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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
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James Walkinshaw wins Democratic contest to likely replace US Rep. Connolly in northern Virginia

The Associated Press
FAIRFAX, Va. (AP) — Democrats and Republicans chose candidates in northern Virginia on Saturday who will vie to replace the late U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, a Democrat who served the congressional district in the Washington suburbs for 16 years. Democrats chose James Walkinshaw, who currently serves on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors — which oversees the local budget and policies. Republicans picked Stewart Whitson, an Army veteran and former FBI agent. The candidates will compete in a special election on Sept. 9 to represent Virginia's 11th Congressional District, which is home to more than 700,000 people and includes Fairfax, Reston and Vienna. Political observers have said that the district's Democratic primary likely will determine Connolly's successor in what has become a reliably Democratic district. Connolly, who most recently held a prominent position as the ranking member of the House Oversight Com-



Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., listens at an event, Oct. 22, 2020, in Fairfax, Va.
 (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

Live Entertainment at 8PM

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<p>WED Cultural Dance Show</p>	<p>THU Acrobatic Show</p>
<p>SUN Violin Show</p>	<p>Nightly Watershow 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 9:30pm</p>

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mittee, died last month after battling esophageal cancer. The 75-year-old's death left House Republicans with a 220-212 majority in Congress. The so-called "firehouse primaries" for the special election were run by the political parties, not local governments or the Virginia Department of Elections, according to Fairfax County's website. Walkinshaw, who previously served as Connolly's chief of staff for more than a decade, was viewed as the frontrunner leading up to the Democratic primary. He had received Connolly's endorsement before the congressman passed away. Walkinshaw bested 9 other candidates for the Democratic nomination. "I'm honored and humbled to have earned the Democratic nomination for the district I've spent my career serving," Walkinshaw said in a written statement posted to X on Saturday. "This victory was powered by neighbors, volunteers and supporters who believe in protecting our democracy, defending our freedoms, and delivering for working families." The Republican nominee, meanwhile, said in a statement that it was "time to fight" to flip the seat. "With President Trump back in office he's taking bold and aggressive action to get the country back on track," Whitson said. "But he needs strong allies in Congress who will help him fix the economy, protect our families, and restore common sense."

Protesters line highway in Florida Everglades to oppose 'Alligator Alcatraz'

By Makiya Seminera
Associated Press

(AP) - A coalition of groups, ranging from environmental activists to Native Americans advocating for their ancestral homelands, converged outside an airstrip in the Florida Everglades Saturday to protest the imminent construction of an immigrant detention center.

Hundreds of protesters lined part of U.S. Highway 41 that slices through the marshy Everglades — also known as Tamiami Trail — as dump trucks hauling materials lumbered into the airfield. Cars passing by honked in support as protesters waved signs calling for the protection of the expansive preserve that is home to a few Native tribes and several endangered animal species.

Christopher McVoy, an ecologist, said he saw a steady stream of trucks entering the site while he protested for hours. Environmental degradation was a big reason why he came out Saturday. But as a South Florida city commissioner, he said concerns over immigration raids in his city also fueled his opposition. "People I know are in tears, and I wasn't far from it," he said.

Florida officials have forged ahead over the past week in constructing the compound dubbed as "Alligator Alcatraz" within the Everglades' humid swamplands. The government fast-tracked



Environmental advocates and protesters at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport on Tamiami Trail E, Ochopee, Fla., on Saturday, June 28, 2025, object to the "Alligator Alcatraz" being built at the facility.

(Mike Stocker /South Florida Sun-Sentinel via AP)

the project under emergency powers from an executive order issued by Gov. Ron DeSantis that addresses what he views as a crisis of illegal immigration. That order lets the state sidestep certain purchasing laws and is why construction has continued despite objections from Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and local activists.

The facility will have temporary structures like heavy-duty tents and trailers to house detained immigrants. The state estimates that by early July, it will have 5,000 immigration detention beds in operation.

The compound's proponents have noted its location in the Florida wetlands — teeming with massive reptiles like alligators and invasive Burmese pythons — make it an ideal spot for immigration detention. "Clearly, from a security perspective, if someone escapes, you know, there's a lot of alligators," DeSantis said Wednesday. "No one's going anywhere."

Under DeSantis, Florida has made an aggressive push for immigration enforcement and has been supportive of the federal government's broader crackdown on illegal immigration. The U.S. Department of Homeland

Security has backed "Alligator Alcatraz," which DHS Secretary Kristi Noem said will be partially funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

But Native American leaders in the region have seen the construction as an encroachment onto their sacred homelands, which prompted Saturday's protest. In Big Cypress National Preserve, where the airstrip is located, 15 traditional Miccosukee and Seminole villages, as well as ceremonial and burial grounds and other gathering sites, remain. Others have raised human rights concerns over what

they condemn as the inhumane housing of immigrants. Worries about environmental impacts have also been at the forefront, as groups such as the Center for Biological Diversity and the Friends of the Everglades filed a lawsuit Friday to halt the detention center plans.

"The Everglades is a vast, interconnected system of waterways and wetlands, and what happens in one area can have damaging impacts downstream," Friends of the Everglades executive director Eve Samples said. "So it's really important that we have a clear sense of any wetland impacts happening in the site."

Bryan Griffin, a DeSantis spokesperson, said Friday in response to the litigation that the facility was a "necessary staging operation for mass deportations located at a preexisting airport that will have no impact on the surrounding environment." Until the site undergoes a comprehensive environmental review and public comment is sought, the environmental groups say construction should pause. The facility's speedy establishment is "damning evidence" that state and federal agencies hope it will be "too late" to reverse their actions if they are ordered by a court to do so, said Elise Bennett, a Center for Biological Diversity senior attorney working on the case. □

Supreme Court upholds Texas law aimed at blocking kids from seeing pornography online

By Lindsay Whitehurst
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a Texas law aimed at blocking children from seeing online pornography. Nearly half of the states have passed similar laws requiring adult website users to verify their ages to access pornographic material. The laws come as smartphones and other devices make it easier to access online porn, including hardcore obscene material.

The court split along ideolog-

ical lines in the 6-3 ruling. It's a loss for an adult-entertainment industry trade group called the Free Speech Coalition, which challenged the Texas law.

The majority opinion, authored by Justice Clarence Thomas, found the measure didn't seriously restrict adults' free-speech rights. "Adults have the right to access speech obscene only to minors ... but adults have no First Amendment right to avoid age verification," he wrote.

In a dissent, Justice Elena

Kagan wrote that the court should have used a higher legal standard in weighing whether the law creates free-speech problems for adults. "I would demand Texas show more, to ensure it is not undervaluing the interest in free expression," she wrote.

Pornhub, one of the world's busiest websites, has stopped operating in several states, including Texas, citing the technical and privacy hurdles in complying with the laws.

Texas Attorney General Ken



The Supreme Court is seen on Capitol Hill, Feb. 27, 2025, in Washington.

(AP Photo/Rod Lamkey, Jr., File)

Paxton, a Republican, celebrated the ruling. "Companies have no right to expose children to pornography and must institute reasonable age verification measures," he said. The decision could

pave the way for more states to adopt similar laws as one of several steps to prevent children from being exposed to pornography, the group National Center on Sexual Exploitation said. □

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Flint's still-unfinished lead pipe replacement serves as cautionary tale to other cities

By Michael Phillis and Tammy Webber
Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Jeffrey Bell watched as crews dug up and replaced neighbors' lead water pipes, hoping his mother's house would be next. Workers told him it wasn't on their list but probably assigned to another contractor.

With Flint's lead pipe replacement program winding down this year, Bell and his elderly mother worried the home they share was forgotten. Betty Bell repeatedly called the city while continuing to buy bottled drinking water, as she had for years. Finally someone called to say the water line was fine — records indicate it was checked in 2017. But the Bells hadn't known that, exemplifying residents' confusion over a process marred by delays and poor communication. "I have even more questions now," Jeffrey Bell said. About a decade after Flint's water crisis caused national outrage, replacement of lead water pipes still isn't finished. Although the city recently said it completed work required under a legal settlement, the agreement didn't cover vacant homes and allowed owners to refuse, potentially leaving hundreds of pipes in the ground. The state agreed to oversee work on those properties and says it's determined to finish by fall.

Flint's missteps offer lessons for municipalities that face a recently imposed federal mandate to replace their own lead service lines. The Trump administration is expected to soon tell a federal appeals court if it will stand by that mandate.

"I think other cities are racing not to be Flint," said Margie Kelly, a spokesperson with



Workers back fill a hole used to replace lead pipe with copper water supply lines to a home in Flint, Mich., July 20, 2018.

the environmental nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council, which reached a settlement with the city to force it to replace lead pipes.

Flint falters

Flint's crisis was set in motion in 2014, when a state-appointed emergency manager ended a contract with Detroit's water system and switched to the Flint River to save money. But the state didn't require treatment to prevent corrosion that caused lead to leach into the water. High levels of lead eventually were detected in drinking water and children's blood. Outbreaks of Legionnaires' disease that killed a dozen people were also linked, in part, to the city's water. In 2017, Flint entered into a settlement requiring it to replace all lead pipes and fix dug-up yards for free within three years. Funds were directed first toward homes with known lead lines at the NRDC's insistence, which

meant workers couldn't tackle neighborhoods systematically. And finding those homes proved challenging because many records were missing or inaccurate — some handwritten on notecards dating to the early 1900s.

"The city's overall management of the program was ineffective," and it could have better coordinated work geographically, said Sarah Tallman, an attorney with the NRDC.

That stalled the program and, ultimately, the city had to check every pipe anyway. COVID-19 also slowed work. Flint Department of Public Works Director Kenneth Miller, who was hired last year, said the city didn't know how many homeowners had opted out of lead pipe replacement or how many properties had simply been missed as contractors came and went.

"Just like any other organization, people get lax, people stop doing things, people get

(AP Photo/Paul Sancya, File)

laid off and the person that used to do it doesn't do it anymore," he said. Because the city didn't keep accurate records of repairs, a judge ordered officials to visually check thousands of properties that had been excavated.

Yards torn up by contractors sometimes sat that way for months or years. For months, Danyele Darrough's lawn was a mess and the sidewalk and driveway were covered, she said.

Grass seed that workers applied never grew. Finally this spring, nearly three years later, she bought bags of topsoil and seed to fix her lawn herself.

"It was like, yeah, we knew it; we couldn't trust them," said Darrough.

Miller said the city now has robust data management, which he recommends to other communities tackling lead lines.

Steep population loss left thousands of vacant homes that will require contractors

to cap lead lines where they're found, said Eric Oswald, drinking water director at Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

"The state and the city wanted to absolutely make sure that ... we leave no stone unturned," he said.

Trust is key

In Flint, government at every level caused the lead crisis or delayed fixing it, according to an EPA inspector general report. The scandal damaged trust in government — nearly 700 Flint homeowners declined free lead pipe replacement, the NRDC said. Flint finally adopted an ordinance last year to prevent homeowners from opting out.

"It's very difficult to get across the finish line unless you've got something to enforce," Oswald said. Benton Harbor, across the state, implemented a similar provision early on, helping its work move smoothly.

Now officials are working from a list of more than 4,000 properties where there could be a lead line, sending letters and making in-person visits to homes, if needed. Miller said he hopes the outreach will show that customer service is now a priority, but it will take time to rebuild trust.

Some also distrust the Environmental Protection Agency, which in May lifted a long-standing emergency order for Flint water. The agency said it's now safe to drink from the tap after years of tests showing sharply reduced lead levels.

"We don't know what to believe," resident Aonie Gilcreast said at a recent community gathering. "We don't trust the system" because officials have said "time after time after time that everything was fine." □

Pope Leo XIV marks feast day as Vatican launches campaign to help erase its \$57-68 million deficit

By Nicole Winfield
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Leo XIV on Sunday celebrated a special feast day traditionally used by the Catholic Church to drum up donations from the faithful, with the Vatican under the first American pope rolling out a new campaign to urge ordinary Catholics to help bail out the deficit-ridden Holy See.

Leo celebrated Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, marking the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul and thanked donors who have contributed, using the language of the publicity campaign to say their financial support was a sign of union with his young pontificate.

In churches around the world, Masses on the July 29 feast day often include a special collection for Peter's Pence, a fund which both underwrites the operations of the central government of the Catholic Church and pays for the pope's personal acts of charity.

With a promotional video, poster, QR code and website soliciting donations via credit card, PayPal, bank transfer and post office transfer, the Vatican is betting this year that an American-style fundraising pitch under the Chicago-born Leo will do more to help keep the Holy See bureaucracy afloat and erase its 50 million to 60 million euro (\$57-68 million) structural deficit.

The video features footage of Leo's emotional first moments as pope, when he



Pope Leo XIV look at a pallium, he blessed for the new metropolitan archbishops during a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican, Sunday, June 29, 2025.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini)

stepped out onto the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica and later choked up as he received the fisherman's ring of the papacy. With an evocative soundtrack in the background, the video superimposes a message, available in several languages, urging donations to Leo via the Peter's Pence collection.

"With your donation to Peter's Pence, you support the steps of the Holy Father," it says. "Help him proclaim the Gospel to the world and extend a hand to our brothers and sisters in need. Support the steps of Pope Leo XIV. Donate to Peter's Pence."

At the end of his noon blessing Sunday, Leo used the same language about his first steps to say the Peter's Pence fund is "a sign of

communion with the pope and participation with his Apostolic Ministry."

"From the heart, I thank those who with their gifts are supporting my first steps as the successor of St. Peter," he said.

The fund has been the source of scandal in recent years, amid revelations that the Vatican's secretariat of state mismanaged its holdings through bad investments, incompetent management and waste. The recent trial over the Vatican's bungled investment in a London property confirmed that the vast majority of Peter's Pence contributions had funded the Holy See's budgetary shortfalls, not papal charity initiatives as many parishioners had been led to believe.

Between the revelations and the COVID-19 pandemic, which closed churches and canceled out the traditional pass-the-basket collection on June 29, Peter's Pence donations fell to 43.5 million euros in 2022 — a low not seen since 1986 — that was nevertheless offset the same year by other investment income and revenue to the fund.

Donations rose to 48.4 million euros (about \$56.7 million) in 2023 and hit 54.3 million euros (nearly \$63.6 million) last year, according to the Peter's Pence annual report issued last week.

But the fund incurred expenses of 75.4 million euros (\$88.3 million) in 2024, continuing the trend in which the fund is exhausting itself as it covers the Holy See's

budgetary shortfalls. On top of the budget deficit, the Vatican is also facing a 1 billion euro (about \$1.17 billion) shortfall in its pension fund that Pope Francis, in the months before he died, warned was unable in the medium term to fulfill its obligations.

Unlike countries, the Holy See doesn't issue bonds or impose income tax on its residents to run its operations, relying instead on donations, investments and revenue generated by the Vatican Museums, and sales of stamps, coins, publications and other initiatives.

For years, the United States has been the greatest source of donations to Peter's Pence, with U.S. Catholics contributing around a quarter of the total each year.

Vatican officials are hoping that under Leo's pontificate, with new financial controls in place and an American math major running the Holy See, donors will be reassured that their money won't be misspent or mismanaged.

"This is a concrete way to support the Holy Father in his mission of service to the universal Church," the Vatican's economy ministry said in a press release last week announcing the annual collection and new promotional materials surrounding it. "Peter's Pence is a gesture of communion and participation in the Pope's mission to proclaim the Gospel, promote peace, and spread Christian charity." □

Severe heat waves hit Southern Europe as local authorities warn against wildfire risks

By Giada Zampano
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Major heat waves across Southern Europe have pushed temperatures above 40 C (104 F) in countries including Italy, Spain and Greece, as local authorities issued fresh warnings against the risk of wildfires.

Experts link the rising frequency and intensity of these heatwaves to climate change, warning that such

extreme weather events are becoming increasingly common across Europe's southern region.

Severe heat waves were recorded in Italy, Greece, Spain and Portugal before the weekend, with locals and tourists alike taking shelter from the sweltering conditions.

Two-thirds of Portugal were on high alert on Sunday for extreme heat and wildfires, with temperatures expected

to top 42 C (107 F) in Lisbon. In Italy, a few regions — Lazio, Tuscany, Calabria, Puglia and Umbria — were planning to ban some outdoor work activities during the hottest hours of the day in response to the record-high temperatures. Italian trade unions pushed the government to expand such measures at a national level.

On Sunday, the Italian Health Ministry placed 21 out of 27 monitored cities under its

highest heat alert, including top holiday destinations like Rome, Milan and Naples.

In Rome, tourists tried to seek shade near popular spots like the Colosseum and the Trevi Fountain, using umbrellas and drinking from public water fountains to stay cool. Similar scenes were reported in Milan and Naples, where street vendors sold lemonade to tourists and residents to offer some refreshment from the heat. □



Demonstrators use fans to help with the high temperature during a protest against the housing crisis affecting Portugal, in Lisbon, Saturday, June 28, 2025.

(AP Photo/Armando Franca)

The last Hong Kong pro-democracy party that held street protests disbands



Current and former members of Hong Kong's pro-democracy political party, the League of Social Democrats, speak at a press conference, in Hong Kong, Sunday, June 29, 2025.
(AP Photo/Kanis Leung)

By Kanis Leung
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong pro-democracy political party League of Social Democrats announced on Sunday it had disbanded due to immense political pressure, the latest casualty in a years-long crackdown that has already quieted much of the city's once-vocal opposition.

Following massive anti-government protests in 2019, many leading activists were prosecuted or jailed under a 2020 national security law imposed by Beijing. Dozens of civil society groups dissolved. Media outlets critical of the government shuttered.

The League of Social Democrats was the only pro-democracy party that still staged small street protests from time to time and held street booth activities to carry on its advocacy despite the risks.

Its chairperson, Chan Poying, said the disbandment decision was made after careful deliberation, especially taking into account the consequences to its members and comrades. Chan refused to elaborate on the pressure but said she was proud to say that the party had still contributed to the city's pro-democracy movement in these few years.

"We have stayed true to our original aspirations and haven't let down to the trust placed in us by those who went to prison," she

said. "While we are now forced to disband and feel an ache in our conscience, we have no other choice," she said.

Protests became rare under Beijing's grip Hong Kong, a former British colony, will mark the 28th anniversary of returning to Chinese rule on July 1. The city used to hold annual pro-democracy protests that day and other various demonstrations demanding better policies.

But those were ceased after most organizing groups were disbanded and the leading activists were jailed. Critics say the drastic political changes under the security law reflect that the freedoms Beijing promised to keep intact in 1997 are shrinking.

The Beijing and Hong Kong governments insist the law is necessary for the city's stability. A Chinese official overseeing Hong Kong affairs in 2023 said protests are not the only way for people to express their views, signaling Beijing's stance toward demonstrations in the city. In April, Hong Kong's biggest pro-democracy party, the Democratic Party, also voted to give its leadership the mandate to move toward a potential disbandment. Party veterans told The Associated Press that some members were warned of consequences if the party didn't shut down. A final vote is expected at a later date.

Chan said she believed the

"one country, two systems" principle, which Beijing uses to govern Hong Kong, has already ended, pointing to the Chinese government's imposition of the security law and introducing the idea of "soft resistance," a term officials use to refer to underlying security risks.

"One country, two systems has already (become) one country, one system," she said.

A party known for confrontational tactics Founded in 2006, the League of Social Democrats was a left-wing political party that opposed what it called collusion between government and business, upheld the principle that people have a say and was firmly committed to the interests of underprivileged residents.

It was widely known for its more aggressive tactics when fighting for change. Its members have thrown bananas, eggs and luncheon meat at officials or pro-Beijing lawmakers as a protest gesture. Its party platform said the group advocated non-violent resistance but would not avoid physical confrontations — a stance that set it apart from older, traditional pro-democracy groups.

It once had three lawmakers in office. Its longest-serving lawmaker, Leung Kwok-hung — Chan's husband — was disqualified from the legislature due to his manner of taking his oath in office in 2017. □

Guyana to crack down on gold smuggled in from Venezuela at the urging of the US government



Guyanese President Mohamed Irfaan Ali and U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio hold a news conference in Georgetown, Guyana, March 27, 2025.
(Nathan Howard/Pool photo via AP, File)

By The Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — Guyana has pledged to crack down on gold smuggled across the border from neighboring Venezuela at the urging of the U.S. government.

President Irfaan Ali said late Friday that the government of the South American country is dedicating "enormous resources" to thwart the smuggling, which has long been a problem. He said authorities have increased border patrols and improved monitoring in mining regions.

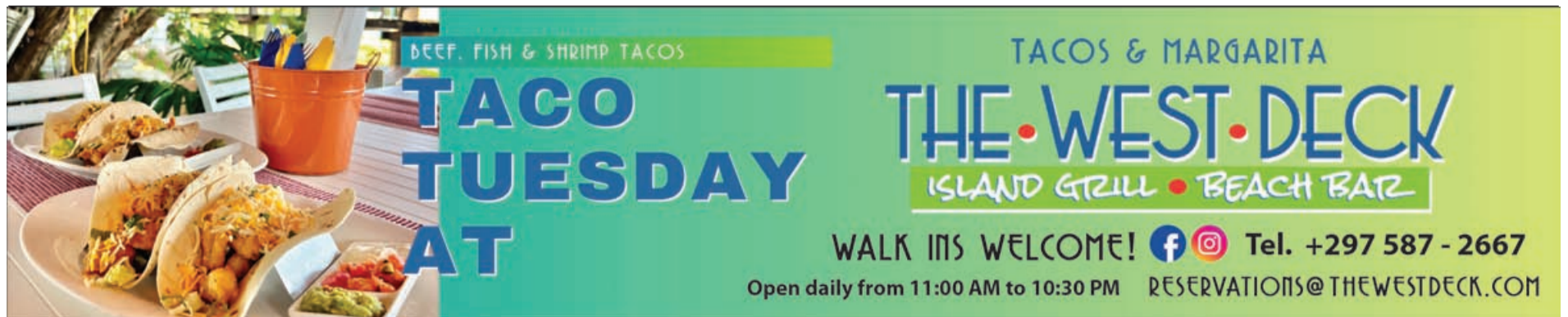
Local officials have said they suspect that Venezuelan-sanctioned gold is being mixed with gold mined in Guyana and then passed off as local production and sold to markets in the U.S., Canada, the Middle East and elsewhere.

In 2021, the Royal Canadian Mint suspended gold purchases from a major export company in Guyana because officials suspected some shipments had been mixed with Venezuelan gold, an allegation the company denied. Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Guyana has suspended the visas of several miners suspected of smuggling Venezuelan gold overseas.

Gold is Guyana's second most important export after oil, generating nearly \$1 billion last year. Some 434,000 ounces of gold were produced last year, up from 432,000 ounces the previous year, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources. It noted that up to 50% of local gold production is smuggled out of Guyana.

U.S. Ambassador Nicole Theriot on Friday praised Guyana's cooperation, noting that the countries have worked together to secure Guyana's border with Venezuela.

Relations between the two South American neighbors remain tense given a bitter dispute over the Essequibo region, which Venezuela has long claimed as its own. It represents two-thirds of Guyana and is rich in gold, diamonds, timber and other natural resources. It also is located close to massive offshore oil deposits, with current production averaging some 650,000 barrels daily. □



Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass."

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is

broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass. Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft

drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day! Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can



change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those

pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! ☐



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Birds of Aruba



ORANJESTAD — On May 11th, 2010, the Aruba Birdlife Conservation was founded with the aim of protecting the biodiversity in general and birds in and around Aruba in particular.

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and



descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.

The Great Egret

Serenity in Aruba's National Park, a Great Egret flying in peace. When it is peaceful and quite, beautiful things start happening in nature.

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July. This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm.



Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellowlegs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hovering Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory.

English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdkolibrie (mannetje). Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

Explore Aruba's past at the Archeological Museum

ORANJESTAD — Museums are an integral part of conserving and honoring cultures, and Aruba is no exception. The Archeological Museum of Aruba in the city center explores the pre-historic past of Aruba, offering visitors a comprehensive view of how our ancestors lived their lives on the island.

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in the area 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 soon-to-be 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 disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques. 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 also hosts attractive public programs, including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm. For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □

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Aruba to me

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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again.

For today we received a lovely message from Hilda Rose. She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is a family adventure."

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



Dining in? Try making a local favorite How to make "funchi hasa"

(Oranjestad)—A night in can be just as fun as a night out on the town, especially if you got the right snacks to munch on. 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

So 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*
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.

Note: We recommend the FUNCHI FRESKU polenta flour brand that is sold in all supermarkets on the island. You can also use yellow corn flour from the brand PAN. ☐

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





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Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an "off-road" tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief

disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amer-

indian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

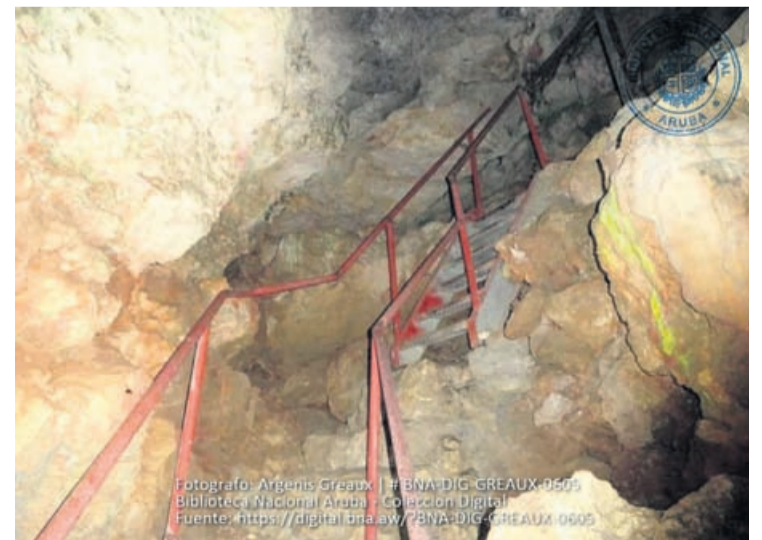
However, the Huliba Cave



has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves

and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □



In celebration of 200 years of the Aruban gold rush: Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—This year we celebrate a few milestone anniversaries on Aruba, one of them being the 200th anniversary of when gold was first discovered on the island. We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself. It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

When the colonial governor in Curacao, Governor Cantz'laar, heard about the news, he sent his adjutant, Capitan van Raders, to start harvesting gold. This was in July 1824. In August of that same year, the governor followed suit to the island, accompanied by high-ranking military officials. When citizens started swarming the area in search for gold, The Netherlands sent more troops to safe guard the gold.

Prominent places where gold was found was in Daimari, Wacobana, Arikok, Rooi Fluit, Hadicouradi and later West punt, where gold ore was found. Because of a lack in advanced technology and materials to harvest the gold, the process took a more primitive approach: Clay rocks containing traces of gold were left to dry in the sun. Then, workers would start chipping the clay away on a large canvas to catch the gold particles that were left behind after the wind blew away the dust from the clay.

In the harvest period of 1824-1825, there was a total of 71,000 kilos collected through commissioned harvesting. Locals themselves reportedly found about 25 pounds worth of gold in the nearby rivers. The following years after that first big harvest, commission work fell off, and in 1828, the director of the goldmines, Johan Gravenhorst, decided to halt harvesting.

Almost 40 years later, the London-based Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was granted concession. The firm built their gold mines on Bushiribana, and in the port of Oranjestad a long road that connected the gold mill to the port. The ores themselves came from Sero Plat en Sero Cristal.

By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

A local firm, the “Aruba Goud Maatschappij” (Aruba Gold Company) took over the concession, along with all the materials and equipment. In the beginning, the company saw good profit, and for a while, the island's economy depended primarily on the mining and harvesting of gold. But just like its predecessors, the streak of luck for the Aruba Gold Company came to an end when WWI broke out.

The main reason why production stopped this time was reportedly because of a lack in dynamite for extracting the ores from the mines, as well as a lack in raw materials like German cyanide for the refining process. By the time the war ended, the equipment that was left at Balashi were too old to use again. After the war, gold production on the Aruba was left to a standstill.

According to an issue in Aruba Esso News paper in 1953, Henny Eman wanted to start up digging again, this time using independent miners. He argued that there was proof of more gold to be discovered. Plus, hiring independent miners would boost the island's employment rate.

When it was proven that gold was in fact still present, the executive board on the island promised to fund the project only if the gold dug up proved to be valuable. However, nothing else was reported after this, so it could be concluded that there was no real profitable market on the island anymore.

The ruins of the Bushiribana and Balashi Gold Mills are still standing, and open for the public to visit. These structures offer a glance into the past, to a time where Aruba experienced one of its first wave of industrialization. Today, these structures are persevered as historical monuments. □

Source:

1. “De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)” by Evert Bongers.
2. Aruba Esso News, 1953 issue.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

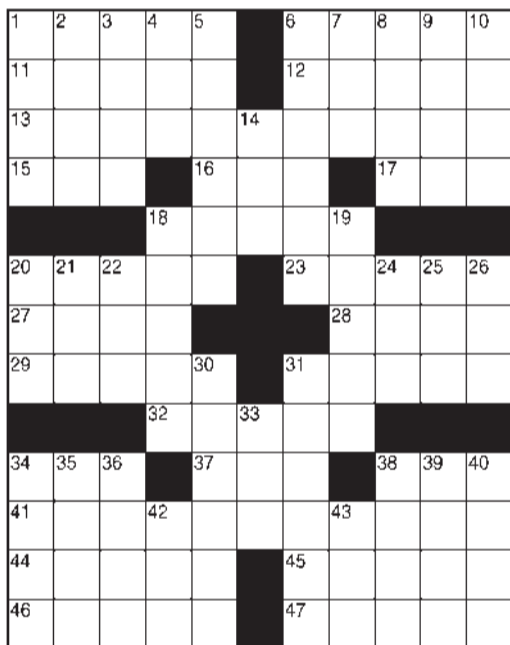
- 1 Trounces
6 Wild fear
11 Sailing
12 Sports spot
13 Declaration signer
15 Some amount of
16 Had lunch
17 Scot's denial
18 Russian range
20 Composer of patriotic marches
23 Vacation spot
27 Trick
28 Some sheep
29 Flag features
31 Flexes
32 Brainy
34 "So that's it!"
37 Flamenco cry
38 Ga. neighbor
41 Declaration signer
44 River vessel
45 Traded
46 Antlered animals
47 Texas A&M player

DOWN

- 1 Mexican peninsula

- 2 School on the Thames
3 Pallid
4 Hamilton's bill
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6 Comic strip makeup
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9 Early Peruvian
10 Bakery buy
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- 22 "Born in the —"
24 Possess
25 Like some stripes on Old Glory
26 Snaky shape
30 Cookout treats
31 Starr of the comics
33 In the style of
34 Basics
35 Miami team
36 "Frozen" princess
38 Old Glory
39 Leslie Caron film
40 Poker price
42 Visibility lessener
43 Beer dispenser



7-4

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.

7-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

UJWO NYZO JQOL ZO JQOL,
IEQGW QTWEZDQOR QKK! IP
HOZUZOX AW RUQOL, IP
LZGZLZOX AW SQKK.

— NYJO LZDCZORYO

Cryptoquote: IT IS EASIER TO
DO NOTHING BY THE SEA THAN ANYWHERE
ELSE. — E.F. BENSON

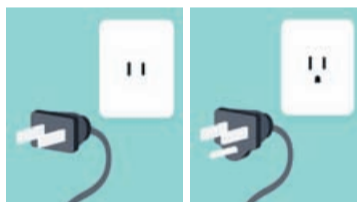
Cruise ship Schedule: July 02 - 16 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
WED	02	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	08.00 06.00	23.00 ****	C E	1 1
SUN	06	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	08	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	09	FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	13	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	15	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	07.00	16.00	C	1
WED	16	OASIS OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL VISTA RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS FREEWINDS	11.00 08.00 08.00 06.00	23.00 16.00 23.00 ****	I C B E	1 1 1 1

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.

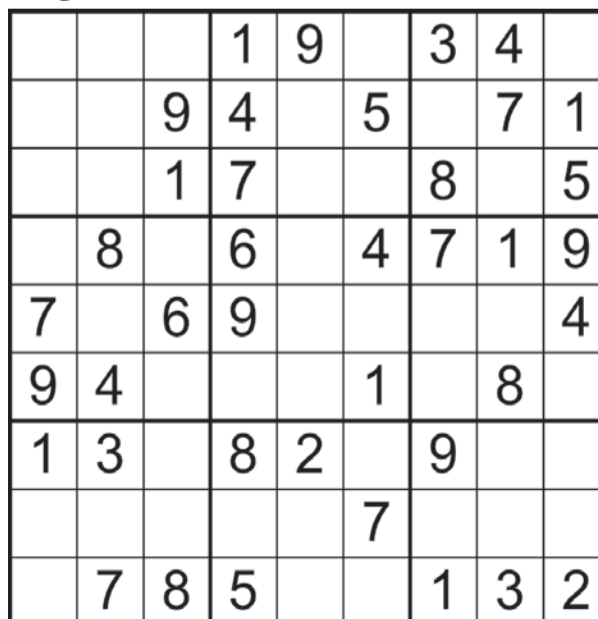
Safety

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 occur, 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



Difficulty: ★

6/30

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/29

After a dramatic vote, the Senate pushes ahead on Trump's tax break and spending cut plan



The Capitol is seen in Washington, March 25, 2025.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

By Lisa Mascaro, Kevin Freking and Joey Cappelletti

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Capping a tumultuous night, the Republican-controlled Senate advanced President Donald Trump's package of tax breaks, spending cuts and increased deportation money, with more weekend work ahead as Congress races to meet his Fourth of July deadline for passage.

By a 51-49 tally and with Vice President JD Vance at the Capitol to break a potential tie, the Senate cleared a key procedural step Saturday as midnight approached. Voting had come to a standstill, dragging for more than three hours, with holdout senators huddling for negotiations and taking private meetings off the Senate floor. In the end, two Republicans opposed the motion to move ahead on Trump's

signature domestic policy plan, joining all 47 Democrats. "Tonight we saw a GREAT VICTORY in the Senate," Trump said in a social media post afterward.

Republicans are using their majorities in Congress to push aside Democratic opposition, but they have run into a series of political and policy setbacks. Not all GOP lawmakers are on board with proposals to reduce spending on Medicaid, food stamps and other programs as a way to help cover the cost of extending some \$3.8 trillion in Trump tax breaks.

Trump had lashed out against holdouts, threatening to campaign against one Republican, Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina, who had announced he could not support the bill because of Medicaid cuts that he worried would leave many without health care in his state. A new analysis from the nonpartisan Congress-

sional Budget Office said the Senate version of the bill would increase by 11.8 million the number of people without health insurance in 2034.

Tillis and Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., voted "no."

Renewed pressure to oppose the 940-page bill came from Elon Musk, who criticized it as "utterly insane and destructive."

Ahead for senators now will be an all-night debate and amendments. If they are able to pass it, the bill would return to the House for a final round of votes before it could reach the White House. With the narrow Republican majorities in the House and Senate, leaders need almost every lawmaker on board.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Republicans released the bill "in the dead of night" on Friday and were rushing through before the public fully knew what was in it. He forced a

full reading of the text that began late Saturday and continued into Sunday morning.

Tax breaks and core GOP priorities

At its core, the legislation would make permanent many of the tax breaks from Trump's first term that would otherwise expire by year's end if Congress fails to act, resulting in a potential tax increase on Americans. □



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2 Bed WK 7 Oceanside: \$62,000
Ask about weeks 51, 52 & 14

GOLD SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean View: \$14,500
2 Bed Garden View: \$13,000
3 Bed Ocean View: \$30,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean View: \$29,000
1 Bed Ocean Front: \$23,000
1 Bed Ocean View: \$17,500

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2 Bed Ocean View: \$17,000
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Red Cross	582 2219

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
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Narcotics Anonymous
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Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Shohei Ohtani throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Kansas City Royals, Saturday, June 28, 2025, in Kansas City, Mo.

(AP Photo/Charlie Riedel)

**By Marc Bowman
Associated Press**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Shohei Ohtani threw the fastest pitch of his career at 101.7 mph and worked two efficient innings in his third mound start for the Los Angeles Dodgers, allowing one hit and one walk against the

Kansas City Royals on Saturday.

It was the first start of more than one inning this season for the two-way superstar, who is working as an opener as he eases his way back into pitching.

"Getting Shohei through two innings throwing the ball

Shohei Ohtani throws fastest pitch of career at 101.7 mph in 3rd mound start for Dodgers

the way he did is certainly a positive," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "I didn't know it was 102 (mph). I just saw 100, so, no, I didn't expect that. Now I'm going to keep my fingers crossed that he feels good coming out of today."

Ohtani went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts as the lead-off batter in the Dodgers' 9-5 loss.

The three-time MVP did not pitch last season, his first with the Dodgers, while recovering from Tommy John surgery. He made 86 mound starts over five seasons with the Los Angeles Angels, going 38-19 with a 3.01 ERA.

On Saturday, Ohtani threw first-pitch strikes to all seven batters he faced and finished with 27 pitches, 20 for strikes.

"I'm happy that I was able to attack the zone," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "There's some little things that I still need to work on, but overall I'm pretty happy." He allowed a one-out single to Bobby Witt Jr. in the first and walked Maikel Garcia before throwing the 101.7 mph fastball on an 0-2 count to Vinnie Pasquantino, who grounded into a double play.

"It's something I don't think I would be able to do in a

live BP setting," Ohtani said. "It's nice to be able to hit this velo and see how my body reacts."

Ohtani retired the side in order in the second, fanning rookie Jac Caglianone on an 89 mph slider.

"I think you can't take the competitor out of the player," Roberts said. "There's a little bit of stress and that's when you start to see 100s and trying to bully guys. No one knows himself better than he does and I thought he was in control. Still good to see triple digits."

The 30-year-old has 29 homers this season as Los Angeles' primary designated hitter. □

Cristiano Ronaldo prioritizing a record 6th World Cup over the Club World Cup

By The Associated Press

(AP) - Resting up to play in a record sixth World Cup was more important to Cristiano Ronaldo than switching teams to play in the Club World Cup.

"I had some offers to play (Club) World Cup but I think it didn't make sense because I prefer to have a good rest, a good preparation, because this season will be very long, because this is the season of the World Cup, at the end of the season," Ronaldo said



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo holds the trophy after winning the Nations League soccer championship at the Allianz Arena in Munich, Germany, Sunday, June 8, 2025.

(Christian Charisius/dpa via AP)

in an Instagram video posted by his Saudi Arabian club, Al Nassr, after signing a two-year extension. "So I want to be ready not only for Al Nassr but also for the national team."

The 40-year-old Ronaldo helped Portugal to the Nations League trophy with a penalty shootout win over Spain three weeks ago as speculation swirled that he would transfer to another club to play in the Club World Cup currently being contested in the United

States.

He and longtime Argentina rival Lionel Messi could be the first players to appear in six World Cups at next year's tournament co-hosted by the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

In Qatar three years ago, Ronaldo became the first male player to score at five World Cups. The five-time Ballon d'Or winner's extension with Al Nassr means he will play on until at least the age of 42. □

Jannik Sinner won't say why he fired two team members right before Wimbledon

**By Howard Fendrich
Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — Jannik Sinner confirmed that he recently fired two members of his team — fitness coach Marco Panichi and physiotherapist Ulises Badio, who themselves were replacements for people involved in the player's doping case — but declined Saturday to explain the reason for the change ahead of Wimbledon.

Sinner, who has been ranked No. 1 for more than a year, said that he decided shortly after losing in the second round of the grass-court tournament in Halle, Germany, this month

to make the change. Sinner has not yet found substitutes for Panichi and Badio, who both used to work with Novak Djokovic.

"Nothing seriously bad happened. They did great work for (the past) three months. Sometimes, things happen," Sinner said at his pre-tournament news conference. "The timing obviously isn't the best, but having done a lot of work (together) before, it won't affect this Grand Slam a lot. I feel well physically and mentally and ready to compete."

Play begins Monday at the All England Club, where Sinner was a quarterfinalist in

2024. He will play Luca Naldi in an all-Italian matchup on Tuesday.

Last year, Sinner tested positive twice for a trace amount of an anabolic steroid in March; the case wasn't made public until August, shortly before the U.S. Open, which he ended up winning for the second of his three Grand Slam titles.

He initially was completely cleared, based on the defense that he accidentally was exposed to the banned substance, Clostebol, via a massage from his then-physiotherapist, Giacomo Naldi. Sinner said his fitness trainer at the time, Umberto



Jannik Sinner of Italy, center, attends a practice session ahead of the Wimbledon Championships in London, Friday, June 27, 2025.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

Ferrara, purchased a product in Italy and gave it to Naldi for a cut on Naldi's finger. Naldi then treated Sinner while not wearing gloves.

The World Anti-Doping Agency appealed the exoneration, and Sinner

agreed to serve a three-month ban that ended right before the Italian Open in May.

On Saturday, Sinner was asked repeatedly in English and Italian what led him to part ways with Panichi and Badio. □

French soccer union blasts Club World Cup over "massacre" of player welfare

By Jerome Pugmire
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's union of professional soccer players launched a scathing attack on the Club World Cup on Sunday, saying it is "urgent to stop this massacre" amid ongoing concerns about extreme player workloads. The UNFP also accused FIFA president Gianni Infantino of living "in an Ivory Tower" by ignoring the impact congested calendars have on players worldwide.

"The incongruity of the situation is not lost on anyone, except, of course, Gianni Infantino and his flatterers. From the height of his ivory tower, which he parades around the world, the FIFA president is not bothered by the fate that the international calendar reserves for the game's leading players," the UNFP said in a statement early Sunday morning. "His (Infantino's) Club World Cup proves, to the point of absurdity, that it is urgent to stop this massacre game. He flouts the physical and mental health of players for a few more dollars."

The UNFP statement said the Club World Cup comes at the end of an already exhausting season, and thereby ignores "collective bargaining agreements (which) almost everywhere, provide for an incompressible period of three weeks of rest for footballers between two seasons."

Days before the start of the month-long Club World Cup, which ends on July 13, soccer chiefs faced renewed calls to safeguard players over growing fears of injuries and burnout. The newly expanded tournament involving 32 of the world's best teams has faced pushback since FIFA announced it would be added to an already saturated calendar. The tournament will be played every four years, sandwiched in between the men's World Cup, European Championship and Copa America.

It went ahead against the backdrop of legal chal-

lenges in Europe, strike threats and repeated concerns over players' mental and physical welfare due to too many games.

"The UNFP, like FIFPRO and FIFPRO Europe, has been protesting for years against the drastic increase in workloads," The UNFP added. "But also against the harmful repercussions for domestic football of a calendar that FIFA is still alone in building today."

Last September, Manchester City midfielder Rodri suffered a severe knee injury soon after saying players were close to going on strike over excessive workloads.

No rest for PSG

Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain is one of the biggest sides involved in the Club World



FIFA President Gianni Infantino speaks to the media at a welcoming event for the 2025 FIFA Club World Cup soccer tournament, April 10, 2025, in Philadelphia.

(AP Photo/Chris Szagola, file)

Cup.

After winning the Champions League on May 31, key PSG players like Ousmane

Dembélé and Désiré Doué played for France and then went to the United States soon after for the Club

World Cup.

Some French clubs have already resumed training for the upcoming Ligue 1 season, which begins mid-August, while others start next week. PSG was not able to push back its start to the Ligue 1 season.

"We don't see how or why the Parisians should not benefit from the three weeks of complete rest they are entitled to," the UNFP said, adding that the toll of extra games for PSG's players could impact the national team in early September.

"A delay in preparation that must also worry (France coach) Didier Deschamps ahead of two qualifying matches for the 2026 World Cup," the UNFP said, before concluding. "What do you say, Mr. Infantino?" □



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Elliott is in position to contend for 2nd NASCAR title following 'surreal' last-lap win in Atlanta



Driver Chase Elliott (9) celebrates with the trophy in Victory Lane after winning a NASCAR Cup Series auto race, Saturday, June 28, 2025, in Hampton, Ga.

By CHARLES ODUM AP Sports Writer

(AP) — Chase Elliott couldn't have picked a better setting for a drought-breaking win.

Fans roared in approval after Elliott, the home-state favorite, passed Brad Keselowski on the final lap to end a 44-race drought by winning the NASCAR Cup Series at Atlanta on Saturday night.

Elliott's 20th career victory pushed him to second place in the Cup Series points race, putting him in prime position to return to the top of the NASCAR world after winning his first championship in 2020.

Elliott earned a spot in the NASCAR playoffs with his first victory since April 2024 at Texas. He said he'll always remember the win as a ca-

reer highlight, in part because of the ovation from fans who chanted "Chase! Chase! Chase!"

Elliott, a Dawsonville, Georgia, native, climbed into the stands at EchoPark Speedway, formerly Atlanta Motor Speedway, to celebrate with the fans.

"It was, truthfully, a pretty surreal moment," Elliott said. "Something I'll remember for the rest of my life. ... Saturday night under the lights, been a while since we won, just getting ourselves a win and advancing up on the playoff thing."

It was his first Atlanta win since 2022.

Elliott has 594 points, 37 behind Hendrick Motorsports teammate William Byron, who has 631. A third Hendrick Motorsports driver, Kyle

Larson, is third.

Another Hendrick driver, Alex Bowman, played a key role in Elliott's comeback win. Bowman, who finished third, gave Elliott a push and then helped block Keselowski on the final lap.

"I'm happy for the 9 team," Bowman said. "It's a big win for him in his hometown. ... I'm glad to have a Hendrick car in victory lane. I wish it was us."

Elliott said he'll try to repay the favor by helping Bowman join the other three Hendrick drivers in the playoffs.

"I recognize that he gave me a great shove," Elliott said. "I recognize that he took his run on Brad, too, to try to get himself to second, which ultimately helped me as well."

"Yeah, those are all things that I remember."

Elliott advanced to the second round of NASCAR's new In-Season Challenge, a five-race, bracket-style tournament. With the field cut from 32 to 16 drivers, Elliott will be paired against John Hunter Nemechek when the Cup Series moves to the Chicago Street Race next Sunday. A \$1 million prize awaits the winner, and Elliott's odds improved after Atlanta wrecks knocked out the top two seeds, Denny Hamlin and Chase Briscoe.

Elliott wouldn't be the first family member to win a \$1 million bonus. In 1985 his father, Bill Elliott, became the first winner of the Winston Million as a reward for claiming wins in three of the circuit's top four races at the

time. The bonus earned the elder Elliott the nickname "Million Dollar Bill."

Now the younger Elliott is a strong contender to become first in line for another \$1 million prize.

"It'd be a really cool thing to win for sure and hope it works out that way," Chase Elliott said.

Elliott's victory drought came after he needed surgery to repair a broken tibia in his left leg suffered in a snowboarding accident and missed six races in 2023. He said the support of longtime crew chief Alan Gustafson was "in large part" responsible for helping him retain his confidence and reclaim his winning form.

Gustafson said the win was more important for the 2025 playoff race than for ending the victory drought.

"The points were getting tight for the playoffs, for sure," Gustafson said. "I think that's probably the biggest thing. I think all the cars contending to win, I don't think any of them had won. I think that's probably the biggest thing we needed was that cushion."

Saturday night's win was Elliott's third consecutive top-five finish.

"When you're fortunate enough to climb the mountain and be able to stand at the top of the mountain with someone, that's an incredible achievement, right?" Elliott said. "That's something that (Gustafson) and I will always cherish and remember that we did that together."

"For me it's really, really important to climb that mountain with the same people that we did the first time and know that we never quit on each other. That's just a really important piece of the puzzle for me." □

Associated Press.