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Trump administration released FBI records on MLK Jr. despite his family's opposition

By **BILL BARROW**
Associated Press

The Trump administration has released records of the FBI's surveillance of Martin Luther King Jr., despite opposition from the slain Nobel laureate's family and the civil rights group that he led until his 1968 assassination.

The release involves more than 240,000 pages of records that had been under a court-imposed seal since 1977, when the FBI first gathered the records and turned them over to the National Archives and Records Administration.

King's family, including his two living children, Martin III, 67, and Bernice, 62, were given advance notice of the release and had their own teams reviewing the records ahead of the public disclosure. Those efforts continued even as the government unveiled the digital trove.

In a lengthy statement released Monday, the King children called their father's assassination a "captivating public curiosity for decades." But the pair emphasized the personal nature of the matter and urged that "these files must be viewed within their full historical context."

It was not immediately clear Monday whether the release would shed any new light on King's life, the Civil Rights Movement or his murder.

"As the children of Dr. King and Mrs. Coretta Scott King, his tragic death has been an intensely personal grief a devastating loss for his wife, children, and the granddaughter he never met an absence our family has endured for over 57 years," they wrote. "We ask those who engage



The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, right, and Bishop Julian Smith, left, flank Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during a civil rights march in Memphis, Tenn., March 28, 1968.

Associated Press

with the release of these files to do so with empathy, restraint, and respect for our family's continuing grief."

They also repeated the family's long-held contention that James Earl Ray, the man convicted of assassinating King, was not solely responsible, if at all. Bernice King was five years old when her father was killed. Martin III was 10.

A statement from the office of Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard called the disclosure "unprecedented" and said many of the records had been digitized for the first time to make it possible. She praised President Donald Trump for pursuing the release.

Trump promised as a candidate to release files related to President John F. Kennedy's 1963 assassination. When Trump took office in January, he signed an executive order to declassify

the JFK records, along with those associated with Robert F. Kennedy's and King's 1968 assassinations.

The government unsealed the JFK records in March and disclosed some RFK files in April. Besides fulfilling the intent of his January executive order, the latest release serves as another alternative headline for Trump as he tries to mollify supporters angry over his administration's handling of records concerning the sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein, who killed himself behind bars while awaiting trial in 2019, during Trump's first presidency. Trump last Friday ordered the Justice Department to release grand jury testimony but stopped short of unsealing the entire case file. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III did not mention Trump in their statement Monday.

The King records were initially intended to be sealed

until 2027, until Justice Department attorneys asked a federal judge to lift the sealing order ahead of its expiration date.

Scholars, history buffs and journalists have been preparing to study the documents to find new information about his assassination on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which King co-founded in 1957 as the Civil Rights Movement blossomed, opposed the release. They, along with King's family, argued that the FBI illegally surveilled King and other civil rights figures, tapping their offices and phone lines with the aim of discrediting them and their movement. It has long been established that then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover was intensely interested if not obsessed with King and others that he considered radicals. FBI records released previ-

ously show how Hoover's bureau wiretapped King's telephone lines, bugged his hotel rooms and used informants to get information against him.

"He was relentlessly targeted by an invasive, predatory, and deeply disturbing disinformation and surveillance campaign orchestrated by J. Edgar Hoover through the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)," the King children said in their statement.

"The intent of the government's COINTELPRO campaign was not only to monitor, but to discredit, dismantle and destroy Dr. King's reputation and the broader American Civil Rights Movement," they continued. "These actions were not only invasions of privacy, but intentional assaults on the truth undermining the dignity and freedoms of private citizens who fought for justice, designed to neutralize those who dared to challenge the status quo."

The Kings said they "support transparency and historical accountability" but "object to any attacks on our father's legacy or attempts to weaponize it to spread falsehoods."

Opposition to King intensified even after the Civil Rights Movement compelled Congress and President Lyndon B. Johnson to enact the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. After those landmark victories, King turned much of his attention to economic justice and international peace. He was an outspoken critic of rapacious capitalism and the Vietnam War. King argued that political rights alone were not enough in an uneven economy. □

White House says Donald Trump is serious about wanting the Commanders to revert to Redskins

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after Donald Trump threatened to hold up a deal for a new football stadium in the nation's capital if the Washington Commanders did not go back to the name Redskins, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the president's comments were not a joke.

"The president was serious," Leavitt told reporters Monday while answering questions on the White House driveway. "Sports is one of the many passions of this president and he wants to see the name of that team changed."

Asked why he's getting involved, Leavitt called Trump a "nontraditional president" and said sports fans are behind him on this.

"I think you've seen the president gets involved in a lot of things that most presidents have not," Leavitt said. "He's a nontraditional president. He likes to see results on behalf of the American people and, if you actually poll this issue with sports fans across the country, and even in this city, people actually do support



Washington Commanders jerseys are displayed at an event to unveil the NFL football team's new identity, Feb. 2, 2022, in Landover, Md.

Associated Press

the president's position on this and the name change." After Congress passed a bill late last year to transfer land from the federal government to the District of Columbia, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and the team reached an agreement in April to build on the site of the old RFK Stadium. That

is still pending approval by the Council of the District of Columbia.

"I think the thing that we should focus on in D.C. is doing our part," Bowser said. "I have worked for the better part of 10 years to get our part completed, including getting control of the land, coming to an

agreement with the team and advancing a fantastic agreement to the council, so we need to do our part." Dan Snyder, who had said multiple times as owner since 1999 that he would never change the name, did so in July 2020 after facing mounting pressure from sponsors and critics. Wash-

ington Football Team was used for two seasons before Commanders was unveiled as the permanent name in early 2022.

Josh Harris, whose group bought the team from Snyder in 2023, said earlier this year the Commanders name was here to stay.

Savannah Romero, co-founder and deputy director of the Black Liberation-Indigenous Sovereignty Collective, said in a statement Monday responding to Trump that "Native Americans are not mascots."

"To equate Native people with cartoonish mascots alongside animals is a gross and ongoing tactic of dehumanization," said Romero, who is an enrolled member of the Eastern Shoshone Nation.

A spokesperson for the National Congress of American Indians said the organization was working on finalizing a statement.

At least one organization, the Native American Guardians Association, has filed petitions to bring back the Redskins and Cleveland Indians names. □

Lawsuit challenges restrictions on Head Start for kids in the U.S. illegally

By ANNIE MA
AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A coalition of 21 Democratic state attorneys general filed a lawsuit Monday

challenging the Trump administration's restrictions on social services for immigrants in the country illegally, including the federal preschool program Head

Start, health clinics and adult education.

Individual public benefits, such as food stamps and college financial aid, have been largely unavailable to people in the country without legal status, but the new rules and guidance from the administration curbed their access to community-level programs that receive federal money.

The lawsuit led by New York Attorney General Letitia James argues the government failed to follow the rulemaking process and did not provide required notice on conditions placed on federal funds. It also argues the changes will create significant harm.

"These programs work because they are open, ac-

cessible, and grounded in compassion," James said in a statement. "This is a baseless attack on some of our country's most effective and inclusive public programs, and we will not let it stand."

The rule changes rescinded a Clinton-era interpretation of federal laws on immigrants' access to services. The restrictions were announced jointly earlier this month by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Education Department, the Department of Labor and the Department of Justice.

Implementing immigration documentation checks would place a significant burden on programs and in some cases would be unrealistic, the lawsuit said. The extra work would likely

affect services provided by these programs to U.S. citizens, who are often from low-income backgrounds and depend on the services for health and education, the lawsuit said.

Head Start, a federal preschool program that provides developmental therapy, child care and preschool to families who are homeless or in poverty, has not asked participants to verify their immigration status in the past.

Some Head Start providers said they do not have the staff or resources to begin implementing such screening.

"It is likely that for some programs, the costs of compliance will be so high as to lead to the programs' closure," the lawsuit said. □



Easterseals Head Start program teaching assistant Tania Ortiz helps a student practice writing his name, Jan. 29, 2025, in Miami.

Associated Press

Ex-NYPD commissioner sues NYC mayor, alleging he ran police department as a 'criminal enterprise'

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's former interim police commissioner is suing Mayor Eric Adams and his top deputies, accusing them of operating the NYPD as a "criminal enterprise."

In a federal racketeering lawsuit filed Wednesday, the ex-commissioner, Thomas Donlon, alleges Adams and his inner circle showered unqualified loyalists with promotions, buried allegations of misconduct and gratuitously punished whistleblowers.

It is the latest in a series of recent lawsuits by former NYPD leaders describing a department ruled by graft and cronyism, with swift repercussions for those who questioned the mayor's allies.

In a statement, City Hall spokesperson Kayla Mamelak Altus called the allegations "baseless," blasting Donlon as a "disgruntled former employee who when given the opportunity to lead the greatest police department in the world proved himself to be ineffective."

Donlon, a longtime FBI official, was appointed last fall by Adams to stabilize a department shaken by federal investigations and high-profile resignations.



This image provided by Office of the New York Mayor shows Thomas Donlon, center, as New York City's interim police commissioner, Sept. 13, 2024.

Associated Press

He was only in the role for about two months. During that time, federal authorities searched his home for decades-old documents that he said were unrelated to his work at the department. During his brief tenure, Donlon said he uncovered "systemic corruption and criminal conduct" enabled by Adams and carried out by his hand-picked confidants who operated outside the department's standard chain of command. Their alleged corruption triggered a "massive, un-

lawful transfer of public wealth," the suit alleges, through unearned salary increases, overtime payments, pension enhancement and other benefits. In one case, Donlon said he caught the department's former top spokesperson, Tarik Sheppard, improperly using his rubber signature to give himself a raise and promotion. When Donlon confronted him, Sheppard allegedly threatened to kill him. Later, when Donlon's wife was involved in a minor car accident, Sheppard leaked personal fam-

ily details to the press, according to the lawsuit. Sheppard, who left the department in May, did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. The lawsuit also accuses police leaders of blocking internal investigations requested by Donlon and refusing to cooperate with federal authorities. And it outlines several instances in which officers with little experience but close connections to Adams' allies received promotions, sometimes in exchange for favors.

The lawsuit names Adams and eight current and former high-ranking NYPD officials, including Chief of Department John Chell and Deputy Mayor Kaz Daughtry.

It calls for a federal takeover of the NYPD and unspecified damages for Donlon, whose professional reputation was "deliberately destroyed," according to the suit.

Before joining the NYPD, Donlon spent decades working on terrorism cases for the FBI, including the investigation into the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center. He also led New York state's Office of Homeland Security before going into the private sector security industry.

He was replaced as commissioner by Jessica Tisch, who has pledged to restore trust within the department. But as Adams seeks reelection on a platform touting decreases in crime, he now faces renewed scrutiny over his management of the police force.

Last week, four other former high-ranking New York City police officials filed separate lawsuits against Adams and his top deputies, alleging a culture of rampant corruption and bribes that preceded Donlon's appointment. □

Oregon authorities confirm second death in fatal waterfall accident



This photo provided by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office shows search and rescue teams and a sign indicating a hazardous waterfall ahead along the Deschutes River about 10 miles from Bend, Ore., after a fatal waterfall accident Saturday, July 19, 2025.

Associated Press

By CLAIRE RUSH
Associated Press

Oregon authorities on Monday confirmed a second death following a fatal waterfall accident as search and rescue operations continued for the one person who remains missing.

Search and rescue divers found the body of a second victim Monday morning, the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. The two confirmed deaths are both females, while the person still unaccounted for is male.

The accident happened Saturday afternoon when a group was swept over Dillon Falls on the Deschutes River, about 10 miles from Bend. One person died at the scene and three were rescued from the river.

Divers, boats, drones and dogs were de-

ployed Monday as part of search operations for the missing on the river, said Jason Carr, spokesperson for the sheriff's office.

He noted the unlikelihood of surviving the 15-foot (5-meter) falls and rapids.

"The whitewater lasts for a pretty decent stretch. So this isn't just like, 'oh, it's a quick falls and it's over,'" Carr said, noting the cold temperature and rocks in the swift water. "It's a pretty lengthy cascade of rushing water."

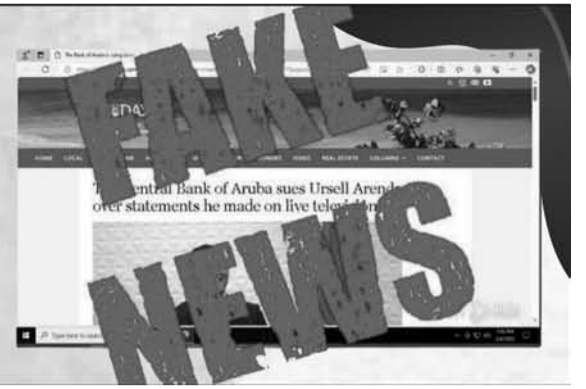
Detectives were working to determine how the group was swept over the falls and how those rescued were able to survive.

"The presumption is that the three to survive did not go through the falls because the chances of them living through that are almost slim to none," Carr said. □

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U.K., Canada and 23 other countries say the war in Gaza 'must end now'

By SYLVIA HUI and JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-five countries including Britain, Japan and a host of European nations issued a joint statement on Monday saying the war in Gaza "must end now" the latest sign of allies' sharpening language as Israel's isolation deepens.

The foreign ministers of countries also including Australia and Canada said "the suffering of civilians in Gaza has reached new depths." They condemned "the drip feeding of aid and the inhumane killing of civilians, including children, seeking to meet their most basic needs of water and food."

The statement described as "horrifying" the recent deaths of over 800 Palestinians who were seeking aid, according to the figures released by Gaza's Health Ministry and the U.N. human rights office.

"The Israeli government's aid delivery model is dan-



Smoke and flames erupt from an Israeli airstrike in Gaza City, Monday, July 21, 2025.

Associated Press

gerous, fuels instability and deprives Gazans of human dignity," the countries said. "The Israeli government's denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable. Israel must comply with its obligations under international human-

itarian law."

Notably absent from the new statement were the U.S. and Germany. Germany's foreign minister, Johann Wadepuhl, wrote on X that he spoke with Israeli counterpart Gideon Saar on Monday and expressed the "greatest concern

about the catastrophic humanitarian situation" in Gaza as Israel's offensive widens. He called on Israel to implement agreements with the EU to enable humanitarian aid.

Gaza's population of more than 2 million Palestinians is in a catastrophic humani-

tarian crisis, now relying largely on the limited aid allowed into the territory. Many people have been displaced multiple times.

Most of the food supplies Israel has allowed into Gaza go to the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, an American group backed by Israel. Since its operations began in May, hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in shootings by Israeli soldiers while heading to the sites, according to witnesses and health officials. Israel's 21 months of war with Hamas have pushed Gaza to the brink of famine, sparked worldwide protests and led to an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Allies' criticism about Israel's actions has had little clear effect. In May, Britain, France and Canada issued a joint statement urging Netanyahu's government to stop its military operations in Gaza and threatening "concrete actions" if it didn't. □

U.N. concerned by Taliban's arrest of Afghan women and girls for dress code violations

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The United Nations on Monday expressed concern about the Taliban's arrest of Afghan women and girls for their alleged failure to comply with the authorities' dress code.

In May 2022, the Taliban government issued a decree calling for women to show only their eyes and recommending they wear a head-to-toe burqa. The Taliban, which returned to power in 2021, has cracked down on the way women dress and behave in public, notably through morality laws forbidding them to show their faces outside the home.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan said it was concerned by the arrest of "numerous" women and girls in Kabul between July 16

and 19, who authorities claimed had not followed instructions on wearing the hijab, or the Islamic headscarf.

"These incidents serve to further isolate women and girls, contribute to a climate of fear, and erode public trust," the mission added, without details including the number of arrests or the ages and where they have been held.

The U.N. mission urged the Taliban government to "rescind policies and practices" that restrict women and girls' human rights and fundamental freedoms, particularly the ban on education beyond sixth grade. A Taliban representative was not immediately available for comment. □



A Taliban fighter stands guard as women wait to receive food rations distributed by a humanitarian aid group in Kabul, Afghanistan, May 23, 2023.

Associated Press

A Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashes into a school in Dhaka and kills at least 20

By JULHAS ALAM

Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)

— A Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft crashed into a school in Dhaka, the capital, shortly after takeoff on Monday afternoon, catching fire and killing the pilot and at least 19 other people, most of whom were students, officials said. Another 171 students were rescued with injuries from a smoldering two-story building, officials said, including many with burns who were whisked away in helicopters, motorized rickshaws and the arms of firefighters and parents.

The Chinese-made F-7 BGI training aircraft experienced a "technical malfunction" moments after takeoff at 1:06 p.m. local time, and the pilot attempted to divert the plane to a less populated area before crashing into the campus of Milestone School and College, according to a statement from the military. Students said the school's buildings trembled violently, followed by a big explosion that sent them running for safety. A desperate scene soon unfolded at the crash site, as panicked relatives searched for loved ones. Screams filled the air at a nearby hospital.

The Milestone school is in



Firemen work at the site of a Bangladesh Air Force training aircraft that crashed into a school campus shortly after takeoff in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Monday, July 21, 2025.

Associated Press

Dhaka's Uttara neighborhood, which is roughly 11 kilometers (7 miles) drive from the A.K. Khandaker air force base. The school is in a densely populated area near a metro station and numerous shops and homes.

The pilot, Flight Lt. Mohammed Toukir Islam, made "every effort to divert the aircraft away from densely populated areas toward a more sparsely inhabited location," the military said, adding that it would investigate the cause of the ac-

cident.

It is the deadliest plane crash in the Bangladeshi capital in recent memory. In 2008, another F-7 training jet crashed outside Dhaka, killing its pilot, who had ejected after he discovered a technical problem. The government announced a national day of mourning on Tuesday, with flags to fly at half-staff across the country.

At the crash site Monday afternoon, a father sprinted with his daughter cradled in his arms. A mother

cried out, having found her younger child, but desperately searched for her older one.

Another father described his feeling of helplessness while waiting to learn the fate of his daughter.

"The plane crashed on the building where my daughter was.

My wife called me, but I was praying so I could not pick up," Jewel, who goes by one name, said at the scene. "When I came here I saw there was a huge fire. There was a dead body of

a child."

Luckily, his daughter was safe, he said, but he saw many other children suffering from burns.

Students also scrambled to see what had happened. "We fought with the crowd and the soldiers to get close to the crash site in our school," said Estiak Elahi Khan, who is in the 11th grade. "What I saw I can't describe that ... that's terrible."

Doctors at Uttara Adhunik Hospital said more than 60 students, many between the ages of 12 and 16, were transferred to a special hospital for burn victims.

By Monday evening, rescuers continued to scour the debris, searching for bodies. A crane was being used to remove debris.

Bangladesh's interim leader, Muhammad Yunus, also pledged an investigation, and he expressed his deep sorrow over the "heartbreaking accident." He called it "a moment of deep national grief."

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed shock and sadness. "Our hearts go out to the bereaved families," Modi said in a post on X.

"India stands in solidarity with Bangladesh and is ready to extend all possible support and assistance." □

Egypt provides free train rides for Sudanese refugees returning home



A Sudanese woman and children, who were driven from their homes and are now returning, wait for their train to Aswan at Cairo's Ramses railway station, Egypt, Monday, July 21, 2025.

Associated Press

By AMR NABIL and NAJIB JOBAIN

CAIRO (AP) — Hundreds of people who have been displaced by fighting in Sudan gathered Monday at the central train station in Cairo to begin a free journey home.

The Egyptian government is funding train rides to Khartoum, Sudan's capital, which recently was recaptured by the Sudanese Armed Forces from its rival, the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces, or RSF. Sudan has been in the throes of civil war since April 2023. The battle for power between the military and the RSF has caused a humanitarian crisis. Over 40,000 people have been killed and the war has caused one of the world's largest displacement emergencies. Egypt hosts the largest number of Sudanese refugees

from the war with over 1.5 million people who fled north across the border. Over 7 million have been displaced internally as the war engulfed much of the country. The RSF took Khartoum at the start of the fighting in 2023 and held the capital until the government declared its recapture on May 20. Khartoum was largely destroyed, including the presidential palace and the airport, but is experiencing a slow rebirth as residents return and markets reopen. Electricity and basic services are not fully operational around the city. The journey from Cairo to Khartoum is about 2,080 kilometers (1,292 miles) and will include a train ride of about 12 hours to the southern Egyptian city of Aswan, where riders will change to ferries and buses to cross into Sudan. □



Casago Aruba: Redefining Island Stays with Full-Service Property Management



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Casago Aruba offers more than just stylish villas. Their curated portfolio includes a wide variety of condos, homes, and villas in different sizes to suit all types of travelers—from solo adventurers and couples to large families and groups. Every stay is backed by local expertise,

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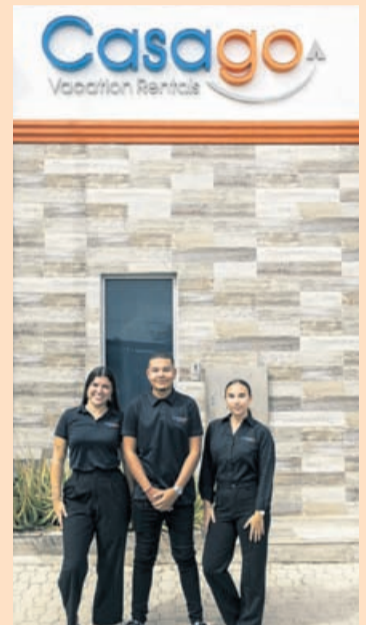
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What truly sets Casago Aruba apart is their commitment to the local community and to sustainable practices. The team works closely with local businesses and artisans, promotes eco-conscious travel, and



supports initiatives that contribute positively to the island's environment and economy.

As one of the fastest-growing vacation rental and property management companies on the island, Casago Aruba continues to expand its footprint—welcoming more travelers, partnering with more homeowners, and raising the standard of hospitality in Aruba. □

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

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



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

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down



when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history

that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

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



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Po-Ké Ono Brings Bold Asian Fusion to Aruba's Dining Scene

Innovative eatery blends island culture with modern Asian cuisine



In a culinary landscape known for its diversity and creativity, Po-Ké Ono stands out as a vibrant and contemporary addition to Aruba's restaurant scene. With locations at Azure in Palm Beach and the Renaissance Marketplace in Oranjestad, the concept introduces a refreshing take on Asian fusion dining—casual in style, yet refined in execution.

Established in 2020, Po-Ké Ono was envisioned as a space where flavor, culture, and creativity intersect. The menu features an array of signature dishes including poke bowls, steamed bao, and sushi, crafted with precision and a focus on freshness. Drawing on Asian influences, the restaurant delivers bold flavors in an approachable format, appealing to a broad audience of locals and visitors alike.

The ambiance is designed to be welcoming and relaxed, with a philosophy centered

around accessibility and enjoyment. Whether dining indoors or grabbing a quick bowl on the go, guests can expect a consistently high standard in both service and cuisine. With extensive menu options, including selections for vegan diners, Po-Ké Ono caters to a wide range of tastes and dietary preferences.

While the concept leans into fast-casual dining, the quality of ingredients and thoughtful



preparation reflect fine-dining roots. Many of the restaurant's core ingredients are sourced locally, emphasizing sustainability and support for Aruba's agricultural community. The result is a dining experience that honors both the island's spirit and the culinary traditions it draws inspiration from.

Open daily from 11:00 AM to 10:00 PM, Po-Ké Ono continues to gain recognition as one of the island's premier destinations for sushi, poke, and

bao. Its growing popularity is a testament to Aruba's evolving food culture—one that embraces global influence while staying rooted in community and craft.

For those seeking a modern taste of Asia in the heart of the Caribbean, Po-Ké Ono offers a flavorful and memorable experience worth exploring. □



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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 Chris and Erica Kosiorek from Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

She wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is one happy marriage on One Happy Island! 20 years later-behind us is the Playa Linda. This is where we stayed on our honeymoon."

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

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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!



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

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

Hi! Bye!

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

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

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

Greetings during the day

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

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.
3. Bon nochi. You guessed it, "bon nochi" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "nochi" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

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

A quick snack for the road: Learn how to make the Aruban Pastechi!

(Oranjestad)—If you ever been to Aruba before, you probably heard of (and even tried) the Aruban Pastechi. Beloved by young and old, this tasty treat is a staple for party snacks, a quick lunch or even breakfast!

Here's how to make the Pastechi dough.

Ingredients:4 cups of wheat flour
1 tbsp baking powder (if using self-rising flour, omit baking powder)
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp sugar
0.5 cup of melted butter
1 cup water
1 egg**Directions:**

Sift your flour into a bowl and add all the dry ingredients before giving it a quick mix. Next add the butter, water and egg and mix until thoroughly combined. At this point, your dough will start to get sticky; time for an arm workout. Knead your dough into the bowl you are using or on a clean surface with some flour lightly dusted until its surface is smooth. You'll know your dough is ready when it doesn't stick to your hands or the surface on which you're kneading it. Let your dough rest covered for 15-20 minutes.

After resting, divide your dough into approximately 100 gram balls and roll it flat with a rolling pin. The

thickness of the pastechi depends on your taste, but the average thinness would be around ¼ inch or so.

Filling for the pastechis varies according to your taste. The easiest and most common filling you'll find in Aruba is a simple cheese filling. For this, we usually use shredded Gouda, but feel free to use any cheese that melts well when frying the pastry.

Place the filling on your rolled out piece of dough, fold it in half and pinch the sides shut with a fork. If you have a folding tool, feel free to use it for this process. Your pastechi is ready for the fryer!

If you want to store some pastechis for later use, you can freeze them. A good tip is to place a piece of wax paper in between each pastechi if you are to store them on top of one another. This way the pastechis don't stick to each other when defrosting.

Here in Aruba we enjoy pastechi at any time of the day, but it has become almost tradition to eat pastechis for breakfast on the way to work. Many roadside snack trucks sell pastechi from early morning to noon, and offer a variety of fillings like cheese; ham and cheese; ground beef and pulled chicken to name a few. □

Basic driving rules on Aruba: Traffic signs

(Oranjestad)—Safe driving is an important part of any (off) road trip. That is why we want to offer you tips and tricks when it comes to driving on the roads and highways of Aruba. Today, we'll take a look at traffic signs.

Speed limit in certain areas

As mentioned in yesterday's issue, the legal minimum and maximum speed limit on the island is 50 and 80 km/h respectively. However, there are some areas where it is mandated to drive up to a certain speed. This is always indicated by a circular traffic sign with red border and the number 50 on it. Signs like these are always paired by a similar sign with the number crossed out further down the road. This means that the mandate for this speed is now over; you may increase your velocity. Red borders on traffic sign—whether it's a circle or triangle—usually



signal a warning, prohibition or preference.



bebouwde kom



end bebouwde kom



end priority



end speed limit



intersection priority



priority



speed limit



stop sign



triangle stop sign

Besides the "50" sign, you may also encounter a traffic sign that says "bebouwde kom". These can be found in San Nicolas and Oranjestad. Bebouwde kom signs are rectangular and blue, and essentially tell you that you are in a heavily inhabited area. The maximum speed limit in a bebouwde kom is 50 km/h. Just like the previous pair, bebouwde kom signs are also paired with a similar sign crossed out.

Priority signs

On the main roads of Aruba (not the highways), you may see a yellow, squared sign with a white border. This sign tells you that on this road, you have priority and all other traffic should yield to you. This sign can be seen in Savaneta for example. So, if you are driving on the main road in Savaneta going to San Nicolas, you are driving on a single long road, and other cars that want to get on this main road or cross it, either from an intersection or from a dirt road, must all wait until traffic on the main road is clear. In other words, you do not have to stop for them. This sign too has a counter part that indicates that your priority is over.

Another priority sign you may encounter is a triangle sign with a red border and something that looks like a cross. You'll see this sign in an intersection. The general rule of thumb for crossing an intersection that do not contain traffic lights, roundabouts, sign or arrows on the road, is to always yield for traffic on your right. However, if you encounter this sign on your side of the intersection, you have priority over the other cars, even the one on your right.

However, be careful not to confuse this sign with a similar up-side down triangle, also found on intersections. This sign is a prohibition sign, telling you that you have to stop and give other cars priority. Of course you also have a "stop" sign that mean the same thing. The stop sign is generally used for tricky intersections with minimal view of opposite incoming traffic.

These are some of the basic rules that you would have to know if you decide to drive on the island. These are of course other traffic signs, and we recommend you visit aruba-travelguide.com for an extensive overview of all traffic signs used on Aruba. □

Picture credits: aruba-travelguide.com

Did you know about...?

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today is proud to officially introduce a new segment called Did you know about...?, where we dive into some (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this first edition, we look back at the Aruban florin: its history, design and symbolism.

In Aruba, we know the 5, 10, 25 and 50 cent coins, along with the 1 and 5 Florin coin. Aruban Florin bills include the 10, 25, 50, 100, and rarely, the 200 bills. In Papiamentu we call our currency Florin, but the umbrella term for money is placa. Cents are called cen (pronounced: seng), both in the singular and plural form. Most coins are circular and their size depend on their worth. However, the 50 cent coin is easily recognizable by their square shape, as is the 5 Florin coin by their golden color. Every coin has the Aruban emblem carved on it, with the other side displaying the worth of the coin. The bigger 1 and 5 florin coins, however, contain the carving of the emblem on one side, while displaying the side profile of the Dutch king, Willem-Alexander, on the other side. When his mother, Princess Beatrix, was reigning queen, it was her profile that was carved on the two coins.

Outdated Aruban coins and their names

In the past, Aruban coins had distinctive names and also varied in worth. For example, a 5-cent coin was once called Dos placa; 10-cent coins were called debchi; 25-cent coins were called diez placa and the 50-cent coin was once called Yotin (pronounced: jo-teen). We also used a distinctive coins worth 2 ½ cents, called placa too. However, this last coin is no longer in use and has become a relic of Aruban money. Back then, the 5-Florin coin used to also be square, but now it is circular.

Aruban bills: their design and symbolism

The Aruban Florin collection contains a variation of colorful bills, displaying incredibly detailed and beautiful designs that tell the story of Aruba on a single piece of paper.

Prior to 2019, the Aruban Florin bills were relatively simpler in design compared to now, but still included beautiful designs and colors, often depicting local animals. These past designs were made by the Aruban



artist Everino Fingal in 1990 up to 2019. Between 1990 and 1993, the 5 Florin coin was a bill. The Fingal designs also included a 500-Florin bill, which has now been discontinued.

In 2019, the Central Bank of Aruba commissioned a new design of the Aruba Florin bills, this time selecting artist and former art teacher, Nigel Matthew, to present his new design. Matthew kept the tradition of including local animals and the familiar colors on the bills. However, he included additional designs that represent the Aruban culture and link to the Indigenous inhabitants that were the first to set foot on the island.

Current design and symbolism 10 florin

On the 10-florin bill, you can see a Turtuga blanco (white turtle). The blue color symbolizes the blue Caribbean Sea. You can also see the ruins of the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins, a coral motif, and the symbols of Cas Floria (traditional Aruban house design) with a piece of mosaic.

25 florin

On this orange bill, you can see an Aruban medicinal plant called Shoshoro. The birds Trupiaal, Shoco, rock drawings, and the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic are also depicted. There is also

a Purun di ceramica (clay pot), in reference to the relics left behind by our indigenous ancestors.

50 florin

On this bill, we see the Cododo (blue lizard found on the ABC islands), Cangreu di tera (land crab), Willem III Tower, and again the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, as well as a beach plant called Banana di rif. The colors are pink/purple.

100 florin

This bill is green in color, representing nature. Here we see the Yuwana (Iguana), Aloe, Toteki (lizard), the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, and a dance group performing the Baile di cinta (folkloric dance with silk ribbons).

200 florin

There is another bill with a value of 200 dollars. The brown color symbolizes the earth of Aruba. Here we see the Dornasol and the Warawara—both local birds, along with the symbols of Cas Floria with a piece of mosaic, the Tuna cactus plant, and the Caha di orgel (folkloric instrument, used for many traditional songs).

Extra fact:

the word “florin” supposedly is named after the Italian city of Florence or it's a reference to the Italian word “florino”, both explanations related to historical Italian currencies.□

Source: Placa, placa, placa by the National Library of Aruba



CROSSWORD

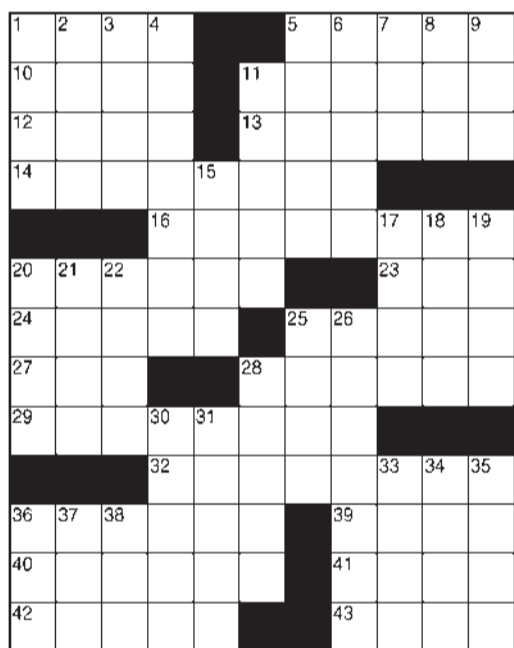
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Alveoli setting
- 5 Psycho-analysis pioneer
- 10 Seoul setting
- 11 Rugged range
- 12 Hat material
- 13 Jewelry buy
- 14 Philosophy topic
- 16 Don Quixote target
- 20 So far
- 23 Stage prompt
- 24 Approves
- 25 Boat's back
- 27 Bruin Bobby
- 28 Rich
- 29 Dumping site
- 32 Animal on the shoulder
- 36 Show up
- 39 Sky shade
- 40 Defeats decisively
- 41 Cruise stop
- 42 Sycophant
- 43 Guys' dates

DOWN

- 1 Guffaw, informally
- 2 Manual reader
- 3 Cairo's river
- 4 Entrance
- 5 Game site
- 6 Empire
- 7 Go astray
- 8 Online address
- 9 German article
- 11 Book part
- 15 Funny folks
- 17 Like cupcakes
- 18 Entice
- 19 Give for a bit
- 20 Square or plane
- 21 Gumbo base
- 22 "Nuts!"
- 25 Auction cry
- 26 Boast
- 28 Tale tellers
- 30 Intense fear
- 31 Like hair mousse
- 33 "Casa-blanca" role
- 34 Temporary
- 35 Directors Spike and Ang
- 36 Play a part
- 37 Favoring
- 38 Stew sphere



7-27

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.

7-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

VPVNHEOCFD CI SVN VJWFH

CF EOV UCGY DZNYVF

WQ SOCGYOWWY. — RZAGW

FVNXYZ

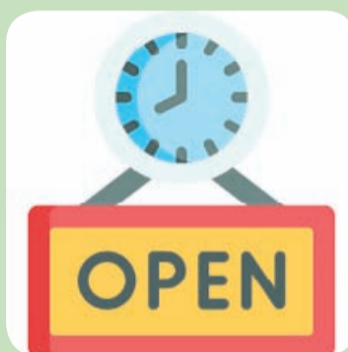
Cryptoquote: REMEMBER UPON THE CONDUCT OF EACH DEPENDS THE FATE OF ALL.
— ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Cruise ship Schedule: July 17 - 30 2025

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	17	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	17.00	C	1
SUN	20	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
TUE	22	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	23.00	C	1
WED	23	CELEBRITY REFLECTION	07.00	16.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	1
SUN	27	FREEWINDS - Dept.	****	22.30	E	-
WED	30	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	08.00	23.00	C	1
		FREEWINDS	06.00	****	E	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.



Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 8 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.



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.

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★

7/22

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★

7/21

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What to know about a vulnerability being exploited on Microsoft SharePoint servers



The Microsoft company logo is displayed at their offices in Sydney, Australia, on Feb. 3, 2021

Associated Press

By SHAWN CHEN

NEW YORK (AP)—Microsoft has issued an emergency fix to close off a vulnerability in Microsoft's widely-used SharePoint software that hackers have exploited to carry out widespread attacks on businesses and at least some U.S. government agencies.

The company issued an alert to customers Saturday saying it was aware of the zero-day exploit being used to conduct attacks and that it was working to patch the issue. Microsoft updated its guidance Sunday with instructions to fix the problem for SharePoint Server 2019 and SharePoint Server Subscription Edition. Engineers were still working on a fix for the older SharePoint Server 2016 software. "Anybody who's got a

hosted SharePoint server has got a problem," said Adam Meyers, senior vice president with CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm. "It's a significant vulnerability." Companies and government agencies around the world use SharePoint for internal document management, data organization and collaboration.

What is a zero-day exploit? A zero-day exploit is a cyberattack that takes advantage of a previously unknown security vulnerability. "Zero-day" refers to the fact that the security engineers have had zero days to develop a fix for the vulnerability. According to the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the exploit affecting SharePoint is "a variant

of the existing vulnerability CVE-2025-49706 and poses a risk to organizations with on-premise SharePoint servers."

Security researchers warn that the exploit, reportedly known as "ToolShell," is a serious one and can allow actors to fully access SharePoint file systems, including services connected to SharePoint, such as Teams and OneDrive. Google's Threat Intelligence Group warned that the vulnerability may allow bad actors to "bypass future patching."

How widespread is the impact?

Eye Security said in its blog post that it scanned over 8,000 SharePoint servers worldwide and discovered that at least dozens of systems were compromised. The cybersecurity company said the attacks likely began on July 18. □

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Malcolm-Jamal Warner, 'Cosby Show' actor, dies at 54 in Costa Rica drowning

By JAVIER CORDOBA and ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)

— Malcolm-Jamal Warner the actor who played teenage son Theo Huxtable on "The Cosby Show," has died at age 54 in an accidental drowning in Costa Rica, authorities there said. Costa Rica's Judicial Investigation Department said Monday that Warner drowned Sunday afternoon on a beach on Costa Rica's Caribbean coast. He was swimming at Playa Cocles in Limon province when a current pulled him deeper into the ocean.

"He was rescued by people on the beach," the department's initial report said, but first responders from Costa Rica's Red Cross found him without vital signs and he was taken to the morgue. Warner created many TV moments etched in the memories of Generation X children and their parents, including a pilot-episode argument with Bill Cosby's Cliff Huxtable about mon-



Malcolm-Jamal Warner arrives at the 65th annual Grammy Awards, Feb. 5, 2023, in Los Angeles. Associated Press

ey and an ear piercing he tries to hide from his dad. His Theo was the only son among four daughters in the household of Cliff Huxtable and Phylicia Rashad's Clair Huxtable on the NBC sitcom, and he would be one of the prime

representations of American teenage boyhood on a show that was the most popular in America for much of its run from 1984 to 1992.

He played the role for eight seasons in all 197 episodes, winning an Emmy nomina-

tion for supporting actor in a comedy in 1986. For many the lasting image of the character, and of Warner, is of him wearing a badly botched mock designer shirt sewed by his sister Denise, played by Lisa Bonet.

Warner later appeared on the sitcom "Malcolm & Eddie," co-starring with comedian Eddie Griffin in the series on the defunct UPN network from 1996 to 2000. And in the 2010s he starred opposite Tracee Ellis Ross as a family-blending couple for two seasons on the BET sitcom "Read Between The Lines."

He also had a role as O.J. Simpson's friend Al Cowlings on "American Crime Story" and was a series regular on Fox's "The Resident."

His film roles include the 2008 rom-com "Fool's Gold" with Matthew McConaughey and Kate Hudson. A poet and a musician, Warner was a Grammy winner, for best traditional R&B performance, and was nominated for best spoken word poetry album for "Hiding in Plain View."

Warner was married with a daughter, but chose to not publicly disclose their names. Warner's representatives declined immediate comment. □

Music Review: Elton John's 'Live From the Rainbow Theatre With Ray Cooper' spotlights a rich catalog

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

On Elton John's new concert album, the songs steal

the show.

Deep cuts from John's rich catalog are given the spotlight on "Live From the

Rainbow Theatre With Ray Cooper." The 13-song set was culled from a six-show residency in London in May 1977, with John at the piano and his longtime percussionist, Cooper, joining him for the second half of the show.

The album initially received a limited release on vinyl for Record Store Day and will be available digitally and on CD for the first time beginning Friday.

While John, of course, performed his biggest hits during the residency, the album wisely focuses on often overlooked material, pointing to the astounding quantity of quality songs John produced early in his career.

That includes "Cage the Songbird," a lilting tribute to Édith Piaf from the underrated 1976 LP "Blue Moves." Another highlight from that album is the cabaret jazz

ballad "Idol," which shows John could have thrived in a lounge had the rock star thing not worked out.

The piano man's playing here is closer to Liberace than Little Richard, because ballads predominate, and Cooper's role is tastefully restrained. Even when the tempo gets brisk on "Better Off Dead," the song is delightfully hammy operetta rather than rock 'n' roll.

From start to finish, John sings with relish: He knows how good these songs are. "Where To Now St. Peter?" features an especially vigorous vocal, including full-throated falsetto.

"Live From the Rainbow Theatre" underscores John's lyricist Bernie Taupin's vital role in their songwriting partnership. The album opens with "The Greatest Discovery," a pairing of sweet sentiment and

a charming melody, while "Ticking" is a gripping tale set in Queens that anticipated America's epidemic of gun violence.

John introduces "Ticking" and two other songs by noting he doesn't perform them often, or often enough. Banter elsewhere is mostly brief and stiff, but his droll wit does surface in one exchange with a spectator.

"How are you tonight? Nice handkerchief," John says, before telling the rest of the audience, "He hasn't washed that in three years."

The 1977 performances took place as punk and disco were knocking John off his pop pedestal and ending his years-long reign as a consistent hitmaker. "Live From the Rainbow Theatre" offers a reminder that not all of his superb songs were singles. □



This album cover image released by UMe shows "Live from the Rainbow Theatre with Ray Cooper" by Elton John.

Associated Press

British Open champion Scottie Scheffler says comparisons to Tiger Woods 'a bit silly'

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PORTRUSH, Northern Ireland

(AP) — Another comparison between Tiger Woods and Scottie Scheffler surfaced during the final round of the British Open. This one wasn't about numbers or trophies, but a fist pump.

And it was for par.

Scheffler needed only one hour to expand his four-shot lead to seven shots with a steady diet of fairways and greens at Royal Portrush on Sunday, along with three birdie putts. But he missed his tee shot on the par-3 sixth and his chip was weak, leaving him a 15-foot par putt.

Scheffler fiercely pumped his fist when it dropped, evoking memories of Woods and his 15-shot win at Pebble Beach in the 2000 U.S. Open.

Woods had a 12-foot par putt on the 16th hole of that final round, and it was the most emotion he showed all day when he made it. He wanted a clean card and wound up going his final 26 holes bogey-free. Woods was so utterly dominant that his only competition came from himself.

That's how it felt with Scheffler when he won the claret jug for the third leg of the career Grand Slam.

Scheffler went 32 holes without a bogey until he took two shots to get out of a fairway bunker on No. 8 and made double bogey. What stood out to Scheffler in his four-shot victory



Scottie Scheffler of the United States speak at a press conference after winning the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club, Northern Ireland, Sunday, July 20, 2025.

Associated Press

was the lack of bogeys, the DNA of his dominance.

"To only have one double really one over-par hole in the last 36 holes of a major championship that's how you're able to win these tournaments," he said.

He won the British Open by four shots. He won the PGA Championship in May by five shots. He won by four in the 2024 Masters. Scheffler was five shots ahead on the final hole in his first Masters win in 2022 when he four-putted while simply trying to finish.

There are plenty of numbers to consider, starting with his position at No. 1 in the world. No one has held it longer since Woods.

Scheffler and Woods are the only players in the last 50 years to win two majors in the same year by at least four shots. Researchers with time on their hands at the PGA Tour discovered that Scheffler and Woods each went 1,197 days between winning their first and fourth majors.

Enough of the comparisons, Scheffler said.

"I still think they're a bit silly," he said. "Tiger won, what, 15 majors? This is my fourth. I just got one-fourth of the way there. I think Tiger stands alone in the game of golf. He was inspirational for me growing up. He was a very, very talented guy, and he was a special

person to be able to be as good as he was at the game of golf."

For majors alone, a better comparison would be with Rory McIlroy. He also won four majors in three years, including two of them in 2014. McIlroy won a U.S. Open and a PGA Championship by eight shots, the latter a record margin.

And then he went 11 years without a major. Greatness in golf is also about longevity.

Scheffler won for the fourth time this year and now has 20 victories worldwide. He has won 11 straight times with the 54-hole lead.

The 29 year old from Texas was introduced as champion golfer of the year, a title the R&A has used for more than a century. Scheffler at this rate might be champion golfer of his generation.

And to think he was slowed at the start of the year recovering from a puncture wound on his right hand that he got while trying to cut ravioli with a wine glass. The year's top highlight still might be McIlroy winning the Masters amid tense drama to finally complete the Grand Slam. That was his third win of the season, following The Players Championship and Pebble Beach. McIlroy, however, sounded almost dismissive about

them Sunday evening.

"I also had the three wins when Scottie wasn't quite on his game," he said.

Also driving the comparisons to Woods are high praise from just about everyone who has had to face Scheffler since that first win in 2022.

"He is the bar that we're all trying to get to," McIlroy said. "I don't think we thought the golfing world would see someone as dominant as Tiger come through so soon, and here's Scottie sort of taking that throne of dominance," Xander Schauffele said. "You can't even say he's on a run. He's just been killing it for over two years now."

Any hesitation about comparisons besides the 15-4 tally in majors, as Scheffler is quick to point out is their style of play. Woods was as dynamic as he was relentless, especially with recovery shots. Scheffler doesn't have that many because he's rarely out of position.

Woods was groomed for stardom when he appeared on "The Mike Douglas Show" at age 2. Scheffler never cared about anything other than playing golf and getting better at it. "He doesn't care to be a superstar. He's not transcending the game like Tiger did. He's not bringing it to a non-golf audience necessarily," Jordan Spieth said. "He doesn't want to go do the stuff that a lot of us go do, corporately, anything like that."

He works. He competes. He wins. That's what Woods did, and that's what matters to Scheffler.

"I don't focus on that kind of stuff," Scheffler said of the comparisons. "That's not what motivates me. I'm not motivated by winning championships. I don't look at the beginning of the year and just say, 'I want to win X amount of tournaments.' I don't do that."

"When I wake up to practice, what motivates me is getting to live out my dream," he said. "I get to play professional golf, and I feel like I'm called to do it to the best of my ability." □



Venus Williams wins a doubles match at Washington in her first tournament in more than a year

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Competing at a tournament for the first time in more than a year, and in doubles for the first time in nearly three, Venus Williams hit a big serve on her initial delivery at the DC Open on Monday and, curiously, it was wiped out by a foot-fault call. The 45-year-old Williams,

an owner of 21 Grand Slam titles across singles and doubles, smiled incredulously, as did the other three players involved in the

in front of a full crowd that eventually included NBA star Kevin Durant. And then Williams carried on, displaying her trademark power on some strokes and missing others while teaming with Hailey Baptiste for a 6-3, 6-1 victory against 2014 Wimbledon runner-up Eugenie Bouchard and Clervie Ngounoue.

"My personal goal is to have fun I think right now, and enjoy the moment, not put too much pressure on myself," Williams said Sunday as she prepared to return to action for the first time since the Miami Open in March 2024. "Of course I love winning. I want to win.

But more than anything, I just want to get the best out of myself. If I can do that, then I'll be fine."

She did both winning, yes, and contributing plenty to the cause, but also having a good time, high-fiving or fist-bumping Baptiste after some of their best points, laughing after others and waving to an appreciative crowd that

roared over and over for Williams. She and Baptiste hugged when it ended.

It was full at 3,000-seat John Harris Court, where Durant showed up late in the first set, while across the way at the 7,500-capacity main stadium, only a few dozen spectators were scattered in the seats for an all-American singles match involving Reilly Opelka against Murphy Cassone.

Asked to comment about the court assignments, tournament director Daniel Vallverdú said: "The tournament works to balance full singles and doubles ATP and WTA schedules, while coordinating with broadcaster requests for court assignments."

When Williams, wearing a white visor as she so often did, was introduced before participating in doubles for the first time since the 2022 U.S. Open when her partner was younger sister Serena the stadium announcer mentioned that Venus has "one of the best serves in the history of the game," that she "turned pro in the last century" and "has won everything."

That includes seven major singles trophies five at Wimbledon, two at the U.S. Open and an additional 14 in doubles with Serena, plus

four Olympic gold medals. "She's one of the best athletes of all time. Her and her sister, they're not only great for the women's game, not only great for women's sports, but they are so iconic," said Frances Tiafoe, a two-time U.S. Open semifinalist whose twin brother, Franklin, is a coach for Baptiste. "People are going to go crazy to see her."

There will be other opportunities to see her this week: In singles, Williams is set to face Peyton Stearns, a 23-year-old American currently ranked No. 35 who won NCAA singles and team championships at the University of Texas.

"I was surprised to see her in the draw this week," said Emma Navarro, a U.S. Open semifinalist a year ago and seeded No. 2 in Washington.

"She's obviously a legend of the game. I saw a video on Instagram of her hitting out here on the practice courts that backhand, you can't miss. Good for her. She's sticking with it at her age."

Williams' long absence from tennis was unwanted: She spoke in an interview with NBC earlier this month about having a procedure to remove fibroids from her uterus. □



Venus Williams, right, hugs her doubles partner Hailey Baptiste, left, after they defeated Eugenie Bouchard and Clervie Ngounoue in a doubles match at the Citi Open tennis tournament Monday, July 21, 2025, in Washington.

Associated Press

Caitlin Clark not expected to play when Indiana Fever resume season Tuesday at New York

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Caitlin Clark is not expected to be available on Tuesday night when Indiana resumes its season at the defending champion New York Liberty, Fever coach Stephanie White said.

Clark missed Indiana's final game before the All-Star break with an injured right groin and pulled out of Friday night's 3-point contest as well as Saturday's All-Star Game.

Clark told reporters on Saturday night that she had been getting treatment during the festivities, which also took place in Indianapolis. She was injured in the final

minute of Tuesday's victory at Connecticut.

While she is improving, White said, the Fever intend to be cautious with Clark, who missed 10 games during the first half of the season with three different muscle injuries.

"She's going to see some doctors and get more tests early in the week," White said. "I don't expect her to be available on Tuesday, so we're just going to take it one day at a time and let her get evaluations early this week and then, once we've done that, hopefully we'll have more of a clear vision of what it looks like."

Clark never missed a game because of injury during her college career at Iowa or last season when she was selected the WNBA's Rookie of the Year.

The two-time All-Star is averaging 16.5 points, 8.8 assists and 5.0 rebounds this season for a team that was expected to contend for a league championship. But Clark's injuries and other obstacles have kept the Fever hovering near the middle of the standings with a 12-11 mark. "These soft tissue injuries, sometimes nag until you can actually have time to really allow to heal in the offseason," White said. □



Indiana Fever's Caitlin Clark watches following a WNBA All-Star basketball game against Team Collier, Saturday, July 19, 2025, in Indianapolis.

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