New Jersey said of the arrival of James in July. "I feel like I'm in a dream a little bit."

Suddenly, Harvey said, "I think that this will be our year to win a championship."

On paper, Philadelphia's starting five looks like a daunting prospect, boasting two former MVPs and a



Philadelphia 76ers fan Laurie Ney poses with her dog, both wearing Sixers jerseys, ahead of the upcoming NBA season in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 16, 2026.

former Finals MVP.

But the City of Brotherly Love has learned the hard way that talent doesn't always translate into trophies.

Philly has seen NBA icons, from Charles Barkley to Joel Embiid, with Allen Iverson in between, but hasn't won it all since 1983.

"I think there's always gonna be some caution with Philly fans," says Rob Nero, a local artist who has created several works depicting Sixers players, displayed on walls all across the city. "We're so used to getting our hopes up and having our hearts broken," Nero said. "But that's never gonna stop us from getting excited and believing in our teams."

The Sixers' final preseason game at the Xfinity Mobile Arena was sold out, fans sharing a few early moments of euphoria.

"They let me down at times as a team, but I'm there to cheer them on no matter what," said Laurie Ney, who was accompanied by her two Yorkshire terriers -- both, like her, wearing Sixers jerseys.

Historically Philadelphia is an Eagles town and in the streets the NFL team's green dominates the blue of the Sixers.

Even last year, Matthew Merovitz would have put Major League Baseball's Philadelphia Phillies in second place in the city's popularity scale.

"But if you're looking into this season where the other teams stand, I would say the Sixers are easily at the top of the city," said the young professional clad in a Sixers jersey.

Philly sports fans could certainly do with a lift from the Sixers.

The Phillies were knocked out of the first round of the

MLB playoffs. The Eagles are on a four-game skid with star quarterback Jalen Hurts out indefinitely and the Flyers are languishing in last place in the NHL Eastern Conference.

- Becoming a team -

The question is whether the show on the court will live up to the names on the marquee and whether the collection of stars come together to function as a unit. "We've already seen some exciting things in the pre-season, especially from Jaylen Brown and VJ Edgecombe," Nero said.

With no clear hierarchy yet established, many fans expect Brown, acquired in a blockbuster trade from Boston, to take control.

"This is a lot of good players together," says Brian Yoder, a septuagenarian who remembers the championship Sixers of Julius Erving and Moses Malone. "They've just got to become a team."

The 1983 squad, which swept Magic Johnson's Lakers 4-0 in the Finals, had also been shaken up the previous offseason with the arrival of reigning MVP Malone.

"They just gelled together," Yoder recalled. "That's what made it fantastic. They were a team."

Clemon Johnson, one of the heroes of the 1983 triumph, thinks it can happen again.

"I'm looking forward to watching them raise the banner next year," he told AFP.

Nothing less will do if King James is to reign in Philadelphia sports fans' hearts. For most, the throne still belongs to electrifying point guard Iverson, who carried the Sixers to the Finals in 2001.

Elijah Davis, a salesman at vintage jersey store Mitchell & Ness, said the two-year deal inked by James defines the window for success.

"If we don't get anything now or like in the next year ... I wouldn't say the organization is cooked, but it's definitely going to need some changes for sure." □

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