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

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## The Aruban native frog 'Dori'

[CREDIT Mauricio Rivera Correa]

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

| SUNDAY: | MONDAY: | TUESDAY: | WEDNESDAY: | THURSDAY: | FRIDAY: | SATURDAY: |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| MARRYBELL MADURO | ANDERSON BAHAMON | JEAN PAUL | MAILLEYN ALVARADO | MARRYBELL MADURO | MAILLEYN ALVARADO | RICKY THOMAS |
| SINGER | SINGER | SAXOPHONIST | VIOLINIST | SINGER | VIOLINIST | GUITAR |
| 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. | 7:00 TO 9:00 P.M. | 6:30 TO 8:30 P.M. |

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# 'Nerve-wracking' wait in Mississippi for U.S. Senate vote result

**Jackson, United States**
Mississippi residents faced a "nerve-wracking" wait to see whether the southern state elects its first Black senator in more than a century as vote-counting dragged on Sunday after this past week's US midterms.
Voters who spoke to AFP in the state capital Jackson on Saturday anticipated that history could be in the making in the whisker-close race between Democrat Scott Colom, an African-American man, and Republican incumbent Cindy Hyde-Smith, a white woman.
With 97 percent of the vote counted by Sunday afternoon, Colom was 2,574 votes ahead of Hyde-Smith -- a gap of just 0.3 percentage points.
Mississippi has not elected a Democratic senator since 1982, and Colom would be its first Black senator in nearly 150 years -- since the Reconstruction era following the American Civil War that ended slavery.
Gregory Glass, a 47-year-old restaurant owner, himself an African-American, said a victory for Colom would be "historic" but admitted to having "bittersweet" feelings about that.
"It should have happened sooner than that, especially in Mississippi, in a state that has so many African-Americans in it," said Glass.
According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than one-third of the state's population, long viewed as a bastion of Republican politics, is Black.
A victory for Colom would also put another staunchly Republican state -- including Texas, South Carolina and Kansas -- in the Democrats' column for Senate in Tuesday's election.
The midterms were a resounding win for Democrats, who seized control of both houses of Congress as voters nationwide delivered a stinging rebuke to Republican President Donald Trump.



**This combination of pictures created on November 06, 2026 shows (L/R) Mississippi Democratic Senate candidate Scott Colom in Jackson, Mississippi, on November 5, 2026, and Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith, Republican from Mississippi, in Washington, DC, on May 10, 2018.**

**- 'Every single vote' -**
But the count is not over yet.
The unusually long wait reflects Mississippi's election procedures, which allow officials several days to process mail-in and provisional ballots -- potentially enough to decide the contest.
Jermal Clark, election commissioner for Hinds County, which includes the city of Jackson, said that they were still going through so-called "affidavit" provisional ballots.
These are cast by people whose eligibility cannot be confirmed at polling stations, sometimes because of missing identification or discrepancies in voter registration records.

"We're in the process of counting them for the accuracy and the checking to see if each individual lives in the precinct that they say they live in," Clark told AFP.
Secretary of State Michael Watson posted on X on Friday that 11,202 affidavit ballots have now been processed with roughly 78 percent of them being accepted.
He also said there are also just under 2,900 outstanding absentee ballots.
"I'm just amazed at how so many communities and these election people are coming together to make sure every single vote is cast," said voter Coretta Fraser, a human resources manager.

**- 'We're excited' -**
"We're excited. You know, it's good to be part of something historic," said bakery manager Ebony Jones, who viewed Colom's potential win as a relief from years of bad news like the COVID pandemic and the development of artificial intelligence.
The close contest has prompted both parties to deploy lawyers, with Republicans demanding that officials preserve records relating to the outstanding ballots in anticipation of possible legal challenges.
Mississippi has no automatic recount procedure, although candidates can seek court intervention.
For Glass, the restaurant owner, the voters' verdict can't come soon enough.
"The waiting is a little bit nerve-wracking because you want them to just call it," he said, making clear his preference for Colom to win.
"And I'm sure people on the other side of it don't necessarily want that," he said.
"You want to wait till every single vote gets in, which it should be."❑

# Trump offers press secretary role to UFC chief Dana White



**This combination of pictures created on November 07, 2026 shows (L/R) US President Donald Trump in Washington, DC, on October 30, 2026 and President and CEO of Ultimate Fighting Championship Dana White in Las Vegas, Nevada, on August 5, 2026.**

**Washington, United States**
U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday he was offering a press secretary role to mixed martial arts executive and "violent fighter" Dana White.
"I am pleased to announce that the Great Dana White, a violent Fighter and Warrior, has been offered the job of Press Secretary of the United States," Trump wrote on his Truth Social account.
"Dana, please take the job!" he said.
While White did not explicitly accept the job, the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) boss posted a photo -- possibly AI-generated -- that showed him behind the lectern in the White House press briefing room, captioned "On to the next chapter."
The White House has been without a press secretary since October 16 when Katie Zacharia left the position after less than a week on the job.
White, 57, is president and CEO of the UFC, the largest and most successful organization in the world of mixed martial arts. UFC's violent cage fights are broadcast across the globe.

Trump also listed six UFC fighters that he hoped White would bring to the White House as advisers, "even though some are not from our Country."
Two of the fighters mentioned are Russian and one is Brazilian.
The White House amplified the announcement by publishing a screenshot of the president's post on one of its official accounts.
Trump and White are old friends, and Trump has often tried to associate his MAGA brand of politics with the hugely popular UFC.
On his 80th birthday in June, UFC held a bloody cage match on the White House South Lawn. He has also attended bouts in Miami, New York and New Jersey since winning his second White House term.
When Trump won reelection in 2024, White appeared alongside the Republican for his victory speech.❑

# Airlines bet that more premium offerings will boost profits

**New York, United States**

Airlines are installing deluxe seats, enlisting Michelin-star chefs for luxury menu offerings and designing elite airport lounges as the industry bets its future on growing demand for premium travel.

The strategy is expected to accelerate the shrinking share of coach class on many flights, with airlines envisioning as much as 70 percent of passengers paying for enhanced options, if not first-or business class.

Airlines face significantly higher jet fuel costs due to the Iran war, but view such upselling as a profitable long-term bet.

Business class seats can each take up floor space equivalent to four basic-level seats, but can be priced five or six times higher, said Volodymyr Bilotka, a professor at Purdue University and a specialist in aviation economics.

"Airlines have traditionally been investing quite a lot into the premium offerings because the profit margins are significantly higher," Bilotka told AFP.

In the most recent quarter, American Airlines said premium revenue increased 18.5 percent year-over-year, four points better than the main cabin. The boost has been a bright spot in a travel market complicated by the jet fuel spike, American executives said.



**An American Airlines plane lands at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) in San Francisco, California, United States on October 13, 2026.**

"Premium products generate roughly half of the company's ticket revenue on approximately 30 percent of seats today," American said.

Besides the traditional differentiation between the main cabin and business class, customers may now pay as much as $200 for more legroom or the ability to sit at the front of the plane and disembark first.

United Airlines announced in July that it would offer a new Economy Plus option that allows customers to forgo having a passenger in the dreaded middle seat. United plans to begin this option on some flights at the end of 2026.

In September, JetBlue announced the launch of BlueFirst, a new first-class service on domestic flights.

"Customers are increasingly looking for more premium experiences," said JetBlue CEO Joanna Geraghty.

**- Premium's steady growth -**

Since 2020, the number of premium seats on US flights has risen 33 percent, more than double the growth of mainline seats, according to travel news site Skift.

United Airlines more than doubled its premium-seat capacity between 2015 and 2026, the airline told AFP, adding that it plans additional options, like seats with extra elbow room.

Delta has invested in DeltaOne, a revamped luxury option, with premium wine, "top-of-the line" food like the Wagyu burger and larger screens for entertainment.

To assist with the menu, Delta partnered with Simon Hulstone, chef of a Michelin-star restaurant in Britain, and Andrea Robinson, an award-winning sommelier.

The company plans the service for new Airbus A350 planes, with about 150 premium seats and 161 seats in economy.

"Twenty years ago, 90 percent of the seats were main cabin," said Ekrem Dimbiloglu, Delta's managing director for onboard strategy and experience, adding that the share of premium seats could soon represent as much as 70 percent on some Delta flights.

No major carrier has so far launched service without any economy seats.

In October, British Airways announced that the top level of the two-tier A380 would be entirely composed of premium seats.

Consultancy Cirium estimates that premium seats among the 42 carriers in the three major airline alliances (SkyTeam, Oneworld and Star Alliance) and Middle East carriers now represent 19 percent of total volume compared with 17.1 percent in 2019.

Other new options include giving customers choice among meal options prior to boarding and free wifi. There have also been a slew of announcements of new and beautified airport lounges, including by Southwest Airlines, which was once known as a discount carrier.

But the increasing tendency of airlines to market to customers who can afford premium amenities could open the door to a discount carrier, although higher fuel costs have added to the challenges facing all airlines.❑

# U.S. launches task force to disrupt land transit routes into Iran

**Washington, United States**

President Donald Trump said Sunday that a new task force is in place to disrupt land routes into Iran that the U.S. military says are used for shipments of weapons and illicit materials.

US Central Command on Saturday announced the formation of a 20-member team to expand on a U.S. naval blockade of Iranian ports during the eight-month war.

"Task Force Iron Gate is in full force and effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran. Coupled with history's greatest Naval Blockade, very little gets into, or out of, Iran!" the president posted on his Truth Social platform.

CENTCOM chief Admiral Brad Cooper said in Saturday's statement that the force "will further constrain Iran's ability to finance terrorism, rebuild weapons factories, and replenish their military."

The team of both civilian and military personnel based in Florida would coordinate with US government agencies on "preventing the movement of advanced weapons systems, dual-use technologies, sanctioned materials, and illegal revenue streams across Iran's land borders and the Caspian Sea," the statement added.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps said Washington's latest bid "will fail" and will not bring about economic collapse in the Islamic republic.

"The United States will never be able to impose the economic blockade it is pursuing and proposing under various names and through different plans," Guards spokesman Hossein Mohebi said, according to Fars news agency.

"The Americans will not achieve their objective of exerting extreme economic pressure to bring about the collapse and disintegration of Iran's economy."

Mohebi added that the United States would be "powerless to block" communication channels between Iran and neighboring countries.




**Protesters against the Iranian government during a demonstration near Bryant Park, in central New York, this Saturday, November 7.**

CENTCOM said that the naval blockade on Iranian ports had "prevented Iran from exporting more than $25 billion in crude oil."❑

# Anthony Ippolito channels 'Rocky' aura to portray young Stallone

**Los Angeles, United States**

When Anthony Ippolito learned Hollywood was planning a new "Rocky"-related film, he rigged up a punching bag in his grandmother's basement and improvised his audition.

It was a bold move that paid off: the up-and-coming actor essentially secured the coveted role of a young Sylvester Stallone before the official casting process for the biographical drama, headed to theaters this month, even began.

"I just really wanted to try to get my foot in the door for it if possible," the 27-year-old told AFP. "I was kind of just making stuff and sending it their way, just hoping they would respond."

"Thankfully, they did."

Directed by Oscar-winner Peter Farrelly ("Green Book"), "I Play Rocky" chronicles Stallone's difficult early days, when he at times slept on the streets while dreaming of a career on the big screen.

Stallone caught the attention of two producers after writing a screenplay about a boxer who, against all odds, gets his big break when the American champion Apollo Creed (played by Carl Weathers) challenges him in the ring.

The narrative served as a metaphor for Stallone's own life.

He was once so poor he had to sell his dog because he couldn't afford to feed it (he would later get the dog back).

He turned down lucrative studio offers for his script, insisting that he would only sell it if he were cast in the lead role.

The rest, of course, is history: Stallone catapulted to stardom and "Rocky" won three Academy Awards, including best picture.

"Rocky" became a cultural phenomenon and its iconic imagery lives on to this day: the Philadelphia museum steps, the gray sweatsuit, and the unmistakable cry of "Adrian!"

And now, a half-century after the original film's release, the story has opened the gates of Hollywood to Ippolito.




**U.S. actor Anthony Ippolito attends the AFI FEST premiere of "I Play Rocky" at the TCL Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles on October 24, 2026.**

**- 'Love letter' to Rocky, and to film -**

One of the few suggestions Stallone made for "I Play Rocky" was to cast a little-known actor, said producer Michele Weiss at a press conference.

So the team launched a worldwide search.

Ippolito surprised them with an audition in which he managed to capture the essence of Stallone, including his mannerisms and physique.

But despite impressing the likes of Stallone himself, for Ippolito -- who played a young Al Pacino in "The Offer," a mini-series chronicling the making of "The Godfather" -- the pressure was on.

He had to portray Stallone but also the iconic character of Rocky, an immortal of pop culture.

The character, Ippolito said, is "such a hero to people" who have an almost "spiritual connection" to his story.

"It's just a lot to take on," he said.

Stallone met with Ippolito a month before filming began, and shared the story of his difficult journey towards "Rocky."

"He was dealing with facial paralysis that he suffered from a birth accident that is so singular to him, and followed him throughout his youth, and made trying to become an actor so much harder for him," Ippolito recounted.

"There are definitely elements of his story that are very unique to him, and that make it even more inspiring."

The Los Angeles premiere of "I Play Rocky" gathered key figures from the story's era.

For Frank Stallone, watching a film that chronicles his older brother's challenges was "very touching."

Bill Conti -- who composed the "Gonna Fly Now" theme of "Rocky," a track instantly recognizable for its triumphant brass swells -- it's "a story about a story."

Ippolito said he couldn't imagine what Stallone must have felt seeing his own life story unfold onscreen.

For the actor the film is "really a love letter," an homage both to Stallone's perseverance through to struggle and to filmmaking itself.❑

# John Malkovich reflects on the limits of friendship in 'Wild Horse Nine'



**John Malkovich speaks onstage at the BAFTA New York Screening of "Wild Horse Nine" at AMC Lincoln Square Theater on November 05, 2026 in New York City.**

**Los Angeles, United States**

U.S. actor John Malkovich has close, longtime friends, but unlike his character Chris in the new dark comedy "Wild Horse Nine," he thinks there are limits on what one can ask them to do.

Directed by Oscar-winning filmmaker Martin McDonagh, the movie follows two CIA spies in the lead-up to the U.S.-backed 1973 coup in Chile.

As the spies -- played by 72-year-old Malkovich and Oscar winner Sam Rockwell -- visit Easter Island against a tense sociopolitical backdrop, veteran agent Chris asks his partner to end his life as he knows his days are numbered.

"I think asking a friend to take your life is about as big an ask as one can make," Malkovich told a news conference in Los Angeles this week.

"I wouldn't do it," he added, laughing.

Malkovich described the rapport between the characters: "They argue about odd things... whether they should kill people while they're eating, or how gay is cheese in various countries."

The actor, who has been nominated for an Academy Award twice but never won, has generated significant Oscar buzz for his performance in "Wild Horse Nine," especially after winning the Volpi Cup for Best Actor at this year's Venice Film Festival.

Malkovich said he was drawn to the project by McDonagh's script.

"He's a terrific writer of dialogue," Malkovich said.

"He's a terrific writer of writing about men, I think, and their various complications... their relationships with themselves and with other men, their need for other men in their lives and their rejection of that need."

McDonagh, a playwright and director, has been nominated for Best Original Screenplay at the Oscars three times, most recently for 2022's "The Banshees of Inisherin."

Steve Buscemi, who plays the CIA's Latin American bureau chief in "Wild Horse Nine," said the film hinges on the characters, rather than the plot.

"The story really is the relationships and what these characters have to do, what they ask of each other, how they relate to each other," he told the news conference.❑

# 'Last generation': Kristallnacht survivor, 94, bears witness

**Berlin, Germany**

For George Shefi, a 94-year-old survivor of Nazi Germany's "Kristallnacht", bearing witness to the pogroms targeting Jews is his final "mission" -- all the more urgent in the face of a renewed wave of anti-Semitism.

"Our generation is the last generation that can tell the true story," Shefi told AFP ahead of Monday's 88th anniversary of the events also remembered as the "Night of Broken Glass".

The wave of violence unleashed by the Nazi regime on November 9-10, 1938 saw at least 90 Jewish people killed and 1,400 synagogues set alight across Germany.

Shefi, born Spiegelglas in 1931, was just six years old when the anti-Semitic riots shook his home city of Berlin.

His mother did not let him out of the house in the capital's Schoeneberg district for three days, but when he finally emerged, he was confronted with a radically changed city.



**Night of Broken Glass (Kristallnacht) survivor George Shafi, who will be 95 on November 29, 2026, poses in front of the Neue Synagoge in Berlin on November 5, 2026, ahead of commemorations of the November 1938 Pogroms.**

"My school was burned down," he told AFP, speaking last Thursday at a ceremony at the New Synagogue in Berlin organised by the International March for the Living, a Holocaust remembrance group.

"I remember very clearly a hat shop which was broken into, glass all over the place, women's hats all over the place. That made a big impression on me."

Another of his memories is of a stationery shop owner being "jeered" by dozens of onlookers while clearing up anti-Semitic graffiti.

"They wrote in big letters: This store belongs to a Jewish pig who is married to a Christian sow."

**- 'You're not allowed to forget' -**

Months later, just before the outbreak of World War II, George was placed on a train that would take him to safety in the United Kingdom, in a rescue effort known as the Kindertransport that saved almost 10,000 children.

His mother dropped him off at a train station before getting in a taxi to a different stop, where more children were due to be picked up.

"Unfortunately, I saw her running on the platform but she never saw me. And that's the last time I saw her."

George was taken to stay with distant relatives in London, before being evacuated to the rural English county of Lincolnshire.

He received one letter from his mother during the war, via the Red Cross, and never heard from her again.

He later found out that she was deported to Auschwitz, arriving at the death camp on January 30, 1943.

"As far as I could calculate, she was murdered the same day."

Some six million Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

In the past 25 years, he has travelled back to Germany to tell his story, sharing his experience with more than 12,000 schoolchildren.

His message for German pupils: "I want to convince you that you're not allowed to forget the Holocaust."

Shefi has told them that "you're not responsible for what was, but you're responsible for the next 20, 30 years when you grow up and you're going to lead this country".

**- 'People have to wake up' -**

But the world has changed in the decades since Shefi first began retelling his story.

Anti-Semitic offences in Germany have surged from around 1,400 in 2015 to 6,500 last year according to police figures.

The situation has worsened since the October 7, 2023 attacks led by Hamas against Israel and the subsequent war in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Germany's culture of Holocaust remembrance is under threat, with the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) often railing against what it calls a "cult of guilt".❑

# In Latin America, Pope urges husbands to respect wives amid femicide crisis



**This handout picture released by the Vatican Media shows Pope Leo XIV waving to the crowd as he arrives for a mass at Plaza Asamblea in front of the Cathedral Basilica and National Sanctuary of the Virgin of the Thirty-Three, in Florida, 93km north of Montevideo on November 8, 2026.**

**Florida, Uruguay**

Pope Leo XIV told men to treat their wives with respect Sunday, as he concluded the first leg of his tour of Latin America, which is plagued by gender-based violence.

"Dear fathers and grandfathers... treat your wives with respect, ask for forgiveness and live with integrity, even when doing so requires sacrifice," the head of the Catholic Church said during a homily in Uruguay.

Over 3,800 women were killed in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024 because of their gender, according to the UN's regional economic mission.

Over the last five years, the region has recorded nearly 20,000 femicides, most of them committed by the victim's current or former partner.

Leo is on a 12-day tour of the continent where he served as a missionary and a bishop before becoming pope.

He wrapped up the first leg of his visit in largely secular Uruguay with an open-air mass outside a basilica in the south-central city of Florida.

The basilica is home to a shrine linked to Uruguay's fight for independence from Spanish colonial rule.

Thousands of worshippers packed the city's main square for the service, basking in warm sunshine after several days of unusually cold weather triggered by an exceptionally strong El Nino.

"I think it's very important that the Pope came because it strengthens the Church's presence in our country," 22-year-old Ivanna Fisichella, who attended the mass, told AFP.

Evangelina Campero, 57, highlighted "the effort the pope is making" by embarking on a gruelling tour just three weeks after undergoing surgery for lung cancer.

"The message is to give it your all," she said.

The 71-year-old pontiff will later travel to Argentina, where he will meet President Javier Milei, a right-wing libertarian whose austerity policies have drawn sharp criticism from the Catholic Church.

The high point of his visit is expected to be the third and final leg of his tour, which takes him to Peru.❑

# 370 books in 20 months: S.African author defends her use of AI

**Cape Town, South Africa**

South African writer Coral Hart has published more than 370 books since February 2025 using artificial intelligence, a process she passionately defends despite criticism and threats.

"Grifter", "villain" -- insults abound on social media to describe the author who, in her forties, has become the symbol of AI's arrival in publishing.

Coral Hart -- a pseudonym she uses to protect her real name -- told AFP in an interview she had received "tens of thousands" of hate messages and several death threats.

In this hostile environment, few authors using AI agree to speak publicly and show their faces.

"I chose to be the one to step up and say, these are conversations we need to start having," Hart said.

"This is here... They're not going to switch it off or unplug it because a bunch of authors said so."

Before she started writing with AI around 20 months ago, Hart had been working in publishing for 14 years and written several dozen works without the technology.

It took her three months to familiarise herself with the various AI models and build



**Coral Hart poses for a portrait at the Cape Town public library in Cape Town, on October 14, 2026.**

a framework capable of producing a book.

Now she juggles between ChatGPT, which is "really good at dialogue, terrible at prose"; Claude, "really good story structure, terrible at sex drives"; and others like Grok, "completely unhinged" but good on "spicy scenes".

"If you say, ChatGPT, write me a book, or, Claude, write me a book, you're going to get a flaming dumpster fire of trash back because it doesn't have anything (to work with)," Hart said.

The author defines the story concept, a style, details of the characters, and chapter outlines. And only then will her system generate the books.

Hart said when she started, "we could write one paragraph at a time. I usually took two or three prompts to do that."

"I can now draft the whole book in one sequence."

Since last year, AI models have "improved vastly", Hart said. "The prose has improved. The syntax has improved. The sentence structure has improved."

**– 'Books are selling' –**

The first draft of a book is generally not good, the writer said.

It is run through AI for "developmental edits" and then again "to fix any continuity issues, story issues, flat middles, character arcs that are incomplete, plot threads that have been dropped, people whose eye colour has changed."

At the end of this process, a human proofreader reads through the text to fix any "AI tells that have slipped through" and do some rewriting. "And it's usually ready to go."

Although one of her novels made it into Amazon's top 100 bestsellers, the vast majority of her 371 titles -- many of them romance -- are tailored to certain readers based on rigorous market research.

She has sold more than one million books, by her own estimate, in digital, print and audio formats, earning more than $1 million so far this year.

The South African now heads an operation that has trained several hundred people in her method and is preparing to launch software for AI authors called Authorythm.

As for her own production, she mentions her use of AI only when required by a sales platform.

"For the last 16 years, nobody's asked me what my creative process was," said Hart, who publishes under more than 10 other pen names.

Now, she was ready to make it public "for the right reasons".

Regularly accused of contributing to "AI slop" -- low quality AI-generated content in text, video, music, or images -- Hart points to the ultimate yardstick: "Books are selling."

"Readers don't read rubbish books; they return them," she said.❑

# Pakistan-built robots serve taste of future to Karachi diners



**This photograph taken on October 2, 2026 shows Robia, a humanoid robot waitress serving customers at The Sicilian restaurant in Karachi.**

**Karachi, Pakistan**

Wheeling its way between dining booths at a neon-lit restaurant in Pakistan's Karachi megacity, a robot waitress drops off a fresh pizza to an awaiting family.

While global buzz is growing around agile humanoids made in the United States, China and elsewhere, robotic staff are a rare sight in the South Asian country.

"Welcome to Sicilian. My name is Robia," the waitress says in an electronic voice, looking down at diners through blinking red LED eyes.

Robia and her colleague Jojo are the DIY creations of Pakistani engineer Syed Osama Aziz, who is bringing a sci-fi reboot to Karachi's storied dining scene.

They have spherical white heads and dark visors, similar to a motorcycle helmet, and sport black shawls around their neck in the style of a dupatta worn by women in the region.

Aziz, who also established The Sicilian restaurant, developed the machines using mostly locally manufactured parts, designing their circuit boards and programming them in his own lab. "The equipment, the things needed to make robots, are not so easily available here, so we had to arrange them," he told AFP.

The duo were developed through his robotics company, Cobot, with help from friends and some electronic components imported from abroad.

In China and other East Asian countries especially, robots are an increasingly common sight, shuttling food to customers in chain restaurants and taking on other jobs from cleaning to greeting hotel guests.

But they remain a novelty in Pakistan, where Aziz's home-grown creations are attracting curious diners.

When they arrive at a table, the customers must either take the food off their serving tray themselves or wait for a human member of staff to assist them.

**- Excited customers -**

Aziz, whose workshop manufacturing the robots is located in Multan in Pakistan's central Punjab province, hopes to make his creations more sophisticated in the future.

"Our plans are to add camera-based processing and image-processing features," he said.

"That means the robot will also recognise you by looking at you, and it will remember what you ordered last time, and accordingly it will be able to give you better suggestions."❑

# Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building



**The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.**

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1.545 m² plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

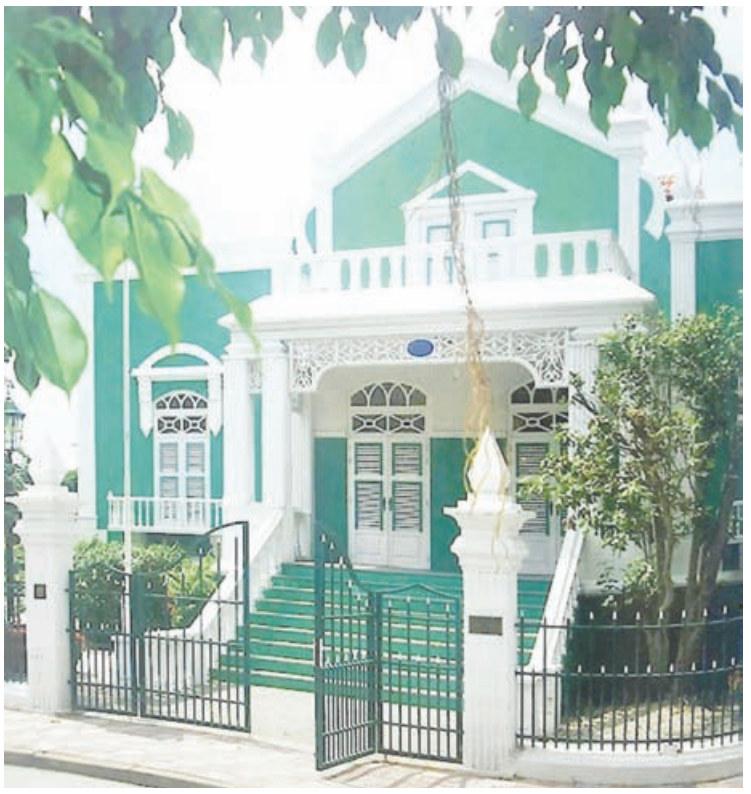
The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on ground level but at approximately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and transform into a history of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.



Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.
The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba.❑

# Up for a snorkeling adventure in Aruba? Top 3 shipwrecks to explore

**(ORANJESTAD) – Aruba is not only the perfect vacation destination to sit back and relax on the sandy beaches but also has great snorkeling spots for passionate adventurers to explore. On the coast of the island, there are various shipwrecks that have become fan-favorites over the years. Here are the top 3 shipwrecks you should explore.**

**SS Antilla**
Dubbed "The Ghost Ship", SS Antilla is the biggest and most visited shipwreck site off the coast of the island. Located in Malmok, this 400-foot ship's story is one of capture and sabotage during WWII.

After Germany invaded The Netherlands, Dutch authorities ordered the confinement of the ship's German crew, who were ported in Aruba because it needed to find a neutral port. The Dutch ordered the ship to be confiscated, but the German crew had other plans. Taking advantage of a delay caused by an anticipated armed resistance, the Germans started scuttling the ship, opening her seacock and setting her ablaze.

Eventually, the crew was arrested, but SS Antilla could not be saved by the Dutch forces. The Dutch fired two rounds of their 35mm gun aboard the 'Aruba' at SS Antilla and left her to sink.

The shipwreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you'll be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the shipwreck alone is already impressive enough.

**SS Pedernales**
Like the Antilla, the story of SS Pedernales dates to WWII. Pedernales was used as a lake tanker between Venezuela and Aruba, and sailed under British Flag. At this time, The US and Britain were using Aruba and Curacao as fuel stations for the war ships.

Under operation Neuland (disruption of British and American oil sources), Germany fleets bombed Pedernales. The ship was later cut into three sections, two of which were taken to the US for reconstruction. The remaining part stayed in Aruba and was used as target practice. Eventually, the ship became a snorkeling site that has attracted many visitors throughout the years.

Pedernales lies on the northwest coast of Aruba, and is no more than 10 feet under water, making it an ideal site for snorkelers and divers of all levels.

**Jane Sea Wreck**
The Jane Sea Wreck lies near Palm Island at 100 feet underwater. Jane's story is heavily speculated, making her origin a tale of legends.

Launched in 1959, the 190-feet ship was initially called "Blackthorn". Her last owner, S&D Shipping Ltd. named her Jane Sea. Jane was a cement freighter between Venezuela and Aruba.



The story goes that the Jane Sea arrived one day at the Barcadera Harbor, where Aruban customs discovered several tons of cocaine. The ship was confiscated and petitioned went out for her owner to claim her. However, several years went by and no one came forward to claim the ship, so dive operators decided to sink her as an artificial reef. This happened in 1988. Jane Sea earned the nick name Jane C, because of the illicit white powder discovered on board.

Jane is now beautifully overgrown with coral and is home to a diverse set of marine life, like turtles, octopus, crabs and sometimes even nurse sharks.

The stories behind these shipwrecks enriches their exploration and offers snorkelers and divers a glance into the past, as well as the beautiful marine life that have molded these wrecks into their home. So, grab your equipment and discover another side of what Aruba has to offer!

We highly recommend you embark on your adventure with the guide of a professional and be sure to take of yourself and Aruba's precious nature.❑

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

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



On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

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









# Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

**(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.**

Baby Beach in San Nicolas
Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.

**Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito**
Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small families to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

**Eagle Beach/Palm Beach**
Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Because they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

**Boca Catalina in Malmok**
Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore.❑

## The Aruban native frog 'Dori'

**(Oranjestad)—Aruba has a very diverse fauna. Many know the burrowing owl 'Shoco' or the native rattlesnake 'Cascabel', but did you know that Aruba is also home to a small frog specie we call Dori? Rarely spotted around the island, this little frog is recognizable by two inguinal poison glands on its rear that resemble eyes. The Dori is also known as the Colombian four-eyed frog.**

Scientifically classified as Pleurodema brachyops, the Dori is a protected animal on Aruba and can also be found in Brazil, Colombia, Guyana, Panama and Venezuela. Though ephemeral or permanent pools are essential for breeding, you can encounter a Dori far from a fresh water source. However, fresh water continues to be important for their survival, so you won't see much of them during Aruba's dry seasons. The Dori was at one point the only amphibian animal on the island, until the invasive Sapo (marine toad) was introduced around 1960. According to some sources, these species can be accidentally introduced through importation of soil or pre-planted trees. The Dori population on Aruba is dwindling, so it's highly important to conserve their existence by protecting their habitats (like wetlands).
A recognizable feature of the Dori is its poison glands on its rear. When threatened, Dori lowers its head and raises its rear end. The poison glands of it rise back towards the predator. The glands can look like a set of eyes, causing the predator to confuse the Dori as a larger animal.
If this doesn't work, Dori straightens out its back legs to reveal the vibrant orange coloration in an attempt to startle the predator. If the hungry creature decides to take a bite out of the frog, it ends up with a mouthful of poison.
Before the current banknotes of the Aruban florin were introduced in 2019, the Dori was featured on the 100 florin banknotes from 1990 to 2019. ❑

**Sources: Etnia Nativa and Ms. Yesenia Arends on Facebook.**



ARUBA TODAY

# Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost

## *Aruban fruits and vegetables*

**Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mango's hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.**

### Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year- round.

### Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

### Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

### Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

### Tamarind

A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system.

### Concomber chiquito

This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Concomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vitamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help



ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year- round.

### Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

### Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture–more so than snap beans–and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

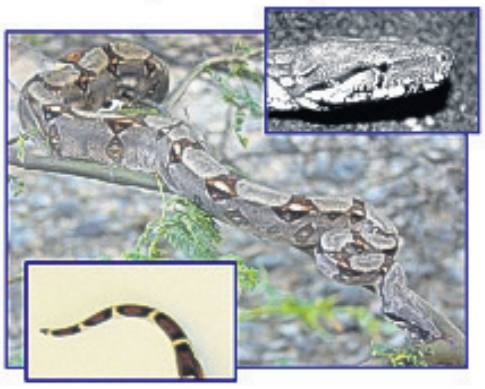
### Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruba is Sopi di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups.❑

# Snakes of Aruba

**BOA**
*(Boa constrictor)*



**CASCABEL**
*(Crotalus unicolor)*



**SANTANERO**
*(Leptodeira bakeri)*





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

**Cascabel (Crotalus unicolor)**

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it.

Cascabels hunt by waiting under bushes and fruiting trees to catch passing lizards, mice, rats, small rabbits, and an occasional bird. This is often considered to be one of the rarest rattlesnakes in the world. The range of the Cascabel is restricted to the rugged and mountainous areas of the island mostly within Arikok National Park. The Arikok National Park was designated in the early 1980s to include most of the rattlesnake's population, providing a safe refuge in which the snake can be protected and monitored. The government has also implemented outreach and education initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol.

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

**Santanero**

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. This snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans. However, the venom can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

**Boa (Boa constrictor)**

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly in white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly. Boas are a non-native species. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats.❑

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

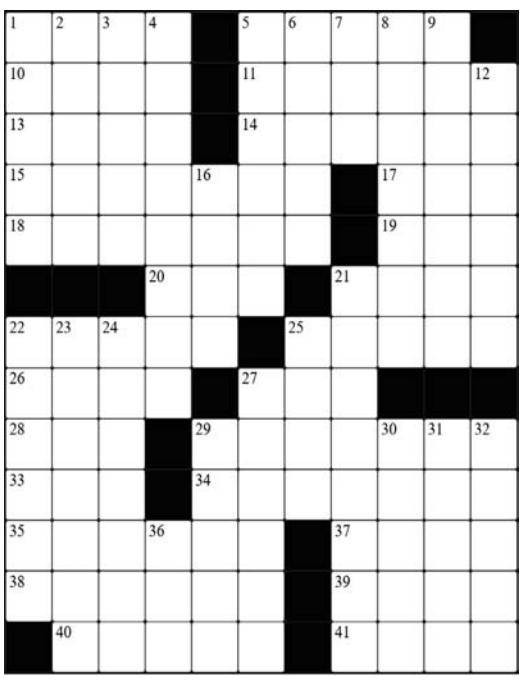
1. Commotions
5. Anticipate
10. Mouthwash flavor
11. Slow musical passages
13. "Give -- me straight"
14. Place for a mani-pedi
15. Desk accessory
17. Spring mo.
18. Grain bins
19. Pants part
20. Snaky shape
21. Royal address
22. Practices for a bout
25. Game with rooks
26. Running pros
27. Pigeon sound
28. LP speed unit
29. Police, in slang
33. Hoppy pint, for short
34. Having a knack for
35. Prof protector
37. Move carefully
38. Pencil end
39. Solemn act
40. Sings like Ella
41. Open-handed hit

**DOWN**

1. Barn-raising sect
2. "The same"
3. Like draft beer
4. Plugs
5. Birch shrubs
6. Has on
7. Some amount of
8. "Not true!"
9. Hats or caps
12. Platoon leaders
16. Reduced amount
21. Mall masses
22. Fairy
23. Fried jalapeño snacks
24. Fact book
25. Make do
27. App creators
29. Insertion sign
30. Online business
31. Dreadlocks wearer
32. Exorbitant
36. Much of N. Amer.

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Saturday'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.

**11-6 CRYPTOQUOTE**

KFJMZ EX LFJK NCEO EOF

IJKKFBR, JZL EOF OCKKR

NCKK EJYF UJMF XG

EOFTRFKIFR. — UXPZE HJRCF

**Yesterday's Cryptoquote:** THE WORLD IS FULL OF MAGIC THINGS, PATIENTLY WAITING FOR OUR SENSES TO GROW SHARPER. — W.B. YEATS

# 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**

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

Difficulty: ★ 11/9

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**Answer to previous puzzle**

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 11/8

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# 2026 'most likely' to be second-hottest year on record: EU monitor




**This photograph shows a globe and a banner reading "Help" during a climate protest under the slogan "No 50°C summers!"**

**Paris, France**
The world is on track for 2026 to be the second-hottest year on record as an exceptionally strong El Nino weather pattern turbocharges human-driven global warming, the EU's climate monitor said Friday.
This year still has a "20 percent chance of tying or exceeding" 2024 as the warmest ever seen, the Copernicus Climate Change Service said in a monthly bulletin.

Global temperatures are now "virtually certain" to exceed 1.5C above pre-industrial levels in 2026, Copernicus said.
The four-year average from 2023 to 2026 is also expected to top 1.5C, the preferred limit set in the Paris Agreement to avert the worst impacts of climate change.

The world experienced its warmest October on record, with average global surface air temperatures 1.75C above pre-industrial times, an era defined as 1850-1900, Copernicus added.

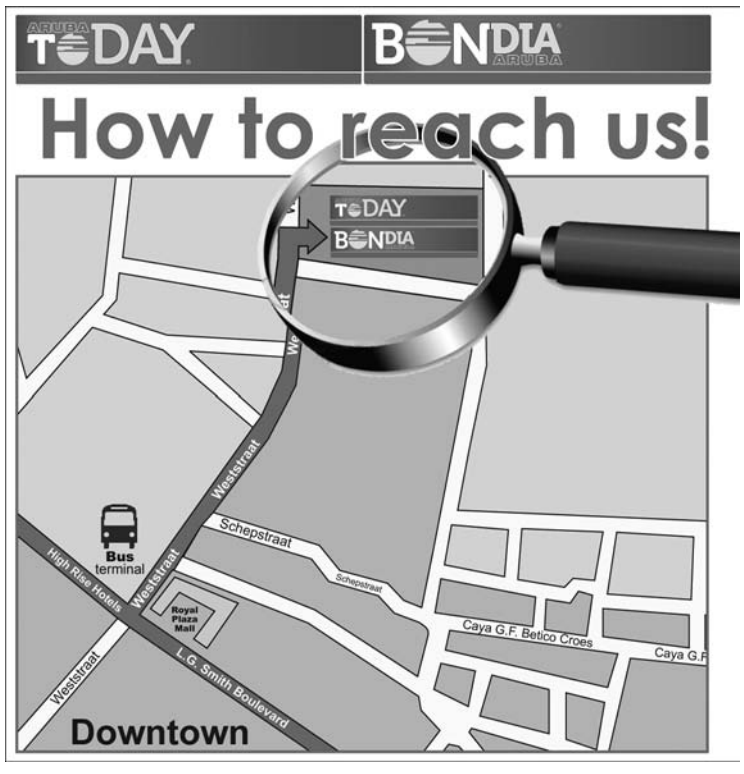
It was the third straight month exceeding 1.5C.
"October has continued the pattern of remarkable global warmth, with record global and surface ocean temperatures," said Samantha Burgess, strategic lead for climate at the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), which operates Copernicus.
"An exceptionally strong El Nino is adding further heat to a climate already warmed by human activities," she said.
The latest bulletin comes as nations prepare to meet on Monday for the U.N.'s two-week COP31 climate summit in Turkey after a year marked by deadly floods in Nepal, searing heatwaves in Europe and major wildfires in Indonesia.

**- El Nino has yet to peak -**
Global forecasters have been warning for months that this El Nino, which is expected to peak later this year, would likely become the strongest ever observed.

The intensifying weather phenomenon set an all-time temperature record in a key Pacific zone last month, Copernicus said.
The warming phase of a natural climate cycle, El Nino temporarily raises sea temperatures in the tropical Pacific, triggering changes in weather that can increase the risk of drought and flooding, and exacerbate man-made global warming.

Forecasters say El Nino could help make 2027 the hottest year on record.
Nations agreed at the 2015 U.N. climate talks in Paris to keep global warming "well below" 2C above pre-industrial levels, while pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5C.
But the United Nations declared in September that the long-term 1.5C target would be missed in a matter of years.

Scientists say it is crucial to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels to limit the period of "overshoot" above 1.5C and bring temperatures back down as quickly as possible.❑




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## 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: Oduber**
Tel. 582 1780
**San Nicolas: Aloe**
Tel. 584 4606

## OTHER

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

## EMERGENCY

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

## TAXI SERVICES

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

## AID FOUNDATIONS

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

## GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

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# "Grand Theft Auto VI": What we know

**Paris, France**

Online previews, a 26-minute Netflix teaser and media leaks and interviews have given "Grand Theft Auto" fans a taste of what awaits when the game's latest title drops on November 19.

Here is what we know about the long-awaited entry in the Rockstar franchise which, despite the name "GTA VI", is the eighth instalment in the series owned by US-based Take-Two Interactive.

Viewer discretion is advised: the realistic game features alcohol and drug use along with plenty of salty language in both English and Spanish.




**This photograph shows the Mercuriales towers, draped with a giant advertisement for the video game "Grand Theft Auto VI" (GTA VI), in Bagnolet, eastern suburb of Paris on October 28, 2026.**

**- What's it about? -**

Since its launch in 1997, "GTA" has been serving up a criminal underworld where players carry out heists and attacks in fictional -- but increasingly realistic -- American cities that can be almost infinitely explored.

The latest game sticks to the script with two new stars, Jason Duval and Lucia Caminos, a "Bonnie and Clyde" team taking on enemies, store owners and the police against a cinematic backdrop of intrigue.

For the first time since the initial game, a woman is one of the main characters and "GTA VI" highlights the bond between the two, with players able to take their relationship further -- or not.

There's a supporting cast of dozens of colourful characters, such as a conspiracy-minded hacker, a multinational CEO and a strip club owner.

The game also includes plenty of sarcastic swipes at many facets of modern living, not least social media and over-the-top advertising.

**- Where are we? -**

The action takes place in Vice City, the Miami-inspired megalopolis that first appeared in 2002, in the fictional state of Leonida -- a stand-in for Florida.

Neighbourhoods are numerous and players can interact with all types of residents, or venture outside the city to an Everglades-style swamp or ocean islands teeming with tropical animals.

Scenes include dance clubs, dilapidated apartment complexes, strip malls and skyscraper rooftops -- feel free to jump off one and use your parachute.

"GTA VI" has a playing "surface" two times bigger than in the previous game, and Rockstar says it will have 10 times as many buildings that characters can enter.

**- What can players do? -**

Almost whatever they want. But car chases, robberies and shoot-outs are the heart of the game.

Players are given missions ranging from break-ins to assassinations to drug deals, all the while being free to roam.

But there is a plot, and if you stray too much -- randomly robbing a jewellery store or shooting up passing cars -- the police will start hunting you down.

The realism even sees characters' appearances change based on their dietary choices. And cars now have a fuel gauge.

For now it's a one-player game, though many fans expect an online multiplayer version will be released next year.

**- What else is new? -**

Graphic details are much richer thanks to the latest generation of game consoles, which are much more powerful than those available 13 years ago when "GTA V" was released.

Rockstar set up a dedicated Los Angeles studio to create the animations and dialogue for the dozens of non-player characters (NPCs), aimed at giving each a realistic identity.

Along with classic rock hits and action-movie background music, the game also features an original score by French electro hitmakers Justice.

An official "GTA VI" soundtrack will include tracks by artists from American rapper Travis Scott to Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards.

**- When, and how much? -**

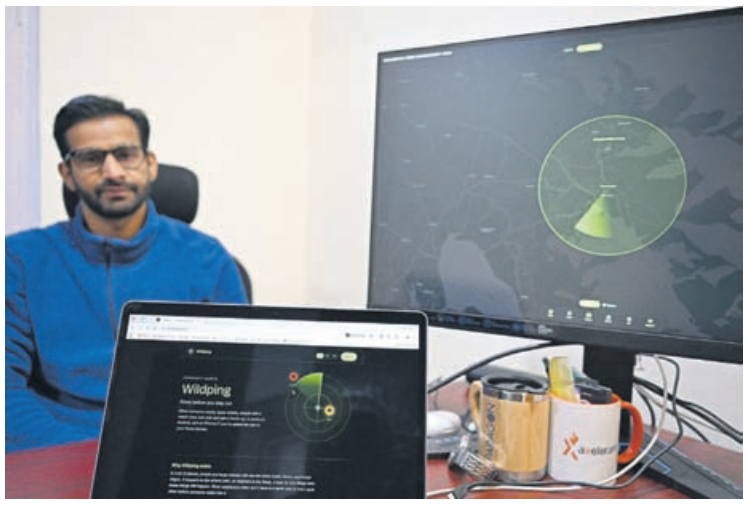
"GTA VI" will be released on November 19 for the PlayStation 5 and Xbox consoles, with a PC version planned for an unspecified date.

The base price is $79.99 (79.99 euros in Europe) but a special edition costing $99.99 offers a variety of bonus material such as unique cars and weapons.

It can be bought online or in stores, but the box will contain only a download code, not an actual disc. Preorders began on June 25.

Take-Two has not since given any indication of demand, but analysts expect it could be the most profitable entertainment release ever.❑

# Bear necessities: Indian techie builds wildlife alert




**This photograph taken on October 31, 2026 shows software engineer Mudasir Ali who developed Wildping, a free wildlife alert app, working at his residence in Srinagar.**

**Srinagar, India**

After his mother was killed in a bear attack in Kashmir, Indian software engineer Mudasir Ali developed an online early-warning system to help people in the Himalayan region avoid dangerous encounters with wildlife. Ali created Wildping, a free website where users report sightings of animals such as Himalayan black bears and leopards, triggering alerts to people nearby.

The 33-year-old launched the platform in October, on the first anniversary of his mother's death.

She was among at least 50 people killed, with hundreds more mauled, in wildlife attacks in the territory since 2023, according to official data. "I have gone through this pain, and I don't want anyone else to experience it," he said, as he monitored sightings in his area on the site.

Human-wildlife conflict has become a growing concern across the Himalayas, where deforestation and shrinking habitats are bringing people into closer contact with wild animals.

"It won't stop conflict by itself. It can buy a family a few minutes: keep the kids inside, skip the walk, or call for help," the site explains.

Users can set up alert zones around specific locations, and if a bear approaches, they get a warning on their telephone.

"Home, farm, school, the path kids walk: each gets a watch zone," the site explains.

**- 'Help save lives' -**

In Kashmir, human-wildlife conflict has been compounded by decades of conflict.

The mountain region has been divided between India and Pakistan since independence from British rule in 1947, with both countries claiming it in full. The dispute has triggered multiple wars and a long-running insurgency.❑

# Alcaraz downs Shelton to win Paris Masters for first time

**Paris, France**

Carlos Alcaraz gained a measure of revenge on Ben Shelton on Sunday as the seven-time Grand Slam champion beat the American 7-6 (7/5), 7-5 to win the Paris Masters for the first time.

In defeating the man who ended his US Open title defence earlier this season, the 23-year-old claimed the ninth 1000-level title of his career.

Unlike their five-set quarter-final epic in New York two months ago, the clash in Paris lasted just under two hours.

"For me it's really special that finally I just got to play great tennis," Alcaraz told reporters. "I went far in the tournament, lifting the trophy at the end.

"I would say this week I took a step forward mentally. I had a lot of really tough moments.

"I'm just really happy that I controlled my emotions, controlled my thoughts every moment, every single match," he added in reference to his quarter-final win against Taylor Fritz in which he saved two match points.

Coming into Paris on the back of winning the 500-level title in Vienna, Alcaraz has won his last nine matches.

"Probably these two last weeks have been the best I've played since my comeback," Alcaraz added of his return from a wrist injury that caused him to miss the French Open and Wimbledon.



**Spain's Carlos Alcaraz celebrates with the trophy after winning the men's singles final match of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament against U.S.' Ben Shelton at the Plenitude Arena in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris, on November 8, 2026.**

Ahead of the ATP Finals, which run November 15-22 in Turin, world number three Alcaraz now holds five tour-level titles this year -- only the injured Jannik Sinner has more with six.

In Italy, he will next be seeking a first coronation at the season-ending Finals.

For world number four Shelton, it was a first defeat in a Masters final after winning his two previous appearances in showpiece matches at that level -- both coming in the last two editions of the Canadian Open.

**- 'Little details' -**

An entertaining first set which drew a multitude of admiring gasps from the crowd went the distance despite both players enjoying some success on the other's serve.

In the tie-break, a Shelton error at 4-4 followed by a leaping backhand smash by Alcaraz brought up two set points.

The first came and went when Alcaraz thundered the ball into the top of the net cord and the expectant arena froze in time as it rose and fell in seeming slow motion, only to land on the Spaniard's side of the court.

Alcaraz was not to be denied a second time, however, as Shelton overcooked a forehand on the next point to cede the opener.

At 2-2 in the second set, Shelton let out a bellow of frustration after missing a groundstroke at 15-30 on Alcaraz's serve, but the American could smile at the end of the game as a double fault and missed forehand produced the first break of the match.

Alcaraz had said after booking his spot in the final that his reflexes would need to be "ten out of ten" when facing Shelton's serve and they were just that three games later as he levelled the set at four-all.

A deft exchange of angled drop shots ended by an Alcaraz winner down the line brought the Spaniard's finger to his ear and the crowd again to their feet as Shelton suddenly found himself serving to keep the final alive.

He did so at the first time of asking but when required to serve again to force a breaker, Shelton cracked as Alcaraz again pounced to seal the title with a flicked backhand winner.

"It's all about the little details. The difference in our match in the U.S. Open was the little details, and same here," 24-year-old Shelton said.

"I've learned so much, and it's the position that I want to be in.

"Playing in the U.S. Open final against (Alexander) Zverev, playing the finals here against Carlos, now going to Turin and get to line up against the eight best players in the world."

After winning two French Opens and now the Paris Masters, former world number one Alcaraz is undefeated in title matches in the city, excluding the Olympic Games which do not carry ranking points.

In the earlier doubles final, French pair Quentin Halys and Pierre-Hugues Herbert upset second seeds Neal Skupski and Christian Harrison as the wildcards triumphed 7-6 (7/3), 6-7 (4/7), 10-8.❑

# Rahm returns from LIV absence to claim Abu Dhabi title

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

John Rahm completed a winning return to the European tour as he held off Tyrrell Hatton by two strokes on Sunday to win the Abu Dhabi Championship.

The Spaniard was playing in his first event on the DP Tour since leaving the bankrupt LIV Golf tour last month. "It means a lot," Rahm, who turns 32 on Tuesday, said. "I'm almost not letting myself believe it because it's been quite a while since I played good in a DP World Tour event and my last showing, if we don't count withdrawals, I think I finished last.

"So last to first, it's a pretty good feeling."

Rahm started the day one shot ahead of Englishman Hatton and Italian Francesco Laporta, with Rory McIlroy another shot back.

Rahm had three birdies going out and three more coming home. After a bogey on the third, he did not drop another stroke, though he had a scare.

"As far as I'm concerned, apart from the tee-shot at 17 it was a pretty flawless back nine. It was really, really solid," he said.

"After everything that's gone on and some poor play, battles mentally with the noise, to come back out after a little bit of rest and having a new addition to the family, it's special," said Rahm, who in October announced the birth of his fourth child.

After briefly surrendering the lead after McIlroy started with a birdie and an eagle, Rahm regained it on the third hole and never surrendered it though he had to share it for a while.

He was in a four-way tie with Laporta, McIlroy and Hatton as late as the 11th hole. Laporta dropped three shots on the next two holes and Rahm pulled clear with birdies on 12 and 15 for a final round of 67 and 23-under-par total of 265. Hatton shot a 68 to finish two shots back and seal his place at next week's World Tour Championship in Dubai.



**Spain's Jon Rahm watches after playing a shot on the eighteenth hole during the DP World Tour's Abu Dhabi Aldar Championship at Yas Links Golf Course in Abu Dhabi on November 8, 2026.**

McIlroy was two shots further back to rise to second in the DP rankings, behind Eugenio Chacarra, who finished 22nd, in a bid for a record-equalling eighth Harry Vardon Trophy, the traditional award for the top player on the European tour.❑




# Burrow powers Bengals to Madrid win as Chiefs shine despite Mahomes injury scare

**Washington, United States**
Joe Burrow sparked Cincinnati over Atlanta in Spain for a fourth consecutive NFL victory while Patrick Mahomes overcame an injury scare on Sunday to lift Kansas City over the New York Jets.
Burrow completed 24-of-29 passes for 271 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another touchdown in Cincinnati's 34-17 triumph over the Falcons at Madrid.
The Bengals improved to 6-2, moving level with idle Pittsburgh atop the AFC North division.
"The sky is the limit when we play like this. This is how we need to attack every game going forward," said wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase, who made 10 catches for 155 yards and a touchdown.
"Intense impact," Burrow said of Chase. "He was unbelievable."
Burrow leads the NFL with 2,386 passing yards and 23 touchdowns.
"He does a good job getting out of the pocket and making scramble plays, keeping the play alive," Chase said. "That's why he's one of the best."

At Kansas City, three-time Super Bowl champion and two-time NFL Most Valuable Player Mahomes suffered a right arm injury and lost a fumble in the second quarter after being sacked by Jets rookie defender David Bailey.
Mahomes threw for 120 yards and two touchdowns to give the Chiefs a 14-12 halftime lead, with coach Andy Reid saying Mahomes hurt his elbow.
Returning in the second half, Mahomes directed touchdown drives of 60 and 82 yards in the third quarter and 57 yards in the fourth as Kansas City beat the Jets 35-12.
Mahomes completed 23-of-31 passes for 242 yards and two touchdowns while Kenneth Walker ran 18 times for 102 yards and a touchdown and caught four passes for 41 yards and two touchdowns for the Chiefs (6-2).
The Denver Broncos became the first NFL team with seven wins as Bo Nix threw for 237 yards and two touchdowns in a 26-21 triumph at Carolina in a matchup of division leaders.
The Broncos (7-2) stretched their win streak to five games despite Bryce Young throwing for 276 yards and three touchdowns for Carolina.



**Bengals' WR #1 Ja'Marr Chase rushes for a touchdown during the 2026 NFL Madrid Game American football match between Cincinnati Bengals and Atlanta Falcons at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid, on November 8, 2026.**

**- Cowboys beat Colts -**
Dak Prescott threw for 335 yards and two touchdowns while Javonte Williams ran for 101 yards and scored the deciding touchdown on a one-yard run with 68 seconds remaining to give Dallas a 27-23 victory at Indianapolis.
New Orleans edged visiting Cleveland 23-22 in overtime on Tyler Shough's 15-yard touchdown pass to Juwan Johnson.
Cleveland's Shedeur Sanders tossed a 39-yard touchdown pass to Harold Fannin with one minute remaining in the extra period but a two-point conversion pass to take the lead failed.
Matthew Stafford threw a seven-yard touchdown pass to Puka Nacua for the winning points and the Los Angeles Rams' defense stopped Washington in the final seconds for a 20-13 road victory.
Nacua caught 14 passes for 150 yards.

Rams linebacker Myles Garrett, who set an NFL record for quarterback sacks last season, returned after suffering a knee injury in the opener and made three sacks as well as forcing a fumble.❑

