

To our American readers:
Happy 4th of July!



Aruba's ONLY English Vacation Newspaper

Aruba: Island of aloes



Page 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

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



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

PREMIUM BRANDS



Tel +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 | Reservations at wateredge-aruba.com | Elegant dining, spectacular ocean views enjoyed al fresco or in air conditioned comfort | Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort

2,000,000 Summer Point Giveaway – 20 Winners Daily



Super 4-Card BINGO starting at 1pm!
\$7 for 4-Card BINGO | 8 Games to Play
\$1,500 in Cash Prizes
SPECIAL PROGRESSIVE GAME
Jackpot within 50 Calls | 51 Calls or more \$200
Additional \$500 Cash Prize in our Monthly Early Bird Drawing when you purchase your card before noon!

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

- Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
- Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
- The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
- Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
- Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
- Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
- Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
- Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar



Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Do not open until 2276: U.S. burying time capsule to mark July 4

Washington, United States

Americans living in 2276 will get a taste of what their ancestors today think best represents the nation thanks to a time capsule to be buried this July 4.

The 900 pound (400 kilo) stainless steel cylinder will go into the ground Saturday, as the nation marks its 250th birthday, not far from where the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia.

It is not supposed to be opened for another 250 years, in 2276.

But it is not the only such gift for US people far off in the future. Another time capsule scheduled for opening when the United States turns 500 years old was unveiled a few days ago in Washington.

The contents of the Washington one are not widely known but the capsule due to be buried in Philadelphia near Independence Hall has spilled all its secrets.

All 50 states, five US territories such as Puerto Rico, plus an array of sporting and cultural organizations have made contributions to this collective national snapshot. Together it all makes for "a representative record of the United States at 250 years," said Rosie Rios, chairwoman of America250, the official organization behind the national commemoration of the anniversary.



The America 250 time capsule, which will be buried on July 4, 2026 and reopened in 2276, at Independence National Historical Park on July 2, 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- Eagle feather and AI -

Wisconsin, for instance, has contributed a brown feather. It comes from a bald eagle known as "Old Abe" -- named for president Abraham Lincoln -- that served as a mascot to Union troops in over 30 battles in the US Civil War. Ohio has offered a piece of fabric from the wings of the airplane built by Wilbur and Orville Wright, the pioneers who made aviation history in 1903 with the first powered, sustained flight. From Maine comes a bone from the endangered North Atlantic right whale. Other states opted for the stuff of modern life, such as California, which offers the

response from the AI chatbot Claude to this prompt: "Write me a prediction of what California will be like 250 years from July 4, 2026."

America250 itself has chipped in a late-model orange iPhone. Other pieces of Americana that made the cut: a bookmark made by the Wabanki, a Native American tribe; a diamond from Arkansas; a recipe for anis-flavored cookies from New Mexico; and an Oklahoma City Thunder pin from when the team won the NBA basketball championship in 2025.

- Enduring underground -

Other ideas were discarded, like a leather American football, because of doubts it would endure 250 years underground.

Jay Nanninga, a National Institute of Standards and Technology mechanical engineer who designed the time capsule, had to address such storage issues. It was decided to bury the objects rather than insert them in a statue.

He considered different shapes for the container -- like a square or even a star -- but thought it best to avoid having seams and joints, so a stainless steel cylinder won the day.

The cylinder will be placed

inside a metallic bell that leaves an air pocket that is supposed to keep moisture out of the inner chamber. The cylinder itself is sealed with a thin protective layer of a soft, malleable metal called indium.

Papers destined to be read in 250 years are stored in a separate compartment inside the cylinder and sealed, while the other objects were placed in cardboard boxes.

Nanninga said engineers have watched how stainless steel aged over the 100 years it has been in use, and he thinks the material will hold up well in this national exercise of self-storage.

"I do think in 250 years all the stainless will be in really good shape," he said.

America has done this kind of thing before.

A time capsule buried in 1876 was opened in 1976.

Another capsule, created for that year's bicentennial, is stored at the National Archives, to be opened in 2076, said Rios.

She said when the new capsule buried in Philadelphia is finally opened in 2276, "we want future generations to have a clear, authentic window into who we were at 250."

"What we valued, what we built, and how we saw ourselves as a nation," she added. □



The Statue of Liberty is illuminated during the special event "Liberty Lights" to celebrate the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence on Liberty Island in New York City, on July 1, 2026.

Statue of Liberty dazzles with lasers, music for U.S. anniversary

New York, United States

Techno music and lasers brought the Statue of Liberty to life as a light show at the iconic monument will be broadcast Friday to mark the United States' 250th anniversary.

The 15-minute spectacle will be shown on the ABC network as an initiative of France, which gifted the monument to the United States in 1886 in celebration of American independence.

French consul general in New York, Cedrik Fouriscot, told AFP the elaborate per-

formance demonstrated the "importance of alliances."

"When France and the United States stand together and create things together, like the Statue of Liberty or like this show, it can become unforgettable," Fouriscot said.

The Statue of Liberty, the copper-clad sculpture of a robed and crowned woman holding a torch above her head, sits in New York's harbor and draws millions of visitors each year.

The event, funded by corporate sponsorships, took

place late Wednesday in front of some 250 guests including U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon.

Michael Canitrot, a French DJ and producer who created the show, said the landmark's remote location on Liberty Island had complicated logistics.

"Of all the projects I've been able to put together, this is undoubtedly the most complex," said Canitrot, who previously staged shows at France's Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame. □

After 250 years, the 'American dream' is tarnished but alive

Miami, United States

Does it mean getting rich? Owning a house with a white picket fence? Having a better life than your parents? Whatever it means, the "American dream" still offers hope to millions of people who believe the United States is a place where anyone can succeed, no matter the odds.

As the country celebrates 250 years since independence, many Americans and immigrants know the daily reality of chasing that dream -- through countless disappointments and endless striving.

"I define the American dream through hard work," fruit vendor Reinaldo Gutierrez Iglesias, 60, who was born in Cuba and has lived in Miami for 15 years, told AFP.

"This country offers great opportunities. It provides a path to achieving what you want. But the American dream is realized little by little.

"There have been times when I've held two or three jobs. I've had to support my entire family, yet I'm still pursuing it."

That everyone can improve their life through hard work is a core U.S. belief, despite a fierce debate over whether limitless social mobility is dead, dying -- or never existed at all.

Either way, a shot at a better life still attracts people from around the world, from all ranges of wealth and edu-



The numbers 250 are projected onto the Washington Monument, as seen from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, during the "Illumination of America" event marking America's 250th anniversary at the National Mall in Washington, DC, on January 2, 2026.

cation.

- 'No guarantee' -

"For me, the American dream is the dream of an entrepreneur moving to a country where it's easier to take a chance," French tech start-up specialist Tristan Comte, 28, told AFP in a slick, shared office space in San Francisco.

"What is absolutely amazing here is the sheer density of people who inevitably have something to offer when you set out to start a business." But even for Comte, the United States is a country full of uncertainty and risk.

"What makes my American

dream precarious is that the city is extremely expensive and visas are highly unstable," he said.

"I'm here and I have a salary. But I have no guarantee that this will still be the case in nine or twelve months.

"I have to accept that I can't see further into the future and that I need to take the best possible actions today."

The phrase "American dream" was coined in the 1930s and often conjures up images of suburban families, solid jobs and beach vacations.

A new Gallup poll found that 69 percent of Ameri-

cans said they thought they could achieve the ideal -- a huge number, but down four percent since 2024.

Survey respondents said the dream's key elements were personal freedom, financial security and homeownership, and success and upward mobility.

Some of those who have succeeded in the United States, such as businesswoman Carmen Barreto, say it is a battle that is getting tougher.

"It has brought me immense fulfillment through three successful businesses that provide me with freedom, income and happiness," Bar-

reto, a native of Venezuela who has lived in Florida for 15 years, told AFP.

"Many people hold onto the American dream, but given how tough things are getting, you can't be the salmon swimming against the current -- because you get tired, you burn out, it destroys you."

- Struggle and hope -

Jerial Young, 44, a bartender and gig worker who lives with a roommate in Pennsylvania, is well aware of the struggle just to get by, saying "in the 80s and 90s, you didn't have to break your neck to make a living."

"Now you're talking 65 to 75 hours of work a week to stay afloat and pay your bills."

Young says he feels like he is a victim of big business exploitation, but -- like many -- he refuses to give up, saying "I do think that change is coming, because it has to." Resilience and a sense of hope are familiar themes across America.

"I can look at my life here and say I am absolutely living the American dream -- I have safety, I have freedom of speech, I can wear whatever I want as a woman," said Karisa Tavassoli, an Iranian-American educator from Atlanta.

"The American dream is not perfect, there are many flaws here -- but we have something very special that is worthy of protecting." □

NASA launches robotic mission to save space telescope

Washington, United States

NASA launched a robotic mission on Friday to try to prevent one of its aging telescopes from burning up in the atmosphere, a complicated operation expected to last several months. The unprecedented \$30 million effort involves sending a robot to rescue the Swift space telescope that's currently falling towards Earth.

If successful, the mission could pave the way for giving other satellites a second life.

Initially scheduled for Tuesday, the robot's launch was

postponed due to weather and then technical issues. It finally took place on Friday at 0836 GMT from an atoll in the Pacific Ocean.

Developed by American startup Katalyst, the spacecraft was launched by a small rocket named Pegasus, itself launched from an airplane.

Once it reaches an orbit close to that of Swift, the robot will deploy its solar panels and perform a series of checks.

It will then have to locate the Swift telescope in the vastness of space, circle

around it and dock with it using three robotic arms — maneuvers expected to take several weeks.

Finally, it will attempt to propel the satellite approximately 300 kilometers higher above the Earth, roughly to its initial orbital position. That operation is expected to last at least a month.

The Swift telescope cost \$250 million and is used to study gamma-ray bursts, the most powerful explosions in the universe.

"This is a lot of firsts stacked on top of each other," Shawn Domagal-Goldman, director of NASA's



This handout photo released by NASA on July 31, 2004, shows the Swift spacecraft being unwrapped in Hangar AE at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

astrophysics division, told reporters Tuesday.

"I'm just deeply thankful

that we're even giving this a go." □



Crew members prepare a set for a scene during the filming of an Iraqi horror movie in the capital Baghdad on June 1, 2026.

'Not easy, but not impossible': Iraq's film industry sees slow revival

Baghdad, Iraq

In the heart of old Baghdad, legendary movie theatres stand abandoned and shrouded in dust, bearing witness to Iraq's once-vibrant cultural scene.

A few kilometers away, director Ali al-Bayati oversees his camera operators as they adjust their lenses for a scene in his upcoming horror film, which he hopes to showcase internationally as a new generation of Iraqi filmmakers drives an industry comeback.

Momentum is building, bolstered by recent international recognition for the Iraqi film "The President's Cake", which captures life under crippling sanctions during Saddam Hussein's rule.

"Reviving the cinema sector in Iraq is not easy, but it is not impossible either," Bayati told AFP.

For decades, Iraq's cultural and cinematic scenes flourished.

Film production in Iraq began in the 1940s notably with titles co-produced with Egypt reaching its peak in the 1950s.

Among the most celebrated productions of that era was Kameran Hosni's film "Said Effendi" (1956), a

work recently restored as part of the Iraqi Cinematheque project supported by France, and screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2025.

But then everything changed.

With Saddam Hussein's rise to power in the 1970s, cinema became a propaganda tool.

This was followed by decades of war, sectarian strife and jihadist insurgency after the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Hussein, ultimately snuffing out the golden age of Iraqi cinema.

Baghdad's old movie theatres that once drew film enthusiasts are now barely standing, with their faded walls, old doors and broken signs.

Dilapidated shops crowd the entrance to the Granada Cinema, with clothes hanging directly on the street. Other theatres have been repurposed as warehouses, with a few old movie posters still clinging to their walls.

- The old and the new -

In recent years, a fragile stability has begun to revive Iraqis' appetite for entertainment and returned focus to Baghdad's cultural scene.

Authorities seized the op-

portunity last year, launching an initiative to support 58 film projects.

But the funding pool is just four million dollars, an amount that would fund only a single project in other countries, said Wareth Kwaish of the government-led initiative.

Authorities are also working to recover Iraq's historic cinema archive in the country and abroad.

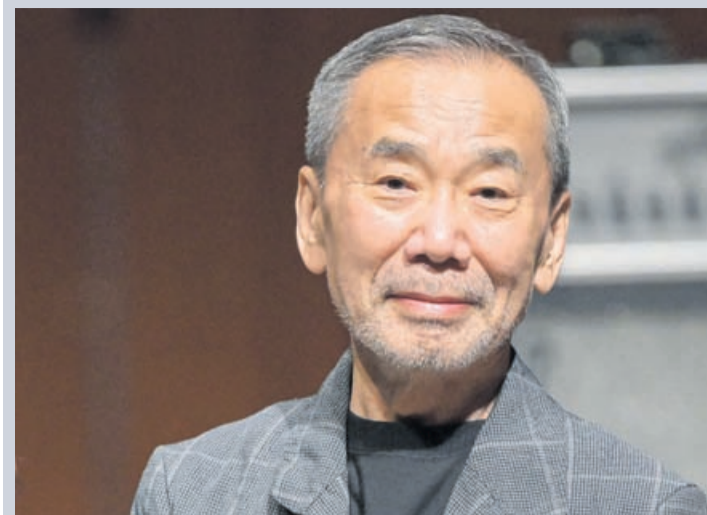
And Baghdad has signed cinematic cooperation agreements with France to support its film industry.

Still, the industry remains short on funding and support, making every production a gamble.

Filmmakers rely on small grants, said Bayati, who hopes to market his movie in the U.S. and European countries and is among those who benefited from government funding.

The key for him is gaining the trust of Iraqi audiences to "generate revenues that would lead to sustainability in work and production", he said.

Most Iraqi moviegoers today frequent multi-screen theatres in shopping malls where Hollywood and Egyptian movies dominate the screens, rather than the classic venues. □



Japanese author Haruki Murakami poses during a photo call following a performance entitled the "Haruki Murakami produce Murakami JAM vol.3 – A hot and gentle fusion night", at the Sumida Triphony Hall in Tokyo on June 29, 2024.

Murakami says his novels are 'different' from AI literature

Tokyo, Japan

Haruki Murakami has said that he writes novels that are "completely different" from what AI can create, as his first book in three years hit shelves in Japan Friday.

Starring a woman as the main character for the first time, his new volume went on sale at midnight in bookstores in Tokyo.

Dozens of fans queued to get their hands on the novel, local media reported.

"AI takes into account everything that has happened so far and draws analogies," Murakami said in an exclusive interview with Kyodo News published Friday.

"But the process of how I write novels is something completely different," he said.

With the rapid advances in generative AI, it is now possible to use the technology to write novels.

However, the role of a novelist is "to drag in something new that suddenly flashes into your mind," Murakami said.

The Japanese author of "Norwegian Wood" and "Kafka on the Shore" is known for his intricate tales about the absurdity and loneliness of modern life, which have been translated into about 50 languages.

When he is deeply focused on writing a story, characters suddenly show up, and "that's not something that comes out from analogy," he said, adding "AI probably can't do that."

Titled "The Tale of KAHO", the author's latest release will see the titular character as the first female protagonist in his catalogue of full-length novels, publisher Shinchosha has said on its website.

In a separate interview with the Asahi Shimbun, also published on Friday, Murakami said: "I had the feeling that I was seeing the world through eyes that were different from my usual ones."

"Of course, I can only imagine how women see the world," he said. "But when I wrote 'Kafka on the Shore', I was looking at the world through the eyes of a fifteen-year-old boy, and in that sense, a novelist can become anything."

"Not long before I wrote this, I spent some time at Wellesley College, a women's college in the United States," he told the Asahi.

"Right now, women's perspectives are being valued very highly, and I think breathing in that kind of atmosphere also had an influence on 'Kaho' this time around," he said. □

Tajik names for Tajik babies: strict rules leave parents stranded

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

After giving birth, Shakhnoza Nazarova thought registering her daughter's name would be a mere formality. Instead, her chosen name was rejected -- deemed not Tajik enough by authorities of the Central Asian country.

She is among many parents stuck in a bureaucratic loop -- a government list of approved names designed to promote Tajik culture and curb both the influence of both Russia and radical Islamism.

The register, which excludes any names deemed foreign by officials, was rolled out 10 years ago and last updated in February.

"We had chosen Dunyo. This name was on the list," Nazarova, 30, told AFP in the capital Dushanbe.

"However, when the baby was born and we went to get the birth certificate, the name Dunyo was no longer there" after the update, she said.

A month since her daughter's birth, the mother of three still has no clear answers.

"There's no guidance on what to do when a name isn't on the list. No one accepts our application," she said.

Gurdovarid Mamadjonova, pregnant with her second daughter, faces the same hurdle.

Her ideal name, Yasmina, is



not on the list either.

"The Tajik version is Yosuman or Yosamin," said the 27-year-old.

Mamadjonova already had to go with an official name for her first daughter -- "Oisha" instead of her preferred "Aisha" -- has yet to decide whether she "would choose a new name or just go along with whatever they give us again."

- Tajik identity -

In Tajikistan, a secular Muslim country of around 10 million people, longtime President Emomali Rakhmon has sought to redefine the national identity by tightening his grip over Islam and steering the country away from its

Soviet legacy.

Proclaimed the "Founder of Peace and National Unity," he casts himself as the guardian of Tajik identity in a country shaped by a bitter 1990s civil war, in which ex-communists defeated an alliance of Islamists and democrats.

A handful of other states also have rules on baby names, but Tajikistan, where the population is surging, goes further than most.

It is "absolutely unacceptable" to "glorify the foreign in the choice of first names," Rakhmon said in 2019.

It "distances future generations from their historical origins," he added.

But what officials count as

an acceptable Tajik name is vague.

Some Muslim names are excluded from the official list -- like Yassine, Amira or Riyad -- while others, like Muhammad or Kareem, are permitted.

The rules, which apply only to ethnic Tajiks, collide with deep-rooted Central Asian traditions, where children's names carry great symbolic importance.

Families often coin unique, meaningful names -- combining words that describe the circumstances of birth, a place, or a hoped-for quality in their child.

Badakhshon Tursunova -- born when Tajikistan was still part of the Soviet Union, which suppressed religion --

was named after a region her mother came from.

"One classmate of mine was called Vatan (homeland), another Tabarali (axe)," the 56-year-old woman said.

"After independence, once religion was no longer banned, people began giving their children Muslim names," she said.

- 'Patriotism' -

Worried by the recruitment of Tajiks into jihadist groups and by the Taliban's return to power in neighbouring Afghanistan, Rakhmon has sought to stamp out radical Islam.

"I am proud to be Tajik first, and Muslim second," he is fond of repeating.

Beyond excluding certain Muslim names, authorities have also banned the hijab headscarf for women and outlawed long beards for young men.

Rakhmon has also distanced himself from the country's Soviet past -- though without openly criticising key ally Russia.

In a rare move, he dropped the Russian "-ov" suffix from his own surname back in 2007. In 2016, he banned it for newborns.

But with Tajikistan being economically dependent on Moscow and hundreds of thousands of Tajik migrant workers living in Russia, practical realities limit the drive to shed Russian influence. □

Catholic society slams 'unjust' excommunication of bishops

Geneva, Switzerland

A breakaway Catholic society which defied the Vatican by consecrating new bishops said their excommunication by the Holy See was "unjust and invalid".

The ultra-traditionalist Society of Saint Pius X consecrated four new bishops on Wednesday in defiance of Pope Leo XIV, who had pleaded with them to turn back from what he called a "schismatic act". The SSPX, which has around 600,000 followers, comprises fundamentalist Catholics who strongly oppose the liberal reforms imposed by the Vatican II Council in the 1960s.

On Thursday, the Vatican duly excommunicated all six bishops of the society and

warned that any lay believers who "formally adhere" to the SSPX would suffer the same fate.

The consecrations were "an extraordinary initiative for the salvation of souls, amidst the doctrinal and moral confusion into which the Church is plunged," said its Superior General Davide Pagliarini, in an open letter addressed to Pope Leo.

"We in no way claim to substitute ourselves for the Church, and we have no ambition other than to remain faithful." The society "will not receive these new sanctions -- objectively unjust and invalid -- with bitterness or revolt", the Italian priest said.

"These recent condemna-

tions, like those of the past, strike at what we hold most dear: our attachment to our mother, the Roman Church."

At a ceremony in Econe in southwest Switzerland on Wednesday, attended by thousands of worshippers from around the world, the last two remaining bishops of the SSPX consecrated four new ones.

Founded in 1970 by the controversial French bishop Marcel Lefebvre, the group triggered a rift with the Vatican by consecrating four bishops in 1988.

They were immediately excommunicated, but the sanction was lifted in 2009 by Pope Benedict XVI.

The society says it is present



Spanish born traditionalist Catholic bishop Alfonso de Galarreta (C) takes in the procession before the schismatic consecration of bishops by the traditionalist Catholic Society of Saint Pius X (SSPX) in Econe, western Switzerland, on July 1, 2026.

in more than 75 countries across six continents, with more than 750 priests.

For the Holy See, consecrating bishops without the ap-

proval of the pope is a direct act of insubordination, leading to the automatic excommunication of the bishops involved. □

Stilettos, beer and sex: Thai resort's enduring notoriety

Pattaya, Thailand

Sitting on a stool under purple neon lights, Emily waited for clients in the back of a bar in Pattaya, a notorious Thai seaside resort back in the spotlight over a sordid murder.

The sex worker the other so-called bar girls call "Mum" arrived in Pattaya more than 20 years ago, but remains on her guard with every encounter.

"I'm worried and that's why I'm still alive," she told AFP. The naked, battered body of a 17-year-old Thai girl was found in a suitcase near a railway track last weekend, just days after she arrived in Pattaya.

A 45-year-old Australian man was arrested at Bangkok airport as he tried to leave the country, and later charged with her murder. Emily said she was not shocked.

She has seen several similar killings over the years, none of which seem to deter girls from rural areas from trying to make a living in Pattaya. "They see videos on TikTok and think it's easy to earn good money," she said. "But it takes time to understand how it works, how to speak to clients. It's not easy -- the reality is different."



Emily (L), a sex worker, waves as she waits for clients in the back of a bar in Pattaya on July 2, 2026.

- Bring more diversity -

Scantily dressed and wearing stiletto heels, hundreds of girls, some apparently very young, form a seedy guard of honour under the lights of Soi 6, a street in one of Pattaya's red-light districts.

Once a sleepy fishing village, Pattaya was transformed by the Vietnam War in the 1960s, when American soldiers on leave began coming for rest and recreation. Two hours' drive from Bangkok, the seaside resort has since become one of the world's epicentres of sex

tourism.

It is trying to shed this image. "Of course everybody thinks the city is about entertainment, nightlife," said Mayor Poramase Ngampiches, who was recently re-elected.

"But actually in the last four years, we try to bring more diversity."

He said the city is trying to reinvent itself through major sporting and cultural events, such as the Tomorrowland music festival, and promoting more family and wellness activities.

"It's true that they're trying to improve its image, to make it safer and more welcoming," confirmed Belgian Damien Joine, owner of a small bar-restaurant.

"Security guards patrol frequently, and as soon as there's a minor disturbance, they calm things down," he said.

- 'Rock bottom' -

In a quiet corner away from the brightly-lit tourist centre, the Health and Opportunity Network has been supporting sex workers for about 15

years -- and does not expect radical change.

"Pattaya actually offers various forms of tourism. The beaches are beautiful, and there are water parks, attractions, and zoos," said staff member Orawan Fungfoosri.

"However, based on a well-established reputation spanning 40 to 50 years, tourists from all over the world know exactly what they are coming to Pattaya to experience.

"It is primarily a hub for sex tourism."

Prostitution is officially illegal in Thailand, but it is essential to the economy of Pattaya, whose wider area counts more than 300,000 residents. And it is a lifeline for many women with no prospects who can earn up to 10 times the average Thai salary on its streets.

Ann, a 37-year-old sex worker originally from western Thailand, arrived in Pattaya 10 years ago after fleeing "issues with loans, drugs and things that made me run away from home".

"Most people who come to Pattaya hit rock bottom in their lives," said the former hairdresser.

The latest grim murder would likely change nothing, she said. □

Keiko Fujimori proclaimed president-elect of Peru



Peru's president-elect for the Fuerza Popular party, Keiko Fujimori (C), waves as she gives a statement alongside her second vice-president Miki Torres (L) and Marco Vinelli, head of the transition team, at her campaign headquarters in the San Borja district of Lima on July 3, 2026.

Lima, Peru

Peru's highest election authority officially proclaimed Keiko Fujimori president-elect on Friday, days after the conclusion of a razor-thin vote count.

The formal declaration brings

one of Peru's tightest leadership contests of all time to a close and ushers in the Andean nation's ninth president in a decade.

"I proclaim Miss Keiko Sofia Fujimori Higuchi as President of the Republic, and Mister

Luis Fernando Galarreta Velarde as First Vice President of the Republic," election chief Roberto Burneo stated at a ceremony in Lima.

The daughter of the late, disgraced ex-leader Alberto Fujimori, the conservative president-elect thanked Peruvians for their support in an X post shortly after the event. "A new chapter begins. We take it on with responsibility, humility and a deep sense of duty," she wrote.

The 51-year-old will succeed interim leader Jose Maria Balcasar on July 28 and govern until 2031.

She inherits the task of running a country hit by powerful organized crime gangs and chronic political instability.

Having unsuccessfully run for president three times, she won with 50.135 percent of the vote over leftist rival Ro-

berto Sanchez's 49.865 percent on her fourth try. Her father Alberto, who ruled from 1990 to 2000, won praise for crushing Maoist rebels and taming hyperinflation.

But he was later disgraced, exiled and jailed for corruption and crimes against humanity committed in the name of fighting what he considered terrorism.

"He wiped out terrorism, that's why I call him Papa Fujimori. Thanks to him there are paved roads, schools in the countryside where nobody used to go," Marta Palomino Quispe, who was a teenager when Fujimori senior governed Peru, told reporters.

Sanchez has alleged irregularities in the count, but election authorities have already thrown out his request to annul the results.

The defeated candidate is now challenging them at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Regional right-wing leaders have congratulated Fujimori on her victory, including Argentina's Javier Milei and Chile's Jose Antonio Kast.

"The Trump Administration looks forward to deepening collaboration with the Fujimori Administration to advance security cooperation and to strengthen bilateral cooperation on investment and trade in our region," U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio stated Tuesday.

"It will be fantastic to be able to share this presidency with a woman of your qualities, your character, your patriotism, and your courage, Keiko," Colombian hard-right president-elect Abelardo de la Espriella told Fujimori in a video call. □

The history and meaning of the Aruban florin

(Oranjestad)—Aruba Today loves to share parts of the Aruban culture with our readers, diving into (historical) facts of Aruba, its culture and way of living. In this article, we'll look 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 Tortuga 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" is supposedly 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



A Double Premiere in Palm Beach: Upstyle Emporium and Little Rose Opened at Palm Beach Plaza Mall

PALM BEACH, ARUBA - Aruba's interior design and collectors' landscape has undergone a sophisticated transformation. Two distinct yet complementary boutiques have opened in the heart of Palm Beach Plaza Mall: Upstyle Emporium and Little Rose. Together, they represent a first-of-its-kind retail concept for Aruba and the wider Caribbean region.

Two Worlds, One Destination

While sharing a passion for history and character, the two stores offer uniquely different experiences tailored to every type of treasure hunter:

* Upstyle Emporium: The island's premier destination for high-end, curated antiques and rare decorative items. From timeless furniture pieces to exquisite period art, Upstyle Emporium is designed for the discerning collector looking to elevate their space with authentic, sophisticated history from Europe and Asia.

* Little Rose: A delightful boutique dedicated to the art of the find. Little Rose offers a high-quality selection of European and Asian vintage curiosities, nostalgic treasures, and charming accents. It is a place where every item tells a story, offering accessible beauty for those who appreciate the soul of vintage living.

A Unique Concept for the Caribbean

This dual opening marks a milestone for the region. "Never before has such a comprehensive collection of history been presented with such meticulous care and aesthetic vision in the Caribbean, offering a serene, gallery-like experience for every visitor."

Whether you are searching for a significant investment piece to complete a luxury villa or a unique vintage gift that cannot be found anywhere else, these sister stores ensure there is "something for everyone."

Visit Us

We invite the public to explore our collections and discover the stories behind the items. Experience the contrast between the high-end elegance of Upstyle Emporium and the eclectic charm of Little Rose.

- Location: Palm Beach Plaza Mall, L.G. Smith Boulevard 95, Noord Aruba
- Standard opening hours: Monday to Friday from 11am to 4 pm. Please check our Social media posts for additional opening hours.
- Private Viewings: For a more personalized experience, contact us directly to schedule a private visit.

Step inside and find the piece of history you've been looking for.

Aruban snacks and where to find them



ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change? How about some Aruban snacks that you can find all around the island? Hop in your car, and go to these locations to find some of the most popular and tasty snacks that are beloved by our locals.

One of the staples of Aruban cuisine and snacks is the Pastechi. Pastechi is a Caribbean fried pastry that is filled with cheese, meat, chicken, veggies and sometimes even fish! Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, locally called a "kroket," which is a crusty fried snack with typically a meat and dough mix

filling. The Aruban kroket is based on its Dutch counterpart, the "bit-terbal".

These two snacks are typically found in all local snack trucks, which can be found all over the island, including on the side of the main road that stretches from San Nicolas to the Hotel Area. You can also find them at local bakeries all over the island. These places may also sell other snacks and sandwiches too, perfect for on-the-road lunch break.

While you're at it, why not accompany your snack with a refreshing "batido"? Batidos are fruit shakes,

typically made with added milk for some creaminess. However, you can also ask to hold the milk. Batidos are commonly found in snack shops too. You may find some batidos along the flea market downtown.

If you are looking for something a bit more fresh and healthy, why not try some coconuts, or shaved ice from local vendors? These vendors carry their little shop at the back of their truck, so they are ever-moving around the island. However, there are a few spots where you can almost always find a coconut/shaved ice vendor:

- Right next to the Red Anchor in San Nicolas, on the way to Baby Beach.
- Along the main road next to the airport field.
- At the California Light House.
- At the Alto Vista Chapel.

These vendors may also sell other delights, like the beloved coconut-based dessert "cocada" or peanuts. All in all, in Aruba, you can always find some place to take a break and have a bite of something local, you maybe just might have to look for them! ☐

Photo credit: wheninaruba.com

2,000,000 Summer Point Giveaway – 20 Winners Daily

Free Shirt Sunday!

Get a **FREE** Alhambra T-Shirt when you earn **250 Slot Points** on Sunday with your **Players' Club card!**

THE SHOPS AT ALHAMBRA CASINO

- Auntie Anne's Pretzels | Aruba Aloe | Baskin-Robbins
- Juan Valdez Café | Hungry Piranha - Pizza, Wings & More
- The Brownstone Ribs and Seafood | The Market
- Shalom Body & Soul Spa | Moments & Memories Jewelry
- Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
- Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
- Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
- Fusion Restaurant, Tapas, Wine & Piano Bar



Open daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 288.9000 | casinoalhambra.com

Play Responsibly. Visit www.gamblersanonymous.org if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.



Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies



(Oranjestad)—Aruba's nature is very diverse and is home to several beautiful and majestic wildlife. Among these is the bright Trupial, whose angelic voice is always heard with the rising sun; the cuddly parakeet, always in company of another, and the majestic Warawara, a mighty bird that can be seen soaring in the clear blue skies.

Trupial

Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be

seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Prikichi (parakeet)

The Brown-throated Prikichi (*Aratinga pertinax*) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more, but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

While these birds are a beautiful sight to behold, it is very important to keep your distance and respect their habitats. This is how we protect our wildlife. By admiring the beauty of Aruba in a safe and respectful manner, we can do our part in protecting our sacred nature.

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation



Aruba to me

ORANJESTAD — You are back or still enjoying your vacation?... we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.

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

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.

Aruba: The island of Aloes

ORANJESTAD – Aloe Vera, a succulent plant species, is renowned for its incredible properties for the skin. It is widely distributed and usually grows in tropical, semi-tropical and arid climates on the planet. But this plant also had a very prominent role in the history of Aruba, and its significance to the island's economy endures to this day.

The leaves of Aloe Vera contain a good amount of gel which when used topically, is great for the skin. Traditionally, Arubans use this gel to treat minor burns and other skin ailments, or just to keep skin supple and looking bright and nourished. Aside from the gel, aloe contains a bitter, yellow substance (called aloin) which is a gentle but powerful laxative, and it is also the origin of the industry of aloe in Aruba.

Aloe vera was introduced in Aruba around 1840, when most of the island's inhabitants were farmers of little means. Dutch Governor Van Raders introduced the plant after it had been introduced in other islands of the Caribbean to cultivate and harvest the aloe to produce the laxative.



Wereldmuseum | # TM-20029655
<https://collectie.wereldmuseum.nl>

Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes."

Under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-

1871), aloe experienced a boom, which is why there is a road named after him, which goes through the aloe fields. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin for laxative, which was imported abroad to the United States

and Europe. The aloin from Aruba and Curaçao was known to be one of the best in the world and was more expensive, which meant that at the time, it had significant economic impact, particularly for the local farmers.

However, by the time the oil industry arrived on Aruba, it changed the labor market on Aruba, shifting away from agriculture. It would be after World War II that aloe would make a comeback. And eventually, as science learned about the amazing properties of aloe gel, the industry shifted from producing laxative to producing skin care. An interesting fact is that in 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to around 30 percent of the total global production!

The impact and relevance of aloe is visible all around Aruba. While most homes will have a few plants for personal use and decoration, houses are also decorated with aloe motifs, and at some point, aloe even featured on post stamps. Around 1920, about two-thirds of Aruba was aloe fields, earning our island the nickname "The Island of Aloes." And in 1955, the aloe became a part of Aruba's coat of arms, symbolizing prosperity for the island. □

Images from the archive of the National Library of Aruba.

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



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

Cas di Torto: History and construction

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

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

For roofing, corn stalks, palm fronds and straws were used, allowing air to flow freely through the house. This method of roofing was known throughout the ABC islands (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), but the use of cornstalks in Aruba eventually got replaced with use of mud

and white plaster for the roofs. The white plaster all around made the houses look like cake, hence the name "Torto" (Spanish for "cake").

Building community

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

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

The couple's family were primarily responsible for feeding everyone who helped build the house. Before construction, someone usually

had the task to prepare the meal; going fishing or slaughter farm animals like goats, chicken or sheep. Even the older kids had their tasks; the older children of the family usually helped with collecting water and mixing the mud.

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

At the end of a long day of work, everyone would gather around and enjoy a feast of hearty food. This type of help from friends and family became a tradition and was called "paga lomba": You help me today; I'll help you tomorrow.

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

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

Another treasure of Aruba's beaches: Sea Glass!

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

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process.



It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.

The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other

rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

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

rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

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

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The

most common and the easiest to find are the brown, green and clear glass.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □

The Bali Restaurant: a touristic hot spot and lost gem on the island

(Oranjestad)—Once located by the yacht dock in front of the Parliament building, the Bali Restaurant was once both a touristic and local hot spot, and nowadays it's considered a forgotten gem on the island.

Known as "the floating restaurant", Bali first opened in 1955 by Willem "Bill" Strijland, who had experience in Javanese cuisine. At the time, the restaurant was pretty exclusive—with space to host only 25 guests. Yet, 4 years later, it was named the best restaurant in the Caribbean by the Caribbean Tourist Association.

The restaurant was probably most iconic for its Javanese-inspired exterior with its pointy, slanted roofs. However, the first version of Bali did not look like that at all but was still considered as one of the most popular restaurants on the island at the time. The restaurant saw three different owners

during its existence, during which it underwent various renovations and rebranding.

In 1964, the restaurant was taken over by Karel "Carl" Schmand. Over the years, the restaurant needed constant renovation and repair, mainly due to its vulnerability to leaks and the unstable pillars underneath the foundation. However, the biggest change made to the restaurant happened in the year 1970—still under the ownership of Schmand, when it got its iconic pointy roofs. The restaurant was also expanded to host a total of 85 guests. This was "The New Bali", who had its official (re)opening in 1972.

After 1972, when Ronny Schmand took over, the restaurant saw yet another expansion; this time complete with a long bar and dance floor, where guests enjoyed live music from legendary Aruban musician and com-

poser, Toti Arends.

After 1989, the restaurant was again handed over to other owners, and since then suffered from unstable pillars underneath the foundation, resulting in various leaks and overflowing of water into the restaurant. And as most great things

come to an end, so did the survival and maintenance of the Bali Restaurant. However, folks today reminisce its legacy, and it's now considered a lost monument.

Be a part of the conversation: if you or any family member of yours have a memory of the Bali restau-

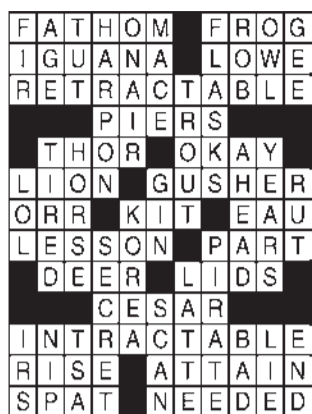
rant, whether it be a picture or just a story, share it with us! We would love to see this legendary hot spot through the lens of our visitors! □

Source and pictures credit to: "De Kolibríe op de Rots (en meer over de geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

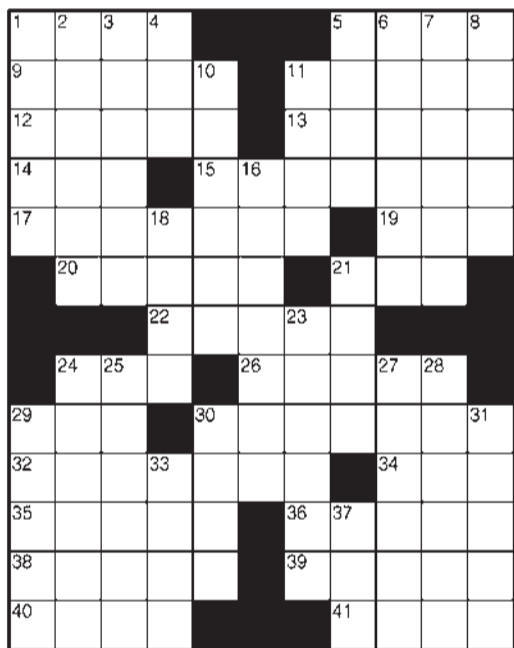


CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**



- ACROSS**
- 35 Ticket
 - 1 Bistro's category kin
 - 5 Goblet part
 - 9 Bakery come-on
 - 11 Was bright
 - 12 Second airing
 - 13 Loses freshness
 - 14 List-shortening abbr.
 - 15 Mary who sang with Peter and Paul
 - 17 Mary who wrote "Frankenstein"
 - 19 Week part
 - 20 So far
 - 21 Beat walker
 - 22 Writer Jong
 - 24 — Vegas
 - 26 Standards
 - 29 Martini base
 - 30 Mary who painted in Paris
 - 32 Mary who wrote "The Persian Boy"
 - 34 De-pressed
- DOWN**
- 1 Gives a hoot
 - 2 Singer Franklin
 - 3 Armies
 - 4 Outback bird
 - 5 Prison knife
 - 6 Ohio city
 - 7 Snare
 - 8 Unkempt Bowl
 - 10 Buck topper
 - 11 Influence
 - 16 Kind of scan
 - 18 Caustic solutions
 - 21 Train units
 - 23 Fellow player
 - 24 Deceived Super
 - 25 Like the Bowl
 - 27 Zambia neighbor
 - 28 Feeds the furnace
 - 29 Lawn growth
 - 30 Salon styles
 - 31 Annoying fellow
 - 33 Sax type
 - 37 "Holy smokes!"



3-8

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.

3-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

B HLLC TPXKMP DLGGMGGMG
OLK LOIU AXG LTO GDXPXX
JRK BIGL KAM GDXPXX LZ
AXG ZPXMOCG. — ZPXMCXPWA
OXMKYGWAM

Cryptoquote: THE PURPOSE OF A WRITER IS TO KEEP CIVILIZATION FROM DESTROYING ITSELF. — ALBERT CAMUS

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.



Drinking water

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



store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

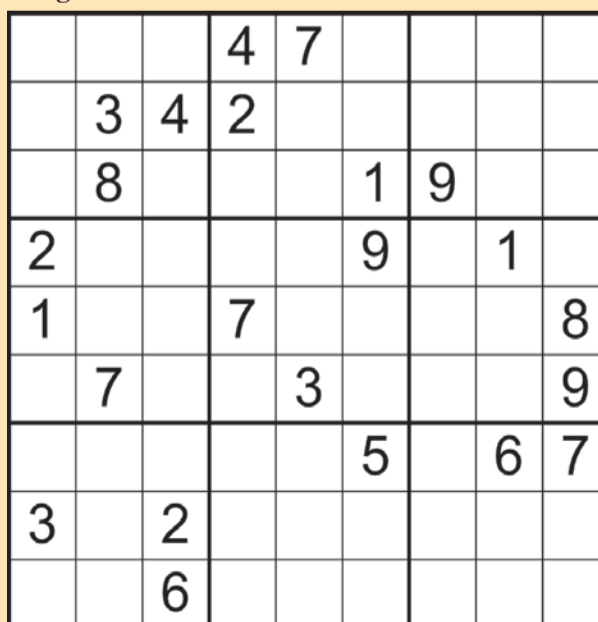
JULY CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE

- 07 TUE** CANIVAL HORIZON
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 22:00 | Berth: B
GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: C
- 08 WED** FREEWINDS
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: | Berth: E
- 12 SUN** FREEWINDS
Arrival: | Departure: 24:00 | Berth: E
- 14 TUE** GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: B
ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS
Arrival: 11:30 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: C
CARNIVAL VISTA
Arrival: 13:00 | Departure: 23:00 | Berth: I
- 15 WED** ALLURE OF THE SEAS
Arrival: 7:00 | Departure: 16:00 | Berth: I
FREEWINDS
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: | Berth: E
- 19 SUN** FREEWINDS
Arrival: | Departure: 24:00 | Berth: E
- 21 TUE** CANIVAL HORIZON
Arrival: 8:00 | Departure: 22:00 | Berth: B
GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS
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: ★★★★★

7/4

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/3

©2026 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

AI race weakens climate pledges at Google, Amazon

San Francisco, United States

Google and Amazon this week reported sharp increases in greenhouse gas emissions, driven by the frantic construction of artificial intelligence infrastructure that is pushing the tech giants further from their carbon neutrality pledges.

Google's total emissions, disclosed on Tuesday, have jumped 82 percent since 2019, and more than 18 percent just last year, even though it has committed to cutting them in half by 2030.

Amazon's emissions, published on Wednesday, have risen 58 percent over the same period, and more than 16 percent last year, despite a pledge to reach carbon neutrality by 2040. Another sign that the problem is getting worse: both companies now pollute more for every dollar they generate in revenue.

In other words, their emissions are rising faster than their sales a first since at least 2021 for Amazon.

"Our AI infrastructure build-out is currently accelerating faster than the grid is decarbonizing," Kate Brandt, Google's chief sustainability officer, said in a blog post announcing the company's annual environmental report.

Her counterpart at Amazon, Kara Hurst, likewise said in the ecommerce giant's own report that demand for AI products could "slow us down" when it comes to the company's environmental ambitions.

In total, Google emitted 18.8 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent last year, which comes partly from its data centers and offices but primarily from its supply chain for chip and server manufacturing and the construction of new centers by its suppliers.

Amazon emitted 80.85 million tonnes, from the same cloud computing activities, plus its warehouses, logistics fleet, and deliveries



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres prior to a meeting with members of U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee May 17, 2018 on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Secretary General Guterres will meet with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House in the afternoon.

around the world. "One thing we can count on with companies is that they will pursue profits," Sytske Wijnsma, an assistant professor at UC Berkeley's graduate school of business, told AFP. Her research is focused on supply chain sustainability, particularly the growing demand for critical minerals.

On the one hand, that creates an incentive for corporations to cut their operational costs like energy. Companies will invest in more sustainable options if it reduces costs, Wijnsma said, which can be "a win-win" for them and the environment.

The bigger issue, she continued, is their supply chains, which they don't directly control.

"They need to find a way to fill that gap between the demand and the supply" of resources, like energy and critical minerals, Wijnsma said. "The gap can be filled by making your chips and data centers more efficient" or by tapping into more readily available options like fossil fuels.

- A global effort -

Earlier this month, a United Nations report found that data centers worldwide use so much energy that only 10 countries each consume more, making AI the 11th largest energy consumer globally.

By 2030, AI data centers are expected to become the sixth largest energy user around the world.

"It is time to come clean," UN Secretary General An-

tonio Guterres said during a speech on June 23 during London Climate Week. "If AI is to help build a better future, it must be honest about what it costs us now."

Guterres launched an AI Environmental Transparency Initiative and urged every major AI company to measure and publicly disclose their environmental impact as well as commit to powering every data center with renewable energy by 2030.

The issue affects the entire sector, including Meta and Microsoft which are expected to publish their own reports soon.

The global AI race, which accelerated after the meteoric launch of ChatGPT in late 2022, is pushing tech giants to multiply data centers facilities that consume large amounts of electricity, water for cooling, concrete, steel and chips. □

ARUBA TODAY

Editor
 Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
 Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
 Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
 Acc. #23951903
 RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

Editors
 Pilar Flores
 Richard Brooks
 Angenette Figuereo
 Oriana Geerman

Sales
 Mark Gomes
 Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
 classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
 accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website
 Juan Luis Pinto

Weststraat 22
 T: 582-7800
 E: news@arubatoday.com
 W: www.arubatoday.com
 @ArubaTodayNews

HEALTH

DOCTOR ON DUTY

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

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Sta. Anna
Tel. 586 8181

San Nicolas:
Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

Police	100
Police Oranjestad	527 3140
Police Noord	527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz	527 2900
Police San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulance	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002

FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

GENERAL INFO

Phone Directory Tel. 118

Like us on Facebook

ARUBA TODAY NEWS



Robots take part in a football match at RoboCup 2026, a robotics and Artificial Intelligence (AI) competition in Incheon on July 3, 2026.

Move over, Messi! Robot footballers thrill crowds in South Korea

Incheon, South Korea

Thirty seconds before kick-off, humanoid robot footballers in red and blue jerseys await the referee's signal in the South Korean port city of Incheon.

The match setting is RoboCup, branded as the world's largest robotics competition, where engineers are betting on a fully autonomous robot team that can one day defeat the FIFA World Cup champions.

Unlike remote-controlled machines, RoboCup's robots make decisions on their own once a game begins, testing dramatic recent advances in artificial intelligence.

On the field Friday, a referee shouted "stop!" as a shot flew out of bounds prompting every robot to freeze instantly.

Moments later, one squad member named "number one" scored, to cheers from dozens of spectators. But then came a foul: one robot barges into the goalkeeper, sending it crashing to the ground.

"You can't do that," one spectator laughed.

Across Incheon's Songdo Convensia convention centre, dozens of matches unfolded simultaneously on Friday as small, medium and large humanoid robots competed on compact

pitches and spectators drifted from court to court.

Founded in Japan in 1997, RoboCup has expanded beyond football into rescue, home service and industrial robotics while pursuing its long-term goal of building a fully autonomous robot team capable of defeating the FIFA World Cup champions by 2050.

Although the robots play autonomously, human team members relay the referee's commands such as "stop" and "resume" through software during matches, Lea Wedmann, of the Hamburg Bit-Bots team from Germany's University of Hamburg, told AFP.

Visitors said watching robot football felt surprisingly similar to viewing a human sporting event.

"I had never seen robots playing football before. It was fascinating and really fun," Cho Woo-cheol, a 45-year-old construction company worker, told AFP. "When I first saw them, I found myself supporting the blue team because they looked a bit more human."

"They're obviously not moving exactly like people yet, but they were much closer than I expected. Robot football has its own unique charm."

- The Messi robot -

Another visitor, Kim Mihong, 60, predicted robot athletes could one day attract loyal supporters.

"If they become really good, I think they'll have fans," she told AFP.

"People were already saying, 'The red team is better,' and recognising players by their numbers. As the technology improves, I think fandoms will naturally emerge."

That future may not be too far ahead.

"We think robots can defeat humans by 2050," said Thomas Rofer, spokesperson for Germany's B-Human team at the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence.

"Recently there has been a big step forward in humanoid robot development. We have already seen one company here demonstrate a robot that can kick as hard as a human."

Researchers say advances in artificial intelligence have dramatically accelerated progress in recent years.

Morgan Stanley Research estimates that by 2050 around 930 million humanoid robots will be working in repetitive, structured tasks, with the global humanoid robotics market potentially reaching \$5 trillion. □



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman speaks during the U.S. Federal Reserve Board of Governors' "Integrated Review of the Capital Framework for Large Banks Conference" at the Federal Reserve in Washington, DC, on July 22, 2025.

OpenAI discusses giving U.S. government 5% stake: report

Washington, United States

OpenAI has discussed giving the US government a five percent ownership stake as the artificial intelligence giant seeks to smooth relations with the Trump administration, the Financial Times reported Thursday.

CEO Sam Altman has argued that giving the public a financial stake in the \$852 billion company is the best way to share the benefits of AI.

Altman has raised the idea in conversations with White House officials including President Donald Trump, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, the FT reported, citing people familiar with the talks.

The proposed arrangement would see other leading US AI companies hand over a similar stake, with OpenAI suggesting each developer allot five percent of their equity to a special investment vehicle.

This would be modeled on the Alaska Permanent Fund, which invests the state's oil wealth and pays dividends to residents, the FT said.

The talks were described as in early stages, with any deal potentially requiring an act of Congress, the report said.

AI companies have faced growing political headwinds in Washington as lawmakers and the public raise concerns about massive data center construction, job displacement and cybersecurity risks.

OpenAI and rival Anthropic have both recently had the release of cutting-edge models blocked or limited by U.S. government scrutiny, with Silicon Valley increasingly worried about unilateral action by Washington to control the deployment of AI.

Writing in an opinion piece for the FT, Altman said he supported the creation of "a U.S.-led international forum" that would establish standards, analyze risks and make "the technology available to nations and companies that participate and follow the rules."

Staffed by "government representatives, independent technical experts and others," the forum could also serve as a governance mechanism over AI companies "and guard against the commercial pressures that can lead to unsafe racing," he wrote.

Altman has spoken in recent weeks with Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders, who has pushed for public ownership of closer to half of each U.S. AI company through a sovereign wealth fund. □

Tour de France to start with team time-trial 'bang'

Barcelona, Spain

Former Tour de France winner Geraint Thomas said he wants his Netcompany Ineos team to "start with a bang" when the Grande Boucle launches this weekend in Barcelona with an intriguing team time-trial. It will be the first team race against the clock in seven years and the first time the Tour has opened with one since 1971.

But the innovative way riders are being timed has got many tongues wagging about the potential for fireworks, and others hankering after a more traditional approach.

"I love this version because it truly represents what cycling is: an individual sport raced in teams," Tour director Christian Prudhomme told AFP.

"We would have never brought back the team time-trial if we didn't have this rule."

Traditionally, the team time-trial remains a group effort right to the finish line, with each rider given the same time as the fourth or fifth member of their team to cross the line.

It means that the eight-man group or at least most of it has to stay together all the way to the finish.

"You're only as fast as your



Red Bull - BORA - hansgrohe team's Belgian rider Remco Evenepoel (C) cycles during a training session on the eve of the start of the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, in Barcelona in northeastern Spain, on July 3, 2026.

weakest link," as the saying goes.

But the new rules mean that each rider is given his own time when he crosses the line.

Saturday's largely flat 19.6km course around Barcelona's city centre ends with two short, sharp, climbs.

It means that each team's bigger, heavier time-trial specialists will have the job of shepherding their punchy climbers to the last part of the race before launching them up the

Montjuic hill to the finish.

It makes for a greater variety of race strategies, but also gives the overall contenders the chance to shine, and even snare a few extra seconds from each other.

- 'Multistage rocket dynamic' -

Ineos come into the stage as the favourites, boasting a team with two former individual time-trial world champions in Filippo Ganna and Tobias Foss, and the 2023 European champion

Josh Tarling.

"Obviously, starting with a TTT is a great opportunity for us," said Thomas, the team's sporting director, who took the coveted yellow jersey in 2017 after winning an opening individual time-trial.

"It's just an exciting goal. Let's get out there, start with a bang and give it the best we can."

Reigning Tour champion Tadej Pogacar's UAE team and two-time winner Jonas Vingegaard's Visma-Lease a Bike will also expect to set

competitive times.

In Frenchman Kevin Vauquelin, Netcompany have a contender to claim the first yellow jersey of the 2026 Tour.

He was furious last month when he missed the chance to take the leader's jersey at the Tour Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes when the team slowed to wait for Oscar Onley after the Briton dropped his chain and had to fix it while cruising along at around 60kph.

Even so, Vauquelin said then: "I like this multistage rocket dynamic" as it "shakes up the general classification more".

Fellow Frenchman Warren Barguil is more of a traditionalist.

"I'm old school. The team time-trial is a team discipline," he said.

"In terms of attractiveness, watching on television, it's maybe more exciting to watch the new format because there are different strategies..."

"But I really liked the effort where everyone stayed together right to the end."

Those strategies could include seven riders working to propel their team leader to the finish, or maybe two or three riders working together all the way to the line. □

LeBron's agent makes case for 10 new clubs for 41-year-old star

Los Angeles, United States

Rich Paul, the agent for NBA superstar LeBron James, said Monday his 41-year-old client has 10 realistic destinations next season after saying he will leave the Los Angeles Lakers.

James, a four-time NBA champion and four-time Most Valuable Player, announced earlier this week he would not return to the Lakers and seeks a new team in free agency for his 24th NBA campaign.

Paul said he has fielded a number of calls from NBA teams, telling James they were a tribute to his career and expected skill at 41.

"These calls I'm getting are a true testament to how you have respect in

this game," Paul said he told James in an edition of the agent's "Game Over" podcast released on Friday. A large whiteboard showed teams Paul said would be a logical fit for James, including the Golden State Warriors, Philadelphia 76ers, Denver Nuggets, Cleveland Cavaliers, Miami Heat and Minnesota Timberwolves.

In hyping the case for his client, Paul also mentioned Dallas, Boston, San Antonio and New York, saying James would be bound for the Knicks had they not won the NBA title last month.

"If the Knicks hadn't have won, there wouldn't even be no board. He would be

going to the Knicks," Paul said. Philadelphia made a strong case by landing Jaylen Brown from Boston in a reported deal that cannot be signed or confirmed until next week under NBA free agency rules. Adding James to a starting squad of Joel Embiid, Tyrese Maxey, VJ Edgecombe and Brown would create a formidable lineup, Paul notes.

"How could not have (his) attention when you have Maxey, Edgecombe, Brown and Embiid?" Paul said, adding that James "unlocks everything there" and "everything changed" when Brown went there.

Paul also looked at the Miami Heat, who added Giannis Antetokounmpo

to Bam Adebayo, Davion Mitchell and Andrewiggins, as well as Denver and Minnesota.

Asked about some of the

longshot mentions such as San Antonio or Boston, Paul said if a club wasn't in consideration, "they wouldn't be on the board." □



LeBron James #23 of the Los Angeles Lakers dribbles the ball during the first quarter against the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game Four of the Second Round of the NBA Western Conference Playoffs at Crypto.com Arena on May 11, 2026 in Los Angeles, California.

Title rivals Djokovic and Sinner advance at Wimbledon

London, United Kingdom

Novak Djokovic earned another slice of Wimbledon history as the seven-time winner advanced to the fourth round, while defending champion Jannik Sinner powered past Jenson Brooksby on Friday.

Djokovic beat French 25th seed Arthur Rinderknech 7-5, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (7/4) on Centre Court to equal Roger Federer's men's singles record for most match wins at Wimbledon.

Martina Navratilova (120) is the only player to have won more singles matches at Wimbledon than Djokovic and Federer.

Djokovic also tied Federer for most appearances in the last 16 of the men's singles at Wimbledon in the Open era, making the fourth round for the 18th time.

"To be able to make history of this sport is a huge honour and privilege, especially here," Djokovic said.

"It's always been a dream tournament for me here. I propose a match-up between Roger and me for 106, let's stop it here and call Roger to come!"

Djokovic is only the fourth man in the Open era to make the last 16 at Wimbledon aged 39 or older after



Serbia's Novak Djokovic prepares to return to France's Arthur Rinderknech during their men's singles third round tennis match on the fifth day of the 2026 Wimbledon Championships at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club in Wimbledon, southwest London, on July 3, 2026.

Federer, Pancho Gonzales and Ken Rosewall.

He arrived at Wimbledon targeting a record 25th Grand Slam singles crown, which would break a tie with Margaret Court and draw him level with Federer's record eight titles at the All England Club.

Winning Wimbledon would also make Djokovic the oldest man to lift a Grand Slam trophy in the Open era.

He meets Russian qualifier Roman Safiullin, who beat Brazilian Joao Fonseca in straight sets, for a place in his 66th Grand Slam quarter-final and 17th at Wimbledon.

Sinner has never lost a Grand Slam match to a player ranked as low as world number 81 Brooksby and he delivered an imperious display on Court One to keep that streak intact with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 win.

The 24-year-old is into the last 16 for the fifth time, equalling Nicola Pietrangeli's record for most Wimbledon men's singles fourth-round appearances by an Italian.

In the last 16, he will face Japanese qualifier Shintaro Mochizuki a surprise third-round winner against Spanish starlet Rafael Jodar.

- 'A small step forward' - Sinner ended Carlos Al-

caraz's two-year reign as Wimbledon champion with a brilliant final victory over the Spaniard last year.

The four-time Grand Slam champion had been some way from those lofty heights in his opening two matches this week, but he was more convincing against Brooksby.

"I'm trying to improve every day. A small step forward today. Trying to get better if I want to go far in this tournament," Sinner said.

Hoping to win Wimbledon for the first time, women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka aced a tricky test against Jelena Ostapenko, winning 6-4, 6-4 on Centre Court.

The four-time Grand Slam champion, who has reached 14 successive major quarter-finals, has lost in the semi-finals on each of her past three visits to Wimbledon.

She remains on course for a first Wimbledon final after beating 2017 French Open champion Ostapenko in business-like style.

Sabalenka faces a blockbuster last-16 showdown with Japan's Naomi Osaka in a rematch of their clash at the same stage of this year's French Open. □

Egypt edge Australia on penalties to reach World Cup last 16

Arlington, United States

Hossam Abdelmaguid scored the winning penalty as Egypt made history by beating a dogged Australia 4-2 on penalties to reach the World Cup last 16 on Friday.

A tense affair in which Egypt and their off-colour captain Mohamed Salah wasted the better chances had ended 1-1 after 120 minutes in Texas.

Lionel Messi's Argentina loom next for Egypt, as long as the reigning champions avoid a massive upset against tournament debutants Cape Verde in their last-32 encounter.

The Pharaohs will celebrate anyway having reached this stage of a World Cup for the first time ever.

Australia coach Tony Popo-

vic threw on experienced goalkeeper Mathew Ryan for the penalty shootout in a last-gasp gamble.

Shooting towards the Egypt fans and whistles raining down, defender

Harry Souttar blazed the first penalty over to put the Socceroos on the immediate backfoot.

They next five players all scored, including Salah with the coolest of pen-

alties, before 18-year-old Australia defender Lucas Herrington hit the bar. Abdelmaguid kept his nerve to send Egypt through to leave Salah in tears of joy and break Australia hearts.

Emam Ashour had given seven-time African champions Egypt the lead from a header after 13 minutes at the air-conditioned home of the Dallas Cowboys.

The early goal put the onus on a shot-shy Australia who scored only twice in the group phase to attack in front of a crowd of 70,000. With Salah mostly ineffective following injury in Egypt's last game, the Socceroos equalised 10 minutes after half-time when Mohamed Hany headed

into his own net.

Both sides sensed history, neither having won a knockout game before at a men's World Cup, and they went to extra time after some late Egypt pressure.

With nothing to divide them they went to penalties.

- Salah on fringes -

Popovic's side had nearly taken the lead with less than five minutes gone as Cristian Volpato who switched to Australia from Italy on the eve of the World Cup -- rattled the top of the crossbar.

Egypt, who won a World Cup match for the first time in the group phase when they beat New Zealand 3-1, looked nervy at the back. □



Egypt's defender #04 Hossam Abdelmaguid shoots and scores the winning shot in a penalty shoot-out during the 2026 World Cup round of 32 football match between Australia and Egypt at the Dallas Stadium in Arlington on July 3, 2026.