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# Hakeem Jeffries took his 'sweet time' holding the floor to delay Trump's tax bill

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — There's no filibuster in the House, but Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries essentially conducted one anyway.

Jeffries held the House floor for more than eight hours Thursday, taking his "sweet time" with a marathon floor speech that delayed passage of Republicans' massive tax and spending cuts legislation and gave his minority party a lengthy spotlight to excoriate what he called an "immoral" bill.

As Democratic leader, Jeffries can speak for as long as he wants during debate on legislation — hence its nickname on Capitol Hill, the "magic minute," that lasts as long as leaders are speaking.

He began the speech at 4:53 a.m. EDT and finished at 1:37 p.m. EDT, 8 hours, 44 minutes later, breaking the record set by then-Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California in 2021, when he was the GOP leader. McCarthy spoke for 8 hours, 32 minutes when he angrily criticized Democrats' "Build Back Better" legislation, breaking a record set by Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., when she spoke about immigration for 8 hours, 7 min-



**House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and the Democratic Caucus, assemble on the steps of the Capitol to condemn President Donald Trump's signature bill of tax breaks and spending cuts, in Washington, Wednesday, July 2, 2025.**

utes in 2018. "I feel an obligation, Mr. Speaker, to stand on this House floor and take my sweet time," Jeffries said as he opened.

The speech pushed a final vote on Republican President Donald Trump's tax bill, initially expected in the early morning, into the daylight hours.

The New York Democrat used the time to criticize the bill's health care and food aid cuts, tax breaks for

the wealthy and rollbacks to renewable energy programs, among other parts of the bill that Democrats decry.

He also killed time by riffing on hip-hop, King George III and his own life story, among other diversions. He called out Republicans who have voiced concerns about the bill, read stories from people concerned about their health care from those GOP lawmakers' districts and praised

his own members, some of whom sat behind him and cheered, clapped, laughed and joined hands. "This reckless Republican budget is an immoral document, and that is why I stand here on the floor of the House of Representatives with my colleagues in the House Democratic caucus to stand up and push back against it with everything we have," Jeffries said.

He ended the speech in

Associated Press

the cadence of a Sunday sermon, with most of the Democratic caucus in a tight huddle around him. One colleague called out, "Bring it home, Hakeem!"

"We don't work for President Donald Trump," Jeffries said, as a handful of Republicans across the aisle sat silent and occasionally snickered at the leader as he kept talking.

He invoked the late John Lewis, a civil rights activist in the 1960s and longtime Democratic congressman from Georgia. "Get into good trouble, necessary trouble," Jeffries said. "We're going to press on until victory is won."

Jeffries sneaked small bites of food and drank liquids to boost his energy, but did not leave the chamber or his podium.

The speech would be over if he did.

Democrats were powerless to stop the huge bill, which Republicans are passing by using an obscure budget procedure that bypasses the Senate filibuster. So they were using the powers they do have, mostly to delay. In the Senate, Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York forced Senate clerks to read the bill for almost 16 hours over the weekend. □

## University of California reiterates ban on student government boycotts of Israel

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)** — The president of the University of California this week reiterated that student



**Pro-Palestinian protesters wave flags from the second level of the Physical Sciences Lecture Hall after they took over the building at the University of California, Irvine, May 15, 2024, in Irvine, Calif.**

Associated Press

governments are prohibited from financial boycotts of companies associated with any particular country, including Israel, as the Trump administration continues its probe of alleged antisemitism on college campuses.

Michael Drake did not mention Israel by name, but he did single out student governments in a letter he sent to chancellors of the university system. He said that while freedom of speech and inquiry are core commitments of the university, its policies also require that financial decisions be grounded in sound

business practices, such as competitive bidding.

"This principle also applies to student governments," he wrote.

"Actions by University entities to implement boycotts of companies based on their association with a particular country would not align with these sound business practices."

UC spokesperson Rachel Zaentz said in a statement that the letter is in keeping with the university's opposition to financial boycotts of companies associated with a particular country.

"While our community members have the right

to express their viewpoints, financial boycotts are inconsistent with UC's commitment to sound business practices, academic freedom and the free exchange of ideas," she said. College campuses exploded with pro-Palestinian protests in the wake of the war in Gaza, including a particularly brutal clash involving police at the University of California, Los Angeles last year. At the start of his term this year, President Donald Trump launched antisemitism probes at several universities, including the University of California, Berkeley. □

## Trump will kick off a yearlong celebration of America's 250th anniversary with event in Iowa

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE** and  
**HANNAH FINGERHUT**  
Associated Press

**DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)** — President Donald Trump campaigned on a promise to deliver a “spectacular” yearlong birthday party to mark 250 years of American independence. On Thursday, he will be in the U.S. heartland to kick off the patriotic festivities and to celebrate the final passage of his sweeping tax cuts and spending package.

Trump is expected to tout the major piece of his agenda when he takes the stage Thursday at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, according to the White House. This comes just hours after the House pushed it through in a tight roll call of 218-214.

Organizers see the coming year of festivities as a way to help unite a polarized nation and bridge partisanship. But it's a monumental task given the country's divides and the staunch Democratic opposition to the 800-plus page package full of the GOP's main policy priorities. More U.S. adults also disapprove than approve of how the Republican president is doing his job. Iowa was a “logical choice” for the kickoff, Crowley said, because of its central location and Trump's affinity for the state, which supported him



President Donald Trump speaks during a roundtable at “Alligator Alcatraz,” a new migrant detention facility at Dade-Collier Training and Transition facility, Tuesday, July 1, 2025, in Ochopee, Fla.

Associated Press

in each of the last three general elections. She also said Iowa's middle-of-the-country geography is symbolic of the desire to use the coming celebrations to help bring people together.

“We've had so much division and so much polarization over the last many decades, but certainly over the last few years, that to be able to bring the country together to celebrate America's 250th birthday through patriotism, shared values and a renewed sense of civic pride, to be able to do that in the cen-

ter of the country, is incredibly important,” she said.

A recent Gallup poll showed the widest partisan split in patriotism in over two decades, with only about a third of Democrats saying they are proud to be American, compared with about 9 in 10 Republicans. About 4 in 10 U.S. adults approve of Trump's performance as president, according to a June AP-NORC poll, while about 6 in 10 disapprove. That poll also showed a majority of Americans said the June military parade that Trump green-lit in Washington for

the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Army an event that fell on his 79th birthday was “not a good use” of government money.

Crowley spoke to the political and ideological schisms that left the country “torn apart” ahead of its last big birthday celebration, noting that 1976 closely followed the Vietnam War and the Watergate scandal that led Richard Nixon to resign from the presidency. “That moment was critical to uniting the country and moving forward, and I am very optimistic and hopeful that the year-

long celebration that we're about to launch will do the same thing in this present moment,” she said in an interview. America's 250th birthday “is something that I think that all Americans can come together to celebrate and honor our history as well as our present and our future,” Crowley said. The Trump administration's own cost-cutting moves this year threaten to complicate the celebrations. Reduced funding led the National Endowment for the Humanities to send letters to state humanities councils across the country saying their federal grants had been terminated. Many of those councils had been working on programming to commemorate the 250th anniversary and had already dedicated some of their federal grants for events at libraries, schools and museums.

Gabrielle Lyon, executive director of Illinois Humanities and chair of the Illinois America 250 Commission, said the cuts already have curtailed some of the planned programs, including community readings of the Declaration of Independence. More effects will be felt later this summer, she said, such as libraries not having enough money to hire performers and storytellers to highlight aspects of a region's history and heritage. □

## Melania Trump meets with patients, visits garden at Washington children's hospital



First lady Melania Trump visits patients at Children's National Hospital, Thursday, July 3, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

By **MICHELLE L. PRICE**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — First lady Melania Trump visited with sick patients at Children's National hospital in Washington on Thursday as the children made Fourth of July arts and crafts ahead of the holiday.

Trump, continuing a tradition of support by first ladies for the pediatric care center, also stopped by the hospital's rooftop “healing” garden she dedicated during the first Trump administration to first ladies of the United States.

The first lady decorated rocks for the garden with the children, drawing a red heart on one. A few kids played with stretchy slime while Trump engaged them in questions. “Wow, that's a big slime!” she told one child that was more focused on stretching the sticky goo.

Trump gave each of the children gift bags with blankets and teddy bears that had shirts reading, “Be Best,” her campaign focused on children's well-being.

She quizzed the kids on their favorite sports, what music they like and how they're feeling. Trump also took an informal poll, asking the kids whether they like chocolate and ice cream. □

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## First immigration detainees arrive at Florida center in the Everglades

By **CURT ANDERSON** and **KATE PAYNE**

Associated Press

The first group of immigrants has arrived at a new detention center deep in the Florida Everglades that officials have dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz," a spokesperson for Republican state Attorney General James Uthmeier told The Associated Press.

"People are there," Press Secretary Jae Williams said, though he didn't immediately provide further details on the number of detainees or when they arrived.

"Next stop: back to where they came from," Uthmeier said on the X social media platform Wednesday. He's been credited as the architect behind the Everglades proposal.

"Stood up in record time under @GovRonDeSantis' leadership & in coordination with @DHSgov & @ICEgov, Florida is proud to help facilitate @realDonaldTrump's mission to enforce immigration law," the account for the Florida Division of Emergency Management posted to the social media site X on Thursday.

Requests for additional information from the office of Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and FDEM, which is building the site, were not returned early Thursday afternoon.

The facility, at an airport used for training, will have an initial capacity of about 3,000 detainees, DeSantis said. The center was built in eight days and features more than 200 security cameras, 28,000-plus feet (8,500 meters) of barbed wire and 400 security personnel.

Immigrants who are arrested by Florida law enforce-



In this photo provided by Jessica Namath, a man takes a photo of a new roadside sign labeled "Alligator Alcatraz" near a new immigration detention facility in the Florida Everglades, in Ochopee, Fla. on Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

ment officers under the federal government's 287(g) program will be taken to the facility, according to an official in President Donald Trump's administration. The program is led by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and allows police officers to interrogate immigrants in their custody and detain them for potential deportation.

The facility is expected to be expanded in 500 bed increments until it has an estimated 5,000 beds by early July.

A group of Florida Democratic state lawmakers headed to the facility Thursday to conduct "an official legislative site visit," citing concerns about conditions for detainees and the awarding of millions of dollars in state contracts for the construction.

"As lawmakers, we have both the legal right and moral responsibility to inspect this site, demand answers, and expose this abuse before it becomes the national blueprint," the legislators said in a joint statement ahead of the visit.

Federal agencies signaled their opposition Thursday to a lawsuit brought by environmental groups seeking to halt operations at the detention center. Though Trump applauded the center during an official tour earlier this week, the filing on behalf of the Department of Homeland Security seemed to try to distance his administration from the facility, and said no federal money to date has been spent on it.

"DHS has not implemented, authorized, directed, or

funded Florida's temporary detention center. Florida is constructing and operating the facility using state funds on state lands under state emergency authority and a preexisting general delegation of federal authority to implement immigration functions," the U.S. filing says.

Human rights advocates and Native American tribes have also protested against the center, contending it is a threat to the fragile Everglades system, would be cruel to detainees because of heat and mosquitoes, and is on land the tribes consider sacred. It's also located at a place prone to frequent heavy rains, which caused some flooding in the tents Tuesday during a visit by President Donald Trump to mark its opening. State officials

say the complex can withstand a Category 2 hurricane, which packs winds of between 96 and 110 mph (154 and 177 kph), and that contractors worked overnight to shore up areas where flooding occurred.

According to images shared with the AP, overnight Wednesday, workers put up new signs labeled "Alligator Alcatraz" along the sole highway leading to the site and outside the entrance of the airfield that has been known as the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport. State officials seized the county-owned land where the facility is located using emergency powers authorized by an executive order issued by the governor.

DeSantis and other state officials say locating the facility in the rugged and remote Florida Everglades is meant as a deterrent and naming it after the notorious federal prison of Alcatraz, an island fortress known for its brutal conditions, is meant to send a message. It's another sign of how the Trump administration and its allies are relying on scare tactics to try to persuade people in the country illegally to leave voluntarily.

State and federal officials have touted the plans on social media and conservative airwaves, sharing a meme of a compound ringed with barbed wire and "guarded" by alligators wearing hats labeled "ICE" for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Republican Party of Florida has taken to fundraising off the detention center, selling branded T-shirts and beer koozies emblazoned with the facility's name. □

# Latin America's top human rights court says states have duty to act on climate crisis

By STEVEN GRATAN  
Associated Press

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** — The Inter-American Court of Human Rights on Thursday issued a landmark advisory opinion linking governments' human rights obligations to their responsibility to address the threat of climate change a move expected to shape policy and litigation across Latin America and the Caribbean. The opinion is the first of its kind from the region's top human rights tribunal and responds to a 2023 request from Colombia and Chile. It says states have a duty under international law to prevent, mitigate and remedy environmental harm that threatens human rights, including through laws, policies and actions aimed at curbing climate change. The court outlined a series of legal standards, including the recognition of a human right to a healthy climate, the obligation to prevent massive and irreversible environmental harm as well as the duty to protect the rights of current and future generations. "The Court has declared that we are in a climate emergency that is undermining the human rights of present and future genera-



Jeremy Escanilla works on cleaning the debris of the remains of his house, destroyed by wildfires in Santa Juana, Chile, Feb. 5, 2023.

Associated Press

tions and that human rights must be at the center of any effective response," Nikki Reisch, program director at the Center for International Environmental Law Climate and Energy, told The Associated Press. The opinion said states have a legal duty not only to avoid environmental harm but also to protect and restore ecosystems, guided by science and Indigenous knowledge. "This is a historic opinion,"

said Reisch. "It's not just a legal milestone it's a blueprint for action. This opinion will guide climate litigation at the local, regional, and national courts, and provide a foundation for climate policymaking, grounding local legislation and global negotiations in legal obligation, not just in the Americas but around the world." Though not binding, the court's opinions carry legal weight in many member countries of

the Organization of American States and often influence domestic legislation, judicial rulings and international advocacy. The court's findings are expected to bolster climate-related lawsuits and human rights claims in the region, and to influence negotiations ahead of COP30 the next major United Nations climate summit, set to take place in November in Belem, Brazil. "States must not only refrain from caus-

ing significant environmental damage but have the positive obligation to take measures to guarantee the protection, restoration, and regeneration of ecosystems," said Court President Judge Nancy Hernández López. "Causing massive and irreversible environmental harm...alters the conditions for a healthy life on Earth to such an extent that it creates consequences of existential proportions. Therefore, it demands universal and effective legal responses," López said. The opinion comes amid growing Indigenous momentum in the region, including a summit in Ecuador's Amazon last month where hundreds of Indigenous leaders gathered to demand enforcement of court victories recognizing their land and environmental rights. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, based in San Jose, Costa Rica, is the region's top tribunal for interpreting and enforcing the American Convention on Human Rights. Its rulings, though often challenged by weak enforcement, have played a key role in advancing Indigenous rights and environmental protections across Latin America. □

## Palestinians walk long distances to fetch water and ration each drop. The heat is making it worse



Rida Abu Hadayed, 32, uses water to cool off her 2-year-old daughter Azhar inside their tent at a camp for displaced people in Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

Associated Press

By WAFEA SHURAF and SAMYA KULLAB  
Associated Press

**KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP)** — For Rida Abu Hadayed, summer adds a new layer of misery to a daily struggle to survive in the war-ravaged Gaza Strip. With temperatures exceeding 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit), daybreak begins with the cries of Hadayed's seven children sweltering inside the displaced family's cramped nylon tent. Outside, the humidity is unbearable. The only way the 32-year-old mother can offer her children relief is by fanning them with a tray or bits of paper whatever she can find. If she has water, she pours it over them, but that is an increasingly scarce resource. "There is no electricity. There is nothing," she said, her face beaded with sweat. "They cannot sleep. They keep crying all

day until the sun sets." The heat in Gaza has intensified hardships for its 2 million residents. Reduced water availability, crippled sanitation networks, and shrinking living spaces threaten to cause illnesses to cascade through communities, aid groups have long warned. The scorching summer coincides with a lack of clean water for the majority of Gaza's population, most of whom are displaced in tented communities. Many Palestinians in the enclave must walk long distances to fetch water and ration each drop, limiting their ability to wash and keep cool. "We are only at the beginning of summer," Hadayed's husband, Yousef, said. "And our situation is dire." Israel had blocked food, fuel, medicine and all other supplies from entering Gaza for nearly three months. □

## Aid groups warn of attacks on Sudan's hospitals as disease outbreaks and atrocities mount

**CAIRO (AP)** — Humanitarian organizations are sounding the alarm over attacks on healthcare facilities across Sudan, warning that they are happening amid what they describe as ongoing mass atrocities against civilians.

Doctors without Borders also known as Médecins Sans Frontières or MSF said Thursday that 70% of medical facilities in Sudan have either closed or are barely operational with no end to the war in sight.

Sudan's civil war broke out in April 2023 after simmering tensions between the Sudanese army and its paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF), escalated to fighting across the country. Some 40,000 people have been killed and nearly 13 million displaced, including to other countries, according to U.N. agencies. War has left many facing food insecurity and risk of famine and exposure to disease outbreaks like cholera, which remains hard to contain due to Sudan's col-



**Sudanese displaced families take shelter in a school after being evacuated by the Sudanese army from areas once controlled by the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces in Omdurman, Sudan, March 23, 2025.**

Associated Press

lapsed healthcare system. In a report released Thursday titled 'Besieged, Attacked, Starved', MSF warned that access to healthcare is nearly impossible due to systematic attacks, while the remaining

operational facilities remain under constant threat. "We call to all warring parties to stop violence against the civilian health facilities and civilian infrastructure and to facilitate a large-scale humanitarian

response," said Michel-Olivier Lacharité, MSF's head of emergency operations in a news conference presenting the report. Echoing MSF's concerns, Save the Children, warned Thursday that attacks on hospi-

tals nearly tripled after two years of war. The group said in a statement that at least 933 people, including children, were killed during the first half of 2025. This figure is a 60-fold increase over the deaths recorded during the same period of the previous year, according to the group. Those killed were either seeking medical care or accompanying a loved one in a hospital. Major hospitals, clinics, health facilities, ambulances and medical convoys all saw fatal attacks in a country where half the population requires humanitarian assistance, according to Save the Children.

"We are concerned that in most cases, the hospitals that have come under fire also happen to be the only remaining hospitals in those areas, putting healthcare out of reach for millions, including displaced people," said Francesco Lanino, deputy country director of programs and operations for Save the Children in Sudan. □

## Serbian police detain 79 protesters as dissent persists against populist president

By **JOVANA GEC**  
Associated Press

**BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)** — Serbian police said they detained 79 university students and other protesters as they broke up street blockades in several cities that are part of persistent dissent against President Aleksandar Vucic's populist government.

Officers in riot gear intervened late Wednesday and early Thursday in the capital, Belgrade, the northern city of Novi Sad and the southern cities of Nis and Novi Pazar. Authorities denied reports of police brutality and excessive force against demonstrators.

University students behind the protests said police charged and injured scores of peaceful demonstrators. Witnesses told local media that riot police beat up protesters with batons and

shields and that four students were hospitalized, including one with a broken clavicle.

Four officers were injured and a police vehicle was damaged, the Interior Ministry said in their statement, noting officers "acted in

accordance with the law" while responding to the unrest Wednesday and early Thursday.

The European Union mission in Serbia and the United Nations Human Rights Office said they were monitoring the situation closely

and urged de-escalation. "We strongly condemn all acts of hate and violence," the EU in Serbia said on X. "The rights of peaceful demonstration, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression are to be upheld."

The statement added that "police action must be proportionate and respect fundamental rights."

The U.N. Human Rights Office also on X urged authorities to "exercise restraint & to respect freedom of expression & peaceful assembly."

Tensions in the Balkan country have soared since a rally Saturday demanding early parliamentary elections. The gathering by tens of thousands of people in Belgrade ended with clashes between riot police and groups of protesters.

Vucic has refused to schedule a snap vote despite

more than eight months of persistent demonstrations. The protests began in November after a renovated rail station canopy collapsed in Novi Sad, killing 16 people and triggering allegations of corruption-fueled negligence in state infrastructure projects.

Parliamentary and presidential elections are due in 2027. While rejecting the election demand, Vucic has stepped up government pressure to curb the protests that he describes as "terror" and attempts to bring down the state.

On Thursday, Vucic pardoned four activists of his ruling Serbian Progressive Party who were accused of beating up a female student during protests in January in Novi Sad and breaking her jaw. The incident at the time prompted the resignation of then Prime Minister Milos Vucevic. □



**Serbian gendarmerie officers remove a street blockade that was set up as part of a protest over a spate of arrests of anti-government protesters after a massive rally demanding an early parliamentary election in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, June 30, 2025.**

Associated Press

## Visit the Museum of Industry in San Nicolas!

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

**Museum of Industry Aruba**  
The Museum of Industry is located in San Nicolas—better known as the art capital of

Aruba. This museum exhibits the industrial history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated displays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history, which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tow-

er was purchased by the Monuments Fund in 2003 so it can be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Aruba Museum Foundation (Fundacion Museo Aruban), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban cultural sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 6 pm.

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



## The Aruban way of life Creating community with Cas di Torto



**(Oranjestad)—The Aruban people understand that a happy life is spent in great ambience with your loved ones. Passed down from one generation to the other, building community has been a key aspect in forging our traditions and customs. The Cas di Torto (mud house) played a big role in cultivating community, bridging families together and forming close bonds with your neighbors—something we highly value today.**

### Cas di Torto: History and construction

The origin of the Cas di

Torto is said to date back to the early 19th century in the Paraguana Peninsula in Venezuela. Refugees who sought sanctuary on Aruba introduced this building method to the island.

The uprights of the walls were made with sturdy and straight wayaca or kwihi wood, or from thin mangrove struts. Then, the wattle walls were weaved in using branches and twigs from the warero and sisal plant, daubed with a mixture of grass and mud. Finally, the walls got a coat of white plaster to seal everything in.

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

### Building community

Building Torto houses was often a community effort. Young couples who were about to get married had to have their house built before they could tie the knot and start their own family. This is where the help of the community comes into play.

Neighbors, extended family and friends would all help in the construction of a Torto House. And everyone had a role: The men oversaw the building of the house, and the women were tasked with collecting wood and straws, cooking and taking care of the little ones.

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the



older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

The average duration of constructing a Cas di Torto was 4 months.

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was

called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

Nowadays, traditional Cas di Torto are rare, especially those that are still inhabited. Houses that do exist probably date back more than a century. □

**Picture credits: Aruba National Library (BNA) and the Monumentbureau archive on Coleccion.aw**



## Divi & Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusives: Small Fire Quickly Contained at Divi Lobby – No Injuries, Full Operations Maintained

Oranjestad—Two days ago, a small fire was quickly contained on the roof of the Divi Lobby. We're grateful to report that no one was injured, and all rooms, restaurants and pools across the property remain fully operational with no disruption to guest experiences.

As a temporary adjustment, the Divi Concierge has been relocated to Tamarijn. While the Divi lobby shops are currently closed, guests are welcome to visit the shops at Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusive. We appreciate our guests' understanding and flexibility as we continue to ensure their comfort and safety.

Our team remains fully committed to delivering the exceptional vacation experience our guests expect and deserve. Management would also like to express our thanks to the Aruba Fire Department and Aruba Police Force responders for their immediate and professional actions. □

## 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. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

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! □

**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**  
**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY**

**JULY 4, 2025**

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**Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Picuda!**

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

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? This is an informative article that illustrate some fish and their names in Papiamentu, which the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, known as "Santa Rosa", wants to share and also obtain information from the public.

**Picuda, Sphyræna barracuda, Greater Barracuda**

Well known is the Picuda on the island—Barracuda in English. Its scientific name is Sphyræna barracuda. It is a widely caught fish. It is



found throughout the year in our waters, where it is a so-called "ambush predator" that stays still or floats in the water waiting for its prey to approach so it can attack it with lightning speed. It is well known for fishermen, especially for

its white flesh in fish soup. In fishing culture, there are many other names, such as Pecho blanco, Blekito, Banana, or Bleki. The names vary according to size.

**Description**

The Picuda is a long fish,

with a round body like a torpedo and silver in color with shiny black stripes. Below, that is, the belly, is whiter, while the top part is darker. Its snout is very pointed, and the lower jaw is longer than the upper one. Its peduncle, where the body meets

the tail, is thick, while the tail also forms a crescent but in this case one more "full" than that of mullet or cone-fish. This reflects the hunting style of the Picuda. It needs to be able to accelerate quickly when the prey gets close.

**In Aruba:**

Picuda can be found in our waters around our island throughout the year. Picuda, in our waters, is edible without any problem. Picuda is also a highly sought-after fish by sports fishermen or recreational fishermen because it puts up a good fight once hooked. It can be caught via trolling from a boat, casting from shore with a line or rod, or by jigging, casting the lure (artificial bait) and moving it with certain rod motions. □

Picture courtesy of the Department of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

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# The Aruban Cunukero

## From past to present

(Oranjestad)—Aruba's culture consists of rich historical traditions that make up the Aruban identity and lifestyle. However, the life of the cunukero (farmer) is perhaps the most important aspect of our culture, in a sense representing to locals the true essence of the Aruban.

Historically, cunucus (farms) played a huge role in the early social and economic development of Aruba, and its relevance dates back to the early days of the colonization era. Upon being discovered by Spanish conquistadors in the late 15th century, Aruba was used primarily as a ranch, housing horses and cattle brought from Europe. During the Dutch colonization era where the West Indian Company (WIC) dominated the economic sphere on the island, using the land to set up cattle farms and ranches remained popular.

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

1. The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
2. Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
3. Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
4. Lastly you have the "Run-

away Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

However, the Aruban cunukeros back then are hard to place, and their history may explain why.

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

As much as these farmers were given to opportunity to live "free" with a plot of land, their exclusion from the trading and business world, as well as being deprived the chance to become real property and cattle owners, made them a unique group among Caribbean farmers at the time.

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In



1767, there were about 120 houses/cunucus on the island.

These Aruban farmers were also limited to the amount of cattle they could keep. Most kept goats as cattle, as only those who were affiliated with the WIC could keep (more) sheep. Of the 76 goat herders on the island, about 45 of them had less than 30 goats, and only 7 of them had more than 60 goats.

It wasn't until the WIC was defunct in late 18th century that these farmers were able to obtain more freedom as cunukeros. After 1824, the government gave these farmers official permission to keep livestock, and the obligations once placed on them were officially discarded.

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experienced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

Although the WIC at one point did try to come up with an initiative to get more people to have land on the island, the climate never really allowed real profit from farming. Because of the climate, Aruban farmers in general could not keep large quantities of livestock. At a certain point toward the end of the 18th century, the climate got so bad that many farmers decided to leave the island for a while.

For this reason, the farming economy on the island remained small. As the years went by and people noticed that these farms could not really produce any sustainable profit, farmers kept their small piece of land just to live off of. This is why the Aruban cunukeros only played a very tiny role into the plantation economy.

In modern Aruba, cunucus and cunukeros still exist on the island, fortunately with more freedom and more opportunity to tap into the agricultural market. These farmers usually sell their produce on a smaller scale, like during farmers' market events and other types of (holiday) events. □

**Source: "Arubaans Akkoord: Opstellen over Aruba van voor de komst van de olieindustrie (Aruban Accord: Essays on Aruba Before the Arrival of the Oil Industry)" by Alofs, Luc; Rutgers, Wim; Coomans, Henny E. red.**



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E-mail: info@ana.aw | source: https://aruba.ana.aw/

## Snakes you may encounter on Aruba



(Oranjestad)—If you have ever or will ever go off-roading on the island, you may encounter three types of snakes that are dominant on the island. The Cascabel, Santanero and Boa differ from each other in a couple ways, and local perspective on each one may help you understand what you need to do if you ever were to encounter one during your touring session on the island.

### Cascabel (*Crotalus unicolor*)

The small Cascabel or Aruba Island Rattlesnake averages 70 cm in length. The body color is often uniform gray or light brown. There may be a faint pattern of diamond shaped markings on the back. This pattern is most noticeable on younger snakes. The most distinctive feature of this snake is the rattle at the end of its tail which makes a buzzing sound when the snake is alarmed. Cascabels are shy and not aggressive, but their venom can be dangerous to humans. In fact, it's the only venomous snake native to the island. It is best to leave this snake alone. Do not attempt to catch or kill it, as it could not only be dangerous, but this snake is also endemic to the island, and its preservation has become a legal mandate for all residents and visitors.

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

initiatives to change local perception of the snake and highlight its ecological and economic importance – it is now being promoted as a national symbol. Arikok's partnership with the Toledo zoo has safeguarded the rattlesnake ex-situ and led to a number of research projects collecting critical data on the Cascabel's abundance, life history and habitat requirement to help guide future conservation efforts.

### Santanero

The slender Santanero or Aruban Cat-eyed Snake is a small fella, typically less than 50 cm long. This snake is recognizable by the large scales on the top of its head and by its pattern of dark brown bands alternating with light brown bands. The belly is plain white or cream colored without any markings. Native as well to the island, this snake is shy and not aggressive. However, it has enlarged teeth at the back of its mouth and mild venom which is not dangerous to humans, but can paralyze small lizards and frogs. Santaneros are most active at night when they search for food. During the day, they hide under rocks or leaves. They frequently climb trees and cactus. Santaneros eat toads, frogs, insects, and



lizards. You may find Santaneros near dams during periods of rainy weather or crossing roads at night. This snake is found island wide. A Santanero in your garden will keep away the unwanted insects. If you encounter a Santanero around your garden, please do not harm this species.

### Boa (*Boa constrictor*)

Boas are Aruba's largest snakes. The longest Boa found on the island was slightly less than 3 m. Newborn Boas average 35 cm. Boas are not venomous but are

what is called constrictor snakes; they kill by wrapping themselves around a prey and suffocating them. The most distinctive feature of a Boa is its pattern of dark brown and tan blotches which become red toward the tail. The belly is white or cream colored with numerous black spots. Boas are excellent climbers and may be found in trees and cactus. Boas also hide in the leaves under bushes waiting to catch prey that pass. Boas catch their prey with their teeth and then constrict it in their coils. The Boa's diet consists of birds, lizards, rats, mice, and rabbits. Large Boas have been known to eat small goats and chickens. When threatened, Boas will hiss loudly.

Boas are a non-native species and are invasive to the island, risking the population of native lizards and birds. The first Boas were reported on the island in 1999. Since that time they have been found across the entire island in all types of habitats. If you ever encounter a Boa, please do not approach it. Instead, please call the Arikok National Park, as they are experienced in handling Boas. □



### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH



**ACROSS** 44 Color

1 Green stone

5 Calls on Tinseltown setting

10 Fabric bundles

12 Cover words

13 Admit (to)

14 West Indies island

16 Wedding words

17 Original

18 Composer Salieri

20 Inundates

22 Day divider

23 Moral code

25 Fencing weapon

28 "Hold on ..."

32 Stag's pride

34 Mess up

35 School setting

36 Insect feature

38 Mah-jongg pieces

40 John of Plymouth

41 Pizzeria buy

42 Racket

43 Falls back

**DOWN**

1 Door

frame maker

2 Play part

3 Famed surrealist

4 Swanky

5 Wolf pack member

6 Scatter seeds

7 Weather-changing current

8 Painter's place

9 Flea market unit

11 Tea stirrer

15 Like the strong

19 Formerly

21 Healthy

24 Blink of an eye

25 Extreme diets

26 "The Iceman Cometh" playwright

27 Roma's land

29 Remit

30 Composer Bloch

31 Origami bird

33 Lets up

37 "The Time Machine" tribe

39 Heart chart, for short

7-8

A XYDLBAAXR 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.

7-8 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

C V F N L P V Q U K G E ' Z U Y D D

B V F , W F Z P C B Z G U L

G K C G E K L ? — X C B D D Y N

HYDDLQ

**Cryptoquote:** MEN CAN STARVE FROM A LACK OF SELF-REALIZATION AS MUCH AS THEY CAN FROM A LACK OF BREAD. — RICHARD WRIGHT

### 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.

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.

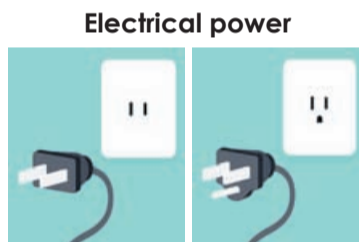
the store.

**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.



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



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

### 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/4

Answer to previous puzzle

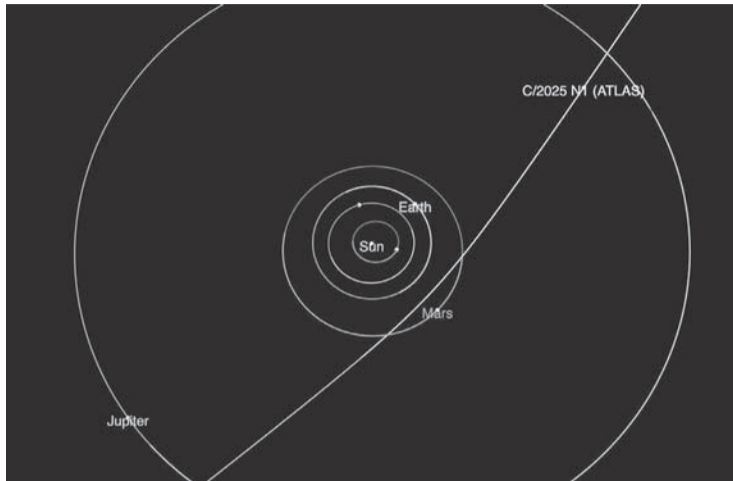
6	2	7	5	4	3	8	9	1
1	3	8	6	2	9	5	4	7
5	4	9	8	7	1	3	2	6
4	8	2	1	3	6	7	5	9
3	9	6	4	5	7	1	8	2
7	1	5	9	8	2	6	3	4
9	6	4	3	1	8	2	7	5
2	5	3	7	6	4	9	1	8
8	7	1	2	9	5	4	6	3

Difficulty: ★★★

7/3

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# New interstellar comet will keep a safe distance from Earth, NASA says



This diagram provided by NASA/JPL-Caltech shows the trajectory of interstellar comet 3I/ATLAS as it passes through the solar system.

Associated Press

**By MARCIA DUNN**  
**AP Aerospace Writer**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)** — NASA has discovered an interstellar comet that's wandered into our backyard.

The space agency spotted the quick-moving object with the Atlas telescope in Chile earlier this week, and confirmed it was a comet from another star system. It's officially the third known interstellar object to pass through our solar system and poses no threat to Earth.

"These things take millions of years to go from one stellar neighborhood to another, so this thing has likely been traveling through space for hundreds of millions of years, even billions of years," Paul Chodas, director of NASA's Center for

Near Earth Object Studies, said Thursday. "We don't know, and so we can't predict which star it came from."

The newest visitor is 416 million miles (670 million kilometers) from the sun, out near Jupiter, and heading this way at a blistering 37 miles (59 kilometers) per second.

NASA said the comet will make its closest approach to the sun in late October, scooting between the orbits of Mars and Earth but closer to the red planet than us at a safe 150 million miles (240 million kilometers) away.

Astronomers around the world are monitoring the icy snowball that's been officially designated as 3I/Atlas to determine its size and shape. Chodas told

The Associated Press that there have been more than 100 observations since its discovery on July 1, with preliminary reports of a tail and a cloud of gas and dust around the comet's nucleus.

The comet should be visible by telescope through September, before it gets too close to the sun, and reappear in December on the other side of the sun.

Based on its brightness, the comet appears to be bigger than the first two interstellar interlopers, possibly several miles (tens of kilometers) across, Chodas

said. It's coming in faster, too, from a different direction, and while its home star is unknown, scientists suspect it was closer to the center of our Milky Way galaxy.

The first interstellar visitor observed from Earth was Oumuamua, Hawaiian for scout, in honor of the observatory in Hawaii that discovered it in 2017. □



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 Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
 Urgent Care 586 0448  
 Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
 +297 588 0539

EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

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Prof. Taxi	588 0035
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A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

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Surinam	582 7896

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 \*Ask about weeks 51, 52 & 14\*

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 3 Bed Ocean View: \$30,000

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ARUBA TODAY BONDIA

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Downtown

# One Tech Tip: Get the most out of ChatGPT and other AI chatbots with better prompts

By **KELVIN CHAN**  
AP Business Writer

**LONDON (AP)** — If you're using ChatGPT but getting mediocre results, don't blame the chatbot. Instead, try sharpening up your prompts.

Generative AI chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini and Anthropic's Claude have become hugely popular and embedded into daily life for many users. They're powerful tools that can help us with so many different tasks.

What you shouldn't overlook, however, is that a chatbot's output depends on what you tell it to do, and how. There's a lot you can do to improve the prompt also known as the request or query that you type in.

Here are some tips for general users on how to get higher quality chatbot replies, based on tips from the AI model makers:

## Be more specific in your prompt

ChatGPT can't read your mind. You need to give it clear and explicit instructions on what you need it to do.

Unlike a standard Google search, you can't just ask for an answer based on some keywords. And you'll need to do more than just tell it to, say, "design a logo" because you'll end up with a generic design.



A youth checks his mobile phone on the bank of the River Ganges in Prayagraj, India, June 7, 2023.

Flesh it out with details on the company that the logo is for, the industry it will be used in and the design style you're going for.

"Ensure your prompts are clear, specific, and provide enough context for the model to understand what you are asking," ChatGPT maker OpenAI advises on its help page. "Avoid ambiguity and be as precise as possible to get accurate and relevant responses."

## Refine and rewrite your request

Think of using a chatbot like holding a conversation with a friend. You probably wouldn't end your chat af-

ter the first answer. Ask follow-up questions or refine your original prompt.

OpenAI's advice: "Adjust the wording, add more context, or simplify the request as needed to improve the results."

You might have to have an extended back-and-forth that elicits better output. Google advises that you'll need to try a "few different approaches" if you don't get what you're looking for the first time.

"Fine-tune your prompts if the results don't meet your expectations or if you believe there's room for improvement," Google

recommends in its prompting guide for Gemini. "Use follow-up prompts and an iterative process of review and refinement to yield better results."

## Consider the persona and audience

When making your request, you can also ask an AI large language model to respond in a specific voice or style.

"Words like formal, informal, friendly, professional, humorous, or serious can help guide the model," OpenAI writes.

You also tell the chatbot the type of person the response is aimed at.

These parameters will help determine the chatbot's overall approach to its answer, as well as the tone, vocabulary and level of detail.

For example, you could ask ChatGPT to describe quantum physics in the style of a distinguished professor talking to a class of graduate students. Or you could ask it to explain the same topic in the voice of a teacher talking to a group of schoolchildren. However, there's plenty of debate among AI experts about these methods. On one hand, they can make answers more precise and less generic. But an output that adopts an overly empathetic or authoritative tone raises concerns about the text sounding too manipulative.

## Add more context and examples

Give the chatbot all the background behind the reason for your request.

Don't just ask: "Help me plan a weeklong trip to London."

ChatGPT will respond with a generic list of London's greatest hits: historic sites on one day, museums and famous parks on another, trendy neighborhoods and optional excursions to Windsor Castle. It's nothing you couldn't get from a guidebook or travel website, but just a little better organized. □

# U.S. judge says China's Huawei Technologies must face criminal case for racketeering and other charges

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH**  
AP Business Writer

**BANGKOK (AP)** — A U.S. judge has ruled that China's Huawei Technologies, a leading telecoms equipment company, must face criminal charges in a wide reaching case alleging it stole technology and engaged in racketeering, wire and bank fraud and other crimes.

U.S. District Judge Ann Donnelly on Tuesday rejected Huawei's request to dismiss the allegations in a 16-count federal indictment against

the company, saying in a 52-page ruling that its arguments were premature.

The company did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The U.S. accuses Huawei and some of its subsidiaries of plotting to steal U.S. trade secrets, installing surveillance equipment that enabled Iran to spy on protesters during 2009 anti-government demonstrations in Iran, and of doing business in North Korea despite U.S. sanctions there. During President Donald Trump's first term in office,

his administration raised national security concerns and began lobbying Western allies against including Huawei in their wireless, high-speed networks.

In its January 2019 indictment, the Justice Department accused Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company called Skycom to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions and charged its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, with fraud by misleading the HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in

Iran.

Meng, the daughter of Huawei's founder, was arrested in Canada in late 2018 on a U.S. extradition request but released in September 2021 in a high-stakes prisoner swap that freed two Canadians held by China and allowed her to return home. Chinese officials have accused the U.S. government of "economic bullying" and of improperly using national security as a pretext for "oppressing Chinese companies." In their motion to dismiss the broad criminal case,

among other arguments Huawei's lawyers contended that the U.S. allegations were too vague and some were "impermissibly extraterritorial," and do not involve domestic wire and bank fraud.

The biggest maker of network gear, Huawei struggled to hold onto its market share under sanctions that have blocked its access to most U.S. processor chips and other technology. The limits led it to ramp up its own development of computer chips and other advanced technologies. □

# A slider, a milestone and a heartfelt thank you: Kershaw's 3,000th strikeout

By BETH HARRIS  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Clayton Kershaw was laboring in pursuit of his 3,000th strikeout. His pitch count soaring, he was down to the last batter he would face, needing one more swing and miss to become the 20th pitcher to reach the milestone.

"It's a little bit harder when you're actually trying to strike people out," he said, smiling. "I never really had to do that before."

Kershaw accomplished the feat when Vinny Capra of the Chicago White Sox took a slider for a called third strike for the final out of the sixth inning on Wednesday night.

"I made it interesting. Made it take too long," Kershaw said. "Honestly, I didn't pitch that great tonight. The slider was so bad."

In his 18th season in Los Angeles, Kershaw joined Walter Johnson of the Washington Senators and Bob Gibson of the St. Louis Cardinals as the only pitchers with 3,000 or more strikeouts all for one team.

Freddie Freeman capped a three-run ninth by singling in Shohei Ohtani, giving the Dodgers a 5-4 win. Kershaw didn't get a decision.

The sellout crowd of 53,536 was on its feet roaring as the 37-year-old left-hander walked off the mound to end the sixth. Kershaw paused and doffed his cap, with teammates briefly holding off hugging him



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to allow him to soak in the cheers.

Kershaw waved to his wife Ellen and four children in the stands and then patted his chest and mouthed, "Thank you."

"I feel bad for Ellen. I know she was nervous," he said. "I made her last six innings out there just stressed out that I wasn't going to get it and have to go to Milwaukee to do it."

Kershaw shared a clubhouse toast with his teammates, coaches, training staff and front office executives.

"Just super thankful for tonight, super thankful for my teammates," he said. "I told my teammates individual awards are great, but if you don't have anybody to celebrate with it doesn't

matter."

The game was delayed for nearly 6 minutes between pitches, a gap that included a tribute video.

Kershaw joined Justin Verlander of San Francisco (3,468) and Max Scherzer of Toronto (3,412) as the only active pitchers with that many. Kershaw is just the fourth left-hander in the club. "It's an incredible list," he said. "It's special to finally be in that group."

Capra, hitting ninth, was retired on four pitches, with plate umpire Jim Wolf calling the third strike on a slider, Kershaw's season-high 100th pitch of the night. Wolf is the brother of retired pitcher Randy Wolf, once a teammate of Kershaw's.

"I wanted it to come easy," Kershaw said. "I would

much rather have got it done in the first."

Manager Dave Roberts had said before the game that he would manage the three-time Cy Young Award winner differently with the milestone within reach. That was apparent when Kershaw jogged out for the sixth to an ovation, having already tossed a season-high 92 pitches with just two strikeouts. He came into the game needing three to make history.

"I was going to give him every opportunity to do it at home," Roberts said. "You could see the emotion he had trying to get that third strike. It just happened the way it was supposed to happen."

Kershaw retired Lenyn Sosa on three pitches for

No. 2,999 in the fifth. Sosa fouled off Kershaw's first two pitches before ending the inning by striking out on a 72 mph curveball.

In the third, Miguel Vargas took called strikes on his first two pitches before he swung and missed on another 72 mph curveball from his former Dodgers teammate.

Chicago swung aggressively against Kershaw, who gave up a two-run homer to Austin Slater and two more runs as the White Sox led 4-2 after six innings.

"You could just feel it. They wanted it for me so bad," he said of the crowd. "You could feel the tension. They were trying to will me to do it."

Kershaw made history one batter after Dodgers third baseman Max Muncy was injured in tagging out Michael A. Taylor on a steal attempt. Muncy had to be helped off the field, barely able to put any weight on his left leg. Kershaw has provided much-needed stability for the Dodgers' pitching staff, which has been decimated by injuries.

"It's just again a reminder for me, for anyone, to never bet against that guy," Roberts said before the game. "It doesn't matter health, stuff he's going to will himself to doing whatever the team needs."

Kershaw allowed five runs over four innings in his first start after returning from knee and foot surgeries last offseason. □

## Nationals slugger James Wood joins Ronald Acuña Jr., Cal Raleigh as participants in Home Run Derby

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington Nationals outfielder James Wood became the third player to announce he will take part in the Home Run Derby.

The derby will be held on July 14, the night before the All-Star Game, at Truist Park in Atlanta. Wood joins Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. and Mariners catcher Cal Raleigh, who leads the majors with 33 homers, in the contest.

Wood has 22 homers this season. He's the third Nationals player to take part in the Home Run Derby, joining Juan Soto (2022) and Bryce Harper (2013 and '18).

The 22-year-old Wood has 12 homers that have been hit harder than 110 mph. It's the second most in the league behind Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani's 13. Wood also has four dingers that have been launched longer than 445 feet.

Wood was acquired from San Diego in August 2022 as part of the blockbuster deal that sent Soto to the Padres. □



Washington Nationals' James Wood hits a single against Detroit Tigers pitcher Jack Flaherty during the first inning in the second baseball game of a doubleheader in Washington, Wednesday, July 2, 2025.

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## Djokovic sets another record at Wimbledon and jokes about sipping margaritas on beach with rivals

By **MATTIAS KARÉN**  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — Novak Djokovic added another record to his name by reaching Wimbledon's third round for a 19th time with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-0 win over Dan Evans on Centre Court on Wednesday. It was Djokovic's 99th match win at Wimbledon overall, and the 19 third-round ap-

pearances put him one ahead of Roger Federer for most by any man in the Open Era. It's hardly the most prestigious record for Djokovic, whose 24 Grand Slam titles including seven at Wimbledon are the most by a male player. But he could at least use it to poke fun at his new, and much younger,

main rivals. "Nineteen times, that's a great stat," said the 38-year-old Djokovic. "That's probably almost as much as Sinner and Alcaraz have years in their lives." Well, not quite. Carlos Alcaraz, who beat Djokovic in the last two Wimbledon finals, is 22, while No. 1-ranked Jannik Sinner who was playing later on Centre Court is 23.

The growing rivalry between Sinner and Alcaraz especially in the wake of their five-set final at the French Open last month has helped tennis move on from the era of the Big Three, where Djokovic is the last man standing after Federer and Rafael Nadal retired. But Djokovic is too focused on proving he can still win another Slam to sit back and reflect on everything he has accomplished at Wimbledon.

"I don't pause to reflect, to be honest. I don't have time," Djokovic said in an on-

court interview. "I would like to. But I think that's going to come probably when I set the racket aside and then sip margarita on the beach with Federer and Nadal and just reflect on our rivalry and everything."

Later in his news conference, Djokovic said he might choose a different drink if the three former rivals do get together.

"I don't know why I said margaritas because I never had a margarita in my life," he said. "I don't necessarily like that drink, but I guess it sounds good."

Against Evans, Djokovic failed to convert his first nine break points in the first set. But once he got the breakthrough for a 5-3 lead — raising both arms in the air as if to say "finally" — he went five-for-six on break points the rest of the way.

"You have these kinds of days where everything goes your way," said Djokovic,

who didn't face a break point of his own until the final game. "Everything flows." What else happened Thursday at Wimbledon?

The top women's players all avoided further upsets, after four of the five highest seeds went out over the first three days. No. 7-seeded Mirra Andreeva and No. 10 Emma Navarro both advanced in straight sets. The 18-year-old Andreeva earned a 6-1, 7-6 (4) win over Lucia Bronzetti of Italy, and Navarro cruised past Veronika Kudermetova 6-1, 6-2.

Former No. 1 Iga Swiatek, seeded eighth as she bids for a first Wimbledon title, had to come from a set down to beat Caty McNally 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 on Centre Court. Defending champion Barbora Krejčíková was also taken to a third set before beating Caroline Dolehide 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, while 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina beat Maria Sakkari 6-3, 6-1. □



Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns to Daniel Evans of Britain during their second round men's singles match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London, Thursday, July 3, 2025.  
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