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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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



Happy Hour  
12-1 / 4-6 / 9-10

\*\*\*  
PREMIUM  
BRANDS  
\*\*\*



# Who killed Trump's AI order? Musk says it wasn't him

## Washington, United States

Speculation swirled Friday over the last-minute collapse of President Donald Trump's planned executive order on powerful AI models, with fingers pointing at the president's allies in Silicon Valley who oppose government oversight of the technology.

A draft of the shelved order leaked to U.S. media shows the White House had prepared new AI cybersecurity measures before Trump pulled the plug Thursday. His former AI czar had reportedly called Trump directly to raise objections.

The collapse is the latest sign that Washington remains unable to agree on even modest guardrails for the technology leaving the United States well behind Europe and Asia and far short of what many safety advocates say is needed. If enacted, the dropped executive order would have given the federal government up to 90 days of access to the most powerful AI models before their public release, while establishing a coordinated response to AI-enabled threats to banks, hospitals and other critical infrastructure.

Politico and other media reported that David Sacks, the Silicon Valley venture capitalist who served as



**U.S.-South African entrepreneur, author, investor in internet technology firms and White House AI and crypto czar David O. Sacks looks on before U.S. President Donald Trump signs executive orders on pediatric cancer research and AI in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., on September 30, 2025.**

Trump's AI and crypto czar, called the president Thursday morning blindsiding White House staff to warn that the measure would slow innovation and hurt the U.S. in its AI race with China.

Officials believed Sacks supported the order, but the night before the planned signing he began raising concerns that the voluntary review process could one day be made mandatory.

The Washington Post reported a broader account: Last-minute calls from Sacks, SpaceX and Tesla

CEO Elon Musk, and Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg convinced the president not to sign.

Musk denied the claim on his social media platform X. "This is false. I still don't know what was in that executive order and the president only spoke to me after declining to sign," he wrote.

Meta also disputed the report, saying Zuckerberg had spoken to Trump only after the order was rescinded.

### - Fear of Mythos -

To assuage concerns of government overreach,

the draft explicitly stated that nothing in the order should be read as creating a mandatory licensing or approval requirement for AI models.

According to The Information and other media, tech companies also pushed to cut the pre-release access window from 90 days to just 14.

The order was triggered by concerns over Anthropic's Mythos model, which the AI startup has refused to release publicly over its ability to expose vulnerabilities in computer systems including those of banks, govern-

ments and hospitals. Sacks has said that concerns about Mythos and models of its power were legitimate and that defenses needed to be put in place, but cautioned that Washington policymakers were trying to take advantage of the situation.

Speaking on his "All-In" podcast this month, Sacks said pre-release government approvals were "solving a problem that didn't really exist," since Anthropic and other AI companies were already keeping Mythos-like models away from the public.

For Sacks, "AI ideologues or doomers" were trying to use Mythos to "create a permanent new infrastructure in Washington."

The collapse of Thursday's effort leaves the administration with no formal plan for managing the security risks posed by the most powerful AI systems and no timeline for producing one. Trump scrapped an AI oversight order signed by his predecessor Joe Biden on his first day back in the White House. Biden's 2023 order required AI companies to share safety test results with the government and leaned heavily on voluntary commitments already a light-touch approach that fell well short of what many experts had called for. □

## U.S. Green Card seekers must now apply from home countries



**Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Joseph Edlow, testifies before a Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in an oversight hearing amid scrutiny over immigration enforcement and recent developments in Minnesota at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC on February 12, 2026.**

### Washington, United States

The Trump administration announced on Friday that most foreigners seeking a Green Card granting permanent US residency must apply from their home countries.

"From now on, an alien who is in the U.S. temporarily and wants a Green Card must return to their home country to apply, except in extraordinary circumstances," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) spokesman Zach Kahler said in a statement.

"Nonimmigrants, like students, temporary workers, or people on tourist visas, come to the US for a short time and for a specific purpose," Kahler said.

"Our system is designed for them to leave when their visit is over," he said. "Their visit should not function as the first step in the Green Card process."

According to The Washington Post, the United States grants more than one million Green Cards each year and, up until now, more than half of the applicants are already in the United States.

Kahler said having Green Card seekers apply from their home nation "reduces the need to find and remove those who decide to slip into the shadows and remain in the U.S. illegally after being denied residency."

He said Green Card applications would be handled by the State Department at U.S. consular offices abroad.

President Donald Trump campaigned for the White House on a pledge to expel millions of undocumented migrants and his administration has also closed several legal pathways to U.S. residency since he took office. □

# With record-low snow, Colorado preps for wildfire onslaught

## Ridgway, United States

Larry Graves pulled up to a home tucked into a Colorado mountainside. His radio was crackling, as was the wildfire burning beyond the trees it was time to move.

"You guys hear about the mandatory evacuation?" the Ouray County sheriff's deputy asked resident Amy Clewell.

But this was just a drill. Emergency responders in Ouray County were training on a large scale for the first time for this year's wildfire season that is predicted to be one of the worst ever in the American West.

States from Arizona to Wyoming rely on Rocky Mountain snowfall for their water supply. But the region had record-breaking high temperatures last winter, causing historically low levels of snowpack.

The result: parched soil and vegetation deal conditions for wildfires.

Twenty-seven minutes after Graves's visit, an ambulance arrived to pick up Jordan Wyatt and Jennifer Shook, who were portraying injured victims. A short distance away, firefighters hosed water onto an imaginary blaze.

Shook, who uses a wheelchair and works for an organization supporting people with disabilities, volunteered for the mock rescue after her mother last sum-



A sign featuring the U.S. Forest Service mascot, Smokey Bear, lists the fire danger level outside the North-West Fire Station #2 in Fairplay, Colorado, on May 14, 2026.

mer was unable to access updates from authorities as a wind-whipped wildfire quickly cut off roads near her home.

"Watching her stress level and knowing that we have other people with disabilities that would need to be evacuated, I wanted to participate," she said.

### - 'Never seen anything like it' -

This type of drill, increasingly common in Colorado, is essential for identifying coordination gaps among emergency responders.

They also help residents prepare for the nerve-

wracking scenario of an evacuation.

"I've worked here my whole life and I've never seen anything like" this year, said Aaron Jonke, fire chief in the small town of Salida.

"The moisture is way down, so it's a much more dangerous situation," he said, adding that he'd been warning residents about fire risk since January.

"With climate change, the fire season changed from a summer event to a year-long event."

Jonke spoke to AFP at Colorado Fire Camp, a training facility where participants

on a recent day were learning to use chainsaws, an essential tool for creating firebreaks in forests.

Daniel Pusher planned to bring his new skills home to his White Mountain Apache Tribe in eastern Arizona to carry out a tree-thinning project.

Reducing overgrowth mitigates fire risk while improving the overall ecosystem and water quality, he said, adding that the drought has made his community extra vigilant, to "take care of our land."

Eight of the region's 11 states recorded their lowest-ever levels of snowpack

this past winter. Colorado, one of the eight, activated its drought plan in March.

### - Marmots and flowers -

Home to some of the world's top ski destinations, Colorado has seen its landscape become unrecognizable by the drought.

At Loveland Pass, with an altitude of 3,650 meters (11,975 feet), Tim Faris was surveying grassy slopes with skis in hand, looking for a patch of snow to carve.

"Usually I can ski until the end of June," he said. "Now I'm hiking past marmots and flowers to get to where I can find some snow."

Down in the valley, the docks at a small marina on the Dillon Reservoir sat on a bed of mud, with water levels six meters below normal. The Antero Reservoir, a popular fishing spot, was blocked by a padlocked gate.

"No recreation due to low water levels," a sign said.

The drought has further exacerbated long-running conflicts over the distribution of water from the Colorado River, which provides drinking water for 40 million people and irrigates farms throughout the region.

In Colorado's capital city Denver, authorities transferred water from one reservoir to another, to reduce the amount that will be lost to evaporation. □

# U.S. forecasters says chances of strong El Nino growing

## Washington, United States

The U.S. climate prediction center said Thursday that the potentially powerful El Nino weather pattern is "likely to emerge soon" and could reach "very strong" levels later in the year.

It's the latest forecast to raise concern over how the naturally occurring phenomenon could pile on to climate change impacts and leave populations worldwide vulnerable to extreme weather.

Scientists at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said in their latest monthly bulletin that there's an 82 percent

chance El Nino will emerge between May and July and continue into next year.

And there's currently a more than 50 percent chance that it will become "strong" or "very strong" at some point from September through November, according to NOAA charts.

But scientists cautioned that "while confidence in the occurrence of El Nino has increased since last month, there is still substantial uncertainty in the peak strength of El Nino."

They also emphasized that "stronger events do not always mean bigger weath-

er and climate impacts," though "stronger events can make it more likely that certain impacts could occur."

El Nino occurs around every two to seven years and is forecast based on sea temperatures.

It is one phase of a natural climate cycle in Pacific Ocean temperatures and trade winds. It influences global weather and increases the likelihood of drought, heavy rainfall and other climate extremes.

It also adds heat to a planet already warmed from burning fossil fuels. The last El Nino helped make 2023

and 2024 the second- and first-hottest years on record,

respectively. □



A spray rainbow is seen after a Los Angeles County helicopter dropped water on a hotspot as the Sandy fire continues to burn in the hills near a residential area in Simi Valley, California, on May 20, 2026.

# Women directors close Cannes, putting gender imbalance in spotlight

## Cannes, France

Films by two women directors wrapped up the main competition at the Cannes Film Festival on Friday, with men once again dominating the line up in a reflection of an industry where progress towards gender parity has stalled.

Only five out of 22 of the films in the main competition this year were directed by women, with premieres for "The Dreamed Adventure" by Germany's Valeska Grisebach and "The Birthday Party" by French filmmaker Lea Mysius taking place on the last day.

"I can't really explain it because I'm not the committee. I'm not the one who decides," Grisebach told AFP on Friday when asked about the imbalance. "I'm surrounded by many great female filmmakers."

Only three women have won the Palme d'Or for best film in the 79-year history of the world's most prestigious film festival.

In 1993, Jane Campion became the first woman to receive a Palme d'Or for "The Piano".

In 2021, French director Julia Ducournau won one for "Titane", followed by Jus-



French Director Lea Mysius poses on the red carpet during the closing ceremony of the 51st edition of the Deauville American film festival, in Deauville, northwestern France, on September 13, 2025.

tine Triet two years later for "Anatomy of a Fall".

French director Geraldine Nakache, who unveiled her latest film "Si Tu Penses Bien" ("If You Think So") in a parallel section of the festival, said she felt a "a bit powerless".

"I'm here with my film and I tell myself, 'I'm lucky to be here,' that things are moving forward and then someone shows me the statistics," she told AFP.

## - 'Slow' -

Cannes Festival organisers drew criticism from some activists this year for using the movie "Thelma and Louise" on its official poster. Feminist collective 50/50 accused organisers of "feminism washing" by using actors Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon for publicity purposes.

"Programming is a political act," Fanny De Casimacker from the collective told AFP. "If only 23 percent of

directors (in competition) are women, we're going to miss out on some stories."

Festival supremo Thierry Fremaux stressed that all the juries and the Cannes governing body were gender equal, while the festival alone cannot correct the structural imbalances of the industry.

"If we are hesitating between two films... and that hesitation is between a film by a male director and a film by a female director,

we will choose the film by the female director," he said at the start of the festival.

Although they only make up only 23 percent of the main competition, women directors account for 34 percent of all feature films picked for the official Cannes programme, which includes several parallel sections, according to festival figures.

"Today we're seeing more and more women directors in upcoming cinema, so they are gradually making their way into the competition," explained Fremaux, who has been running Cannes for two decades. "The figures show that things are moving forward, that it's slow, that it's not enough."

## - 'Endemic' -

The picture is similar, or worse, in Hollywood.

A study earlier this year by the University of Southern California Annenberg Inclusion Initiative found that only nine of the 100 biggest US movies last year were directed by women.

Speaking last weekend in Cannes, "The Hours" star Julianne Moore bemoaned a drop in leading roles for

women, with the number of women and girl in top-grossing movies down to 37 percent -- a 10 percent drop in one year.

"It's not endemic just to the film industry, it's global," Moore said after getting a Women In Motion award from the luxury group Ker-  
ing.

"There's not representation in the media, there's not representation in higher education. There are lots of places where we don't have the representation we deserve," the actor added.

Also speaking in Cannes, two-time Oscar winner Cate Blanchett stressed how gender imbalances run throughout the industry and that progress since the #MeToo scandals about sexual abuse in 2017 has stalled. □

# Checkpoint Charlie soldier photos to be auctioned

## Berlin, Germany

Giant photos of the Allied soldiers who once patrolled Berlin that have been displayed at Checkpoint Charlie for years are being sold off by a German auction house next week.

The pictures were taken by photographer Frank Thiel in 1994, several years after the fall of the Berlin Wall and before British, French, Russian and US forces that had been stationed in Berlin since World War II were re-deployed.

They were installed at Checkpoint Charlie, a crossing point between East and West Berlin where soldiers from the rival sides in the Cold War would have stood.

It was the site of one of the tensest moments of the Cold War, when US and Soviet tanks faced off in 1961.

The photos stark individual portraits of young soldiers have themselves become a Berlin landmark.

Stefan Koerner, art expert at the Grisebach auction house that is selling the photos, said the images were "iconic" and could be popular with collectors

or museums.

"It is a special joy to be showing this work on the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall," he told AFP on Wednesday.

The 12 works, which include images of Russian soldiers still wearing Soviet uniforms, are being auctioned with a starting price of 90,000 euros (\$100,000). Germany celebrated the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall on November 9.

Ahead of the celebrations, Berlin authorities banned actors who stand at Checkpoint Charlie in military uniforms pretending to be soldiers for tourists. □



An employee of Grisebach auction house hangs giant photos by photographer Frank Thiel of the Allied soldiers who once patrolled Berlin that have been displayed at Checkpoint Charlie or up for auction in Berlin on November 20, 2019.

## 'Filter of fantasy': Japan trials anime therapy to treat depression

### Tokyo, Japan

As a teenager struggling to fit into life in rural Sicily, psychiatrist Francesco Panto found refuge in anime, where he discovered characters that resembled the kind of man he wanted to be.

Now living in Japan, Panto thinks anime can benefit others and is trialing whether it could be used as a method of therapy, particularly for people who would otherwise struggle to ask for help.

"The use of manga and anime supported me so much... they were very important emotional support kind of tools," Panto told AFP.

"Being raised in Italy, in Sicily, there were very strong stereotypes around gender or self-expression. But when I was 12 or 13 years old I started to play this game called 'Final Fantasy'... and the male protagonists resonated with me.

"They were so masculine and cool, but in their own way."

Panto's six-month pilot study into "character-based counseling" at Yokohama City University ended in March. As part of the trial, he and his team recruited 20 people aged 18-29 who had symptoms of depression and gave them



People walk past digital billboards advertising the upcoming release of the video game "Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba - The Hinokami Chronicles 2", along a walkway inside a train station in central Tokyo on July 29, 2025.

online counseling delivered by a psychologist who appeared on the screen as an anime avatar with a digitally altered voice.

He believes that the "filter of fantasy" can help put people at ease and aid recognition of their problems and he's hoping that the trial results will confirm this theory.

From a steady and trustworthy "maternal energy" figure who brandishes an assault rifle, to an emotionally perceptive "prince-

like" male who wears a cape, six different characters were created specifically for the study.

Each is based on a particular archetype in Japanese manga, with trial participants given freedom to choose among them.

"I tried to infuse each character with a specific mental struggle. One character is called Kuroto Nagi. She's affected by bipolar personality traits," Panto said.

Others struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder or anxiety disorders, or experi-

ence problems related to alcohol use.

But the idea is for the avatars to be "fun", Panto explained, and although the psychologist tells the story of their character at the start of the session, they were instructed not to make mental health issues too obvious.

One 24-year-old trial participant explained how they had been drawn to the study by a description of one of the characters, who was said to be "searching for true strength".

That "made me feel like it might help me get closer to the answer to my own problems," said the participant, an anime fan and game developer who could not be identified by name under the rules of the trial.

### - 'Will to live' -

The phase-one trial -- which tracked participants' heart rates and sleep -- is primarily to test whether anime therapy is feasible and if this kind of treatment can reduce symptoms of depression.

Panto is also considering whether the therapy could be delivered using artificial intelligence, without the medium of a real psychologist.

The research project is one of many trying to find solutions to mental health challenges in Japan including "ikizurasa", a term for people who find it "difficult to live, difficult to survive in society", said Mio Ishii, an assistant professor helping lead the project.

"There are many young people who cannot go to school or continue working. So, our scope is to give them... new choices to recover from their difficulties," she said, adding that there was still huge stigma in Japan attached to seeking help. □

## Help wanted: Australian conservation group seeks new koala rescue dog

### Sydney, Australia

An Australian animal welfare group is seeking a heroic dog with an appetite for adventure for a full-time position as a koala rescuer. The successful pooch will replace the world-famous Bear, credited with saving over 100 koalas from bushfires during a decade of service.

"Bear set the gold standard for koala detection dogs," the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) Oceania head of programmes Josey Sharrad said.

"He's leaving very big boots to fill, but now it's time to find his successor to

follow in his pawprints and keep protecting koalas." The ideal candidate will be a rescue pup with a lot of energy and an "obsessive" personality -- attributes that might make it hard to find a home but which make it perfect for saving koalas, IFAW said.

"By only recruiting a rescue dog, it's a win-win -- giving a dog the chance of a new life while helping our iconic koalas," Innovation for Conservation director and handler Russell Miller said.

Other key attributes are a love of play, confidence and a gentle temperament towards fellow ani-

mals is crucial.

They must also be medium sized -- "not too small that they struggle in the bush, not too big that the handlers can't carry them when needed", according to the IFAW job ad.

Interviews were being held in eastern Australia's Sunshine Coast but applications by video are also welcome.

Bear's skills saved over 100 koalas as the Black Summer bushfires raged across Australia's eastern seaboard from late 2019 to early 2020, razing millions of hectares, destroying thousands of homes and blanketing cities in noxious smoke.

The tail-wagging detective with a "joyful and goofy" personality retired with an extensive list of accolades

-- including an Animal of the Year award and Puppy Tales Photos Australian Dog of the Year award. □



This handout photo from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) taken on November 10, 2023, shows Bear, a koala detection dog who recently retired, during a training session at an unknown location.

# Mangrove loss threatens Sierra Leone's oyster harvesters

## Freetown, Sierra Leone

For 20 years, Millicent Turay has supported her family by collecting mangrove oysters near Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, a common livelihood along the west African coast.

But the activity, deeply rooted in local culture and which has enabled generations of women to make a living, is now under threat as mangrove forests deteriorate under pressure from human expansion.

"We learnt how to do it for ourselves... to survive," said the 50-year-old, speaking to AFP in the mangroves, machete and gloves in hand as she pried oysters from the tangled aerial roots.

"This job is physically demanding" and can be dangerous, she said.

The laborious work, carried out mainly by women, involves wading at low tide, barefoot and often chest-deep in muddy water and stifling heat, to reach rocks and mangroves where wild oysters cling.

"After harvesting, we usually steam it in a pot using mangrove wood", then open the shells by hand, said Turay, who works along the peninsula where Free-



**Millicent Turay collects oysters at Number Two River amongst the mangroves in Freetown on April 13, 2026.**

town sits.

### - Oyster stew -

Oysters are a staple in Sierra Leone and locals love eating them in a stew, grilled or as a dried snack.

Eating them fresh is more of a habit among expats or tourists.

Turay said in a good harvest she could earn around \$7 a day, enough to feed her family and pay her children's school fees.

It was during her teenage years that the women of her community taught her the harvesting technique, which is practised in the mangroves of several west African countries.

The men, for their part, collect mangrove wood to use as firewood or for construction.

But Sierra Leone's spectacular wildlife is under severe threat from deforestation,

unchecked urban growth and other human activity challenges authorities have struggled to contain.

Turay told AFP that harvests were already declining.

"Now, people cut (the mangroves) down," she said sadly.

"We don't know why they do this... because that's how we find our living. They say they're doing it to get the land."

Mangroves around Free-

town a rich wetland ecosystem are being damaged or destroyed by urban sprawl, firewood collection and illegal construction.

More than 25 percent of mangrove cover has vanished since 1990 as a result, according to official estimates.

### - Oyster farm -

The harvesting of wild oysters through repeated cutting and collecting has also contributed to the problem. Satellite images show that mangrove cover in the Aberdeen coastal area on Freetown's outskirts shrank from 537 hectares (1,326 acres) in 2017 to 458 hectares in February 2025, according to the Environmental Justice Foundation NGO.

Aberdeen Creek is a wetland of international importance for waterbirds.

Standing in the marsh, with buildings encroaching in the distance, Aminata Koroma, 32, pointed to the loss around her in Cackle Bay near Aberdeen Creek.

"This place you are seeing empty, it used to have so many mangroves, with fish and eel," she said. □

## Commander-in-beef: Bangladesh's 'Donald Trump' buffalo wins fans

### Narayanganj, Bangladesh

Crowds in Bangladesh are flocking to snap photographs with an unlikely social media star - an albino buffalo with flowing blond hair nicknamed "Donald Trump" due to be sacrificed within days.

Owner Zia Uddin Mridha, 38, said his brother named the 700 kilogramme (1,500 pound) bull over its flowing helmet of hair resembling the signature look of the U.S. president.

"My younger brother picked this name because

of the buffalo's extraordinary hair," he told AFP at his farm in Narayanganj, just outside the capital Dhaka.

Mridha said a constant stream of curious visitors social media fans, onlookers and children have come throughout May, eager to see the internet sensation.

He watched as men poured a cool bucket of water over the bull's head, running a pink brush through its blond comb-over, neatly tucked between sweeping curved horns.

"The only luxury he enjoys is bathing four times a day," Mridha said, stressing that the similarities between the bull and the president stopped at the hair.

Officials from the livestock department said albino

buffaloes are extremely rare, and appear white or pink due to a lack of melanin production.

### - Eid al-Adha -

Muslim-majority Bangladesh, a South Asian nation of 170 million people, is preparing for Eid al-Adha, the Islamic "feast of the sacrifice", later this month.

More than 12 million livestock including goats, sheep, cows and buffaloes are expected to be sacrificed during the holiday, when many poorer families get a rare chance to feast on meat.

Mridha said the stress of the crowds had caused the buffalo to lose weight, forcing restrictions on public viewing.

Still, children continue to peer through the gates for a glimpse.

Businessman Faisal Ahmed, 30, was among those who managed to get close, snapping photographs.

"Truly, the features are similar between the buffalo and President Donald Trump," Ahmed told AFP, after arriving with five friends and relatives to see the animal.

"My nephew took a one-hour boat journey just to come and see 'Donald Trump'," he added.

### - 'Making a sacrifice' -

While the Trump buffalo has become a national star online, it is not the only buffalo with a nickname.

His companions include an aggressive bull named "Tufan", meaning "storm", a generously sized animal called "Fat Boy" and the gentle-natured "Sweet Boy". □



**This photograph taken on May 17, 2026 shows a caretaker attending an albino buffalo nicknamed "Donald Trump" for sale ahead of Eid al-Adha at a livestock farm in Narayanganj.**

## The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

(Oranjestad)—The most popular character you may hear about in the Caribbean is Anansi, known locally on Aruba as “Compa Nanzi”. Local children grew up hearing the tales of the conniving spider, and his legacy forms part of the oral narrative tradition that is common in Aruba.

Although the stories are most popular in the Caribbean, “Compa Nanzi” is not entirely unknown globally, especially not in the West African region. Brought to the “new world” by enslaved Africans from Ghana, the historical thread of how Nanzi was introduced on Aruba follows the enslaved Africans in Curacao during the colonial era, which saw the biggest population of enslaved Africans in the Dutch Caribbean.

The stories of Compa Nanzi were a sign of hope for freedom among the slaves, who passed around different stories involving the famous spider through word of mouth, due to not being able to express their native culture in the new world. These stories were a way to not only preserve their culture, but it acted as a medium for relief during the harsh treatment to which they were subjected to.

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

### How Nanzi fooled the king

One day Nanzi was taking a stroll near the castle of Shon Arei, the king. He had this sudden urge to walk in. He didn't think too much about it and committed to what he had in mind. It was a warm afternoon, and the castle personnel were taking their afternoon nap. Even the soldier guarding the castle door was fast asleep, snoring so loud that his beard bounced up and down on his chin. Nanzi just slipped past him, looked back for a moment then walk right on in.

Nanzi stumbled upon the king's quarters. With all his excitement he sat in the king's throne, and put on his crown that was hanging on the side of the throne. It was very hot that day, and it wasn't long until Nanzi too fell asleep, right there on the king's throne. He was so deep in sleep and snoring so loud, that even when the king found him in his seat, Nanzi did not even notice.

Shon Arei was flabbergasted by the sight of Nanzi on his throne, wearing his crown. How disrespectful! “Soldiers, get him!” he commanded. Nanzi was sound asleep, but when the soldiers picked him up, he jumped from fright. By then though, the soldier already had him in their hold.

“Put him in a sack, stitch it up and throw him in the ocean!” the king said furiously. Two soldiers immediately entered the chamber, took the crown off Nanzi's head and pushed him in a sack.



Nanzi was terrified; it looks like this time he won't get away with his schemes. To get to the ocean, the soldier walked a long distance, and where beginning to feel very thirsty. Luckily they passed by a pub, and decided to have a nice cold beer. They set the sack with Nanzi in it outside and went to enjoy the refreshments. Nanzi was still trembling with fear in the sack.

What is that he hears? A herd of sheep walking by?

“Compadre, listen here!” Nanzi screamed as loud as he could. The sheep herder got close to the sack. “What is this?”

“Man, there is something very beautiful in here that you can see. It's very rare and strange, but indeed, there is something so beautiful in here that you've never seen or will ever see,” Nanzi told the herder.

The herder, very dumb, believed Nanzi's word. “Let me see!” he said.

“Well if you must insist,” Nanzi said, “I'll let you take a look, but only for a quick second.” The herder opened the sack, and Nanzi immediately jumped out. Before the herder could even take a look into the sack, Nanzi pushed him in it, and the herder fell head first in.

Nanzi didn't waste any time, and closed off the sack real tight. He then picked up the herder's hat and starting walking behind the traveling sheep as if nothing happened. After a little while, the soldiers headed back outside to continue their journey. As they picked

up the sack, the poor herder started screaming to let him out, but the soldiers ignored him, thinking it was Nanzi.

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time Nanzi could not get away with his foolishness. He probably drowned in that sack ages ago.” That is why, when he saw Nanzi walk behind the herd of sheep on the street, he was flabbergasted again. “Nanzi! Aren't you suppose to be at the bottom of the ocean floor?”

“I was, Your Majesty,” Nanzi replied. But you know what; there are so many things to see down there in the sack! Like this herd of sheep. Seeing that they had no herder, I started walking behind them and gained their trust pretty quickly. At the bottom of the ocean there are so many wonderful things, like diamonds, and bags of gold. Chests of silver and other precious stones,” Nanzi told the king.

“What is that you say?” the king was intrigued. “I want to see it too!” The king immediately demanded to his soldiers to be put in a sack and be placed in the ocean. Naturally, Shon Arei died because of this. He was never found again. Nanzi followed the soldier back to the castle, where sat once again on the late king's throne and put his crown on. He took possession of all of Shon Arei's belongings, and lived the rest of his life as king.

Story and pictures are from “Kon Nanzi a Nek Shon Arei (i otro kuentanan antiano di e araña sabi)” by Nilda Pinto.



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## Aruba's underwater wonderland

### (Oranjestad)

Exploring the underwater wonders is something you should definitely do during your stay in Aruba. The underwater world has everything to offer that makes a snorkel trip so exceptional; an impressive, colorful sea life with exotic fishes, turtles and beautiful coral reef. The historic shipwrecks, located on the Aruban seabed are also worth a visit. Aruba is known for its white beaches and blue oceans, which means there are many fascinating underwater spots you can explore. So take your snorkeling gear and visit some of these top places for underwater exploration.

### Tres Trapi

'Tres Trapi' means three steps in Papiamentu. The beach is called Tres Trapi because it is accessible by a tiny stairway carved into the rocky coastline. Tres Trapi is a small beach, located on the north-western side of the island, an approximately 5 to 10 minute drive from Palm Beach. From



the unique steps you walk right into the clear and turquoise blue ocean. While you're snorkeling, you will encounter all kind of tropical fishes and sea stars. The kind of starfish you will find in the Aruban waters is the red cushion sea star. This is a starfish that is commonly found in the shallow waters of the Caribbean Sea and if you are lucky during your snorkeling visit to Tres Trapi, you may come across one of the green sea turtles. Respect the animals, keep your distance and just en-

joy the view. Also remember; it is a once in a life time experience.

### Antilla shipwreck

Antilla is a 400-foot-long long ship, built in 1939 in Hamburg, Germany. Antilla came to Aruba, because it had to find a neutral port. When Germany invaded the Netherlands on May 10, 1940, the crew decided to let their own ship sink, to prevent it from falling into the hands of the Dutch Navy. Antilla lies on its portside in Malmok

bay, and the sunken WWII ship is now one of Aruba's most popular snorkeling and dive spots. However, the ship wreck can only be reached by boat. The ship is visible from the surface and during your snorkeling trip you be surrounded by hundreds of tropical fishes, but the ship wreck alone is already impressive enough.

### Baby Beach

Baby beach is a lagoon with crystal blue ocean. The beach is located on the southern part of the island. On the way to the famous beach, you will drive through the old capital of Aruba, San Nicolas. The old Aruban culture can be still felt and experienced here, so do not hesitate to get out of your car and walk around for a while. Baby beach is a child friendly beach, since it is shallow and the water has a pleasant temperature. The name therefore fits well with the beach. Further in the lagoon, you'll find a lot of people snorkeling. This is an excellent spot to go underwater exploring but do take care not to go too far out; outside the lagoon the

waves can be pretty rough! In the lagoon there is an area marked until where it is recommended to snorkel and on the beach you will find different facilities. It is a perfect beach to spend your day snorkeling and relaxing.

### Mangel Halto

Mangel Halto beach is located in Savaneta, on the southern-west part of the island. The beach is different from the other beaches in Aruba; it is beach full of mangroves. The main entrance to reach the beach is through a small bridge that takes you through the mangrove trees. There are diverse spots where you can enjoy a perfect beach day, accompanied with wooden stairs built to allow easy access to the water and a dock to sit on and enjoy the view. Mangel Halto is also worth a visit for the snorkeling experience. Inside the bay, the water is clear and you'll find many colorful fish. Outside the bay is a bit more challenging for beginners because of the wind and the waves, but the coral is alive and it is snorkel heaven. □

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**PSA from the Aruba Conservation Foundation: How to behave when you see a "lora"**

(Oranjestad)— The conservation of the Yellow-Shouldered Amazon, also known as the 'Lora,' relies on how we act as humans. We've seen many hikers who've encountered the 'Lora' in our protected nature areas and we can certainly imagine the pride and joy it brings to any Aruban. However, not everyone may know how to behave when encountering these clever and social birds. This guide is here to explain the behaviors that will most effectively help us in our efforts to conserve the 'Lora.' Please, don't just read but also follow these guidelines so we can ensure the survival of these birds for future generations.

**No interfering, please**

Please refrain from interfering with the "Lora". The Lora is a highly intelligent and social animal, perhaps slightly too friendly because they have gotten used to the rangers as

they prepared for their reintroduction. However, it is our collective responsibility to help them adapt to the wild once again. Please play your part by not interfering (calling, provoking etc.) with the Lora. Simply enjoy their beauty from a safe distance.

**Be respectful and keep cats and dogs away**

Pets and strays such as cats and dogs are prone to attacking other animals, especially birds, as part of their natural instincts. Please make sure your pets are kept inside of your yard or are kept on a leash when going out for a walk.

**Do not feed them food or water**

You may think that giving the any food or water is doing a good deed, but it actually does not contribute to them developing survival skills in the wild. By interfering with the survival instincts of wild ani-



mals, we are doing the opposite of helping. Therefore, please do not attempt to give the Loras food or water.

**Capturing a Lora is against the law!**

The biggest threat to the Lora before their extinction in 1947 was

caused by human activities including poaching and killing of the Lora. Let's work collectively to prevent this from happening again. So when you see the Lora, enjoy their beauty from a distance and admire them as they flourish in the wild. □

**PSA for off-roaders:**

**Be careful when driving on rough terrains!**

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

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

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

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



## Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury

**(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.**

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out.

During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion groups that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance.

Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multiple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lannoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities.

Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjehotel" prison in Scheveningen, The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being sold out by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away



the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor."

**Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.**

## Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our Candelchi!

**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 "Candelchi" (Squirrelfish), a common, yet shy fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba.**

Let's talk about the names of fish. Do you know your fish? The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, known as Santa Rosa, offers this informative article that illustrates some fish and their names in Papiamentu.

**Candelchi, Squirrelfish, Ho-**

**locentrus adscensionis:** Candelchi actually refers to the entire squirrelfish family or, as some say, when we say candelchi, we mean several different species but without distinguishing them by species. In this picture, we are showing the most common one in our waters, which is called

squirrelfish in English or scientifically known as *Holocentrus adscensionis*.

Under candelchi, we in Aruba generally refer to all the different species of squirrelfish. They all look alike and it's really difficult to distinguish between them.

The squirrelfish family is distinguished by the following characteristics. They are heart-shaped with pink or red hues and often show heart-shaped streaks between the scales along the body. They have hard fins and are always armed. Over at our sister island Curaçao, they are called "bari di clabo" (nail barrel) for that reason.

In our waters, there are 7 to 8 types or species present and they are sometimes caught and seen occasionally. They can be distinguished by different marks such as color on the dorsal spine or marks on the body.

**In Aruba:** Candelchi are found on reefs or areas with structure in the water where they can hide. Although they prefer to hunt for food at night, they are also active during the day. They are edible and delicious when prepared dry and crispy with lime. It is particularly challenging to scale the fish, which is why it is not one of the favorites among fishermen. They often live in groups. □



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## Get to know the history of the gold industry on Aruba



**(Oranjestad)— We have talked about the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin before and its brief history during the gold industry on Aruba, but get to know a little more about the history of the “Aruban Gold Rush.”**

The first hint of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when rumors about gold being found in dug up treasure chests of the Spanish colonial era prompted the first official exploration for gold on the island, commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some specks of gold, it was not enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young farmer boy named Willem Rasmijn found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep in the area of Rooi Fluit on the north coast. His father took it to a local merchant who then sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold.

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

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

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

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



By this point, workers were still using primitive methods to harvest the ores. For example, when someone had to go into the mines, there were no stairs or lifts; the person had to be brought down in a big bucket, with two or more workers holding the bucket by a thick rope above ground.

Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. reportedly operated until 1899, and right after the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. was established, coincidentally also based in London. This time, the gold mill in Balashi was built, and more mines were dug up all around the island. The gold ores that were found were transported via track engine, locally called the “trekinchi”. Despite being more equipped for the job, the Aruba Gold Concession Ltd. could not produce any real profit, and so the concession was terminated just eight years later, in 1908.

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

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

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

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

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

### Source:

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

### CROSSWORD

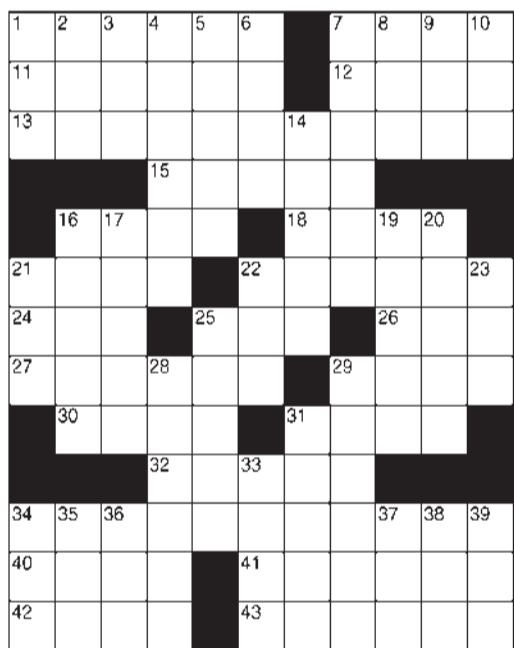
By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 43 Swift

- 1 Looks forward to
- 7 Labyrinth
- 11 Malay island
- 12 Weary sigh
- 13 Face a difficulty
- 15 Casts a ballot
- 16 Prayer ender
- 18 Turn to slush
- 21 Recipe instruction
- 22 Singer Harry
- 24 Old calamity
- 25 Halloween cry
- 26 Director Spike
- 27 Tickled
- 29 Ore source
- 30 Rigging support
- 31 Wagers
- 32 Fancy parties
- 34 Begin fighting
- 40 Heaps
- 41 "Search me"
- 42 Like lawns in the morning

**DOWN**

- 1 Jackson 5 hit
- 2 Court
- 3 Sleeve filler
- 4 Indignant cry
- 5 Wyoming's — Range
- 6 Chimney grime
- 7 Squishy and wet
- 8 Boxing great
- 9 Ray-gun sound
- 10 Snaky shape
- 14 Influence
- 16 Molecule's makeup
- 17 Confusion
- 19 Dole out
- 20 Hoe targets
- 21 Massage setting
- 22 Lawn material
- 23 Notice work
- 25 Floppy top
- 28 Protection knot
- 29 Caron of "Gigi"
- 31 Jazz style
- 33 Heaps
- 34 Scoundrel
- 35 Bullfight cry
- 36 Do a yard job
- 37 Exalted work
- 38 Tie the knot
- 39 Utter



5-2

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.

5-2 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

X M A G E H M S V X N D L H G E K T U D ,

I X V ! — H G ' C X I D X P G H Q P K

V D X K . — D V D F H K K X S X C C D  
**Cryptoquote:** A PARTY WITHOUT  
CAKE IS REALLY JUST A MEETING. — JULIA  
CHILD

## 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 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 prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

**Drinking water**

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

<b>02</b> SAT	<b>CARIBBEAN PRINCESS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C
<b>05</b> TUE	<b>CELEBRITY SILHOUTTE</b> Arrival: 08:00   Departure: 17:00   Berth: B <b>CARNIVAL MAGIC</b> Arrival: 9:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C
<b>06</b> WED	<b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 11:59   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
<b>12</b> TUE	<b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B <b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
<b>19</b> TUE	<b>ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: B <b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C
<b>20</b> WED	<b>ALLURE OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 16:00   Berth: I <b>CARNIVAL VISTA</b> Arrival: 7:00   Departure: 16:00   Berth: C
<b>21</b> THU	<b>CARNIVAL VENEZIA</b> Arrival: 9:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: C
<b>26</b> TUE	<b>CARNIVAL HORIZON</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 22:00   Berth: B <b>GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS</b> Arrival: 8:00   Departure: 23:00   Berth: C

## SUDOKU

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

**King Classic Sudoku**



Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/23

**Answer to previous puzzle**

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

5/22

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# Gibraltar monkeys eat soil in junk food detox: study



A young Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*) is pictured in Gibraltar on May 6, 2026.

**Gibraltar, United Kingdom**  
A colony of macaques that gorge on snacks offered by tourists in the British territory of Gibraltar swallow soil to recover from their junk food binges, a study has found.

Believed to originate from North Africa, the roughly 230 primates are the main attraction in the British exclave of 30,000 people that borders southern Spain, according to the Gibraltar Ornithological and Natural History Society. "We are here for the monkeys, to take a look at them, because it's the only place in Europe where the monkeys are," Danish visitor Elish, 29, told AFP. But feeding the Barbary macaques is "not a great idea, because you can hurt them, because you give them anything", added the constructor designer.

Signs dotted around Gibraltar remind visitors of a ban on feeding the macaques, with infringements punishable by fines of up to

£4,000 (\$5,350). But the rules are hard to enforce given the large numbers of daily visitors to "The Rock" and the independence of the animals, which can weigh up to 15 kilograms (33 pounds).

The marauding monkeys brazenly snatch ice cream, cakes and crisps from unwitting tourists in addition to gobbling abandoned leftovers from bins or food directly offered to them. These unhealthy treats have contributed to modifying a diet usually made up of fruit, vegetables and seeds. To soothe the resulting stomach aches, the macaques have developed

a habit of "geophagy, the deliberate consumption of earth", a recent study has found.

**- 'Self-medication' -**  
Experts from the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Paris-Sorbonne as well as Gibraltar's environment department say their research, carried out between August 2022 and April 2024, reported this behaviour "for the first time" among the monkeys. "Geophagy occurred at exceptionally high rates compared to other macaque species and locations, and it was more common in summer when tourist numbers peak," the study said.

In contrast, the behaviour was not observed in a group of Gibraltar monkeys that have no contact with visitors, "a strong argument for this association between soil-eating and human food", said Sylvain Lemoine, assistant professor in biological anthropology at Cambridge who co-authored the study. Crisps, chocolate bars and ice cream are identified as the culprits of this tendency, which the study viewed as "representing an early form of self-medication".

The monkeys with the most frequent soil consumption munch on tourist junk food that is "high in sugar, high in salt, high in dairy, which the macaques can't digest," said Lemoine.

"We make the hypothesis that the soil can bring micro-fungi and micro-organisms that could rebalance the micro-biome that has been disrupted by the ingestion of junk food," he told AFP.

**HEALTH**

**DOCTOR ON DUTY**

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

**PHARMACY ON DUTY**

**Oranjestad: Oduber**  
Tel. 582 1780

**San Nicolas: Aloe**  
Tel. 584 4606

**OTHER**

<b>Dental Clinic</b>	<b>587 9850</b>
<b>Blood Bank Aruba</b>	<b>587 0002</b>
<b>Urgent Care</b>	<b>586 0448</b>
<b>Walk-In Doctor's Clinic</b>	<b>588 0539</b>

**EMERGENCY**

<b>Police</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Police Oranjestad</b>	<b>527 3140</b>
<b>Police Noord</b>	<b>527 3200</b>
<b>Police Sta. Cruz</b>	<b>527 2900</b>
<b>Police San Nicolas</b>	<b>584 5000</b>
<b>Police Tipline</b>	<b>11141</b>
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# Fans create AI-generated team songs ahead of World Cup

## Montreal, Canada

World Cup fans are wielding artificial intelligence to mass-produce viral songs supporting their teams ahead of next month's tournament.

As the fan-made football anthems are raking in millions of plays across YouTube, TikTok and Instagram, experts say that the viral tunes raise questions about song ownership, artist compensation and the valuation of human creativity.

But many users do not appear to mind, with some even showing a preference for the AI-generated songs over an official anthem football's world governing body FIFA commissioned from musicians Jelly Roll and Carin Leon.

A highly-anticipated World Cup track from Shakira was also released last week, but the fad of AI fan songs was still drumming up excitement on social media for the tournament taking place in cities across the United States, Canada and Mexico in June and July.

The trend appears to have started with a song dedicated to the French team, "Imbattables," released in February by artist Crystallo, who is listed on Spotify as France's "premier AI musical creator." The song begins with a call-and-response listing the names of Kylian Mbappe and other star French national players.

A Brazilian anthem fol-



A 2026 FIFA World Cup banner is seen inside AT&T Stadium, which will be called "Dallas Stadium" during the duration of the tournament, in Arlington, Texas on May 18, 2026.

lowed with a similar name-chanting format and a trending phonk melody that producer Guilherme Maia, who goes by the artist name M4IA, said he created by layering together different elements he had put together with the help of AI.

Tracks for top sides Portugal, Argentina and Germany, as well as many others, soon sprang up across platforms, garnering more praise from fans.

But while the Brazilian version closely resembled the French prototype, the later songs copied Maia's format exactly. Each recycled the phonk beat and listed players' names before calling for respect for

the squad's "king" a feature reserved for the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo in the Portugal tune or Lionel Messi in Argentina's version.

"What I see happening now is more about people following a trend or trying to recreate a feeling," Maia told AFP, saying that artistic emulation has always existed in music.

While he was enthusiastic about the possibilities AI opened up for production, he acknowledged that the technology raises new questions about authorship and copyright.

"In music, there are clear rules. You can't just copy someone else's work or use samples without permission, even if AI is involved."

### - Lack of credit -

Maia stressed that he built the track on his own and used AI as an assistant when creating certain elements, rather than asking a music generation tool like Suno to create a song with one prompt.

But, Jason Palamara, an assistant professor of music technology at Indiana University, said that with the way the models exist, there is a lack of clarity over how artists are credited if their copyrighted work is used to train them.

"It had to come from somewhere," he said.

The inconsistencies that can appear in the AI-generated images can also

pop up in music created with the technology.

For example, a fan-made World Cup song for Portugal was sung with a Brazilian accent, while a Colombian version read James Rodriguez's first name with an English rather than Spanish pronunciation.

Music created with AI can also lack complexity, Palamara said.

"It's one compact product, rather than a product where there's multiple tracks that have gone into it, where it has more texture."

Still, Morgan Hayduk, co-CEO of music rights software company Beatdapp, said that listeners enjoying the World Cup fan songs may not be seeking artistic complexity.

"There seems to be a cohort of people who actually don't care," Hayduk observed. "They like the music, and they like the back story that it came from a large language model and not a songwriter or a group."

He said that despite concerns over how the industry will adapt to AI, quick-fix songs that can be chanted by fans or featured in advertisements are a clear use-case for AI-generated music in its current stage.

"Knowing what goes into a generative output, like a World Cup fan song, is the thorny Rubicon that the music industry has to cross now." □

## Musk's SpaceX bonus comes with unique condition: colonize Mars



SpaceX, Twitter and electric car maker Tesla CEO Elon Musk looks on as he speaks during his visit at the Vivattech technology startups and innovation fair at the Porte de Versailles exhibition center in Paris, on June 16, 2023.

### New York, United States

SpaceX's blockbuster IPO filing included some out of this world details, including a provision that founder Elon Musk's massive bonus only kicks in if one million humans settle on Mars.

The bonus structure, laid out in SpaceX's prospectus filed with US regulators Wednesday, reads less like a compensation agreement and more like a science fiction plot.

Musk's bonus is contingent on SpaceX's stock market value hitting targets ranging from \$400 billion to \$6 trillion along with the company moving a million people to a planet 140 million miles (225 million kilometers) away.

Musk describes that ambition as essential to the long-term survival of the human race, though most experts see it as being

at least decades away.

Still, Musk will do just fine if the IPO goes ahead in the coming weeks as planned. At the company's reported target valuation of \$1.75 trillion, Musk's existing stake would be worth an estimated \$735 billion before a single person sets foot on the Red Planet.

A second, smaller bonus ties an additional 60 million shares to a different moonshot: building data centers in orbit capable of delivering 100 terawatts of computing power per year a figure that dwarfs anything that exists on Earth today.

SpaceX filed for its long-awaited IPO Wednesday, targeting a listing on the Nasdaq stock exchange under the ticker "SPCX" in what could be the largest public offering in Wall Street history. □

## Second-half surge carries Knicks past Cavs for 2-0 NBA East lead

### New York, United States

The New York Knicks used an explosive third-quarter to beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 109-93 on Thursday and take a 2-0 lead in the NBA Eastern Conference finals.

Josh Hart led the Knicks with a career playoff high 26 points, drilling five of New York's 13 three-pointers.

New York star Jalen Brunson, who spearheaded the Knicks' stunning comeback from a 22-point fourth-quarter deficit in a game one overtime win, scored just two points in the first half but finished with 19. He also handed out a career playoff high 14 of the Knicks' 32 assists.

Hart dished out seven assists himself as well as punishing the Cavaliers when they left him open from long range.

"It felt good," Hart, who was held out of overtime in the Knicks' scintillating comeback victory on Tuesday, told broadcaster ESPN.

"The thing I'm most happy about is I started zero for three from (three-point range), and I just kept shooting.

"I'm putting the work in, and it's kind of built that



Josh Hart #3 of the New York Knicks dribbles the ball against the Cleveland Cavaliers during the third quarter in Game Two of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals at Madison Square Garden on May 21, 2026 in New York City.

confidence. So it felt good."

Knicks coach Mike Brown called it a "whale of a game" from Hart.

"He's a gamer," Brown said. "When you have guys that are gamers they do stuff that people don't think that they can do at any time."

Mikal Bridges scored 19 points, Karl-Anthony Towns added 18 points and 13 re-

bounds, and with another win at Madison Square Garden the Knicks took control in the best-of-seven series before it shifts to Cleveland for games three and four on Saturday and Monday. Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points and James Harden added 18 for the Cavs, who cut an 18-point third-quarter deficit to seven early in the fourth quarter only for the Knicks to surge away again.

The Cavs head home knowing they face a virtual must-win in game three, since no NBA team has rallied from a 3-0 deficit to win a playoff series.

But Hart said that the Knicks' ninth straight win in these playoffs doesn't mean they can afford to be complacent as they try to reach the NBA Finals for the first time since 1999, and their first title since 1973.

He noted that the Cavs

dropped the first two games on the road on the way to their seven-game second-round series win over the top-seeded Detroit Pistons.

"We know they're going to have a sense of urgency, a sense of desperation," he said. "We can't just match it, we have to exceed it."

### - 'We didn't make shots' -

The Cavs, showing no hang-over from Tuesday's devastating defeat, emerged from back and forth first quarter with a 27-24 lead.

But despite a two-point first-half performance from Brunson the Knicks led 53-49 at halftime.

Cleveland pulled level at 53-53 before the Knicks found their groove, reeling off 18 straight points to surge to a 71-53 lead.

The Cavs were scoreless for more than five minutes in the third quarter and trailed 85-70 entering the fourth.

"I thought we had a lot of good looks, a lot of good looks from (three-point range), good looks at the rim," Cavaliers coach Kenny Atkinson said. "(We) took care of the ball, offensive rebounds.

"It wasn't a great shooting night," he added. □

## Italy's Bettiol claims Giro 13th stage, Eulalio holds lead

### Verbania, Italy

Alberto Bettiol won the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia on Friday while Afonso Eulalio retained the overall lead as the contenders kept their powder dry ahead of a big weekend for the general classification.

Italian Bettiol took charge of the stage, 189 kilometers from Alessandria to Verbania, in the last few meters of the final Ungiasca climb when he surged past Andreas Leknessund and went all in for the finish line to claim his first Grand Tour stage since the 2021 Giro. Portuguese Eulalio, 33 seconds ahead of pre-race favourite Jonas Vingegaard in the general classification, had little to do on a day in which the main

peloton decided to leave a 15-man breakaway to have its day and rolled in over 13 minutes later.

It was the third win for an Italian in this year's Giro after Davide Ballerini and Filippo Ganna in stages six and 10, and a special one for Bettiol whose girlfriend is from Verbania.

"It's a second home to me... I knew at the beginning that all of my family, all of her family and my closest friends would be at the finish," said Bettiol to RAI.

"The most difficult thing today was getting and staying in the break. Once I was in it I fought hard to lose as little time as possible on the climbs before getting some time back

on the descent... it all went better than expected."

The fiendish structure of the stage a long flat run before two categorized climbs in the final 30km led to a series of attacks and splits in the peloton in the opening stages.

Eventually a break settled into place and was left to charge off into the distance by the peloton, which contained all the main jersey contenders.

By the time the break got to the start of the Bieno climb the peloton was over 11 minutes behind, and the attacks started in the leading group near the summit of the final Ungiasca climb. Leknessund pulled away in a bid to take the stage before Bettiol, who was in hot

pursuit, shot into the lead just before the crest of the climb and began to fly down the descent towards Verbania.

Bettiol, who rides for Astana, basked in the ap-

plause of the local fans in the town on the banks of Lake Maggiore before the main group crossed the line, with all eyes on what will be a brutal 14th stage on Saturday. □



XDS Astana Team Italian rider Alberto Bettiol celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the 13th stage of the Giro d'Italia 2026 - Tour of Italy cycling race between Alessandria and Verbania, Italy, on May 22, 2026.

# Gauff at ease in Paris as she prepares to defend French Open title

## Paris, France

Coco Gauff is keen to sidestep any pressure that might come with starting Roland Garros as the defending women's champion as she returns to the site of her most consistent Grand Slam success.

"Last year feels like ten years ago," the American said at media day on Friday.

Gauff comes into the tournament seeded fourth, fresh from reaching the Rome final on clay where she lost to Elina Svitolina.

At 22, she is about to play her seventh French Open. She won her first Grand Slam at the US Open in 2023, but Roland Garros is where she has shone most consistently. She has reached the last eight in each of her last five appearances in the French capital, including winning the tournament in 2025. She wants that record to be a source of strength rather than expectation.

"Whenever I come to this tournament, I don't even think about my past results here," she said.

"I know I play well here. Even if I'm not doing my



**USA's Coco Gauff looks dejected after being defeated during the WTA Rome Open tennis tournament final against Ukraine's Elina Svitolina at Foro Italico in Rome on May 16, 2026.**

best in the match, I know I can find that level just because of my history here, but it's also something I'm not thinking about, entering the match."

Gauff's result swings have a lot to do with her erratic serve. She leads the WTA with 208 double faults this year. Mirra Andreeva, who has played five more matches, is a distant sec-

ond with 145.

Gauff said her run to the Italian Open final was down to better serving.

"My average in Rome was four in double faults," she said. "I can do that. For me it's much better than last year."

After breaking through at Wimbledon as a 15-year-old, Gauff has done her growing up in public eye

and said the experience has been largely positive.

"Sometimes you get some perks and stuff, like people recognise you," she said.

"The worst is you make mistakes when you grow up, so all your mistakes are shown. But I also think it's not a bad thing, because maybe some other people can see themselves in me and realise we're not all perfect.

We've all got to learn."

Gauff said she has worked at learning about herself.

"I have a therapist that I have been going to for a long time," she said, adding that she kept a journal and, most of all, tried not to be negative.

"I can be too much of a perfectionist," she said.

"When I'm playing the matches, I just want to win literally every point in the most perfect way.

"Obviously it just doesn't always happen for me like that all the time," she said.

"I can see where I want to be, and I want to be there so bad, but just trying now to focus on the process and the ups and downs of the journey of tennis. It's something that I can hone in on and do well at times, and other times I cannot do so well with it."

She said that she was proud of the mindset she showed in her Rome run.

"I'm winning these matches a lot on just mental fight and stuff," she said, adding: "I do feel like I'm a better player than I was last year." Gauff opens her title defence in Paris against compatriot Taylor Townsend. □

## Ace, eagle lift Im to early CJ Cup Byron Nelson lead

### Houston, United States

Im Sung-jae conjured a hole-in-one and a closing eagle to cap a 10-under par 61 on Friday to share the early clubhouse lead over a red-hot Jordan Spieth at the PGA Tour CJ Cup Byron Nelson.

South Korea's Im played alongside three-time major champion Spieth, and they produced plenty of morning fireworks at TPC Craig Ranch, where Spieth's nine birdies included six in a row on his back nine.

"I was hurting my head trying to figure out what our

best ball was," Spieth said. "I think it was 57, which is pretty good."

Im was in the clubhouse on 13-under 129, where he was joined by Japan's Kensei Hirata who carded a 65.

Spieth had a 36-hole total of 12-under 130, tied with fellow American Tyler Duncan with overnight leader Taylor Moore on 11-under after a second-round 69.

The afternoon starters chasing them included world number one and defending champion Scottie Scheffler and five-time major winner Brooks Koepka who was one shot off the lead after the opening round.

Im and Spieth teed off on 10 and Im had four birdies before his only bogey of the day at the 18th.

He birdied the first, third

and fourth holes before watching in apparent surprise as his five-iron off the tee at the par-three seventh bounced on the green and rolled in the cup.

"I was surprised, but I hit a really good shot," he said, calling the moment "a little unexpected but obviously very exciting."

Im, whose 2026 campaign got off to a delayed start after a January wrist injury added a 14-foot eagle at the par-five ninth to put himself firmly in the mix heading into the weekend. Spieth, the former world number one who hasn't cracked the top 10 in a PGA Tour event since last year's Memorial, said his putting was key as he "drove it horribly -- like, really badly. But putting was the best."

Spieth had two birdies in his first nine holes then caught fire coming in, starting with a 12-foot birdie at the first. He drained a 20-footer at the second, another 12-foot birdie at the third, a six-footer at the fourth, a four-footer at the par-five fifth after missing the green, and a nine-footer at the sixth.

"It was really fun," Spieth said. "You're feeding off each other, right? There's a lot of good golf going on."

Hirata had six birdies without a bogey to put himself in position to challenge for a first PGA Tour title.

The 25-year-old rookie said he's relishing the "great experience" of his first season on tour, even the bad weeks.

"I learn to not give up," he said. "Just keep going." □



**Sungjae Im of South Korea hits a tee shot on the seventh hole during the final round of the Truist Championship 2026 at Quail Hollow Country Club on May 10, 2026 in Charlotte, North Carolina.**