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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK
PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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

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Political fallout widens in Nvidia spy scandal

Washington, United States
The political fallout from the Nvidia spy scandal spread to President Donald Trump's cabinet on Friday, as Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent publicly blamed the Commerce Department for failing to blacklist a Singapore company suspected of funneling powerful AI chips to China.
Bessent's comments, a rare rebuke of one cabinet department by another, put new pressure on Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. Lutnick has agreed to testify before the Senate amid questions over his department's handling of export controls.
The scandal, which led Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang to resign on Thursday, has engulfed the company at the heart of the AI boom, a key driver of U.S. economic growth.
It has raised concerns that high-end Nvidia chips reached China, the United States' main AI rival, in violation of Washington's export restrictions.
It has also prompted questions over whether senior Trump administration officials turned a blind eye to Nvidia's dealings with Chinese-linked companies.
Lutnick, a billionaire investor, is a close friend of Trump, who has made Huang one of his closest advisers on artificial intelligence.



U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent speaks at a press conference announcing the ''War on Fraud'' in St. Cloud, Minnesota, on October 30, 2026.

As head of the department that oversees US export controls, Lutnick is ultimately responsible for enforcing the rules meant to keep advanced Nvidia processors out of Chinese hands.

Speaking on CNBC, Bessent said Treasury, the Defense Department, the U.S. Trade Representative's office and the State Department had backed adding the Singapore company, Megaspeed, to Washington's trade blacklist "for months."
"But Commerce has the pen," Bessent said. "You will have to ask them about their internal processes."
He said he was "frustrated" because Trump "made it very clear that China should not receive any Nvidia chips above H100s."
"Any leakage is very frustrating because it hurts our great companies, and in the AI race gives the Chinese an advantage," he said. Lutnick is also facing pressure from Congress. Senator Jim Banks, an Indiana Republican, told Fox News he wanted Lutnick to testify before the Senate Banking Committee "ASAP," citing "bipartisan questions and concerns about what's happened over the last year."
Lutnick has agreed to testify, Commerce Department spokesperson Kristen Eichamer told US media Thursday.
News outlet Axios reported on Wednesday that Trump had approved action against suspected diversions of Nvidia chips to China on at least three occasions this year, but that Lutnick did not act on the requests.
Megaspeed is suspected of helping Chinese firms get around U.S. export controls by buying Nvidia chips for its data centers in Southeast Asia and routing them to China.
The company reportedly traded more than $4 billion worth of Nvidia chips over two years.

- 'Know your client' -
This week, U.S. media identified Megaspeed's former director, Alice Huang, as an alleged Chinese intelligence asset who had a relationship with Jensen Huang. The two are not related. Beijing has denied the spying allegations.
Jensen Huang acknowledged an extramarital affair in a November 8 letter to Nvidia employees that did not name the woman involved.❑

Rubio to give stark warning to International Criminal Court

Washington, United States
U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is set to issue a stark warning Friday to the International Criminal Court against trying to enforce rules that Washington does not recognize.

Rubio's planned remarks to the Federalist Society National Lawyers Convention excerpts of which were seen in advance by AFP come around a month after the United States announced new sanctions on the ICC, vowing to cripple the tribunal's operations.
His keynote address at the conservative group also marks his first major U.S. speech since the Republican Party's sweeping losses in midterm elections this month.
Rubio is widely seen as a possible successor to President Donald Trump, although he has dismissed reports that he was planning to leave the administration to prepare for a 2028 election run.


U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio (R) shakes hands with Honduran President Nasry Asfura at the US State Department in Washington, DC, on November 12,

The top U.S. diplomat previously said Washington would bar transactions with what he called a "rogue court," stepping up a long-running campaign by Trump's government against the Hague-based body.
Rubio is expected Friday to renew criticism of the ICC, calling it "accountable to none" although "armed with the power to investigate, prosecute and jail our citizens according to laws we neither consent to nor control."

He adds: "If they are foolish enough to try to enforce their paper decrees, our answer will be the same as the Roman general Pompey gave to those who invoked their city's charters against his legions: 'Stop quoting laws to men with swords.'"
Washington earlier vowed to dismantle the court "brick by brick," furious that judges have issued an arrest warrant for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over alleged crimes in Gaza.
European nations and the United Nations have led opposition to incoming US sanctions, while US ally Israel welcomed the decision.
The sanctions announced in October would take effect in six months, and allies have urged for this time to be used for negotiations.
The U.S. signed the Rome Statute establishing the ICC but never ratified the treaty. Israel, Russia and China are also not ICC members.
The court, established in 2002, prosecutes individuals accused of the gravest atrocities and acts as a last resort when countries do not have adequate legal systems to ensure accountability.❑

U.S. says forces responded to suspected drone activity over base in Britain

Washington, United States
U.S. forces responded to possible drone activity over a military base in Britain on Friday, a U.S. Air Force spokesperson said, in the latest security incident at a facility hosting American military aircraft.

"No personnel, aircraft or infrastructure were affected" at the RAF Lakenheath base, the Air Force spokesperson said in a statement.

"We continue to work closely with our host nation counterparts to ensure the safety and security of our U.S. service members, U.S. and host nation civilians, contractors, and all of our families," the statement added.

Earlier this week, RAF Lakenheath urged people to report "suspicious activity, including unauthorized drone activity" in a post on its official Facebook page.

"Our strongest security asset is an observant community," the post said.

The possible drone incident at Lakenheath came after the U.S. Justice Department announced charges earlier in the week against three men it described as "Iranian operatives" over their role in an alleged terrorist plot at RAF Fairford, another British base.



A general view shows the entrance of RAF (Royal Air Force) Lakenheath, home of the U.S. Air Force's 48th Fighter Wing, near the village of Lakenheath, east of England, on June 15, 2020.

The three men allegedly helped plan and direct the September incident at the base, which came to light when police were called after a local farmer reported seeing a group of men with several white vans engaged in "suspicious" activity.

A U.S. charging document stated that a man identified as Mohammad Ali al-Hassani directed unnamed individuals to drive to the base in the vans, some of which contained barrels of fuel, and that he earlier paid the group to buy metallic objects that could be used as shrapnel.

- Iran war fallout -

Days later, the United States withdrew all its B-1 bombers from the base.

UK police last month charged two British men with national security offenses related to the RAF Fairford incident.

One was charged with assisting a foreign intelligence service, believed to be in Iran, and another with entering a prohibited place for a purpose "prejudicial" to the UK.

Flight-tracking data showed Tuesday that the U.S. military had removed at least a dozen aircraft from another British airbase, RAF Mildenhall, following what the Wall Street Journal said was a threat from Iran.

The United States has flown military aircraft from bases in Britain as part of the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran sparked earlier this year, which saw Tehran respond by launching missiles and drones at countries across the region, while the militant groups it backs also entered the fray.❑

California steels for storms that could trigger massive waves, flooding

Los Angeles, United States
California was bracing Friday for a storm series packing heavy rain and surf that could once again flood coastal communities and potentially see monster waves pound shores.

Off the coast of San Francisco, Southern Monterey Bay and Big Sur Coast, forecasters warned that up to 30-foot (9 meter) breaking waves could arrive Friday evening, with occasional monstrous sets of 40 to 50 feet possible.

Such violent waves in the Pacific are a trademark of the El Nino weather pattern, which this year has driven disruptions around the globe as it turbocharges the impacts of human-caused climate change.

"Large breaking waves will run up beaches and crash over seawalls, inundating adjacent, low-lying infrastructure," read the last National Weather Service advisory.

The U.S. weather agency urged against entering the water and said to stay off waterside infrastructure including jetties, piers and rocks.

"NEVER turn your back on the ocean," NWS meteorologists wrote.

Further south near Los Angeles forecasters said widespread rainfall would begin Friday and continue into Saturday, and elevated surf could fuel dangerous rip currents and breaking waves.

The greatest impact of the surf was expected to see peaks on Saturday and potentially again Monday, the NWS said.

"There is potential for moderate coastal flooding impacts at times, especially Saturday," read the latest advisory from the weather agency.

"Some of these impacts may be moderate to significant beach erosion and shallow flooding of normal dry beaches and walkways."

Storm systems as well as high tides have triggered flooding in recent months in California, causing dramatic property destruction and leaving communities along the coasts feeling particularly vulnerable.

Forecasters anticipate giant storms off the coast will continue to whip up large waves as the El Nino phenomenon is expected to strengthen into the winter.

El Nino raises surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean and causes global changes in winds and rainfall, and this year's edition has proven particularly extreme.

Human-caused climate change can worsen El Nino's impacts. A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture, making rains more intense.

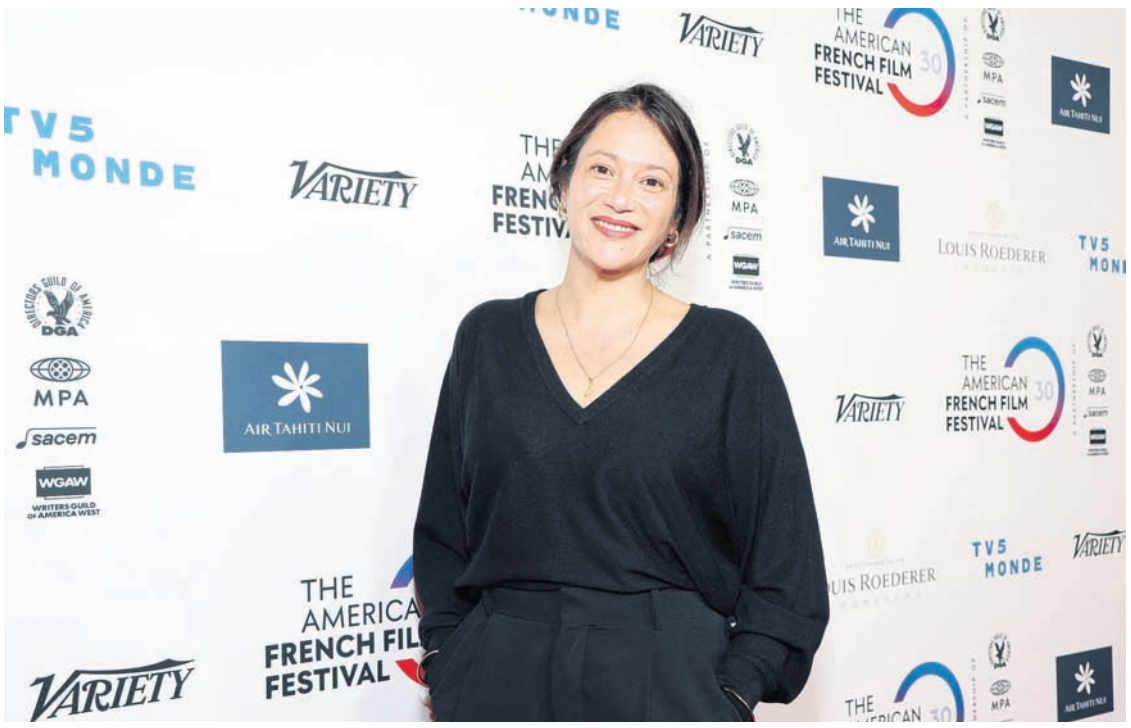
Sea levels off California will likely soon bump even higher due to especially high tides known as king tides, which generally occur in the late fall and winter months.❑



An aerial view of waves of Pacific Ocean by the Municipal Pier as coastal flood advisory issued in Pacifica, California, United States on November 12, 2026.

‘Inside Gaza’: Reporting a war when it hits home

Los Angeles, United States
How do journalists report on a war when they become victims of the violence, and when their proximity to the conflict is used to paint them as unreliable witnesses?
That’s the issue explored in “Inside Gaza,” a new documentary that follows journalists from global news agency AFP who were trapped in the territory as Israel exacted a fearsome revenge for Hamas’s October 7 attack.
Director Hélène Lam Trong brings these news industry veterans in front of the camera, showing how they balance the difficult task of reporting on the massive military response with their own survival, as it destroys their city, killing family, friends and colleagues.
“Most international correspondents... cover a war or a news event and then return home to safety,” freelance journalist and documentary filmmaker Lam Trong told AFP in Los Angeles, where the film was shown as part of The American French Film Festival.



French director Helene Lam Trong attends the The American French Film Festival (TAFFF) at the Directors Guild of America (DGA) Theater in Los Angeles on November 6, 2026.

“Palestinian journalists could not do that. They were trapped alongside the civilian population of Gaza, with no way out; as the days passed, they themselves became victims of the war.”

- Questioned -
The Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, killed more than 1,200 people, the vast majority of them civilians. Armed men also took more than 200 people hostage.
Israel almost immediately sealed the borders of the Gaza strip and barred international journalists from entering.
It then launched an enormous military response, pulverising swathes of Gaza in attacks that have left 73,000 people dead, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry, whose figures are considered reliable by the UN.
Unable to send a team of reinforcements, AFP was solely dependent on the work of its local staff experienced reporters, photographers and videojournalists, many of whom have worked internationally to document Gaza’s subsequent descent into violence and despair.
Without journalists like these, whose work was transmitted to AFP’s thousands of media clients, the outside world would have had no idea what was happening inside Gaza, Lam Trong said.
In the film, which was compiled from material produced by the team on the ground, as well as from interviews conducted after they finally left, the journalists speak of the frustration of seeing their work either called into question or simply never broadcast or published.

In one sequence, the team describes their frustration at the way in which Israeli propagandists claimed genuine photos of a dead child were staged using a doll.
“At AFP, our photos, news reports and videos are used by world media outlets. But in this war, some of our images were never used,” says Gaza bureau chief Adel Zaanoun.
“It worried us, even terrified us, because from the very first days, the thousand of Palestinians killed didn’t count for the media.”

- The costs of reporting -
At a time of declining engagement for traditional journalism as audiences migrate to unmoderated social media platforms and politicians seek to demonize any outlet publishing stories they do not like, Lam Trong says it is vital the public understands how newsgathering works -- including the costs and the risks to those who do it.
That includes becoming targets themselves. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders, approximately 200 journalists have died in Gaza since the war began.
AFP’s office in Gaza, which was broadcasting a live feed to clients, was hit, likely by Israeli tank fire, according to an investigation by the agency and other international media outlets.❑

Duran Duran drummer retires after tinnitus diagnosis

London, United Kingdom
Duran Duran drummer Roger Taylor is stepping down from the group and will retire from drumming due to a “worsening of his recently diagnosed tinnitus”, the band said.
Formed in Birmingham, central England, in 1978, Duran Duran was one of the leaders of the UK “New Romantic” movement and enjoyed huge success in Britain and the United States in the 1980s.
With hits such as “Girls on Film”, “Rio” and “Hungry Like the Wolf”, the line-up of Taylor with frontman Simon Le Bon, keyboard player Nick Rhodes, bassist John Taylor and guitarist Andy Taylor helped define the music of the decade.


(L-R) Musicians Roger Taylor, Andy Taylor, Simon LeBon, John Taylor and Nick Rhodes arrive for Duran Duran’s 25th Anniversary Concert at Webster Hall August 27, 2003 in New York City.

Announcing his retirement, the band said he had been “at the heart of Duran Duran’s sound across two remarkable chapters”.

“He played on the band’s era-defining early records, then returned for the celebrated reunion of the original line-up in 2001, writing and playing on six additional chart-topping albums and performing with them to millions of fans around the world,” it said in a statement on Instagram on Thursday.

Taylor, who now lives in the U.S., described stepping back as “one of the hardest decisions I’ve ever had to make”.
“Playing drums in this band has been the joy of my life, and I’ll never be able to properly thank the fans for the love they’ve shown us over the years,” he said.
“But the truth is that my tinnitus has been getting steadily worse, and I’ve reached the point where I must now listen to my body and my doctors,” he added.
Remaining band members Le Bon, Rhodes and John Taylor paid tribute to him.
“Roger is our brother. His drumming helped define the sound of Duran Duran,” they said.
“We completely support his decision and wish him health and happiness. He will always be part of this family,” they added.
The group, which is considered an innovator in the medium of early music videos, was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in the U.S. in 2022.
People suffering from tinnitus hear sounds like ringing or buzzing when no sound is present.❑



Members of Liberia Joint Security, an inter-agency collaborative task force coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and National Security Council, prepare to burn a total of 4,208.6 kilograms of cocaine during a public display in Careysburg on July 30, 2026.

West Africa, a new hub of global cocaine trafficking

Dakar, Senega

Dozens of cocaine packages piled up, weighing in at four tonnes and valued at $317 million the seizure by Liberian police in July was a stark symbol of west Africa's expanding role in the global cocaine trade.

In recent years, the region has become a favoured route for traffickers moving drugs from producing countries in South America to Europe, where the highly lucrative cocaine market has exploded.

Drug trafficking is now "one of the greatest threats" facing Liberia, President Joseph Boakai said in a national address in August, after several large-scale seizures.

"Drugs are destroying young lives, weakening families, fuelling violence," he warned.

Politics has been tarnished too. Following the major drugs busts, former Liberian vice president Jewel Howard-Taylor was arrested for alleged involvement in an international drug trafficking network.

But Liberia is by no means unique the drugs trafficking scourge is region-wide.

- Regional scourge -

In neighbouring Sierra Leone, one of Europe's most wanted cocaine traffickers, the convicted fugitive Dutchman Jos Leijdekkers, is operating with apparent support from the highest echelons of power, according to law enforcement, local testimonies and court documents gathered by AFP.

"All the states in west Africa are vulnerable to cocaine trafficking," Lucia Bird, west Africa director at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), told AFP.

"The region is perfectly positioned between the cultivation areas in Latin America and consumption markets, particularly in Europe," she said.

A GI-TOC report published in March spotlighted the issue. Around 30 percent of the drug consumed in 2025 in Europe went through west Africa, according to estimates in the report.

But the true scale of the trafficking remains unknown it is difficult to quantify given its illegal nature and the analysis of seizures is not a reliable indicator.

– Maritime route –

Several factors have contributed in recent years to the growing importance of the west Africa route, which is largely maritime.

With improvements to its port infrastructure and road networks, west Africa has become more attractive to traffickers and its ports increasingly well-connected hubs.

Although transporting drugs via the region takes longer and is more expensive, "the risk of having your product seized is lower", Bird told AFP.

As Europe has tightened its controls on ships coming from South America, cargoes originating in west Africa attract less scrutiny from European customs.

But with west Africa increasingly seen as high-risk, Bird said perceptions and security measures were starting to change.

- Overspill -

As in other regions, cocaine trafficking fuels corruption among local elites and political decision-makers.

This has "profound implications for governance and devastating effects on the provision of public services and the socio-economic development of states", the GI-TOC report said.

Another problem is the overspill from the trade in bulk onto the domestic market.

Smaller dealers and traffickers are sometimes paid in kind namely, in cocaine but lacking sufficient channels to resell it in Europe, the white powder is dumped on the local market and sold at affordable prices.❑



Rob Jetten speaks to the press following crisis talks at the top of the cabinet. Coalition tensions reached a peak after D66 and CDA secured a majority for an amendment to the tax plan proposed by PRO and Volt.

Dutch PM: More talks needed to stave off government collapse

The Hague, Netherlands

Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten staved off the imminent collapse of his fragile coalition government after marathon talks Friday but remained embroiled in a political crisis over tax policy.

Following more than seven hours of crisis talks with his coalition partners, during which the government's future hung by a thread, Jetten emerged to reveal they would stay together, for now.

"In recent days, many good things have happened, but also things that have not gone well... we have to do better," said Jetten, 39, his country's youngest-ever prime minister.

"And that requires in-depth talks, which we began today. This conversation is not yet complete. For that reason, I will spend the next few days continuing these talks with the three coalition parties, in a calm and measured manner," said Jetten.

The crisis erupted on Thursday when one of Jetten's two coalition partners, the right-wing VVD party, voted against the government's own tax plan.

VVD leader Dilan Yesilgoz said she had been blindsided after Jetten and the other coalition partner, the centre-right CDA, had clinched support from left-wing parties to push through the tax deal.

"For us, the minority cabinet is a failed experiment and it cannot go on like this," she told reporters after the talks.

The spat raised the prospect of snap elections in the European Union's fifth-largest economy, just nine months after centrist Jetten swept to power.

His three-party grouping holds only 66 seats in the 150-member parliament, meaning they have to seek support from other parties to pass legislation.

Yesilgoz had called for a "fundamental reset" of the coalition and even Jetten acknowledged the need for a "serious fresh start".

Jetten called Yesilgoz and a top CDA official for crisis talks earlier Friday in a last-ditch effort to salvage his cabinet.

- 'Effectively dead' -

The chaos in the Netherlands echoes similar difficulties in neighbouring Belgium, where the governing coalition is in disarray over budget talks.

Both Jetten and Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever skipped a crunch meeting of EU leaders in Dublin to focus on their domestic woes.

Polls show that the left-wing PRO party and their energetic young leader Jesse Klaver would win a snap election, with far-right firebrand Geert Wilders in second place.❑

ARUBA TODAY

Iranian women defy restrictions to embrace clothing freedom

Tehran, Iran

At her shop in central Tehran, Pariya Senyari sells crop tops and short skirts many Iranian women now wear in public, but still keeps long coats in the window to avoid trouble with the authorities.

For decades, Senyari's shop catered mainly to women accustomed to modest attire required by the strict dress code implemented following the 1979 Islamic revolution, which includes covering the head and the neck.

But now the 47-year-old is adapting her selection to attract younger customers who have been embracing greater freedom in their choice of clothing, despite the legal restrictions that remain in place.

"We can't force this new generation to wear headscarves anymore -- they want to be free," she said.

Adherence to hijab rules has become more sporadic since 2022 protests that followed the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, who had been arrested over an alleged dress-code breach.

But the transformation in women's clothing became more visible amid mounting political and economic pressure due to wars with the United States and Israel and protests against the rising cost of living that peaked in January.



Iranian women walk along a busy street in Tehran on April 25, 2026.

Now, women's streetwear, particularly in Tehran, has gone far beyond shunning the headscarf to include crop tops, sleeveless shirts, ripped jeans, and short skirts.

Senyari, however, says the widening freedoms have yet to show on her window display.

"We can't stock ripped jeans or put very short skirts on our mannequins," she said.

"We hope that somehow these limitations will eventually be lifted."

- 'Abnormal behavior' -

Despite the shift on the streets of Iran, compulsory hijab rules remain in force and the changing norms face stiff resistance from conservatives.

On Tuesday, Iran said it arrested several people in central Tehran for "promoting the abandonment of the hijab and public nudity" after judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei called for action against what he described as "abnormal behavior" on Iranian streets.

Last week, the ultraconservative Kayhan newspaper described the removal of headscarves as "a destructive weapon" used by Iran's enemies during the ongoing Middle East war.

Lawmaker Hassan Ali Akhlaghi Amiri said claims that hijab laws had been abandoned were "entirely false" and called for measures to enforce the rules.

But Niyusha, a 57-year-old woman who works at a jewellery store and who asked to use a pseudonym, says authorities appear to be increasingly turning a blind eye to clothing in order to avoid mass protests and unrest similar to that of 2022.

"The authorities have given people a little more freedom for now, so that people don't make a fuss, stay in their place and say, 'Well, everything is fine, everything is great,'" said Niyusha.

She added that although she generally goes without the headscarf nowadays she is still careful to put it on in areas where it is expected to be worn.

"Right now, for example, I'm not wearing one here because I see other women without hijabs," she told AFP while walking in downtown Tehran.

"If I go somewhere where I see that I have to observe the hijab rules, I have to comply. You never know they might suddenly stop you and harass you over something trivial."❑

Climate could force more than 200 mn from homes: U.N. migration chief

Antalya, Turkey

Climate change could force more than 200 million people from their homes even as countries spend billions on securing their borders, the head of the U.N.'s migration body said Friday.

Amy Pope, director general of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), made the warning in an interview with AFP at the United Nations climate conference in the Turkish resort of Antalya.

"Over 200 million people are currently living in extremely climate-vulnerable communities who are at risk of displacement," she said.

"If we don't act now, we anticipate that those movements will increase significantly."

In 2025, storms, drought, forest fires, extreme temperatures or flooding forced nearly 30 million people to flee their homes, according to IOM data.



United Nations (U.N.) Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Amy Pope speaks to Anadolu in Ankara, Turkiye on August 06, 2026.

"What we don't see, though, is the kind of policy or investment that's needed to address those drivers of migration," said Pope.

"And, of course, the tension is that we know that countries are spending billions of dollars on border security."

Some of the very countries that stayed away from the climate conference were the same expressing concern about migration, said Pope. Yet the two issues were connected, she said.

"It is critical that governments not put these different issues into silos," she argued.

- 'Cost-effective' measures not funded -

"We often are asked to help support governments as they address irregular migration when it happens," she said.

"We know how expensive that can be, we know how many lives can be lost."

What would make more sense, she argued, would be to help communities threatened by climate change to find ways of mitigating its effects.

That was "a much more humane but also cost-effective way of responding to those challenges", she said.

"We're talking about adaptation measures that are estimated to cost about $310 billion or so," she added.

And yet, so far, there had been about $30 billion in funding, and that was "nowhere close to what it needs to be".❑

Dining in? Try making some local favorites!

How to make "funchi"

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



Before we start, get to know the basics

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

Ingredients (measured by heart)

1. Polenta flour/Funchi flour
2. Water
3. Butter
4. Salt to taste

Directions

Bring water to a boil in a medium-sized sauce pan. Add in some salt and butter to taste in the boiling water and let this dissolve and melt. Then, gradually add the flour while stirring with a wooden spoon. The mixture will start to begin to harden pretty fast, so be careful not to add too much. At this phase of cooking, you want a goopy thick mixture, but thin enough so you can continue to stir to get all the lumps out.

After reaching a semi-firm, yet flexible texture, grab a baking pan or any large, deep plate, and pour the mixture in. Be sure that this plate is wet or greased so that the mixture does not stick to the bottom. Let this cool completely while it firms up for the last time. Once it's cooled you can enjoy it as is, topped with some butter or shredded cheese. Or, you can take it to another level of deliciousness.

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





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

Create museum memories with the entire family!

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



Museum of Industry Aruba

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

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

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

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

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

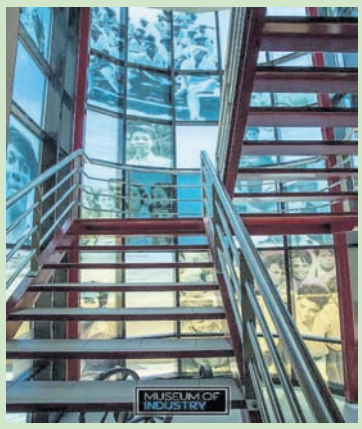
In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

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

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.



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





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

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

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

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

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







year-round trade winds.

Caya Betico Croes, mostly referred to as our "main street" has been developed into a pollution-free pedestrian mall. The double-decker offers you a 360 degree view of the down town area with a picture perfect scenery of the island's clear blue skies. Who would not enjoy a ride on this beautiful and naturally air-conditioned vehicle? The tour consists of a total of 9 stops approximately 200 meters apart from each other; all stops are clearly marked. The tram will bring you close to different museums, historical plazas, monuments, the Protestant church, Aruba's high- end mall, retail shops, and a variety of local and international cuisine restaurants. The "I love Aruba" trademark also belongs to that list. The third stop on the route is close to a 5-minute walk to the famous Renaissance Marina showcasing luxurious yachts and Aruba's blue waters.

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

Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a melting pot of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.



When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento—at least not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also…kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means **"see you later"**.

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influences from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.

Bon tardi

In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.

Bon nochi.

You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes…no…maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation.

However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man…

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much".



Renaissance Aruba Opens New Wedding Office at Renaissance Convention Center

A welcoming new space where couples can plan personalized, experience-driven weddings, with tailored packages for intimate celebrations and grand destination weddings alike.

ORANJESTAD –Renaissance Wind Creek Aruba Resort proudly announces the opening of its brand-new Wedding Office at the Renaissance Convention Center, further strengthening its position as one of Aruba's premier wedding destinations. Designed to offer a more personalized experience, the new office provides a welcoming space where future brides and grooms can meet with certified wedding planners and begin creating a celebration that reflects their unique love story.







Long recognized as a sought-after destination for romantic celebrations, Renaissance Aruba offers couples truly memorable wedding experiences. From intimate ceremonies on the exclusive Renaissance Island, surrounded by turquoise waters, pink flamingos and white sandy beaches, to elegant receptions and grand celebrations, the resort provides exceptional settings for couples seeking meaningful, personalized wedding experiences.

While Renaissance Aruba continues to attract couples from around the world seeking a destination wedding in paradise, the resort is equally committed to serving the local Aruban community. Home to the largest ballroom in Aruba, the Renaissance Convention Center offers an impressive venue for local couples dreaming of a grand wedding celebration.

Responding to the growing preference for personalized celebrations and intimate wedding experiences, Renaissance Aruba offers a variety of thoughtfully designed wedding packages for both the local market and destination weddings. From romantic island ceremonies and intimate wedding brunches to elegant receptions and lavish ballroom celebrations, couples can choose an experience that reflects their individual style, traditions, and vision.

The opening of the new Wedding Office reflects the evolving expectations of today's couples and the growing demand for personalized wedding planning. The dedicated space allows certified wedding planners to welcome couples, introduce the available venues and packages, and guide them through every step of creating their memorable day.

With its unique combination of romantic island settings, Aruba's largest ballroom, flexible wedding packages, and experienced wedding professionals, Renaissance Aruba continues to be a preferred choice for couples celebrating their love.

Future brides and grooms are invited to visit the new Wedding Office at the Renaissance Convention Center or reach out to our dedicated certified wedding planners – Marshilyne, Dhalia or Richelyn - to discover the available packages and start planning their memorable day.

Wedding Inquiries
Wedding Office: Renaissance Convention Center, Oranjestad, Aruba
Email: weddings@arubarenaissance.com
Website: www.weddingsbyrenaruba.com
Instagram: @RenArubaWeddings

Conchi: Aruba's hidden natural pool

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

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

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

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

Fun fact: "Conchi" means small bowl in Papiamento. Once you get there, you may see why we call it that.

ARUBA TODAY

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located by the yacht dock in front of the Parliament building, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.



Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and composer, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be a part of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restaurant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors!

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our "Dorado"

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



Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamento. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names, why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means "very strong". Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.

Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many become reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.
They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

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

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

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

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

Lessons from our elders: Plants and fruits for medicinal use

(Oranjestad)— Though western medicine is now widely used for common illnesses and to keep our bodies healthy and happy, it is still very common in every household in Aruba (and around the world) to have staple home remedies that is passed on through generations. Here are some tips that our elders have passed on to us over the years.





Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree. You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be harvested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.

Source: Remedi i Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris

Fun facts about cacti hedges "Trankera"

(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called "trankera" and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several 'cunucu' (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don't play that big of a role in Aruba's agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures.



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

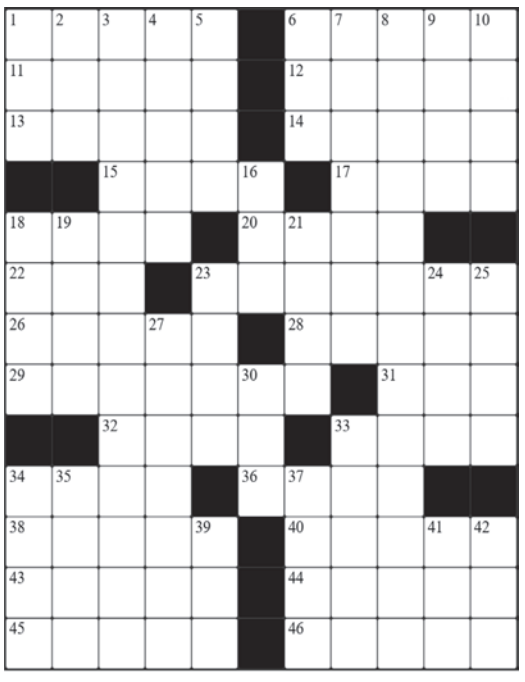
1. Ready to swing
6. Owed amounts
11. Madame Curie
12. Skylit lobbies
13. Printer's need
14. Microwave sounds
15. Utah ski resort
17. Reckless
18. Tour de France vehicle
20. Weasel relative
22. Print measures
23. "Guernica" painter
26. Contest form
28. John of music
29. Casual tops
31. Rhythmic sound
32. Adam's grandson
33. Soccer's "Black Pearl"
34. Mansion part
36. Drawer feature
38. "Hello" singer
40. Give an address
43. Home of some alligators
44. Bolshevik leader
45. Briskness
46. Invited

DOWN

1. Band blaster
2. Black goo
3. Informs of recent events
4. Usher's place
5. Final, for one
6. Bit of ointment
7. Unending
8. Wins big at a casino
9. Waiting rewards
10. Window part
16. Bordeaux buddy
18. Borscht veggie
19. Hostels
21. Chilled desserts
23. Firebug
24. Music genre
25. "My treat!"
27. Lock of hair
30. Chiding sound
33. Skin openings
34. Scrub
35. Concept
37. The Big Easy, informally
39. Before, in poems
41. Bind
42. Purpose



Tuesday'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.

11-10 CRYPTOQUOTE

D Q G H N ' L F N H T N H T

P Q G J W B G F, N ' L F N H T N H T

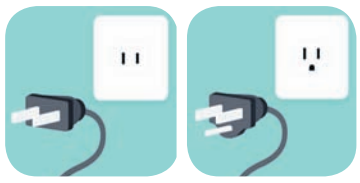
W N E G. — G P P O M O L G F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LOVE THE TREES UNTIL THEIR LEAVES FALL OFF, THEN ENCOURAGE THEM TO TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR. — CHAD SUGG

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/14

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★ 11/13

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SpaceX to attempt first-ever twin 'catch' of Starship booster, spaceship

Houston, United States

Elon Musk's SpaceX was poised Friday to carry out its latest test of the world's biggest and most powerful rocket, the Starship, with plans for the first-ever "catch" of both the booster and the spaceship.

Successful recoveries of the two Starship components would mark a significant milestone in the space industry's decades-long pursuit of fully reusable rocket systems that can drastically reduce mission costs and make frequent launches possible.

"If successful, this will mark the first full recovery of an orbital launch system and a breakthrough moment in making Starship a reliable, rapidly reusable rocket," SpaceX said.

The company has caught the booster, dubbed Super Heavy, on three previous occasions, with the first stage descending vertically back to the launch site shortly after blastoff and nestling into mechanical "chopstick" arms.

For the 15th Starship test flight Friday, SpaceX aims to carry out its first attempt to capture the Starship spacecraft that gives the rocket system its name.

It would be a groundbreaking moment in the development of the vessel, some versions of which are designed to launch internet satellites and data centers into orbit. Other iterations will be made to ferry people to the Moon and Mars.

A spacecraft that can be fully reused is the "Holy Grail" of the space industry, said Clayton Swope, an aerospace expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"No one's really been able to do that so far," he said. "People have been trying to do that since the (NASA) space shuttle. But the space shuttle ended up being kind of a compromise because a lot of the vehicle wasn't reusable."

Recovering an upper stage involves an extraordinary amount of precision, said Kathleen Curlee, a senior analyst at Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology.

"Getting Starship off the ground is an engineering achievement in and of itself, catching the upper stage involves millions of moving parts that all have to go right for a successful capture," she said.

The spaceship will be falling much faster and from a much higher altitude than the booster, with the vessel forced to withstand the extreme heat of reentering Earth's atmosphere.

As of Friday morning, however, it was unclear if the launch would take place as planned as the US Federal Aviation Administration had not yet given its final approval.



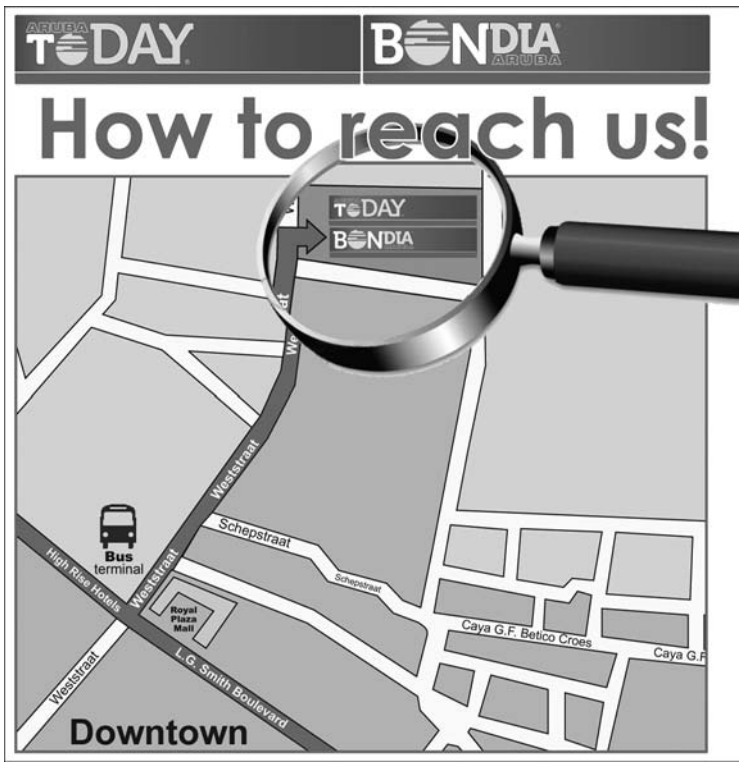
SpaceX's Starship megarocket is seen on a launch tower at Starbase, Port Isabel, Texas, on November 12, 2026.

- Refueling challenge -

Musk, the world's richest person, has already revolutionized the space sector with the partially reusable Falcon rockets, which are regularly employed to launch satellites and carry astronauts to the International Space Station.

But the Starship project has been plagued by years-long delays as SpaceX grapples with novel engineering challenges -- even as NASA is counting on the spaceship to serve as a lunar lander for its Artemis program.

Other technical challenges include transferring fuel to Starship in orbit a requirement for any journey to the Moon or Mars.❑



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

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Sta. Cruz
Tel. 585 8028
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

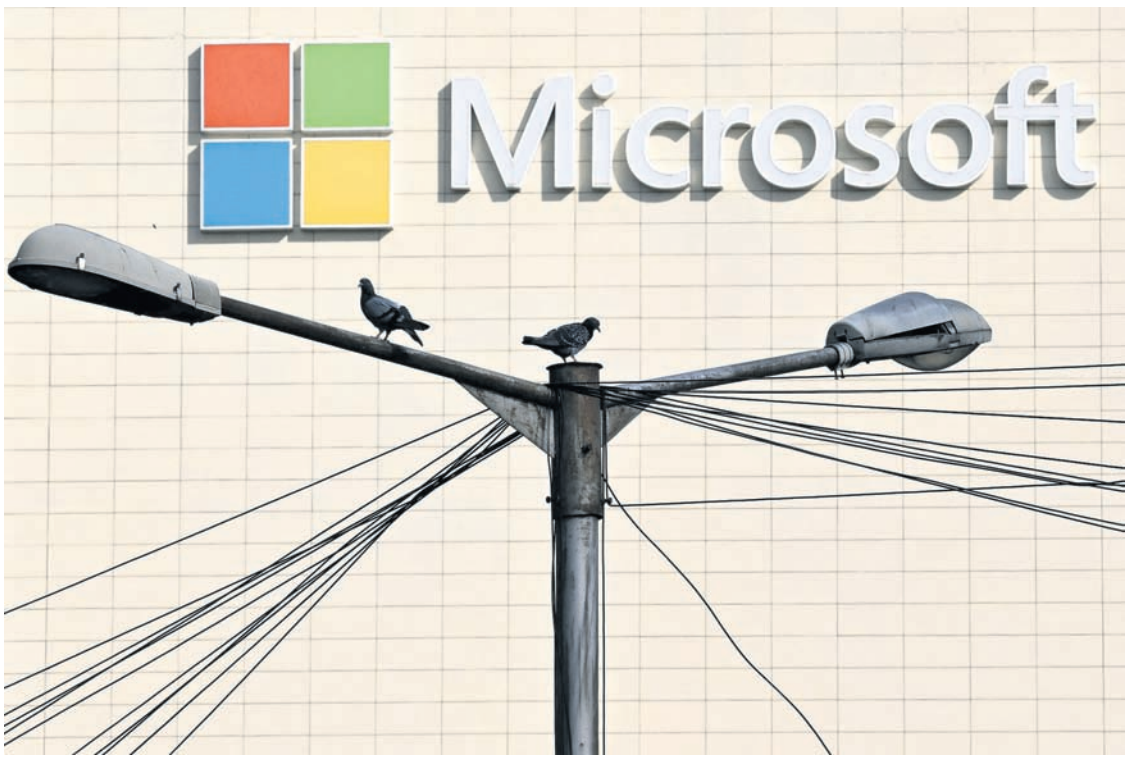
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

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Microsoft 'deeply sorry' as outage triggers global chaos

Washington, United States
Microsoft on Friday apologized for a global outage that disrupted public services and businesses around the world, as it reported a "broad recovery" for Outlook email and other services.
The company ruled out any malicious "cyber or AI" activity as the cause of the outage, which affected several Microsoft products and disrupted health care services, delayed corporate earnings reports and left schools struggling to communicate.
"We are deeply sorry for the disruption this incident has caused our customers and partners," Microsoft said on X, adding full services were still being restored after the outage started on Thursday.
"We are seeing broad recovery and stability across our services. This was a technical issue not related to cyber or AI / agents."

The disruption knocked out Microsoft products in 74 countries and territories, affecting users across the Americas and parts of Europe, Asia and Africa, according to the outage tracker Downdetector.
A top UK trade union said the disruptions had a "serious impact" on the country's health care service.
National Health Service staff receiving emergency calls were "unable to refer patient details in the normal way," creating a massive backlog, said Rachel Harrison, public services head at the GMB union.
As the outage dragged on for hours, airlines in India warned that customer queries may not be getting through.
IndiGo and Akasa Air both said on X that their email support services had been affected and that they may not be able to receive customers' emails.
Immigration New Zealand said the disruption had forced a halt in the processing of all visa applications.



Pigeons perch on an electric pole in front of the Microsoft logo at the company's office in Bengaluru on November 13, 2026.

- 'Significant impact' -
Japan's economy, trade and industry minister Ryosei Akazawa warned of a "significant impact" of the outage as the Microsoft products were used by a "vast number of people."
In London's financial district, several people interviewed by AFP said the outage exposed their dependence on Copilot, Microsoft's AI assistant.

"I think one of the biggest things is Copilot not working," said Yashmit Sharma, 26, an auditor. "I think this was the main bummer. And Outlook as well, of course."
Sheera, 40, a risk manager at a mid-sized bank, said businesses needed to be better prepared for unexpected technology failures.
"I think we need to be a little bit more careful," said Sheera, declining to give her last name. "Anything can happen: you wake up and Outlook is not working and it's the main communication we use for our global team."

The Australian Computer Society (ACS) called for a national review of sovereign IT risk, with CEO Prins Ralston saying that small businesses may not have a workaround when Outlook fails.
"We need to know the systems that keep this country running won't simply fall over without notice," Ralston said, according to ACS publication Information Age.
On Thursday, Microsoft attributed the disruption to "elevated load" on its infrastructure.
In an updated statement on Friday, it said the "incident was introduced by an issue during an earlier network capacity upgrade that surfaced following a recent network change."
"We have addressed the underlying issue and continue to restore service to remaining customers and regions."
Reports of problems on Downdetector had begun to decline by 0900 GMT.
Microsoft initially said it was investigating outage reports "in the Americas," but later confirmed that the issue apparently affected "Microsoft 365 service connectivity for users in any region."❑

Europe can't afford falling behind at AI 'turning point', warns EU chief

Dublin, Ireland
EU chief Ursula von der Leyen warned Friday the bloc "must get it right" on the generational "turning point" of AI, as European leaders vowed to catch up in the race with China and the United States -- and tame the technology's risks.
"Every generation faces a technological turning point that shapes the decades ahead. For ours, it is artificial intelligence, and Europe must get it right," von der Leyen told a press conference in Dublin where the bloc held its first summit-level talks on AI.
"We need to maximise the opportunities offered by AI, and we need to control all the risks of AI," European Council head Antonio Costa said.


European Council President Antonio Costa (L) speaks to Mistral AI CEO Arthur Mensch (R) ahead of a plenary meeting during the Informal meeting of Heads of State or Government, in Dublin on November 13, 2026.

French AI darling Mistral's chief executive Arthur Mensch and Nobel-prize winner Geoffrey Hinton, widely known as one of the "godfathers" of the technology joined the leaders' discussions on AI opportunities and dangers.
"Europe has all the technology and the talent to lead the AI race," Mensch, whose company is considered Europe's leading AI model developer, told the leaders, according to comments shared with AFP. "What it needs now is speed, financing and a strong coordination between member states."
He said the decisions taken over the next two years would shape the industry for the next decade. "That is why we call on European leaders to act now."
"We have no time to lose," French President Emmanuel Macron echoed in a post on social media, adding he would host a meeting in Paris on December 2 with the Dutch prime minister alongside "tech creators".

- 'Massive' investment needed -
EU chief von der Leyen said Europe's push for tech sovereignty would need "massive investment" of at least 500 billion euros ($550 billion), and vowed to present an "ambitious" proposal the next time leaders meet later this month.❑



Head coach Mauricio Pochettino of the United States Men's National Soccer Team speaks to the media during a press conference after announcing his resignation at Arthur M. Blank U.S. Soccer National Training Center on November 13, 2026 in Fayetteville, Georgia.

Tearful Pochettino admits Man Utd move is one of his toughest decisions

London, United Kingdom

Mauricio Pochettino said Friday that leaving his role as USA boss to take charge of Manchester United was "one of the most difficult" decisions of his career as he prepares for one of football's toughest jobs.

The 54-year-old Argentine fought back tears as he bade an emotional farewell to US football, hours after the Premier League giants announced he would replace the sacked Michael Carrick.

The former Tottenham, Paris Saint-Germain and Chelsea boss will take up his new position on November 18, with a monumental task ahead of him.

United have made their worst start to a domestic campaign in 40 years and are languishing in the Premier League relegation zone during the current international break.

Pochettino is understood to have signed a two-and-a-half-year deal at Old Trafford, taking him through to the end of the 2028/29 season.

"We learned a lot from you all, from this amazing country," Pochettino told a media conference in Fayetteville, Georgia. "I think this was one of the most difficult decisions of (my) career."

Pochettino, who led the USA to the last 16 at this year's World Cup, will oversee back-to-back CONCACAF Nations League matches against Haiti on Saturday and next Tuesday before leaving for England.

He said he had not considered a possible return to the Premier League when he signed a contract extension with US Soccer in August, but added the opportunity to join United was too good to turn down.

"I never said I wanted to go back in the Premier League," he said. "Not too many opportunities can happen in your career with a side like Manchester United. That is difficult to turn down when it arrives."

US Soccer CEO and secretary general JT Batson said Pochettino had left a lasting legacy through his "leadership, professionalism and commitment to our players and culture".

The federation is reportedly set to receive around $10 million in compensation, plus more to cover the departure of Pochettino's coaching staff.

- Attacking football -

United said in a statement that Pochettino was "renowned for his high-intensity, attacking style of football, his dedication to building strong, cohesive teams and his outstanding record of developing individual players".

"Pochettino has consistently performed at the highest level of football across multiple leagues," the club added.

The 20-time English champions are one of the giants of world football but have largely been also-rans since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013. Pochettino is the eighth permanent manager tasked with returning the Red Devils to former glories.

He started his Premier League managerial career with Southampton before joining Tottenham, where he never finished lower than fifth during his five full seasons in charge and also reached the 2019 Champions League final.

Pochettino claimed the first trophies of his managerial career with PSG, collecting the 2021 French Cup and 2022 Ligue 1 title, but did not see out his contract in Paris.

He returned to the dugout at Chelsea in 2023 but only lasted one season.

The former Argentina defender, who has been linked with the United job on several previous occasions, faces a baptism of fire at the home of fierce rivals Liverpool on November 22.❑



Japan's baseball legend Sadaharu Oh poses during a press conference in Tokyo on November 13, 2026.

Baseball superstar Ohtani should quit pitching, home run king says

Tokyo, Japan

Shohei Ohtani should quit pitching and concentrate on hitting after a disappointing season with the Los Angeles Dodgers, home run king Sadaharu Oh said Friday.

Japanese superstar Ohtani plays as both a pitcher and a hitter a rare feat that has seen him compared to the legendary Babe Ruth.

But the 32-year-old struggled with injury and poor form as the Dodgers failed to win a third straight Major League Baseball championship this season.

His compatriot Oh, who holds the world record for hitting the most home runs ever, believes Ohtani's heavy workload is taking its toll.

"Personally I think it's only natural that he might not be able to maintain that same level year after year," Oh, now 86, told reporters at a Tokyo press conference.

"I think it would be very interesting for him to focus on batting only and see how far he can take that."

The Dodgers have ruled out off-season surgery for Ohtani, saying he would continue to pitch next season.

Four-time Most Valuable Player Ohtani has struggled with knee and bicep problems since July.

In statistical terms his figures in 2026 marked his worst since signing for the Dodgers in 2023.

After lashing 54 and 55 home runs in his first two regular season campaigns with the Dodgers, he cracked only 30 homers this year.

His batting average dipped to .275, down from 2024 (.310) and 2025 (.282).

- Home run king -

Ohtani is a national hero in Japan and a successor to Oh, who enjoys legendary status in his home country.

Oh hit 868 career home runs -- over 100 more than any player has ever achieved in MLB.

He spent his entire career in Japan, where he starred for the Yomiuri Giants in the 1960s and 70s.

Japanese players have enjoyed success in MLB since they started moving there in the 1990s.

Oh said he never thought about playing in the U.S. but believes he could have made an impact if rules at the time had not prevented players from moving there.

"MLB teams used to come to Japan and play games against us in the off-season but they would treat it a bit like a holiday," he said.

"Even so I still hit about 30 home runs in those games, so I think I could have had some success in the U.S..

"That said, in the U.S. they have a hard schedule with a lot of travelling, so I wonder if that would have taken its toll on me."

Oh is currently involved in programs to give Japanese children more opportunities to play baseball.❑

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Fernando Mendoza #15 of the Las Vegas Raiders warms up prior to the start of the game against the San Francisco 49ers at Levi's Stadium on November 08, 2026 in Santa Clara, California.

Top-drafted Mendoza makes daunting first Raiders start against Seahawks

Los Angeles, United States

Number one draft pick Fernando Mendoza is set to make his daunting NFL debut start against defending champions Seattle on Sunday, after the Las Vegas Raiders traded veteran quarterback Kirk Cousins to Minnesota.

Mendoza last season led Indiana to the United States college football crown and bagged the Heisman Trophy as college football's top player, but has been kept away from the spotlight by coach Klint Kubiak for the Raiders' first nine games.

Cousins led Las Vegas to a respectable 4-5 start, but his departure on trade deadline day paves the way for a moment Raiders fans have craved since their team snapped up Mendoza at the top of April's draft.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Mendoza, 23, who paid tribute to Cousins' tutelage.

"I'm a lot more confident as a quarterback, and I feel more developed. Whether it's under center, connecting with teammates, understanding an NFL scheme, there's so many areas that I've improved on."

Mendoza will need to use every ounce of knowledge he acquired as Cousins' understudy against a superb Seahawks defense that was key to last year's Super Bowl win and has conceded the league's fewest passing yards per game this season.

"This is the best defense in the NFL... he's got to go do his job and not worry about a whole lot else," said Kubiak.

"He knew, we knew at some point he was going to get an opportunity, and so he's been preparing like that since week one," added the coach.

Seattle, who have had a mixed start to the season and are 5-4, will again be without their Super Bowl-winning quarterback Sam Darnold, who misses his second straight game with a quadriceps injury and cracked rib.

Meanwhile Cousins is expected to step straight into action for the Vikings in a key NFC North clash. The Vikings have lost two straight after their NFL-best 6-0 start to the campaign.

Minnesota's superb defense has been let down by a faltering offense.❑



Spain's Carlos Alcaraz plays a backhand return to U.S.' Ben Shelton during their men's singles final match on day seven of the Paris ATP Masters 1000 tennis tournament at the Plenitude Arena in Nanterre, on the outskirts of Paris, on November 8, 2026.

Alcaraz confident ahead of ATP Finals despite stomach complaint

Turin, Italy

Carlos Alcaraz cut short a training session on Friday because of a stomach problem but said he was feeling "better and better" ahead of the ATP Finals in Turin.

"I didn't even have breakfast this morning because I couldn't. I woke up with my stomach feeling a bit upset," Alcaraz told reporters at the season-ending event.

"Having to stop practice early left a bitter taste, especially as it was on centre court with a lot of people watching. But I'm feeling better and better. We're being careful, but I still eat things I shouldn't," the Spaniard added.

Runner-up in Turin last year, Alcaraz arrives at the final tournament of the season full of confidence. He is seeking a first ATP finals crown in what will be his fourth appearance.

Since returning from a four-month absence with a wrist injury in late August, Alcaraz has won titles in Tokyo, Vienna and Paris, while also reaching the US Open quarter-finals before losing to Ben Shelton.

"Every year I think this is going to be my year here," Alcaraz said. "This time, maybe I'm arriving in the best possible conditions, especially mentally. I'm fresh and really looking forward to facing any difficulties that might come my way.

"Honestly, I can't wait to play this tournament."❑