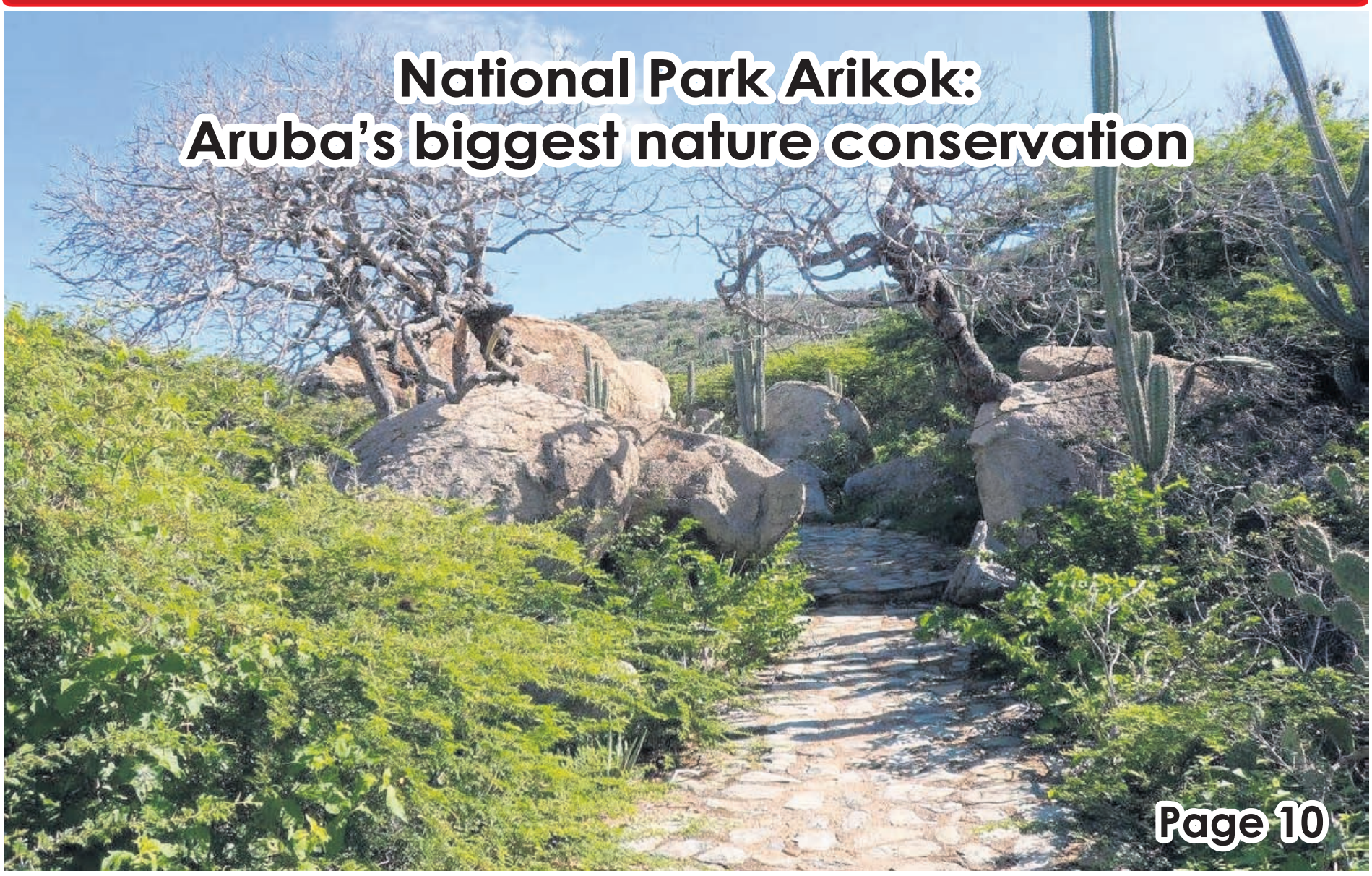
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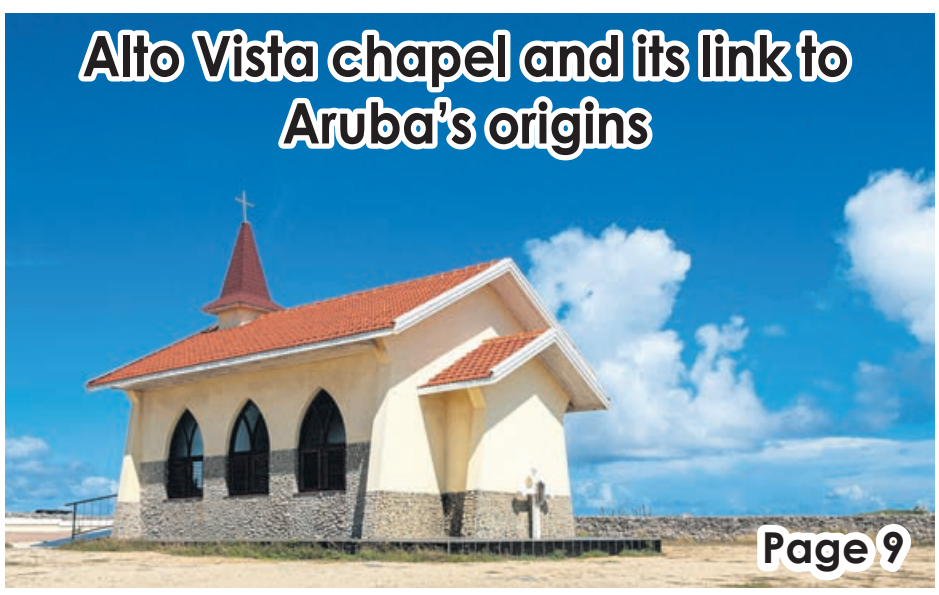
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National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

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Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins



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Place names in San Nicolas and their origins



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Democratic victories cloud outlook for AI data center rollout

Washington, United States
Strong wins for Democratic candidates threaten the prospects for energy-guzzling data centers in key U.S. states, potentially slowing the AI rollout that has carried Wall Street forward over the past four years.
The prospect of stricter regulation was weighing on stocks in AI heavyweights such as Elon Musk's SpaceX ahead of the U.S. markets open, after drops for key chipmakers in Asia including Samsung in South Korea.
After a campaign marked by growing concerns about the environmental impacts of data centers popping up across the United States, President Donald Trump an enthusiastic backer of hands-off regulation for what he calls "super intelligence" endured a stinging rebuke of his Republican party.
Democrats gained key strongholds such as Texas, where both the Senate and governorship were won by candidates backing greater data center regulation.
"We need an immediate moratorium on data centers to last until the legislature can meet to put in place real protections so Texans can have a seat at the table to decide if and how data centers come into their communities," Gina Hinojosa, a lawyer who defeated outgoing Texas governor Greg Abbott, said during the campaign.



U.S. President Donald Trump presents the National Medal of Science to Elon Musk during the "Golden Age of American Innovation Summit" at the Institute of Peace in Washington, DC, on October 8, 2026.

Abbott had wanted to make the Lone Star state the "nerve center" of artificial intelligence and data center development, but he has since noticeably shifted his stance amid a growing public backlash over energy and water provision.
Data centers notably require substantial amounts of fresh water to help cool servers, raising fears of localized shortages.
Hinojosa has urged an end to tax exemptions granted to the sector, as does fellow Democrat James Talarico, who was elected on Tuesday as a Texas senator.
Analysts had described the outcome in deeply conservative Texas as a crucial test for the future of AI infrastructure.
Thanks to its abundant energy supply and favorable regulatory framework, Texas is expected to account for nearly 30 percent of national demand for electricity dedicated to AI operations by 2028 a figure projected to rise sharply, according to calculations by Bloom Energy.

- Safer in space? -
Alphabet, the parent of Google, has announced plans to build several data centers in Texas, and Musk who spent hundreds of millions of dollars supporting the Republican camp has moved the headquarters of his flagship companies, Tesla, SpaceX and X, to the state.
"Data centers in space looking pretty appealing right now," Musk quipped after the vote, referring to his goal of a satellite computing network.
But investors are increasingly concerned that tougher regulations will make it harder for AI firms to make money off their massive investments.
"Democratic opposition to rapid data-center expansion could focus on power use, environmental constraints, local infrastructure strain, competition policy and the social consequences of AI deployment," said Patrick Munnelly, market strategist at the brokerage Tickmill Group.
"None of this necessarily breaks the long-term AI theme, but it can raise the hurdle rate for investment," he said.

The regulatory impact will be greatest at state level, highlighting the role of governors in responding to voter concerns.
"Given the size of the Democrats' victory, adding Texas governorship, and a 29 to 1 lead to restrict data centers, politicians that want to remain employed as politicians are going to heed these messages" about data center concerns, veteran financial analyst Jim Bianco posted on X.
In Georgia, another state with a heavy slate of data center projects, the new Democratic governor Keisha Lance Bottoms "has advocated a temporary statewide pause on new data centers, alongside requirements intended to ensure that large customers bear the costs associated with their infrastructure," noted Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.❑

3M agrees $7.35 billion 'forever chemical' settlement

Washington, United States
U.S. conglomerate 3M has committed $7.35 billion to settle injury claims linked to "forever chemicals" in firefighting foam it produced, the firm announced Tuesday.
The chemicals, also know as PFAS, have been linked to serious illnesses including cancer and are known as forever chemicals because they persist in the environment after serving their intended purpose.
The settlement addresses "approximately 99 percent" of claims in a suit filed before a South Carolina court involving over 100,000 plaintiffs, 3M said.
The firm will pay out over nine years, starting with $50 million in 2026, with nothing to be paid next year, and 20 percent of payments due in the final two years, it added.



Illustration picture shows a site to sanitize contaminated soil in Zwijndrecht, on Wednesday 25 February 2026.

"This settlement is a significant milestone for 3M and substantially reduces litigation uncertainty," the firm's chairman and CEO William Brown said in a statement.

The deal follows another settlement, approved by a US court in 2024, for 3M to pay up to $12.5 billion. Those funds were to go to public water utilities for PFAS remediation and testing.
3M announced it would stop making PFAS by the end of 2025, and says it has met that goal and is investing in treatment technologies for sites where it manufactured the chemicals.
But it added that the agreement announced Tuesday "is not an admission of liability" and it was prepared to defend itself in litigiation "if certain agreed settlement terms are not fulfilled."
3M has faced legal action over PFAS pollution in several countries, with Australia in May announcing a $1.43 billion suit over military base contamination linked to firefighting foam.
Plaintiffs in Belgium are also seeking around $35 million in damages over contamination they say came from a 3M plant in Zwijndrecht.❑



Georgia Democratic gubernatorial nominee Keisha Lance Bottoms speaks to the news media outside a Cobb County voting precinct on Election Day during the midterm elections in Atlanta, Georgia, on November 3, 2026.

Historic leadership firsts for minorities across US in midterm vote

Los Angeles, United States
The U.S. midterm vote ushered in a wave of historic leadership firsts across the country on Tuesday, electoral milestones on a night that saw voters issue a sharp rejection of President Donald Trump's second term.
The first Black female governor, the first openly gay male senator, the first Muslim senator and the first female Native American governor all won groundbreaking elections in the vote that racked up resounding gains for Democrats.
Bill Shiebler chief strategy officer at the non-profit State Voices, a network of advocates for civic engagement and equity told AFP the night was "a huge rebuke against hate and division."
"We're witnessing an electorate that increasingly sees itself in its leaders, and the leaders who come out of communities they now represent," Shiebler said.
In Michigan, leftist Abdul El-Sayed became the first Muslim elected to the US Senate.
The former medical administrator drew huge campaign crowds but faced a surge of anti-Muslim rhetoric from his detractors in the bruising race.
The Council on American-Islamic Relations advocacy group praised El-Sayed for persevering despite "endless Islamophobic attacks."
"Our communities worked hard to make sure our voices were heard and that we are properly represented in the Senate," the organization said.
"This is what is possible when we show up and vote together."

- 'Historic election' -
In the southern state of Georgia, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms won the race for governor, making her the first Black woman elected to the top office in any U.S. state.

A former Atlanta mayor, Bottoms defeated billionaire health care executive Rick Jackson, a win that returns the governor's office to Democrats after more than two decades of Republican control.
Democratic Representative Chris Pappas, meanwhile, will become the first openly gay man to serve in the U.S. Senate after winning in New Hampshire. He has served in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2019.
"No one should be discriminated against because of who they are or who they love," he said on his website.
In New Mexico, Democrat Deb Haaland became the first Native American woman elected governor, beating Republican Gregg Hull.

A member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, she had served as the secretary of the interior under former president Joe Biden, the first Native American to serve as a US cabinet secretary.
Democrat Peggy Flanagan of Minnesota was elected as the first female Native American senator.
The sweeping midterm rebuke of Trump also saw a number of state-level electoral firsts, including the first Latina governor in Texas with Gina Hinojosa's victory.
Looking ahead, if the current House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries wins the speakership as expected in the new Congress, he would become the first Black speaker of the House in U.S. history.
"This was a historic election where people decided to believe in themselves and really lean into the hope about the promise of this country, rebuking an effort to snuff out people's voices," Shiebler said.❑



U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson (L) speaks to the media after stepping off Air Force One with US President Donald Trump at Dubuque Regional Airport in Dubuque, Iowa on November 1, 2026.

Republican U.S. House speaker to step down after midterm rout

Washington, United States
U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson will step down as Republican leader following his party's crushing midterm election defeat, his spokesman confirmed to AFP Wednesday.
Johnson, the highest-ranking Republican in the United States after President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, is second in the line of presidential succession.
Asked whether reports that Johnson would step aside were correct, his spokesman responded in a one-word email: "Accurate."
The Louisiana Republican told staff of his decision Wednesday morning, a day after Democrats seized control of both chambers of Congress in a sweeping rejection of Trump's party and his policies.
Johnson, 54, had led the House since October 2023, when he emerged as a compromise candidate after weeks of Republican infighting following the ouster of his predecessor, Kevin McCarthy.
He had campaigned extensively to preserve the Republicans' narrow House majority and previously suggested he might remain party leader even if Democrats won control.
His decision not to seek the minority leadership clears the way for a contest between current House Majority Leader Steve Scalise and Judiciary Committee chairman Jim Jordan, both fellow conservatives and Trump loyalists.

The president praised Johnson's leadership and said he would "stay out of" the race to find a successor, with the vote expected on Tuesday next week.
"But the speaker was fantastic. The people under him were fantastic. All good people," Trump told reporters.
Johnson won reelection to his Louisiana seat, and his decision does not mean he is immediately resigning as speaker or leaving Congress.
Meanwhile, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries formally sought his colleagues' support Wednesday to become the next speaker, a position he is widely expected to secure when the new Congress convenes in January. Jeffries, who would become the first Black speaker of the House in U.S. history, pledged to make affordability and accountability central priorities.
"The days of the House functioning like a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trump administration are over," he declared in a letter to Democratic lawmakers.
"We are going to hold the crooks accountable," he added, promising action on healthcare costs, tariffs and the Iran war.❑

‘Club Kid’: NY party scene drama emerges as Oscars outsider

Paris, France
After thrilling the international festival circuit, US indie sensation “Club Kid” set in the queer New York party scene will hit cinemas this week ahead of what many critics see as a tilt at the Oscars.

The debut film from Jordan Firstman became one of the buzziest titles at this year’s Cannes Film Festival in May, leading to a bidding war among distributors that was won by U.S. independent film giant A24.
It has since won awards at festivals, with expectations steadily built by a string of rave reviews that have handed the movie a rare 100-percent rating on aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes.
Firstman, 35, told AFP in an interview ahead of the film’s international release from Wednesday that he had used his own personal experience of New York’s underground gay club scene for the movie that he also wrote and acts in.
“I know it deep in my bones, and I know the beauty of it, and I know the complications of it, and I know the pain of it, and so I wanted that all to just be shown,” he said in Paris.


(L-R) Cara Delevingne and Jordan Firstman attend “Club Kid” New York Premiere at Regal Union Square on October 29, 2026 in New York City.

The film chronicles the life of a gay New Yorker in his thirties, a queer drug-loving party promoter who suddenly discovers he is the father of a 10-year-old child.
It offers viewers an immersion into the underground LGBTQ party scene where everyone speaks the same coded language: “K” for ketamine, “C” for cocaine, “G” for GHB, “3” for 3-MMC. Some scenes in the film are shot in real underground parties.
But while it could easily have gotten lost in a plea for same-sex parenting or in re-telling a story about addiction, Firstman instead focuses on the universal by telling the gentle yet chaotic story of learning how to be a parent.
“It’s a love story between a father and a son. It’s a love story about community. It’s a family love story about chosen family,” he explained.
His aim was to produce a queer re-telling of family-based classics such as “The Kid” by Charlie Chaplin or Academy Award Best Picture winner “Kramer vs Kramer” by Robert Benton.

- Self-esteem -
With a host of industry magazines and critics tipping the movie as a possible Oscars contender, Firstman says his hard-partying past is behind him as he deals with the bright glare of publicity.
“I can’t afford on a Monday to be hung over,” he joked.
Before making “Club Kid”, which features model Cara Delevingne as a cocaine-addled party organizer, he was best known for short queer comedy clips on Instagram.
While writing his first feature, he said he also wanted to explore the difficult journey to self-respect and love that many LGBTQ people have to take.
“If you grow up gay, people bully you or your family doesn’t accept it. I think a lot of people have this, and I think it doesn’t really get better unless you really, really work on it,” he told AFP.

Although he said he had “struggles with self-esteem”, he was supremely confident in his abilities as a writer and director.
“I almost had an inflated sense of self when it came to my work. When people didn’t want to make my movies or make my TV shows, I was like, ‘they’re the idiots, I’m right’,” he explained.

“Club Kid” takes place in 2016 a year that First man now looks back on with nostalgia.
“There was just something that felt really fun and cool (in that year),” he said.
“Right after, Trump got elected in America, it has never for a day gotten better. The second we got rid of Trump, we got a pandemic. The second the pandemic ended, we got Trump again.
“2016 was the last good year, I think,” he said.❑

France’s top literary prize winner touts using AI

Paris, France
The winner of France’s top literary prize Prix Goncourt said Wednesday he used artificial intelligence in his acclaimed book to “play with the reader”.

Philippe Jaenada, who was announced Tuesday as the winner of the 2026 prize for his novel “L’Inconnue du quai de Javel” (The Unknown Woman of the Quai de Javel), admitted to using AI three times in the writing process.
His comments came amid a worldwide backlash against academics and authors, including exclusion from literary competitions, over allegations of using the technology in their writing.


Laureate of the Prix Goncourt literary prize Philippe Jaenada for the novel L Inconnue du quai de Javel poses after the award ceremony at the Drouant restaurant in Paris on November 3, 2026.

Jaenada told France Inter radio that he first used AI to insert a sentence written by ChatGPT, in order to “play with the reader”.
The 62-year-old author revealed the sentence to the Goncourt jury on Tuesday.
“If it gets out, I’ll know where it came from,” he quipped.

On another occasion, he used AI “to make fun of ChatGPT a little, which gives completely absurd answers about a technical detail”.
Jaenada said he also used AI for technical research.
“I don’t think you can push AI away; you can’t act like it doesn’t exist. You have to use it, you have to acknowledge it, you have to tame it and not let yourself be replaced. It has to be useful,” he said.

His true crime novel explores an unsolved murder of a young woman from Brittany in the late 1940s.

Once considered a frontrunner for the Prix Goncourt, Haitian-Canadian author Thelyson Orelien had his novel withdrawn from the shortlist amid speculation he used AI writing his novel “C’etait ca ou mourir” (“It Was Either That or Die”).
Orelien’s Canadian publisher last month confirmed he had used AI to help write the book and was severing professional ties with the author.❑



Architectural detail of the Acropolis Museum, an archaeological museum located in the historic center of Athens, Greece, Europe

Historians' dismay over lack of contemporary museum in Greece

Athens, Greece

From the Acropolis to the National Archaeological Museum and many more, Greece is home to some of the most famous and significant collections in history, documenting antiquity, archaeology and history across the ages.

But there is one glaring hole in the country's relentless examination of its own past: a contemporary museum documenting the 20th century, among the most traumatic in Greece's long history.

Some experts warn that absence could prove the truth of the old axiom: those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it, especially when it comes to the far-right.

"There is still a generational trauma that often leads to polarisation and the instrumentalisation of history, especially in political discourse," said Dimitris Kamouzis, a researcher at the Centre for Asia Minor Studies in Athens.

"This is very worrying, especially in our time, with the rise of the far right and nationalist parties in Europe ... who want to appropriate history," he told AFP.

Every year, Greeks proudly celebrate the day Athens rejected an ultimatum from fascist Italy on October 28, 1940, marking the country's entry into World War II on the side of the Allies.

It is an anniversary as cherished as March 25, 1821, the day celebrated as the outbreak of Greece's revolution against centuries of Ottoman rule.

But because Communists mounted the most effective resistance in the Second World War against Greece's Nazi occupiers, the issue remains sensitive in a country where the Communist KKE party was outlawed for decades.

Since its legalisation in 1974, the KKE party has traditionally been Greece's third strongest for over 40 years.

State collections such as the War Museum in Athens usually gloss over the uncomfortable fact that most of the resistance was Communist-led.

And the four-year civil war that followed Greece's liberation in 1944 left fissures that still exist today.

Greece only formally recognised its national resistance irrespective of political affiliation in 1982.

- History 'phobia' -

"This shows a recurring phobia toward contemporary history," notes Menelaos Haralabidis, a historian of the 1941-1944 Nazi occupation and the resistance.

"The events of the last decades are still sensitive topics," adds Kamouzis.

Traumatic aspects of Greek history, such as collaborationism during the Axis occupation, or Greece's defeat to Turkey during the 1922 Asia Minor campaign, are still taboo issues for many, decades on.

"These are traumatic events," said Elli Lemonidou, a professor of modern history at the University of Patras. "They have not been fully represented in cinema, in other media, or in public discourse."

Small museums, usually set up by local authorities where Nazi atrocities took place, try to make up the shortfall.

Such institutions "make a commendable effort to preserve documents, but they cannot fill the void left by a metropolitan museum", Haralabidis said.

Earlier this year, an unexpected trove of World War II photographs showing the last moments of 200 men executed by German soldiers in Athens in 1944 surfaced in an online auction.

The Greek culture ministry ended up purchasing the rare images from the Belgian collector selling them after the find stirred great emotion.

"It takes political will to move forward. We can't keep sweeping history under the rug," Haralabidis said.❑



This photograph shows a logo of the World Health Organization (WHO) during a press conference on global health issues, in Geneva on October 7, 2026.

WHO sounds alarm over lack of physical activity among teens

Geneva, Switzerland

A quarter of teens globally engage in basically no physical activity not even an hour of exercise a week -- the World Health Organization said Wednesday, warning that this significantly raises health risks.

The WHO's new global estimates found that when asked, one in four adolescents aged 11 to 17 report no active days defined as at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity in the previous week.

The study, published in The Lancet Global Health, draws on hundreds of population-based surveys from 140 countries and territories, involving more than 3.2 million teens, WHO said.

When extrapolated, the findings amount to some 240 million young people with no active days in the span of a week, the United Nations health agency said.

Overall, adolescents partaking in the studies on average reported being active for 2.7 days a week, while only 14 percent reported being active on all seven days, the estimates showed.

The WHO warned that "physical inactivity is a major risk factor for heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers"

"Helping young people develop active habits early in life is critical to protecting their health and reducing the global burden of these diseases," it said in a statement.

The organisation lamented the lack of progress, with physical activity among adolescents remaining "virtually unchanged" in the past 15 years, urging societies to step up.

"For 15 years, the world has made almost no progress in getting young people moving, and girls are being left furthest behind," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in the statement.

The WHO highlighted a stubborn gender gap when it came to physical activity among teens, with girls far less active than boys in almost every country and region.

According to the estimate, 28 percent of girls reported no active days, compared to 22 percent of boys, while only 11 percent of girls reported being active every day, compared to 17 percent of boys.

There were also stark differences between nations.

While fully 40 percent of adolescents in countries like Namibia, Nepal and the Philippines reported no active days, more than 30 percent of youths in Bangladesh and Serbia reported daily physical activity, the report showed.❑

Hungary opens communist-era informer files

Budapest, Hungary

Hungary released communist-era secret police files Wednesday, identifying tens of thousands of former informants in a long-delayed reckoning with the country's repressive past, spearheaded by Prime Minister Peter Magyar.

Since Hungary's democratic transition in 1990, efforts to open communist-era archives have repeatedly stalled, critics blaming successive governments' reluctance to implicate public figures across the political spectrum.

Magyar, who ousted long-time nationalist premier Viktor Orban in April on the promise of "regime change", pressed ahead with a bill in September to grant the public unrestricted access to the records for the first time.

"After 36 years, we are finally fulfilling what was once one of the key promises of the 1990 regime change a promise that was later denied and lied about," Magyar told a media briefing at the state security archives.

"For decades, restrictions on public access provided opportunities for political



A row of shelves with files, September 29, 2026, is pictured in the Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security in Budapest.

hysteria, blackmail, the exertion of pressure, silencing," he said.

A digitalized, searchable database containing names and records related to an estimated 50,000-60,000 former informants came online at 10:00 am (0900 GMT).

Ahead of the publication, rumors had resurfaced that Orban was an informant but his name did not appear in the archives.

- 'Dignity and humanity' -

Some public figures including politicians, clergy members and TV personalities did feature in the registry.

However, Bendeguz Gergo Cseh, the head of the archive, said a "large proportion" of the informants were likely "people who did not make their mark on national public life".

The government will set up hotlines offering emotional support and counseling for those affected by the revelations.

"Following today's disclosure, a great many families will be confronted with information that is difficult for them to bear," Magyar said, asking people to treat the disclosure with "dignity and humanity".

A second batch of files, giving more details on about 9,000 of the informants, will be released in February.

Some personal information, including details on individuals' sexual orientation, will be redacted.

Hungary was under one-party communist rule between 1949 and 1989 that repressed dissent.

Much like in East Germany and other parts of the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc during the Cold War, authorities employed an extensive network of informants to monitor public sentiment.

Individuals, often recruited through coercion, were tasked with reporting on colleagues, friends and even relatives for signs of disloyalty towards the regime.

Secret police employed a total of 150,000 informants during the four decades, according to estimates from the state security archives, but records survive for only around a third of them.

Many files are believed to have been destroyed in the 1956 anti-Soviet uprising, or hidden during the months-long peaceful transition to democracy in 1989-1990.❑

'Fewer and fewer': Dry summer hits Italy truffle season

Pietra Marazzi, Italy

After an excessively dry summer, black truffles are becoming few and far between in the misty hills of the Piedmont region in northern Italy.

"The moon is perfect, and yet I only found two little ones last night," Giuseppe Esposito, 69, told AFP as he searched with his dog Attila.

"We needed rain in July or August," he said of the spots where he usually hunts the precise location of which he keeps a closely guarded secret even from his wife.

Truffle gathering is an important tradition in rural Italy, and often a source of untaxed supplementary income for local residents, with white truffles worth several thousand euros per kilogram and premium black truffles typically selling for hundreds of euros per kilogram.

Most black truffles now come from truffle plantations or cultivated truffle grounds, where trees have had their roots soaked in a truffle-based slurry to encourage the fungus to grow.

In his woods in Pietra Marazzi, Marco Boido, 49, a truffle dealer and restaurateur in nearby Alessandria, is also disappointed and worried.

"We started the season in a terrible way, we're at minus 50 percent in production," he said a month in from the start of the season.



Truffle hunter Giuseppe Esposito smells a black truffle harvested from the truffle plantation of Boido Tartufi in Pietra Marazzi, near Alessandria, northern Italy on October 27, 2026.

"This year they're much smaller, and more fragrant, that's true," he said.

"If this drought continues, there will be fewer and fewer in our area," Boido said.

'Gives you goosebumps'

A truffle hunter who works for Boido and preferred to remain anonymous said the production of white truffle was also "off kilter" this year.

"The unseasonal heat has dried out the banks of the streams and the dampest valleys," he said.

Another truffle hunter in Umbria in central Italy said that better areas for truffles this year were "more enclosed, cooler mountain valleys, where the moisture held" during the summer.

"The aroma is exceptional and the texture very firm, which is keeping market prices high."

For several years now, Italy has also had to contend with the growing strength of the Spanish truffle industry, where farmers have planted vast truffle orchards and slashed costs.

In 2025, the Italian government once again tried to reform the truffle sector by encouraging more production in truffle plantations.

But the bill faced strong opposition from traditional "trifulai" the word for truffle hunters and it remains stuck in the Senate.

"We need policies to shift the calendars and to manage the land, so as not to block the water that runs down with the plants," said Fabio Cerretano, president of the Italian federation of truffle gatherers' associations.❑

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 National 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.



Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner
The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast
Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick "to-go" breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal
The main meal is typically eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken stewed or fried with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can are largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi bonch'i rabo (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time
Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening "meal" can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.

(Religious) Holidays
Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably form Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch. Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights
Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, baskets, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun.

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao
*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)
*Saco: Saco literally means "bag". Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.❑

Source:
Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

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Sundown at BLU — Where Happy Hour Lasts Longer.

Aruba to me



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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 Algamesi 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.❑

Meet an Aruban trailblazer: Padu Lampe

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

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

In a publication of the informative seminar, "Observer", from august 1st, 1962, Padu's many merits and friendly personality stood out. It was said that he was an excellent pianist with a personal style and full of surprises. Secondly, though the composer was not too familiar with music theory, he showed innovations in his compositions. Lastly, Padu was a promoter of Creole music around the world.

One of the most important moments in Aruban history, in which he was able to witness first-hand, was the first radio broadcast on the island on March 20th, 1954. Here, he was accompanied by Antillean guitarist Julian Coco and Hubert "Lio" Booi.

In the art world, Padu was also a known painter. During his youth, he made several painting using his unique style. In 1939, he participated in an art exhibit in New York, where he won a bronze medal for his painting "Typical View of Aruba."

Padu remained a popular artist within the Dutch Antilles and the Caribbean as a pianist, singer, author and painter. Padu Lampe was a local artist who became renowned in Venezuela, Colombia, The U.S. and The Netherlands too. In the 1950s, he sold no less than 50 thousand copies of his long-playing albums (LPs).

Padu Lampe was a multifaceted artist, inspired by his interest in parapsychology and supernatural phenomenon. He wrote three books in Papiamento on the subject in 1986, which was published by the Aruban National Printing Press with sponsorship provided by the Prince Bernhard Funds Netherlands Antilles.

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

Padu will always be in Aruba's heart, because he had composed various special songs dedicated to the mothers of the island; his song "Sonrisa di un baby" ("A baby's Smile") has been written in three different languages. Padu also wrote our national anthem "Aruba Dushi Tera", along with Mr. Rufo Wever. This song was approved by the government of Aruba and was named the official anthem of the island in 1976.❑



ARUBA TODAY

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

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



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

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

Nature Conservation

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

The Landscape

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

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

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

Cultural and Historical components

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





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

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

Park Management

The Aruba Conservation Foundation (ACF), formerly known as Aruba National Park Foundation, manages the national park. This foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) was officially established and subsequently brought under management of ACF. In 2019, preliminary management plan for marine were introduced for Parke Marino to conserve reefs, seagrass beds, and mangrove forests and in 2020 ACF was given additional management areas such as the Saliñas (Druif, Malmok, Cerca, Palm Beach, Bubali etc.) and also additional areas such as Rooi Manonchi, Ser'I Teishi etc. Managed areas can be seen here: https://acf.aw/.

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

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 Curacao 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 medium 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 herder, 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.





ARUBA TODAY

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

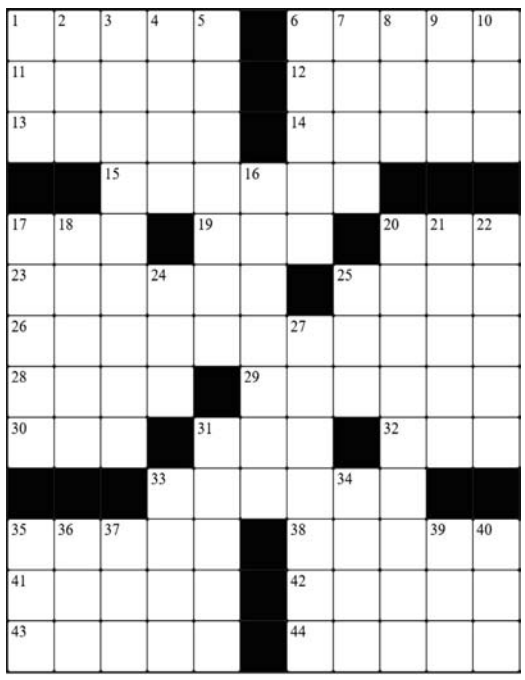
1. Circus worker
6. Track events
11. Vibrant
12. Chef's mushroom
13. Made over
14. Book section
15. Promise
17. Sticky stuff
19. Desire
20. Pussy foot
23. Tolerates
25. Travel need
26. Some video game rewards
28. "Dune" duke
29. Deodorant target
30. Snaky shape
31. Auction signal
32. Low number
33. Money, in slang
35. Take it easy
38. Charged
41. Knock for a loop
42. Crowd scene
43. Potato, e.g
44. Dance music

DOWN

1. Road sealer
2. Brewery output
3. Bisector settings
4. Demonic
5. Late flights
6. Occupy the throne
7. Last Stuart ruler
8. Atlantic catch
9. Scrape (out)
10. Half dozen
16. Lose hope
17. Roof feature
18. Some woodwinds
20. Identifies
21. Sean of "The Lord of the Rings"
22. Squander
24. Twosome
25. Energy
27. Picked from the menu
31. Ring figure
33. Stupefy
34. Long skirt
35. Chinese zodiac animal
36. Outback bird
37. Techs' place
39. Lob path
40. Eastern "way"

1 C	2 R	3 O	4 O	5 N	■	6 S	7 L	8 I	9 T
10 L	A	R	G	O	■	11 E	T	U	D	E
12 O	V	A	L	S	■	13 M	A	T	E	D
14 S	A	T	E	■	15 S	P	R	E	A	D
16 E	G	O	■	17 W	E	E	■	18 S	L	Y
19 T	E	R	20 R	I	E	R	21 S	■	■	■
■	22 D	Y	E	S	■	23 O	K	24 R	25 A	■
■	■	■	26 D	E	27 R	R	I	E	R	28 E
29 L	30 O	31 S	■	32 G	A	S	■	33 F	I	X
34 A	M	P	35 S	U	P	■	36 S	I	Z	E
37 T	A	L	L	Y	■	38 P	I	N	O	T
39 C	H	A	O	S	■	40 I	R	E	N	E
41 H	A	T	E	■	■	42 C	E	D	A	R

Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the 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.

11-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

I P Z I J C R G L H Q T A H I

E X R G T P. L T L A G Q S I I B

R V G Q A G C, Q Y B L

Q V V C G Z L Q H G Q Y L Y H G T T L S G Y H

Q J B L G Y Z G. — B I C I H F X V Q C A G C

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NOVEMBER ALWAYS SEEMS TO ME THE NORWAY OF THE YEAR. — EMILY DICKINSON

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.



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

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/5

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/4

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Switching on brain cells: the Nobel-winning science of optogenetics

Paris, France

In optogenetics, scientists control neurones by stimulating them with light potentially unlocking breakthroughs for conditions such as dementia, depression and blindness.

Three scientists won the Nobel medicine prize on Monday for their work in the field: US neurologist Karl Deisseroth and German scientists Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel.

"Being able to manipulate cells with a combination of light and genetics has been transformational across the biological sciences," said Simon Schultz, neurotechnology professor at Imperial College London. Here are some key facts about optogenetics and its uses.

- Protein discovery -

In a type of green algae, Hegemann and Nagel discovered a light-sensitive protein that they dubbed channelrhodopsin.

Deisseroth introduced it genetically into a cell and stimulated it with light, which triggered a nerve signal in rats and mice.

Controlling the light, scientists can switch a neurone's signal on off with minute precision.

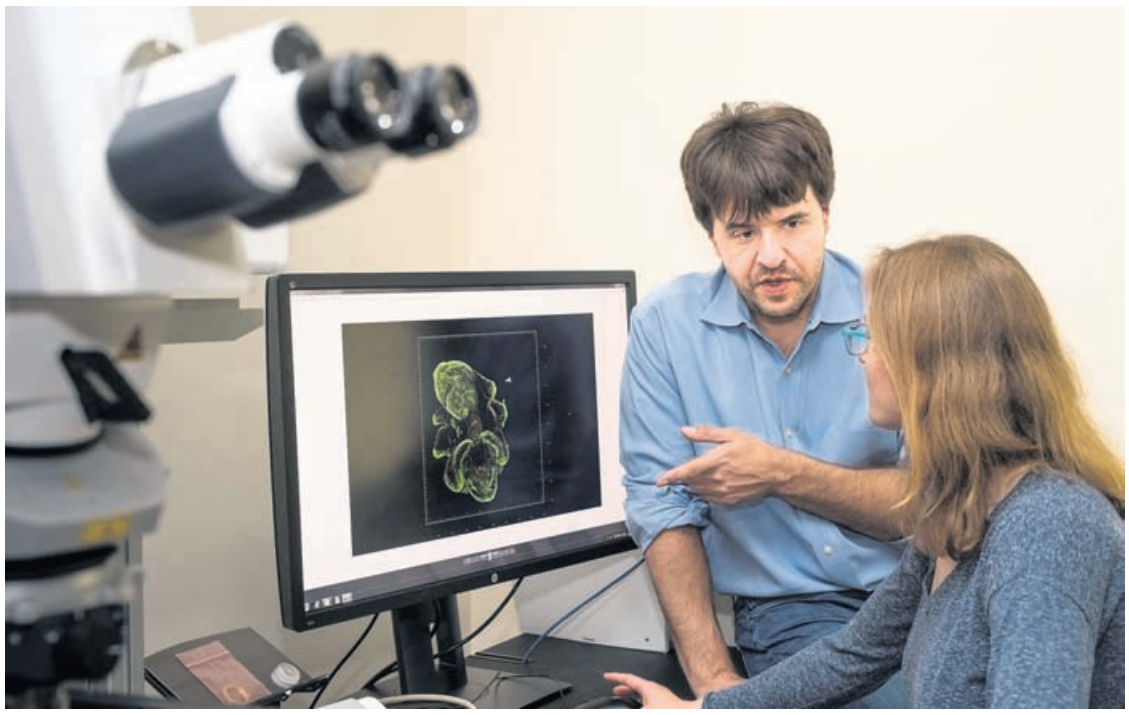
By turning off some neurones and observing others, they can track which areas affect certain functions.

Introducing the prize, Nobel medicine committee member and neuroscientist Abdel El Manira said the discovery shed light on functions "from parental behaviour and aggression to anxiety and fear, as well as fundamental physiological drives such as thirst and water intake".

- Memory -

Schultz said his own teams had used optogenetics "as a closed loop treatment for memory disorders" by lengthening the pulses that help the brain store memories.

"The next step is to demonstrate that we can improve learning and memory in complex tasks," he said in comments released by the college.



This undated handout photo released on October 5, 2026 by the University of Stanford / Medicine shows U.S. psychiatrist and neurologist Karl Deisseroth (L).

- Blindness -

Jose-Alain Sahel, founder of the Vision Institute in Paris, told AFP his team carried out promising trials using optogenetics to treat a degenerative disease.

They used gene therapy to introduce the key protein to a patient's defective eye cells and projected light through special goggles successfully activating the retinal cells.

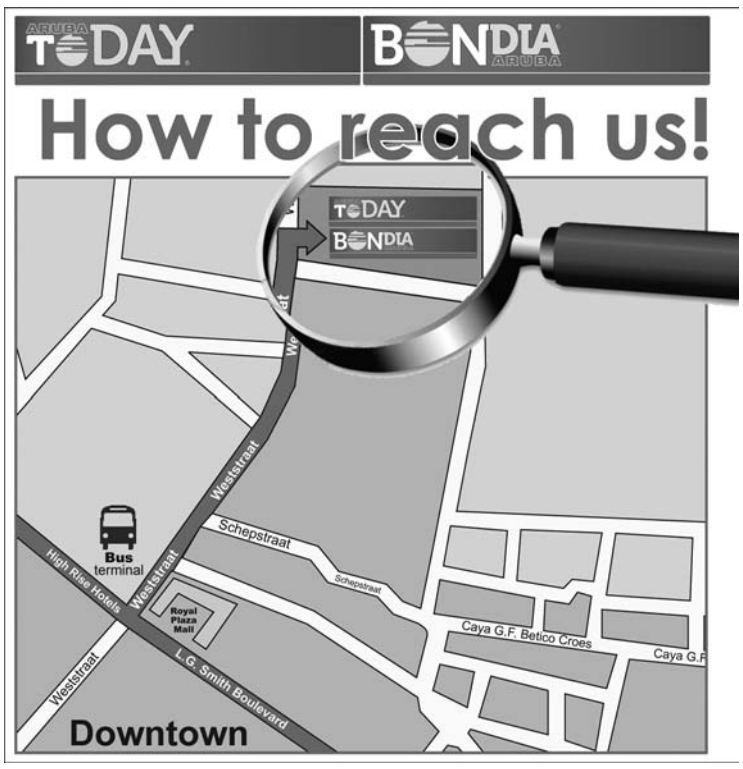
"Vision restoration is probably the most fertile ground for relatively rapid medical advances" in the field, Marco Tripodi, a senior molecular biologist at Cambridge University, told AFP.

- Nerve illnesses -

Beyond such direct therapeutic interventions, optogenetics could serve as "as a discovery tool that reveals new therapeutic targets for neurological and psychiatric disease", said Tripodi.

Epilepsy and Parkinson's disease "provide obvious examples where the ability to control defined neuronal populations with high precision could ultimately be valuable", he said.

The prizewinning research could help "understand what goes wrong in diseases such as Alzheimer's and epilepsy", Jorge Brotons Mas, a neural researcher at CEU Cardenal Herrera University in Spain, in comments published by the Science Media Centre.❑



HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad	San Nicolas
Hospital	IMSAN
7:00 pm/10:00pm	24 HOURS
Tel. 527 4000	Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Eagle
Tel. 587 9011
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

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Apple AI tools come to China after two-year delay

Beijing, China

Apple began on Wednesday a long-delayed trial rollout of in-house artificial intelligence tools for Chinese users, playing catch-up to homegrown smartphone makers in a major market for the US giant.

The on-device features dubbed "Apple Intelligence" were first released in the United States and other countries in autumn 2024, marking the firm's first major push into generative AI.

But strict Chinese regulatory requirements for the fast-evolving technology have held back its launch there as well as the fact that models from Google and OpenAI, which Apple has used elsewhere to boost its own AI capabilities, are not available in the country.

Apple, which has largely stayed out of the global AI investment frenzy, announced it will work with a Chinese partner Alibaba's Qwen to integrate more powerful AI features into devices alongside its own basic AI offerings.



Apple CEO John Ternus speaks at the Apple "Pro and Tell" event on October 28, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

Wednesday's trial rollout is restricted to developers, but public access to Apple Intelligence services in China will come in December, the company said in a statement at the weekend.

The long-anticipated Chinese rollout of Apple Intelligence "fills a long-standing gap in Apple's AI offering", said Ivan Lam, a senior analyst at Counterpoint Research. However, it does not necessarily give the Californian company "a significant advantage" in a crowded market, Lam said.

The initial release includes 18 AI features, from live translation of phone calls to tools for summarising and proofreading messages, but not the latest upgrade of iPhone assistant Siri.

- 'Concession' -

Chinese regulations require AI service providers to register with the country's internet watchdog, and there are requirements to use local data centres and process data domestically.

Apple only secured regulatory approval in July, after reportedly holding talks with Chinese tech firms including Alibaba, Baidu, ByteDance and Tencent about partnerships on Apple Intelligence.

Major US AI firms, including Google, OpenAI and Anthropic, have either banned Chinese users or restricted access to their services, and are unlikely to secure regulatory clearance.

Working with local partners on Apple Intelligence "signifies a structural concession by Apple regarding its pricing and defining power over the AI experience in the Chinese market", Zhang Yi, founder of research firm iiMedia, told AFP.

Apple's delay in introducing AI tools in China was not due to lags in research and development, but rather "compliance costs", he said.❑

Google turns off AI for schoolchildren by default

San Francisco, United States

Google has said it will switch off its AI tools for schoolchildren by default, after drawing criticism for pushing artificial intelligence features to students while schools are still debating how the technology should be used in classrooms.

The search engine juggernaut dominates technology in American schools. Its education apps, including Gmail, Docs and the Classroom platform, are used in classrooms across the country, and its low-cost Chromebook laptops are the devices U.S. schools most often issue to students.

Under the changes Google announced in a blog post on Tuesday, Gemini, Gemini Notebook, Gemini in Classroom and Search will be turned off for K-12 student accounts until school administrators switch them on.



New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani (R), New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (L), and U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) stand outside Murphy's Sports Bar, on November 1, 2026 in the Astoria neighborhood of Queens in New York City.

Google told AFP the new controls would be rolled out worldwide, beginning in the United States, but that it had not yet set a date.

The changes also mean schools will not be able to give students Google Search without its AI features.

Chris Phillips, Google's vice president for education, told The New York Times that "Search and A.I. are deeply integrated," as AI features are now built into the company's search engine.

If a school bans AI, he said, students "will not have access to search, and they'll see a message from their school that indicates it's not available."

New York Mayor Zohran Mamdani accused Google on X of "trying to use its monopoly power to force AI into our public schools."

"No corporation should have the power to dictate how we teach our children," he wrote.

More than 150 million students worldwide use Google Classroom, according to a letter Senators Richard Blumenthal and Josh Hawley sent to the company last month asking why AI features had been made the default on school devices.

In August, Google opened its Gemini chatbot in Classroom to students of all ages.

Students were shown starter prompts tied to their specific class and assignment, offering guided help or study guides, practice quizzes and flashcards built from their course materials.

The feature was switched on by default for students at schools that had already enabled Gemini.

New York and Los Angeles both announced plans in September to restrict access to AI tools on school devices.

"We are reviewing Google's announcement and its potential implications for schools, educators and students," a spokesperson for the Los Angeles Unified School District told AFP.

The spokesperson said the district believes AI can improve teaching and learning if it is introduced carefully and with clear safeguards, and pointed to district principles requiring that technology support rather than replace teachers and protect student privacy.

In a statement on X, Google said Tuesday's changes give "schools more choice, not less."❑



Serbia's Novak Djokovic reacts as he plays against Australia's Rinky Hijikata during their men's singles match on day three of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament at the Plenitude Arena in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris, on November 4, 2026.

No. 1 Zverev, Djokovic crash out of Paris Masters, Alcaraz advances

Paris, France
Alexander Zverev said he was "annoyed" at having to justify being world number one as he lost his opening match at the Paris Masters, while 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic also fell in a Wednesday full of upsets.
Carlos Alcaraz avoided a similar fate, however, as the seven-time major winner beat Alex Michelsen 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 to advance to the last 16.
Long seen as tennis' nearly-man, 29-year-old Zverev broke his major duck this year by winning the French and U.S. Opens, which propelled him to the top of the ATP rankings for the first time in his career this month.
But his reign as world number one got off to a disappointing start as 24th-ranked Lorenzo Musetti eased to a 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 win over the German to reach the third round.

"Stress, I don't know if stress. I was a bit annoyed, to be honest," Zverev told reporters.
"I feel like I'm the only world number one in tennis history that has to explain why it's okay for me to be world number one, which I find quite difficult, because I think I deserve to be where I am, even though I lost today."
After being in a dominant position in the first-set tie-break, Zverev accumulated errors to lose five consecutive points and then six of the following eight games to crash out at the first hurdle.
"I said even before playing with him that today was going to be the best challenge and the toughest challenge that this sport can give me. So I'm really happy that I took my chances today," Italian former world number five Musetti said.

- Top seeds tumble -
Djokovic saw his hopes of winning an eighth Paris Masters title and qualifying for the ATP Finals disappear as he went out 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 to world number 83 Rinky Hijikata.
After sailing to the first set, the 39-year-old then found himself in a battle with the Australian qualifier.
Hijikata broke Djokovic in the eighth game of the second frame before serving out to force a decider.
The third set ground on until the Serb cracked twice in a row on serve to hand his 25-year-old opponent victory.
The loss effectively brought to an end Djokovic's season with the veteran telling reporters his plan for the coming weeks was "just rest".
The 2023 Australian Open doubles champion will play Tomas Martin Etcheverry for a berth in the quarter-finals, after the Argentine downed Australian eighth seed Alex de Minaur 7-6 (7/2), 6-3.
Former world number one Daniil Medvedev joined the top-seed exit list as the fifth-ranked Russian crashed out in straight sets to Peru's Ignacio Buse.
Second seed Alcaraz managed to buck the trend with victory over 35th-ranked American Michelsen.

"Really happy to get the win," Alcaraz said on-court. "I'm really happy with the way I moved and played."
Both players exchanged breaks of serve midway through the first set as the opener rumbled towards a tie-break.
Michelsen raced into a 4-1 lead in the breaker before Alcaraz found his forehand and blitzed through the next six points to seize the lead.
After a tightly-contested second frame, Alcaraz got a crucial break ahead in the eighth game and then promptly served out to set up a third-round meeting with Matteo Berrettini.❑



Jack Campbell #46 of the Detroit Lions and Derrick Moore #8 of the Detroit Lions tackle T.J. Hockenson #87 of the Minnesota Vikings during the fourth quarter of a game at Ford Field on November 01, 2026 in Detroit, Michigan.

Lions' Campbell has movement in lower body after neck injury

Los Angeles, United States
Detroit Lions linebacker Jack Campbell said Wednesday he has full movement in his lower body and is making progress in his upper body after suffering a neck injury during last weekend's NFL game.

Campbell remained lying face down on the floor after making a tackle in the Lions' clash with Minnesota, was carted off the field, and has remained hospitalized since.
After the team said signs were positive for Campbell's recovery, the 26-year-old player expressed optimism about his progress in a statement issued via the Lions' social media.
"I'm incredibly encouraged by the progress I've made in such a short period of time. I have full movement in my lower body, and I'm continuing to make progress with movement in my upper body," said Campbell.
"I know there's still work ahead, but I remain very optimistic. I'm taking things one day at a time, staying positive, and focusing on getting better."
Speaking to media later Wednesday, Lions head coach Dan Campbell said receiving the update direct from his player "means a lot".

"That's powerful in itself. You know, more than hearing it from me or anybody else. Those are his and his family's words, so that's powerful," he said.
"That always helps to know that he's improving, because at this point that's all you're looking for, is just to know that he is improving," said Campbell.
"This thing, the status is changing every eight hours, 10 hours, in a good way."

The 26-year-old from Iowa was a first-round selection in the 2023 NFL Draft by the Lions, chosen 18th overall.
Campbell had a career-best season for Detroit in 2025 with 89 solo tackles, five sacks and 176 combined tackles. He also forced three fumbles and recovered two.

The Lions signed Campbell last May to a four-year contract extension worth $81 million.
The injury occurred during Detroit's 19-15 NFL victory Sunday over previously unbeaten Minnesota.

After making his third tackle of the contest by stopping Minnesota tight end TJ Hockenson, Campbell remained prone on the floor, and was placed onto a backboard by medical personnel.❑

‘Kid’ Antonelli gets affectionate tributes from all quarters

Mexico City, Mexico
Kimi Antonelli sparked affectionate tributes from all quarters of the Formula One paddock on Sunday after becoming the sport’s youngest world champion at the Mexico City Grand Prix.
The 20-year-old Italian finished third for Mercedes behind Red Bull’s four-time champion Max Verstappen and Ferrari’s seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton who then hoist him aloft as a carnival of celebrations began.

“It’s a very special day,” said Antonelli’s esteemed race engineer Peter ‘Bono’ Bonnington, who has worked with seven-time champion Michael Schumacher and Hamilton and regards the new champion Italy’s first since 1953 as another generational talent.
“A young man has broken the record for the youngest world champion. It is the first of many I reckon. I am just super happy for him, stoked.



Mercedes’ Italian driver Kimi Antonelli celebrates winning the world championship title at the end of the Mexico City Formula One Grand Prix, at the Hermanos Rodriguez racetrack in Mexico City on November 1st, 2026.

“I feel privileged to work with him and to put up with his pranks and tricks including the water pistols and the rest. It’s him all over. This is just the first chapter and tonight we are flying home and we are going to have a plane party.”
Antonelli echoed those views and said he felt it was “truly incredible” to share the podium with multiple champions Verstappen and Hamilton.

“I’m looking forward to more battles with them in the future,” he said. “This is just the beginning. This win is just going to mark a beginning, a new point to build on and keep improving and keep trying to win a championship.”
His father Marco Antonelli, who runs his own racing team, said, “This is the best thank you that Kimi can give to Mercedes for believing in him. It’s unbelievable. I will realise in the next day what Kimi has done.”
Hamilton, who tipped Antonelli to be his Mercedes successor when he left for Ferrari in 2025, said: “Huge congratulations to Kimi and Mercedes. It’s so great to see them all up here celebrating.

“Youngest world champion ever is pretty phenomenal and I’m so very grateful to be in this race and to witness it. He has had a great season and he has handled everything so well with so much grace and humility.”
Verstappen added: “It’s incredible what a season he has had. To do this at such an age I think is just really impressive and it is amazing to see the whole team celebrating with him.

“His family is here as well so I’m sure this is a very emotional day for him and I’m very proud of him.”❑

