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Nature's Pharmacy: Aruba's Medicinal Plants
Page 10

Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music



Page 8





U.S. transport chief defends flight shutdown, seeks $50B for upgrades

Washington, United States
U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy refused Tuesday to apologize for a nationwide shutdown of flights that stranded thousands of passengers, as the Trump administration pressed Congress for $50.1 billion to overhaul aging aviation infrastructure.
Duffy defended Friday's four-hour suspension of takeoffs as a necessary safety precaution, even as officials acknowledged they had yet to establish precisely what caused the massive technical failure.
"Bryan and I do not apologize for shutting down the airspace," Duffy told reporters at the US Capitol, referring to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) chief Bryan Bedford.
He said the disruption was preferable to risking another disaster like the January 2025 midair collision between a passenger jet and a military helicopter near Washington, which killed 67 people.
Duffy also joined relatives of the victims of that tragedy Tuesday as he and Bedford visited Capitol Hill to brief Republican senators on the administration's emergency funding request.
The appeal for $50.1 billion was formally submitted Tuesday in a letter to congressional appropriators, detailing how the money would be spent.
The administration wants $10.1 billion to upgrade air traffic control technology, including communications networks and tools for managing aircraft movements.
It is seeking another $10 billion each for airport infrastructure improvements, terminal modernization, five new regional air traffic control centers and the construction or upgrading of as many as 140 control towers.



Passengers wait at their departure gates at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, DC, on November 14, 2026.

- Unexplained failure -
Friday's nationwide ground stop, the longest since the September 11, 2001 attacks, forced the cancellation of thousands of flights and left airlines struggling to restore normal schedules for days.
Officials initially linked the failure to work replacing outdated copper communications lines with high-speed fiber cables.
But Bedford said Tuesday that investigators still did not understand why the installation of a new router appeared to have triggered widespread instability in the network.
"We don't know the fault trigger," he said, explaining that technicians had been unable to establish how the router's configuration changed, allowing it to send data in a way that disrupted the system.
He said the FAA had suspended use of the routers under scrutiny while investigating the cause.
Duffy said the FBI was also assisting, although US intelligence agencies had indicated the disruption was not caused by a cyberattack.

The request for additional funding has drawn sharp criticism from Democrats, who accuse Duffy of mismanaging billions of dollars already provided to modernize the nation's aviation systems.
Rosa DeLauro, the senior Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee, accused Duffy of demanding a "$50 billion ransom without a real plan to deliver."
She and fellow Democrat James Clyburn said Sunday that $9.1 billion in previously approved funding remained unspent.
The Transportation Department said the $12.5 billion provided by Congress last year had already been allocated to modernization projects scheduled for completion by the end of 2028.
Duffy defended the pace of the overhaul Tuesday, saying his administration had converted more than half the aging communications network to modern technology in a year, compared with 19 percent over the previous four years.❑

U.S. judge tosses new visa rules for foreign students, journalists

Washington, United States
A U.S. federal judge on Monday struck down a Trump administration policy that would impose stricter limits on how long foreign students and journalists can study or work in the United States.
District Judge Dennis Saylor, in his order dismissing the case, said the policy was "arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and otherwise not in accordance with law."
The new visa regulations had been scheduled to take effect in September but were temporarily put on hold by Saylor, a move the Trump administration has already appealed to a higher court.
The judge's ruling stems from a lawsuit contesting the visa restrictions filed against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by a coalition of unions representing universities, teachers and journalists.



U.S. Vice President JD Vance (C) speaks alongside (L-R) White House Deputy Chief of Staff and Homeland Security Advisor Stephen Miller, U.S. Attorney General Todd Blanche and U.S. Labor Secretary Keith Sonderling during a Fraud Task Force press conference in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House on October 08, 2026 in Washington, D.C.

In his order, Saylor focused mainly on the impact the new visa policy would have had on international students. "Put bluntly, DHS is seeking to prevent or discourage the very activity providing educational opportunities for foreign students in the United States that Congress sought to permit and encourage," the judge said.
He said the policy would "prohibit foreign students from engaging in extended periods of study, such as those required for Ph.D. programs; prohibit them from obtaining joint degrees (and) prohibit them from changing their academic concentration."
Under the proposed new rules, foreigners on student visas would be admitted for a maximum of up to four years after which they would have to apply for an extension. International students were previously allowed to remain for the duration of their studies.
Foreign journalists would be limited to stays of just 240 days, or around eight months, but could apply for extensions of similar duration. Until now they could stay up to five years.
Chinese journalists would get just 90 days, with extensions of 90 days.
The visa restrictions are part of a broader immigration crackdown by President Donald Trump that includes aggressive deportation operations as well as new restrictions on legal pathways to citizenship.
The United States welcomed more than 1.1 million international students in the 2023-24 academic year, more than any other country, according to official data.❑

U.S. loses measles-free status as cases, deaths mount

Washington, United States

The United States has lost its long-held status of having eradicated measles, as declining vaccination rates have seen cases of the deadly and highly contagious virus soar across the country, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) announced Tuesday.

Mexico and Bolivia have also lost their elimination statuses, PAHO Director Jarbas Barbosa told a press conference, after Canada was similarly downgraded last year.

The United States, which in 2000 became one of the first countries to be declared measles-free, has been facing its largest outbreak in over three decades.

Over 5,400 cases have been recorded this year across the country, along with hundreds of hospitalizations.

The vast majority of cases have occurred among people who had not been vaccinated. At least 12 deaths have been reported since 2025 when the disease came roaring back mainly in young children.

While childhood vaccination rates have declined since the Covid-19 pandemic, health experts have blamed U.S. President Donald Trump and his health secretary, noted vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr, for fanning distrust in vaccinations by repeatedly highlighting unfounded safety concerns.

Since an initial outbreak in early 2025, in a Texas Mennonite community, the Trump administration has faced criticism for failing to adequately address the crisis.

"It's shameful, it's sad, it's scandalous," Hakeem Jeffries, the top Democrat in the US House of Representatives, told reporters Tuesday of the elimination status being rescinded.

"It's a direct result of the policies that have been pursued by the secretary of Health and Human Services (Kennedy): the vaccine denial, the failure to rely on science, and the fact that communities across the country... have been put into harm's way."

Measles elimination status does not mean there are no cases at all, but rather there has been no sustained spread of the virus for over a year.

- 'Year after year' -

"For more than a generation, the United States kept measles at bay by vaccinating children, tracking the disease and responding quickly when cases emerged," said American Academy of Pediatrics President Andrew Racine.

"The reemergence of endemic measles within the U.S. is a preventable failure to protect children," he added.

Canada has shown progress in attacking its outbreak, with two consecutive months of no new cases, PAHO director Barbosa said, noting the trend must continue for a full year to regain its status.

Measles causes fever, respiratory symptoms and a rash, and in some cases more serious complications such as pneumonia and brain inflammation, which can lead to severe long-term health problems or even death.

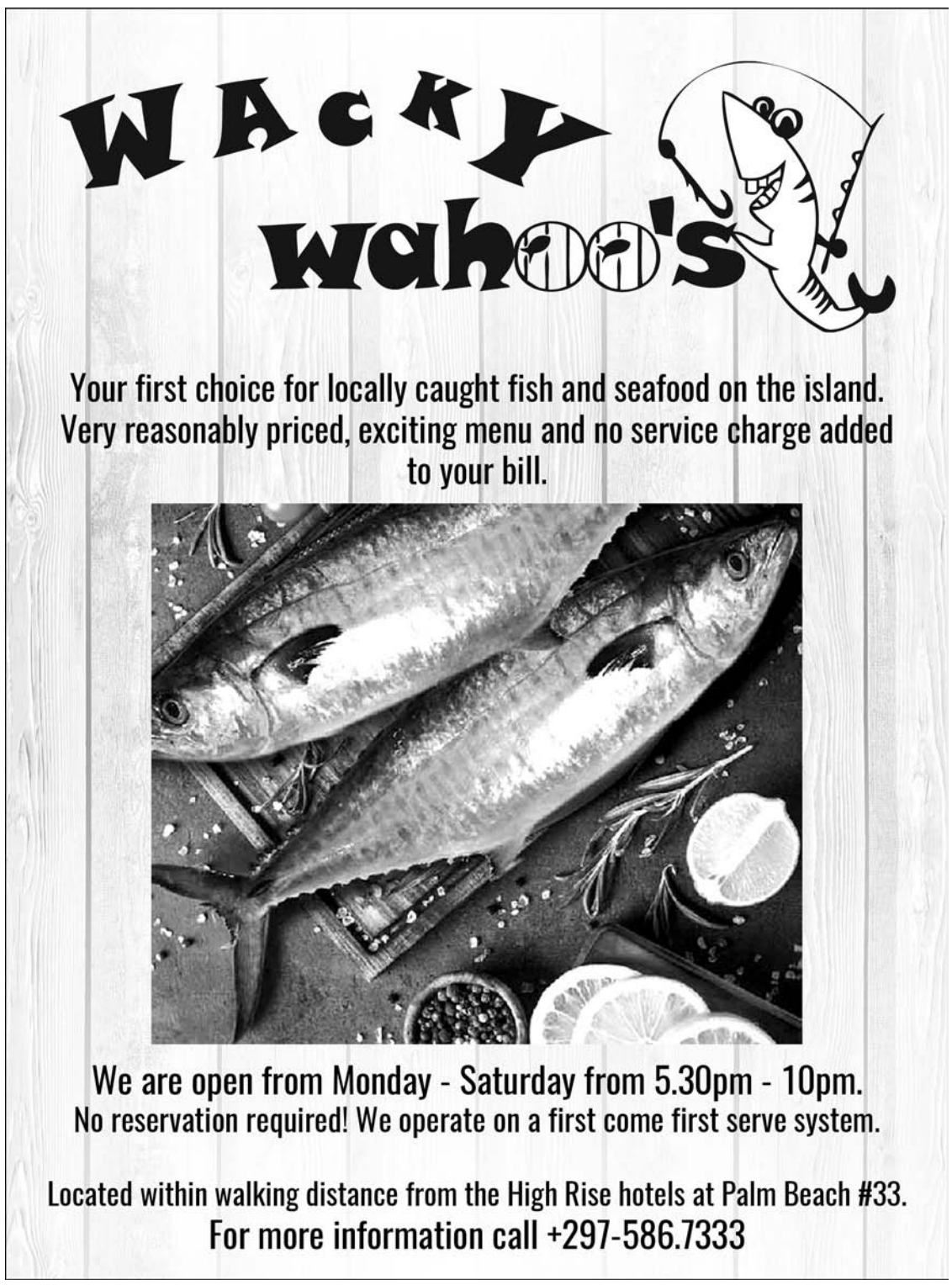
The virus is transmitted through the air and is extremely contagious, remaining airborne for up to two hours after an infected person has left the area.

To curb its spread, experts say that the vaccination rate must hit at least 95 percent of the population. However, in the United States, the vaccination rate among kindergarten students was below 93 percent in 2025, with much lower rates in some local areas, especially among some conservative religious communities.

Several of the deaths in Pennsylvania and one death in New York have reportedly occurred among the Amish community.



President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Ilan Goldfajn speaks during the opening session of the 63rd Directing Council of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) at PAHO headquarters in Washington, DC, on September 28, 2026.



Bond and Batman: Pattinson is a franchise phenomenon

Paris, France

British actor Robert Pattinson's role as James Bond will cement him as one of Hollywood's most versatile and bankable superstars, but he will have to juggle two of the industry's biggest franchises.

The London-born 40-year-old will now be in the incredibly rare position of fronting both the current Batman series which he started in 2022 and the new Bond movie.

He spent part of this year shooting "The Batman: Part II" with director Matt Reeves, which is being produced by Warner Bros and is slated to hit screens in February 2028.

That could even clash with the release of the Bond reboot by Denis Villeneuve, although no release date has been published by new studio owner Amazon MGM.

"I think that might lead to some intense negotiations between the studios down the line, although it's probably manageable given the production cycles for major films like that," Bruce Nash, founder of box office-tracking website The Numbers, told AFP.



British actor Robert Pattinson attends the red carpet event of "Primetime" presented in competition at the 83rd International Venice Film Festival, at Venice Lido on September 5, 2026.

"Whether the public will embrace someone who is both Batman and Bond is something of an open question, and I can't think of another case of someone owning the role of two such major characters at the same time."

Speculation mounted on Tuesday that Pattinson would seek to exit a contract that reportedly ties him to a third Batman movie.

- 'Dwindling pool' -

He is also set to appear next month in another huge new Hollywood series, the third installment of the "Dune" saga, also directed by Villeneuve, meaning his biggest risk might be overexposure.

"The hiring of the A-lister (for Bond) wasn't just a rebuke of newcomers, it speaks to the dwindling pool of viable young movie stars," film critic Drew Taylor wrote for The Wrap website on Monday.

The previous generation of male superstars Tom Cruise, Denzel Washington, Brad Pitt or Tom Hanks are now in their 60s or over "and there still aren't suitable replacements," Taylor added.

The Bond role has traditionally gone to well-established actors who are not yet superstars, such as Daniel Craig or Pierce Brosnan.

That history had appeared to favour Pattinson's rivals, such as acclaimed but lower-profile performers Jack Lowden, Callum Turner and Josh O'Connor.

But with risk-averse Hollywood studios facing financial constraints, Pattinson's cross-generational appeal he is wildly popular with Gen Z as well as his deft handling of the media and promotional work appear to have clinched the decision.

"Amazon have spent a lot of money acquiring the Bond franchise and they can't afford for this not to work," Ben Roberts, chief executive of the British Film Institute, told AFP.

"And maybe they just felt they couldn't afford to create a star. They needed a star to land in those shoes and hit the ground running."

- Versatile -

The "Twilight" leading man has demonstrated a rare ability over his career to jump between low-budget indie fare and mass-market studio productions while taking audiences with him.

Just this year, he has appeared in "The Drama" opposite Zendaya, which grossed $135 million worldwide off a reported budget of around $30 million, as well as "The Odyssey" by Christopher Nolan which has made $1.8 billion at the box office.

His turn as the scheming and villainous Antinous character was seen by many critics as one of the stand-out performances from a stellar cast that included fellow English new-generation A-lister Tom Holland.❑

'It's growing': Jude Bellingham underwear ad shows soccer's US appeal

New York, United States

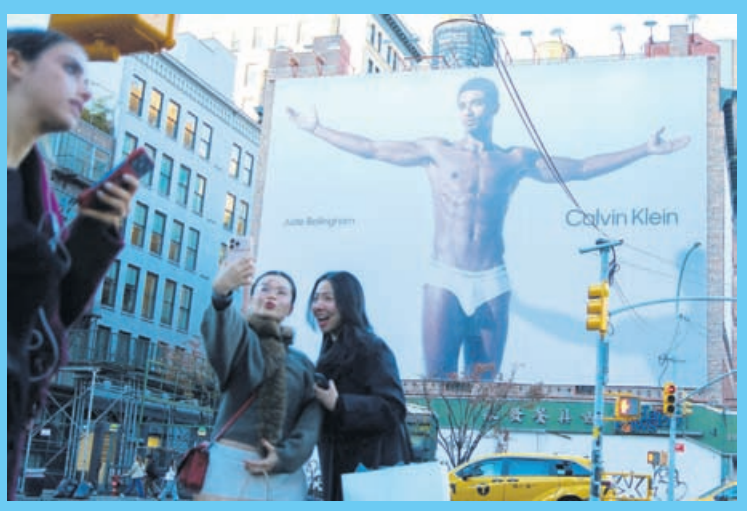
Soccer star Jude Bellingham has a trophy case of accolades to his name.

But the England and Real Madrid attacking midfielder has been elevated to the pantheon of U.S. pop culture immortality with his own extra-large Calvin Klein underwear billboard in Manhattan.

Measuring 75 feet by 55 feet (22.9 by 16.8 meters), the giant billboard overlooking one of the Big Apple's busiest shopping havens has drawn crowds of admirers. It also highlights the outsize cultural impact the soccer World Cup had on the US, which cohosted the tournament with Mexico and Canada.

Bellingham is pictured holding his signature arms-stretched celebratory pose and sporting only a pair of white Calvin Klein hip briefs for modesty.

"We were just in the area, and then my little sister, she was like, 'I got to see the Jude Bellingham poster' especially after they beat Mexico in the World Cup, right?" said store manager George Lozano, 30, whose sister Jackie, 24, snapped a photo on her phone.



A billboard featuring English soccer player Jude Bellingham in an advertisement for Calvin Klein, is seen in New York, on November 16, 2026.

"I personally wouldn't think (most Americans) would recognize him. I think it's still growing. It's growing in terms of the U.S.... support for soccer. But I think now this would definitely help, right?"

Bellingham became a breakout social media sensation during the summer World Cup for his youthful good looks and prowess on the pitch.

Bellingham's selection for Calvin Klein's landmark SoHo billboard puts him alongside cultural titans including Bad Bunny, Jeremy Allen White and Justin Bieber, who bared nearly all before him.

"I like him but he's not my favorite," said French tourist Roxane Marin, 33, of Bellingham, who helped steer England to a famous 6-4 victory over France in the third-place playoff with an inspired 98th-minute solo spectacular.

"I watch football, but I can't remember if I saw that match," she added to AFP after taking a close-up of the billboard.

Marin insisted she had happened upon the billboard by chance, "but I think there are people who come on purpose."❑



Ilia Duchrow, Secretary General of the German section of Amnesty International, presents Amnesty International's annual report on the state of human rights worldwide alongside Raha Bahreini and Joel Ruiz Butuyan.

U.S.-Israeli war created 'horrific' situation for Iranians: Amnesty

Paris, France

Iranian authorities have intensified their repression of the country's population in response to the Middle East war, which began weeks after their deadly crackdown on anti-government protests killed thousands of people, Amnesty International said on Tuesday.

An internet blackout imposed at the time of the crackdown on January 8 and 9 and the scale of the casualties meant it was not yet possible for the group to quantify the number of people killed, Amnesty's lead Iran researcher, Raha Bahreini, said.

But she told AFP in an interview that "there is no doubt that thousands were massacred in less than 48 hours". She added that the Middle East war, which began with U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 "with Iranians still reeling from the January massacres, created a horrific situation for the people in the country".

"The authorities used the cover of wartime conditions to intensify repression," she said.

Bahreini said authorities have increased politically motivated executions "at a rate unprecedented in recent decades", with at least 39 people executed in connection with the January protests.

With authorities threatening fast-track justice, "the time between arrest, conviction, sentencing and implementation has collapsed to a few weeks in some cases".

There is now an "extreme militarisation of public spaces", with pick-up trucks equipped with mounted machine guns patrolling the streets, she said.

"The authorities are conflating peaceful dissent with treason and support for foreign enemies."

Demonstrations initially broke out over economic concerns last December and ultimately spiralled into the broader anti-government protest movement that peaked in January before being quelled.

- Even greater repression -

Bahreini lamented that the international community had shifted its attention away from the Iranian people to the geopolitical consequences of the conflict.

"The massacres that took place in January, which should have moved then global consciousness, have faded away from attention."

On Wednesday, Bahreini is to address a roundtable at the French parliament alongside the United Nations rapporteur and the head of the UN fact-finding mission on rights in Iran.

Amnesty has already documented the killings of more than 3,000 people in the previous major protests in Iran in 2022, calling for the establishment of an international tribunal to punish those responsible.

But Bahreini said the repression in January was "on an even more staggering scale". Like in 2022, authorities fired on protesters with shotguns filled with metal pellets, which wound indiscriminately, she said.

But in 2026, they made even greater use of "military grade weapons", such as assault rifles, and fired on people's heads and torsos "from the rooftops" of residential buildings.

U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) has said 7,007 people were killed, including 6,488 protesters. Norway-based Iran Human Rights says it has documented the killing of 4,200 people. Both groups have warned these estimates represent a minimum.

Iranian authorities reported more than 3,000 deaths, attributing the violence to "terrorist acts" orchestrated by the United States and Israel.❑



Maria Urgiles, member of the association Fuerza del Mar and wife of a fisherman allegedly missing during an FOL operation, speaks during a meeting with members of the association Fuerza del Mar in Manta, Ecuador, on November 8, 2025.

Ecuadoran fishermen sue U.S. govt over strike at sea

Quito, Ecuador

Sixteen Ecuadoran fishermen have sued the U.S. government over an alleged drone strike on their vessel in March, their lawyer said Tuesday.

The attack on the Negra Francisca Duarte left two crewmembers with severe burns and came as Washington and Quito seek closer military cooperation.

The crew suffered arbitrary arrest, torture and forced transfer to El Salvador at the hands of U.S. military personnel, a federal court in Pennsylvania heard.

"We are certain that when all the evidence comes out, it will be very clear that the U.S. was behind this," lawyer Dan Kovalik told a virtual press conference.

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has denied being involved in this particular attack.

And it defends its bombing campaign against alleged drug-running vessels in the eastern Pacific and the Caribbean, saying it is aimed at halting the flow of narcotics into America.

The campaign has killed over 200 people, and the White House has not provided definitive evidence that its targets were involved in drug trafficking, as it says they were.

U.S. forces attacked three ships including the Negra Francisca Duarte between January and March, with one of the vessels still missing, according to the NGO Human Rights Watch (HRW).

Tuesday's legal action follows a wrongful death lawsuit filed by the relatives of two men from Trinidad and Tobago in January.

"What we're seeking... is compensation for all the fishermen who've lost their livelihood," said Kovalik.

"At least two of them suffered serious physical injuries" and "all of them were traumatized," he added.

"We want the U.S. to stop these bombings," the lawyer said.

Between August and September, military forces destroyed eight Ecuadoran fishing boats which allegedly supplied fuel to drug traffickers.

Of the 160 fishermen intercepted during that period, 110 are free while 50 are awaiting trial, according to HRW.

Ecuador's President Daniel Noboa, a staunch Trump ally, enthusiastically backs the campaign.

An AFP investigation published in October documented an unusual buildup of U.S. aircraft at Ecuador's Taura air base.

In a referendum last year, Ecuadorans voted against allowing foreign military bases in the country.❑

‘Smoke everywhere’: Chaos as expelled gold miners flee Guinea

Bamako, Mali

Moussa Konate searched desperately for his wife among the crowds flooding into Mali after Guinea’s crackdown on illegal mining sent thousands scrambling across the border.

The 41-year-old Ivorian has not seen her since they fled several days earlier. Seven months pregnant, she vanished in the panic.

“There was pushing, screaming, smoke everywhere,” he said, his face etched with worry.

“When security forces ordered us to leave, everything happened very fast.

“I’ve spent days asking new arrivals if they’ve seen her but nobody has,” he told AFP from Ouezzindougou, one of two official reception sites.

Since Guinea deployed security forces to stamp out illegal artisanal gold mining in its northeast early this month, a tide of displaced miners and their families has poured into Mali.

Rich in mineral resources, Guinea says it is trying to curb the environmental harm caused by informal gold mining, such as land degradation and water pollution.

But the operation has left thousands stranded across the border in Mali, many exhausted, penniless and separated from their families.



Artisanal gold miners sit on the back of a repatriation vehicle bound for Burkina Faso in Kanadjiguilla, on the outskirts of Bamako, on November 10, 2026.

Around 100,000 people have arrived in the capital Bamako alone since the start of the operation, while another 60,000 have gathered in the border town of Kouremale, according to Malian authorities.

Eleven deaths have been recorded so far, the Malian government said.

And at least 10 people were killed in Guinea’s Siguiri region Wednesday following violent clashes between security forces and gold miners, according to Conakry.

- ‘Thrown away like rubbish’

Many of those expelled are Burkinabe, though Ivorians, Senegalese, Togolese and Beninese are also among the arrivals, Mali’s health ministry said.

At Ouezzindougou, thousands of exhausted miners and their families lay down on the ground after trekking 125 kilometres (78 miles) from Kouremale.

Along nearby walls of houses and beneath makeshift shelters, tarpaulins and tents offered little protection from the sun.

Alassane Kabore, a 21-year-old from Burkina Faso, struggled to walk, his knee hastily bandaged after the journey.

“We went through things I wouldn’t wish on anyone,” he said bitterly.

Families were torn apart in the chaos, while hospital sources said that at least six women have given birth in Mali since the arrivals began.

“Some people were beaten. Others lost relatives in the panic as everyone fled through the bush,” Kabore said.

“Today we feel like we’ve been thrown away like rubbish, with no respect for our dignity.”

Nearby, Seydou Traore, a Burkinabe miner in his 30s, leaned against a wall clutching a worn bundle of belongings in his calloused hands.

“We worked hard there, honestly,” he said quietly. “Then one day everything changed. We were told to leave immediately, without even enough time to collect our tools or savings.

“I left everything behind my shovels, a few gold nuggets, my clothes. I’m going home with nothing, ruined.”

- Growing crisis -

The Malian health ministry estimates that it will need nearly 228 million CFA francs ($388,000) to respond to the crisis.

For now, authorities, aid groups and locals help feed and shelter those arriving from Guinea.

But the influx heaps further pressure on a country where more than five million people already rely on humanitarian aid, according to the UN.

Officials are also worried that vulnerable migrants could become targets for recruitment by jihadist groups in the Sahel.

“These people are vulnerable. We are looking at ways to prevent them from being approached by terrorist networks,” a Malian security ministry official told AFP.

Mali has contacted the countries whose citizens were among those expelled, he said.

“Some have promised to come and collect their nationals, including Ivory Coast. Burkina Faso, which has the largest number of citizens affected, has already started repatriating them,” he added.

On Thursday, Burkina Faso announced that 45,406 people had arrived as part of repatriation operations from Mali, including 9,852 children and 1,224 nationals of other countries.❑

Norway aims to put salmon farms on open seas

Oslo, Norway

The Norwegian government proposed Tuesday to start developing salmon farms on the open sea, away from the fjords and coastal pens where they are causing growing environmental and ecological damage.

Salmon farms are a major source of revenue and jobs for the Nordic country fish products are its biggest export after oil and gas.

But packing the animals into cages almost always leads to sea lice outbreaks requiring treatments that can involve chemicals.



A drone view of a salmon farming facility in a fjord in Norway on September 22, 2024.

The lice can also infect wild salmon, whose numbers in Norwegian waterways have plunged in recent years.

The government wants to open three zones in the North and Norwegian Seas where farms could be placed in deeper waters to limit lice as well as excessive excrement and nutrients in the water.

That can foster plant and algae growth that removes oxygen and threatens other fish.

“Pisciculture on the sea could be a significant contributor to value creation along our coasts in the coming years,” Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said in a statement.

Putting farms farther from the coast can significantly reduce sea lice infestations, according to a study last month from Norway’s marine research institute.

But harsher weather conditions on the open sea mean production would likely be more complex and expensive.

Seafood exports generated a record 181.5 billion kroner (nearly $19 billion) for Norway in 2025, of which farmed fish produced around $14 billion.❑

Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

Iguanas



Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

Turnip-tailed gecko



The turnip-tailed gecko is known locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.
According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing.

The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.
Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home! They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4–5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega Phyllodactylus Julieni is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

Blue Cododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color. The Aruban whiptail lizard, Cnemidophorus arubensis, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.



These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, because of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Cododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

Striped anole

The striped anole (Anolis lineatus) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

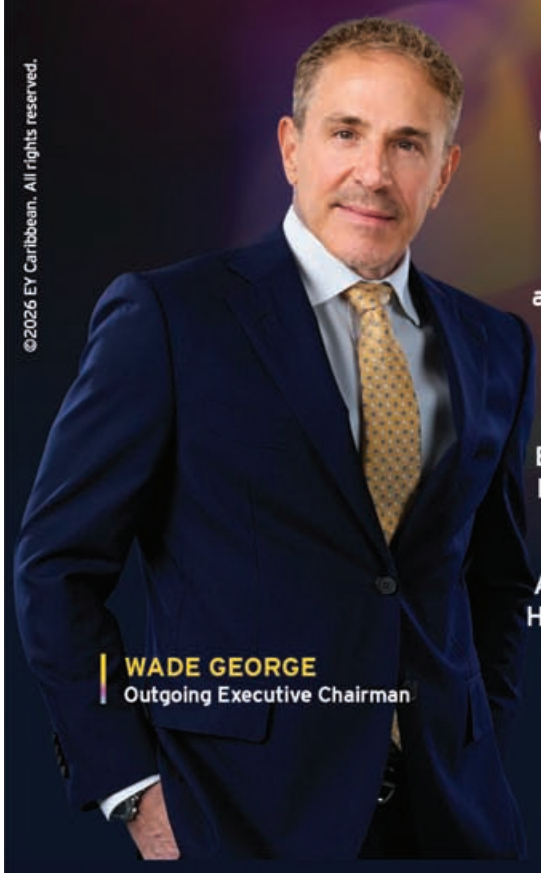
Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay.❑

Images: Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



Leadership evolves.
Our commitment remains constant.

EY
Shape the future with confidence



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With a career at EY spanning 33 years, Wade George will retire as EY Caribbean's (EYC) Executive Chairman on 31 December 2026. He has led EYC with vision, integrity and heart. Under his leadership as Executive Chairman and Tax Partner, we grew stronger, closer to our clients, and more committed to the communities and economies we serve. Having worked across the United States (New York), Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, Wade's legacy will live on through our people, our relationships and the trust placed in us across the region. Great leaders don't simply lead, they inspire, they elevate others, and they leave an impact that lasts, thank you Wade.

Effective 1 January 2027, Erick Statius van Eps steps into the role of Executive Chairman for EY Caribbean. A trusted and respected leader with more than three decades of experience with the firm, Erick has worked in Amsterdam, San Francisco and Curacao, and has served as Assurance Managing Partner and Deputy Executive Chairman for EYC. He brings deep knowledge of our people, our clients and our region, and a collaborative spirit that inspires those around him. We look to the future under his leadership with confidence, pride and excitement. We're proud to stand with you as you lead us forward.



WADE GEORGE
Outgoing Executive Chairman

ERICK STATIUS VAN EPS
Executive Chairman-Elect

Shape the future with confidence

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Ever heard of the cah'i orgel? A key instrument in Aruban folklore music

(Oranjestad)— The cah'i orgel music box is an important and unique instrument that is used on the ABC islands in the Dutch Caribbean. This instrument is a staple in our folklore music, and its significance in the traditions of Aruba has and continues to bring together the old and young.

The origin of the cah'i orgel is said to have come from Europe around 150 years ago. A cross breed between the barrel piano and the organ, the most popular stories said that the instrument came from either England or Germany, but made its way to Italy down to Venezuela, where in 1881, Mr. Horatio Sprock (1866-1949) from Curacao was first introduced to it. After that, Sprock made his own cah'i orgel "Josefina", and successfully debuted it on the streets of Barquisimeto.

Back in Curacao, he started his own cah'i orgel business along with his brother Luis. In Aruba, it is said that the cah'i orgel was introduced by Rufo Wever, who later in his career became one of the composers for the Aruban national anthem.

Rufo Wever was a young musician in 1937 when he established his own cah'i orgel business on the island. Before that he experimented with his uncle's cah'i orgel, and he over the years he learned to build and repair the instrument. In fact, he was incredibly skilled in this, and he was one of the few to have recognized from the start that the cah'i orgel is an instrument that needs preserving.

As mentioned, the cah'i orgel is a music box. Made from mahogany wood, it contains a cylinder with a maximum of eight music pieces. By rotating the lever on the front side of the box, the cah'i orgel produces music similar to that of a piano, and is accompanied often by someone else playing the "wiri", a percussion instrument made out of steel and reminiscent to the Spanish guiro.

Back then, you would often also find someone playing the triangle alongside the cah'i orgel and wiri. In Aruba, the cah'i orgel and wiri is used for traditional music genres, such as the Aruban waltz, tumba, mazurka and more.

Fun fact: another name for the cah'i orgel is the "tingilingi box."❑



Source: "E Cilinder Magico entre Aruba y Curaçao" by Marilyn Alcalá-Wallé, Herta Parabirsing-Balentina and Nidia Rosaria-Wallé.



Ayo & Casibari:
Aruba's famous rock formations



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

Ayo

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

Casibari

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

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

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



Aruba to me



ORANJESTAD — Are you back or still enjoying your vacation?… We would like to give you a shout-out by inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island!

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ……. Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

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ARUBA TODAY

ISLAND INSIGHT



Article by Etnia Nativa

WhatsApp us 592 2702 and book your Aruban experience!

Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels

Episode CCCLXXVIII - 378

Nature's Pharmacy: Aruba's Medicinal Plants

Through this cultural space dedicated to reflection and discovery, Etnia Nativa invites readers to reconnect with Aruba's intangible cultural heritage: the living traditions, ancestral wisdom, values, and stories passed down from generation to generation.

In this installment, we explore the delicate balance between knowledge and preservation, modernization and cultural identity. We revisit the ways our ancestors understood their surroundings, adapted to the challenges of island life, and cultivated a profound connection with the natural environment. Long before modern pharmacies became widely accessible, families drew upon generations of knowledge of local plants and traditional botanical preparations to care for their everyday health and well-being.

Through these inherited practices, we are reminded that our cultural heritage is not simply a reflection of the past, but a living legacy that continues to shape who we are and how we relate to the world around us.

This knowledge was carefully passed down through generations, often from grandparents to children, through observation, storytelling, and practical experience.

Among the plants associated with Aruba's traditional botanical heritage are:

Aloe — Well known for its traditional uses in skincare, aloe also holds an important place in Aruba's agricultural and economic history. For more information, explore Episode XLIII, "The Aloe Industry of Aruba," and Episode LXIV, "Our Succulent Island."

Yerba di hole: Basil (Ocimum basilicum) — A plant associated with traditional herbal infusions and local culinary practices. Is an annual aromatic herb belonging to the Lamiaceae family. It is widely used in cooking and traditional medicine, is easy to cultivate, and is known for its digestive, anti-inflammatory, and antimicrobial properties.

Toronjil: Lemon Balm (Melissa officinalis) — Traditionally used in herbal preparations and valued in family traditions— A lemon-scented perennial herb belonging to the mint family, lemon balm is traditionally valued for its calming properties and commonly used to promote relaxation, support restful sleep and digestion, and ease mild feelings of anxiety.

It contains naturally occurring compounds, including Rosmarinus acid, terpenes, and essential oils, which are associated with its calming effects and potential antiviral properties.

Seida (Jatropha gossypiifolia) — A plant recognized in Aruba's traditional botanical knowledge and mentioned in historical accounts of local medicinal practices and the use of plants for traditional remedies.

Belonging to the Euphorbiaceae family, Seida is a toxic perennial shrub or small tree commonly known as bellyache bush. Native to tropical regions of the Americas, it is now widely distributed throughout tropical regions worldwide. Although historically associated with traditional medicinal practices, the plant contains toxic compounds and should not be used for medicinal purposes without appropriate professional guidance.

To learn more about Seida and its place in Aruba's traditional botanical heritage explore Episode CCIX (209), "Seida: An Aruban Medicinal Plant."



These plants represent more than their traditional uses. They remind us of a time when people maintained a close relationship with the natural resources surrounding their homes and communities.

Of course, traditional uses and historical beliefs should be distinguished from scientifically established medicinal benefits. Nevertheless, the cultural knowledge associated with these plants deserves recognition and careful documentation.

At Etnia Nativa, we have explored each of these plants in previous chapters and will continue sharing more about Aruba's botanical heritage and the traditional knowledge connected to it.

Because preserving cultural heritage also means preserving the stories, experiences, and knowledge associated with the natural world.

Aruba's ancestral knowledge tells a story of adaptation, identity, and continuity. Our ancestors learned from nature, understood the resources around them, and developed practical ways to thrive on an island where life was not always easy.

Today, as Aruba modernizes and faces new environmental challenges, these traditions remind us of the importance of preserving our natural resources, rediscovering traditional plant knowledge, and keeping our cultural identity alive.

The wisdom of previous generations is more than a reflection of our past; it is a valuable legacy that can help guide a more sustainable future.

At Etnia Nativa, we believe that understanding where we come from is essential to preserving who we are and shaping the generations to come.

Join us in rediscovering the heritage and forgotten wisdom of our island, because what we understand, we can preserve.

Experience Etnia Nativa through a personal and meaningful cultural visit.

Visits are available by appointment only.❑

For reservations and inquiries:
WhatsApp +297 592 2702
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PSA for off-roaders:

Be careful when driving on rough terrains!

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today recently received a message from a reader about the rough terrains and dirt roads on the northern side of the island, worried about how they may damage you car.

We at Aruba Today pride ourselves in enhancing your Aruba experience through informative articles about our history, culture and places you can visit. With this, we also want to make sure you take care of yourself and your loved ones.

You may encounter some dirt roads that have deep holes or cracks that can be damaging if you are traveling by (regular) car. These holes often occur after heavy rain or during the raining season, primarily because Aruba is a hilly island with a lot of downward streams, so rain water travels downward creating cracks and holes along the way.

For your own safety, please be advised to not drive on potentially dangerous terrains or dirt roads with deep holes if you are traveling by regular car. We advise you to rent a 4x4 vehicle instead or better yet, plan your off-roading trip with a tour guide who can provide proper vehicles and assistance.❑



Prohibited by law:

leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!❑

Rock stacking and its harmful effects



(Oranjestad)—The organization Aruba Birdlife Conservation has in the past raised concerns about the phenomenon of "rock stacking" in the area of Baby Beach and warned about the dangers it poses, especially for children.

As known, "rock stacking" is not illegal in Aruba, but its impact on nature is harmful as the stones form part of the natural habitat of small animal species living in Aruba's wilderness. Experts warn that "rock stacking" could even lead certain species to extinction.

In Aruba, much of the "rock stacking" also occurs near Arikok National Park. Although this activity is not illegal in Aruba, it may be time for park authorities to impose stricter regulations on this activity.
Tourists often believe that the meaning behind this activity is making a wish, but they do not realize its negative impact.

Aruba Birdlife Conservation's post not only raises alarms about the activity but also now that this phenomenon has reached Baby Beach, some of the stacked stone towers are up to 1.7 meters high, which can be very dangerous, especially for children.❑

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



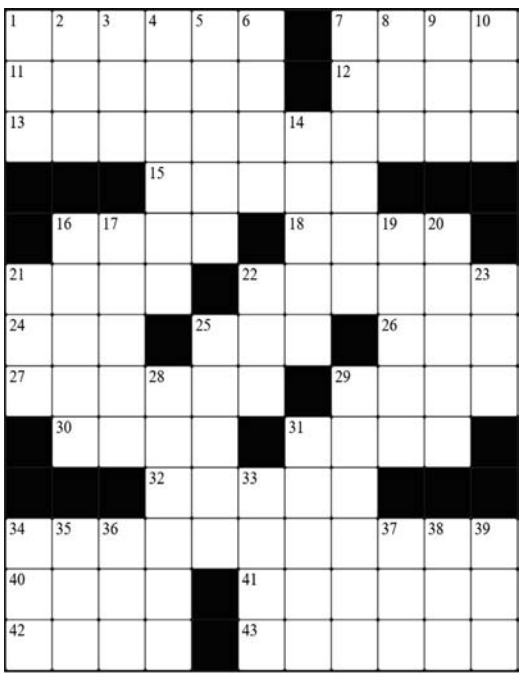
Yesterday's answer

ACROSS

1. Lisa, to Bart
7. Coral structure
11. Glacial period
12. Jane Austen novel
13. "Travelin' Man" singer
15. Sticky stuff
16. Stretched tight
18. Wheedle
21. Grating sound
22. Want to know
24. Do something
25. Dramatist Jonson
26. Low digit
27. Twisting force
29. Spur on
30. Like lemons
31. Spotted
32. Hilo hello
34. "Livin' la Vida Loca" singer
40. Tot's scrape
41. Charm
42. Sow's mate
43. Took a breather

DOWN

1. Knight's address
2. Here, in France
3. Min. part
4. Begin, as a hobby
5. Sphinx setting
6. Nevada city
7. Put faith in
8. Print units
9. Moody music
10. Summer cooler
14. One with a record
16. Folded foods
17. Houston player
19. Find darling
20. Inert gas
21. Mob pariah
22. Tiny
23. Spectrum color
25. Strapping
28. William Penn, for one
29. Strand items
31. Sedimentary rock
33. Poet Khayyám
34. Hold up
35. -- Jima
36. Spying org.
37. Chiding sound
38. Rage
39. Composer Rorem



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.

11-17 CRYPTOQUOTE

SLTKAOLJI DZX'P IMEE WLT, FTP OSW PZIA PSA DSZXDA? — VSWEEMK YMEEAJ

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WONDER IF LEAVES FEEL LONELY WHEN THEY SEE THEIR NEIGHBORS FALLING. — JOHN MUIR

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★ 11/18

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★ 11/17

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Scientists, firms deny support for South Pacific deep-sea mining project

Sydney, Australia

A U.S. firm claimed universities and research institutes had shown "strong" interest in its deep-sea mining plans without ever speaking to them, an AFP investigation has found.

American Deep Sea Minerals said it would contact regulators to "provide clarification" after a host of supposed backers told AFP they had nothing to do with the project.

"We had no interaction whatsoever with 'American Deep Sea Minerals', and would not collaborate with them in any way," said marine ecologist Jon Copley from the University of Southampton, which is named in the firm's mining exploration proposal.

American Deep Sea Minerals is among a growing number of firms jostling to mine the depths of the Pacific Ocean, hunting for lucrative deposits of critical minerals and rare earth elements.

It has applied for an exploration licence covering 100,000 square kilometers (40,000 square miles) in the South Pacific, nestled between the exclusive economic zones of the Cook Islands, Kiribati and French Polynesia.

The fledgling industry is already hugely contentious seen by some as a rich source of economic growth and feared by others as a grave danger to the environment.

The firm's application looks promising on paper, name-checking major metals companies among prospective investors and touting interest from scientists.

"Interest in collaboration is strong among recognized research institutes, including the Natural History Museum (UK), the University of Southampton, and the UK's National Oceanography Centre," it reads in part.

But when contacted by AFP, many of these organisations said they had nothing to do with American Deep Sea Minerals and had no interest in working with them.



Japan's deep-sea drilling vessel Chikyu returns to Shimizu port in Shimizu, Shizuoka prefecture on February 14, 2026.

It would be "effectively illegal" for the University of Southampton a leader in deep-ocean science to aid mining in international waters given the UK's treaty obligations, said Copley.

The UK Natural History Museum said it did not want its name attached to the plan.

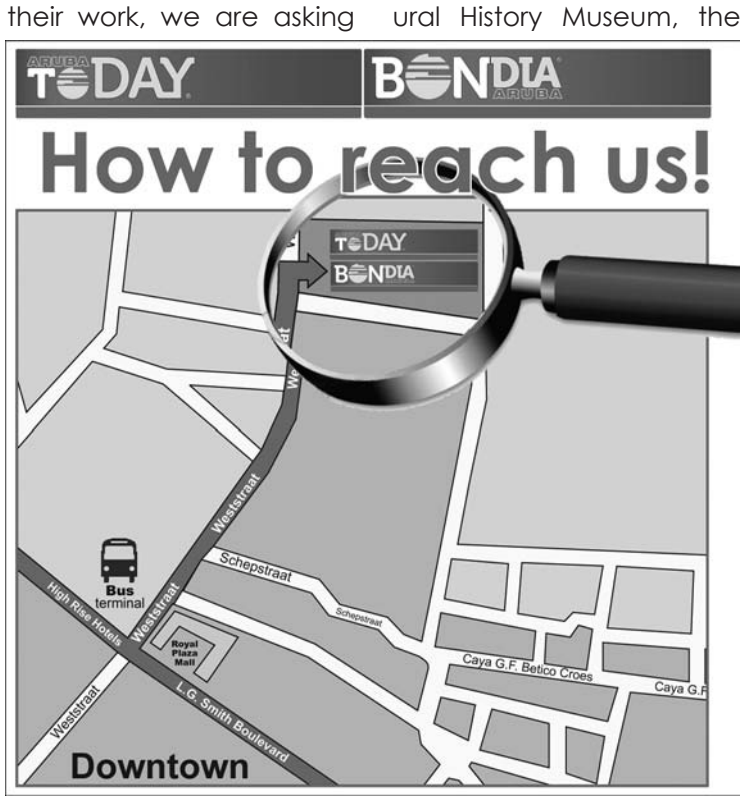
- 'Not given permission' -

"We do not work with American Deep Sea Minerals Inc. and have not had any interaction with them or know much of their work, we are asking them to remove our name in connection to this work," a spokesman told AFP.

The UK's National Oceanography Centre likewise said it had "not given permission" to be named. "The National Oceanography Centre has no agreement to collaborate with American Deep Sea Minerals and has not been approached by the company about its application."

Presented with this pushback, American Deep Sea Minerals said it would submit a "written clarification" to the US deep-sea mining regulator.

"It will confirm that the Natural History Museum, the University of Southampton and the National Oceanography Centre have no relationship with ADSM, and that none should be inferred from the application," the firm told AFP.❑



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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: 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
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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

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Nvidia to reveal first earnings since scandal

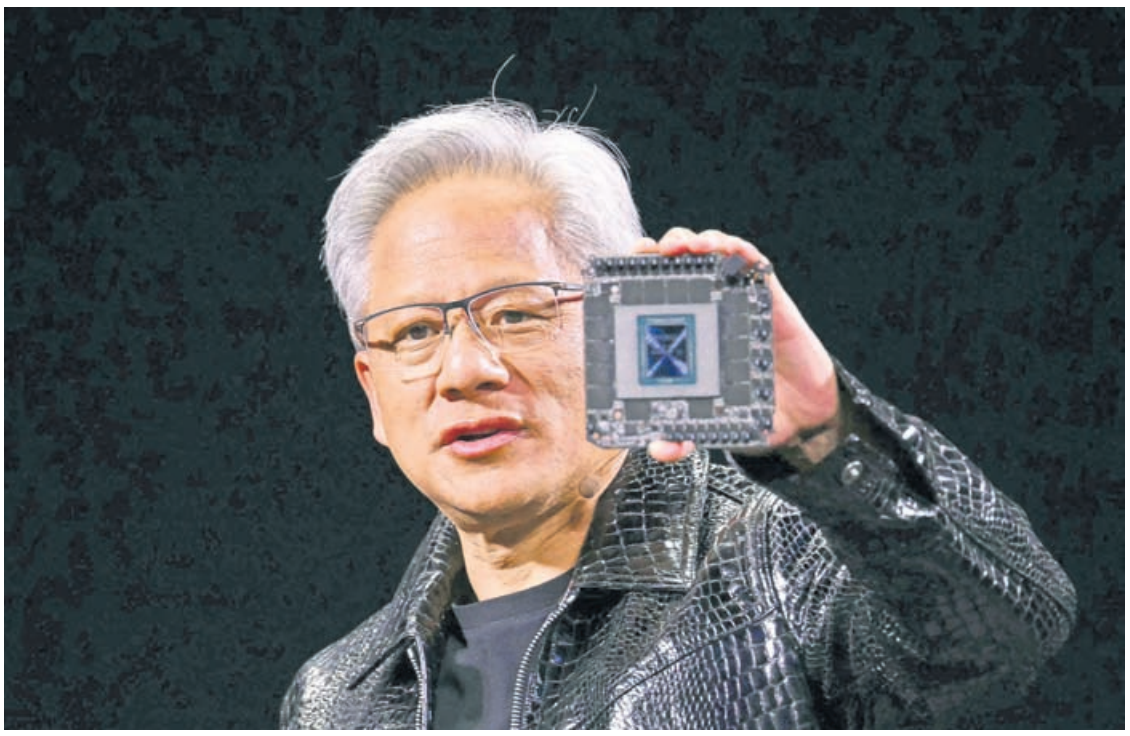
Washington, United States
Former Nvidia chief Jensen Huang said Tuesday he wanted his job back despite resigning over an affair with an alleged Chinese spy, marking a new twist for the turmoil-hit AI chip giant hours before it releases a key earnings report.

Investors will scrutinize the results for indications that the artificial intelligence boom can withstand the Nvidia crisis, which highlighted a loophole allegedly exploited by Chinese companies.

Huang, a leading promoter of AI, stepped down last week following revelations of extramarital affairs, including with a woman suspected of being a Chinese spy.

The upheaval has battered shares of Nvidiauntil recently the world's most valuable publicly traded company which is at the center of an AI boom that has helped propel markets to record highs and boosted economic growth around the globe.

Nvidia has lost $700 billion in market value since the scandal broke, and Huang is to be questioned by US lawmakers on December 1 over national security concerns.



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang delivers a keynote address at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 6, 2025. Gadgets, robots and vehicles imbued with artificial intelligence will once again vie for attention at the Consumer Electronics Show, as vendors behind the scenes will seek ways to deal with tariffs threatened by U.S. President-elect Donald Trump. Huang wants job back, as

But his fall triggered immediate calls from Elon Musk and other entrepreneurs for his return, and even President Donald Trump said he "would not mind" seeing Huang back at Nvidia, downplaying the spy allegations.

"Since my departure, I've seen an outpouring of calls from Nvidia's employees, investors, business partners, and customers for me to return as CEO," Huang said in his first statement since his resignation.

"If the Board of Directors decides that my return is in the best interest of our shareholders, our employees, the company, and America, I would be honored to answer these calls and return as CEO."

- Trump-Xi talks -

As the scandal deepened, Washington on Monday announced new restrictions on AI chip exports, drawing condemnation from Beijing.

The new US export curbs and the wider Nvidia scandal risk casting a shadow over talks between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, which starts this week in the Chinese city of Shenzhen.

Under Washington's new rules, data centers anywhere in the world will need a US license to provide large volumes of computing power from advanced chips to companies headquartered in China, Macau or other countries under US arms embargoes.

The rules also require licenses to ship advanced chips to Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and Brazil countries the US Commerce Department says present a "higher-than-normal risk of diversion" of the chips.

The changes are a response to a loophole that allowed Chinese firms to rent AI computing power from data centers in Southeast Asia and elsewhere that run on US hardware not available for export to China.

While the loophole has been known to authorities, the revelation of Huang's affair has drawn intense scrutiny to the practice.

His lover Alice Huang, who is not related to the 63-year-old, is a former executive of Megaspeed -- a Singapore-based cloud computing firm under US criminal investigation for allegedly helping Chinese companies procure advanced Nvidia AI chips in circumvention of export controls.

- Business as usual ? -

Tuesday's third quarter results, which are scheduled for 5:00 pm ET (2200 GMT), will be the first presented under Nvidia's chief financial officer, Colette Kress, who is serving as interim CEO.

"If they try to keep a business-as-usual tone in the call, I think that it probably wouldn't be well received," said Jacob Bourne of Emarketer.❑

Apple faces French trial over alleged planned obsolescence of iPhones: source

Paris, France
Apple will stand trial in Paris in June 2027 on suspicion of having organised the planned obsolescence of several iPhone models by preventing repairs outside official outlets, a source close to the case told AFP on Tuesday.

The case brought by French prosecutors against the US tech giant on charges of "obstructing repair and refurbishment" is a first, the campaign group Stop Planned Obsolescence said, welcoming the move after filing a complaint in December 2022.



View of a crowd of people gathered in front of the Apple Store with the Apple logo and iPhone displays in the Les 4 Temps shopping centre in Puteaux in Hauts-de-Seine in Ile-de-France in France on October 25, 2026.

"We strongly contest these unfounded allegations," Apple said when contacted by AFP.

Planned obsolescence refers to techniques used by manufacturers to deliberately shorten the lifespan of their products, generally electronic devices, thereby encouraging consumers to replace them more frequently.

If found guilty, Apple could be fined up to 300,000 euros ($330,000) or a percentage of its annual revenue, and could face compensation claims from clients.

According to the source close to the case, Apple Distribution International and its parent company Apple Inc are to appear in court for a four-day trial starting on June 17.

They are accused of obstructing repairs to a range of iPhone models for more than two and a half years, from November 2021 to July 2024.

Affected models range from the iPhone XS and the iPhone 12, 13, 14 and 15 series to the iPhone SE released in 2022.

Apple is accused of configuring its software to "make it impossible to repair or refurbish" the phones outside its authorized network, the source added.

For example, the Face ID feature might be disabled if the camera were replaced by an unauthorised repair shop, or the "battery health" feature could stop working.❑

Tiger Woods to return to competitive golf next month: officials

Tiger Woods will return to competitive golf for the first time in more than two years next month when he tees off at the Hero World Challenge event in the Bahamas, organisers said on Tuesday.
Woods, 50, was named in the line-up for the limited field PGA Tour event taking place in Albany from December 3-6.

It will mark the first time Woods has played an official PGA Tour event since July 2024.
The 15-time major champion has battled injuries and legal problems since his last appearance.
In March he was involved in a rollover car crash in Florida which led to him having his driver's license suspended for five years.
Authorities determined the 15-time major champion had not been drinking alcohol but found he appeared to be impaired.



Professional golfer and Stanford Cardinal alumni Tiger Woods stands on the sidelines during the first half of the Stanford Cardinal game against the Miami (FL) Hurricanes at Stanford Stadium on September 04, 2026 in Stanford, California.

Woods, who has undergone multiple back operations and surgeries on severe leg injuries suffered in a separate 2021 California car crash, had two pills containing the opioid painkiller hydrocodone in his pocket.
He refused a urine analysis and was charged, jailed and released on bond.
Woods initially pleaded not guilty to charges of DUI (driving under the influence) with property damage and refusing to submit to a lawful test.
Days later, he said he was "stepping away" to seek treatment and focus on his health.
Since the crash, Woods has travelled outside the United States to seek treatment at an inpatient facility, reportedly in Switzerland.
He made his first public appearance since his arrest at the PGA Tour's Travelers Championship in June, and later struck a plea agreement which led to his driver's license being suspended.
Woods has not won a tournament since a victory at the ZoZo Championship in Japan in 2019.❑

Fils edges injury-hit Jodar at ATP Finals

Turin, Italy
Frenchman Arthur Fils fought back to beat Spaniard Rafael Jodar 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 on Tuesday to keep his hopes of a place in the ATP Finals last four alive.

The 22-year-old lost 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to American Ben Shelton on Sunday in his opening match of the tournament in Turin before his comeback victory over Jodar.
Jodar, 20, started brightly before requesting medical help after the first set and won only four games after that.
"I played a great match against Ben, I was just unlucky," Fils said.
"Here, the first set was a bit 'so-so' with a little bit of frustration.

"But I'm very happy with how I handled the second and the third, and a little bit of relief now," he added.
Jodar is the first player to reach the Finals in his debut season on the ATP Tour with the highlight of a gruelling campaign coming with a quarter-final at the French Open.
"I'm better now, but it was tough obviously, because I felt that I couldn't compete and physically, I wasn't at the level today, especially in the last two sets," Jodar said of his injury.
"But it happens.

"It has happened to everyone on tour because we're playing so many matches.
"It's a thing that we have to deal with and we have to move on and think about what we can do to prevent these situations," he added.

Fils's victory ended France's 15-year wait for a win at the ATP Finals since Jo-Wilfried Tsonga's semi-final success in 2011.
Fils has one group game left when he faces top seed and world number one Alexander Zverev on Thursday while Jodar plays Shelton.
The top two from the two four-man pools advance to the semi-finals.
Later, Zverev meets Shelton.❑



France's Arthur Fils celebrates after victory against Spain's Rafael Jodar during the ATP Finals tennis tournament, in Turin on November 17, 2026.



Justin Herbert #10 of the Los Angeles Chargers celebrates after Omarion Hampton #8 scored a touchdown against the Baltimore Ravens during the second quarter of the game at M&T Bank Stadium on November 16, 2026 in Baltimore, Maryland

Chargers down Ravens to bag first win of season

Los Angeles, United States
The Los Angeles Chargers finally bagged their first win of the NFL season on Monday, defeating the Baltimore Ravens 23-20 on the road. The Chargers had endured a miserable winless start to the campaign, slumping to an 0-8 record heading into the game in Maryland.
The Ravens have also been stumbling through the season following an injury to quarterback Lamar Jackson which has derailed their hopes of a deep playoff run.
Monday's loss was Baltimore's fifth straight defeat, leaving them on 4-6 for the season and bottom of the AFC North. Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert rushed for a 22-yard touchdown to open the scoring, with Omarion Hampton adding the visitors' other touchdown.
Three field goals from Cameron Dicker helped Los Angeles into a 23-13 lead early in the fourth quarter before Ravens running back Derrick Henry scored the second of two touchdowns to close the gap to three points.❑





Paul George #13 of the Boston Celtics defends Franz Wagner #22 of the Orlando Magic during the second half at TD Garden on November 16, 2026 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Magic upset Celtics, Sixers go top

Los Angeles, United States

Desmond Bane and Franz Wagner combined for 45 points as the Orlando Magic upset the Eastern Conference-leading Boston Celtics 115-105 in the NBA on Monday.

Bane led the Orlando scoring with 24 points while the in-form Wagner finished with 21 points and nine assists to snap the Celtics' six-game winning streak.

Boston went into Monday's home game at their TD Garden hoping to cement their place at the top of the Eastern Conference table.

But after edging back into the lead at the end of the third quarter, the Celtics were blown away in the final frame as Orlando cut loose with a 40-point fourth quarter.

Bane led the late burst of scoring with 15 points to help Orlando complete their fourth consecutive victory.

"Things are coming together," Bane said after a win which lifts Orlando to 6-7. "Beginning of the season wasn't the way we wanted, new coaching staff and dealt with some injuries early.

"But we're starting to get the guys back and building confidence."

Jayson Tatum led the Celtics scoring with 24 points, 12 rebounds and four assists while Paul George drained five three-pointers in a 22-point haul.

Boston's defeat allowed the Philadelphia 76ers to leapfrog into first place in the East with a 135-123 defeat of the Brooklyn Nets in New York.

With the Sixers resting LeBron James from the starting line-up, Joel Embiid led the way for Philadelphia with a 37-point performance.

Jaylen Brown added 31 points and Tyrese Maxey scored 24 as Philadelphia improved to 12-3.

The Sixers looked to be on course for a thumping win after pulling into a 24-point lead in the second quarter.

The Nets recovered to close within four points late in the fourth quarter before Philadelphia regrouped to close out victory.

"It was good but we kind of let it go a little bit in the second half, so we've got to do a better job of staying locked in," Embiid said.

"Offensively we did a great job but defensively we've got to be better."

The Miami Heat continued their rich vein of recent form, bagging their fifth consecutive victory with a 128-110 blowout over the Houston Rockets.

Miami, who began the season with a four-game losing streak, improved to 8-6 in the East with an impressive wire-to-wire win.

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 20 points and Klay Thompson added 17 including five three-pointers as eight Miami players finished in double figures.

Alperen Sengun (23 points) and Kevin Durant (22) led the Houston scoring. The Rockets fell to 11-4 to remain third in the Western Conference.

"The guys are playing with joy offensively and they're working their asses off defensively," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said.

"I want them to play with joy and have some fun offensively and there's a lot of fun plays happening out there but they're not shortcutting things defensively," he added.

The Cleveland Cavaliers powered past the Chicago Bulls 126-115 on the back of a 39-point display from Donovan Mitchell while the Memphis Grizzlies recovered from a 10 halftime point deficit to overpower the Washington Wizards 136-120.

The Grizzlies flipped the script in an explosive third quarter, outscoring the Wizards 42-18 to take a grip on the game.

Cameron Boozer made seven-of-13 attempts from outside the arc to lead Memphis with 29 points.❑

