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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY
PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.



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

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Trump under pressure over Chinese AI surge

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump is under pressure to respond to the increasing success of Chinese AI models that many companies prefer to the more powerful, but pricier, US versions from Anthropic or OpenAI. The issue came to the fore this week with the release of Kimi K3 by Moonshot, which White House officials say was developed by stealing the capabilities of Anthropic's most powerful model through a process called distillation. The method is widely used across the industry, but US officials say Chinese firms have deployed it at scale to illicitly copy proprietary American systems.

Michael Kratsios, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, on Wednesday decried the practice and suggested that Moonshot had also circumvented US export curbs on powerful AI chips from Nvidia to build its products.

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security is formally investigating Chinese firms such as Moonshot over their use of these chips, a spokesperson told The In-



United States National Cyber Director Sean Cairncross (C) accompanied by United States Chief Technology Officer Dr. Ethan Klein (L) and White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Director Michael Kratsios (R), speaks during an event with U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House on June 22, 2026 in Washington, DC. President Trump signed two orders on quantum computing.

formation.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent this week threatened sanctions against China, amid reports the US is also weighing a ban or curbs on foreign-made open source models that are often built through distillation.

Earlier this year Anthropic sent letters to US lawmakers warning about the

practice, formally accusing Chinese firms Moonshot, DeepSeek and MiniMax of industrial-scale distillation of its Claude models. Illicit distillation "is IP theft and industrial espionage" and "a national challenge that creates serious national security risks for the United States and democratic allies," Sarah Heck, Anthropic's head of public

policy, said on X.

Opponents of this hard line worry that a crackdown on distillation will also mean a ban on open source models.

Open source, or open-weight, models cost less and use source code that programmers can customize -- something that is especially appreciated by startups and companies

that do not want to be beholden to models from Anthropic, OpenAI or Google that cost money and must be taken as is.

Even as an idea that has only been floated, the plan to block foreign-made open source models has drawn fierce objections from Silicon Valley, which has asked the White House to forgo it, saying it would unfairly reward the US AI giants, thwart competition and stick entrepreneurs with high prices for AI.

On Wednesday, a group of 179 startups wrote a letter to the Trump administration urging it to think twice against any outright ban or strict curbs on foreign-made models, saying this should only be considered for government use of the technology.

"Denying American startups access to models available abroad would stifle competition, entrench incumbents, and function as a tax on intelligence," the letter from the Little Tech Association said.

On Friday, industry heavyweights including Microsoft, Mistral, Perplexity and Meta also called for restraint, even in cases of illegal distillation.

They proposed addressing the issue through "a legal and commercial framework rather than broad restrictions."

- 'Panic needs to stop' -

Some critics believe that OpenAI and Anthropic are trying to use the government and regulation to stop the emergence of this rival technology.

The two AI giants are under the microscope ahead of expected IPOs in coming months, with Wall Street taking a close look at their business performance ahead of their market debuts. "The Kimi Panic needs to stop," said David Sacks, the White House's former AI policy chief, who still has the president's ear.

"As long as we don't sabotage ourselves with unnecessary rules, the US will continue to win," he said on X. □

Venezuela not ready for elections: Trump

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump said Friday that Venezuela is not ready to hold elections, more than seven months after the American military operation that toppled then-leader Nicolas

Maduro.

"As far as the elections in Venezuela, they're not really ready for them yet, but boy, a lot of progress has been made," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office when asked about the Lat-

in American country.

Trump said that Venezuela's acting president Delcy Rodriguez, who was Maduro's deputy and has effectively been allowed to stay in power by Washington, was "doing a fantastic job."

"We have to do it right. Elections take care of themselves," Trump added.

Trump instead pivoted to the importance of Venezuela's oil industry, praising what he said was the large amount of oil being exported and saying that "we're taking a lot also for, you know, for our efforts."

"I'm very popular in Venezuela because we're bringing tremendous economics back to the country, and they were abso-

lutely dying," he added.

Trump has repeatedly expressed his enthusiasm for Venezuela following the deadly US military operation on January 3 that removed Maduro and his wife from the country. Maduro is set to go on trial in the United States next year.

But Trump and his administration have been far vaguer on the likelihood of elections.

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in June that Venezuela needs a free press and a new electoral commission first.

Controversial 2024 presidential elections returned authoritarian leader Maduro to power and were not recognized by the United States, the European Union, and Latin American countries. □



A demonstrator holds a sign featuring an illustration of ousted Venezuelan president Nicholas Maduro and his wife Cilia Flores, outside the Daniel Patrick Moynihan Federal Courthouse in New York City on July 22, 2026.

Trump tariff wall set to stay after Supreme Court blow: analysts

Washington, United States

Circumventing the U.S. Supreme Court, President Donald Trump has found a way to resurrect his tariff wall in a fashion that analysts say could prove more durable to legal challenges.

Just this week, Trump slapped sweeping new tariffs on 60 trading partners and saw 25-percent duties take effect on Brazilian products. Both cases involved an authority that has previously been used to impose levies.

Trump separately tapped an untested justification for 50-percent tariffs on many Canadian goods.

The actions and threats "underscore the president's continued affection for tariffs, and that they are not going away as long as he is in the White House," Asia Society Policy Institute senior vice president Wendy Cutler told AFP.

Trump's latest tariffs of 10 percent to 12.5 percent apply to goods from 60 economies starting Friday. They came after probes over forced labor concerns, under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Cutler said this has a lower likelihood of being over-



A person reads signs with US trading information posted during World Trade Week at the Wilmington Waterfront Promenade at the Port of Los Angeles, California, on May 9, 2026.

ridden by courts, noting Trump's top trade official Jamieson Greer had carefully navigated procedural requirements before imposing duties.

More concerning was Trump's targeting of Canada using the untested Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Atlantic Council's Josh Lipsky told AFP.

The justification was Canada's alleged discriminatory treatment of U.S. exports, with duties effective after a month.

"That's more tariff-as-punishment" and could signal that Washington intends to keep less conventional tools at its disposal, Lipsky said.

This is an "uncertainty generator," added Scott Lincicome of the libertarian Cato Institute.

- Court's reluctance -

Already, Trump's newest tariffs face legal challenges from small businesses. As courts have earlier allowed the use of Section

301 for imposing duties, arguments against Trump's latest salvo would likely focus on official findings that justified action, Lincicome said.

"That's just not something that courts typically want to weigh in on," he added. Still, some argue that Trump lacks such broad powers to impose sweeping tariffs.

Within months of returning to the presidency, Trump unleashed a barrage of tariffs on US trading partners.

He invoked emergency economic powers to impose a swath of these duties quickly, a move deemed illegal by the high court this February.

Trump's sector-specific tariffs, imposed under different legal authorities on steel, automobiles and other goods, are unaffected. Officials have since launched Section 301 investigations, including on forced labor, to reinstate duties.

Lincicome warns however that past investigations were more substantive. A probe into China during Trump's first term took a year to result in duties.

This time, probes into 60 economies including major partners like the EU and India spanned just four months.

- Hard to undo -

U.S. tariffs are tough to undo. Former president Joe Biden, the Democrat who succeeded Trump after his first term, kept his predecessor's tariffs on China intact.

Even if a future leader wanted to reverse Trump's duties, revenue considerations will complicate the situation, Lipsky predicts. □

U.S. court rules abortion pill restrictions 'unlawful'

Washington, United States

A federal court in Virginia has ruled that restrictions imposed by the U.S. drug regulator on the abortion pill mifepristone are "unlawful" and ordered the Trump administration to reconsider them.

The case was brought by the nonprofit Center for Reproductive Rights in May 2023 on behalf of abortion providers across Virginia, Kansas, and Montana.

At stake were a set of rules called Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) long decried by abortion advocates as unduly burdensome.

One forces prescribers to register with the manufacturer creating a national database that advocates say could pose a safety risk for doctors.

Another requires pharmacies to be specially certified and maintain detailed records, and a third makes patients review counseling that critics called inaccurate.

In his ruling, entered Thursday but widely publicized on Friday, Judge Robert S. Ballou wrote that the new restrictions were "arbitrary and capricious" because "the FDA has steadfastly found, over the past quarter century, that mifepristone is a safe and effective medication."

He ordered the Trump administration to reconsider the rules, but did not void them and did not find that the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) had acted illegally in principle in trying to impose safety restrictions.

"This ruling is a win for science," said Nancy Northup, CEO at the Center for Reproductive Rights.

The case is separate from another currently in the Fifth Circuit, where the Republican-led state of Louisiana is asking the FDA to reimpose a ban on patients receiving mifepristone by mail or through pharmacies after a virtual visit with a provider.

In May the U.S. Supreme Court temporarily maintained mail access to mifepristone, extending its stay of the Fifth Circuit's order that sided with Louisiana and would have halted such delivery.

The case is now back at that federal appeals court for full briefings.

It could eventually return

to the Supreme Court.

Mifepristone, part of a two-pill combination for abortion, has been approved by the FDA since 2000 and is also routinely used to manage miscarriages. Since 2023, it has accounted for 63 percent of all US

abortions.

Anti-abortion activists, however, have called the drug's safety into question, with some citing a study conducted by a conservative think tank that never underwent a formal peer review. □



This photograph taken on March 23, 2023, shows different boxes of birth control pills on a pharmacy, in Colomiers, southwestern France.

Venice film festival promises Pattinson, Oasis and Musk doc

Rome, Italy

British star Robert Pattinson's latest film, *Oasis* brothers Noel and Liam Gallagher, as well as a four-hour documentary about Elon Musk are all set to feature at the Venice Film Festival this year in September.

Organisers unveiled a programme packed full of strong independent and arthouse productions on Thursday, but lacking major Hollywood studio support a pattern seen at other European festivals this year.

A total of 20 films will compete for the prestigious Golden Lion top award over the September 2-12 festival, including "Primer" by Lance Oppenheim about an American TV show that sought to expose paedophiles.

It stars Pattinson, fresh from his acclaimed performance as the villainous Anakin Skywalker in current box-office champion "The Odyssey".

"This film is the true story of the unscrupulous host of a disturbing reality show by NBC," Venice festival director Alberto Barbera told reporters about "Primer". Other in-competition high-



(L-R) Javier Bardem and Margarita Levieva attend Apple TV's "Cape Fear" New York Screening at DGA Theater on July 21, 2026 in New York City.

lights include "Wild Horse Nine", a dark comedy by Ireland's Martin McDonagh starring John Malkovich and Sam Rockwell, as well as "Bunker" by Florian Zeller featuring real-life Spanish power couple Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz.

As previously announced, the competition will open with "Ink", a film about press baron Rupert Murdoch's transformation of the British media by "Trainspotting" director Danny Boyle.

The latest movie from German veteran Werner Herzog "Bucking Fastard", featuring sisters Kate Mara and Rooney Mara will also be in the running for the Golden Lion.

Two of Asia's most acclaimed filmmakers, Japan's Hirokazu Koreeda ("Shoplifters") and South Korea's Lee Chang-dong ("Burning"), are also in the line-up.

- Hollywood ghosting -

Hollywood and U.S. streaming giants Netflix and Amazon chose Venice to host a series of big-budget films last year, but they have mostly steered clear this year.

European festivals typically rely on Hollywood to provide a dose of mass-market entertainment alongside the sometimes edgy independent cinema that forms the core of their programmes.

The U.S. majors blanked the

Berlin festival in February and Cannes in May.

Some observers had expected Alejandro Inarritu's "Digger" starring a barely recognisable Tom Cruise as an overweight oil baron to make a splashy entrance on the Venice Lido.

The Disney-produced documentary "Don't Look Back in Anger" about Manchester rock band Oasis and their comeback tour last year is an exception.

"The Gallagher brothers have promised they will be in Venice," Barbera told reporters.

Another documentary is also guaranteed to attract attention, but will challenge viewers' powers of concentration: a four-hour exploration of Elon Musk by American director Alex Gibney.

"He traces the whole career, the contradictions, and the power that is centralised in the hands of a single man," Barbera explained.

There will also be plenty of overtly political fare tackling state repression in Hungary ("Ground Floor"

by Gabor Reisz), Belarus ("Letters From The Silenced Country" by Andrei Kutsila) and Iran ("A Bit of Light" by Ali Asgari).

Several films look at violence in Israeli-controlled Palestinian territory, while "Citizen Osama" by Ahmed Hassouna follows a photojournalist documenting the killing and destruction by Israeli troops in Gaza.

"This year's programme reinforces the idea of cinema as an extraordinary tool for learning about reality," Barbera said. "All the major problems of our contemporary world are reflected or echoed in films" This year's judging panel for the main competition will be headed by American actress Maggie Gyllenhaal ("The Lost Daughter"), who will also present a short film about Marilyn Monroe, starring Dakota Johnson and Ellen Burstyn.

Charli XCX pivots from hyperpop in post-Brat album

London, United Kingdom

British megastar Charli XCX released her first album since the smash hit "Brat" on Friday, shaking things up with a moody, self-referential collection titled "Music, Fashion, Film".

The 33-year-old's seventh studio album tries to break from the hyperpop, hedonistic "Brat" which swept

the summer of 2024 with its club-ready tracks.

"Music, Fashion, Film" is more understated, and like her tongue-in-cheek mockumentary released earlier this year, grapples with the insecurity that comes with global stardom and commercial success.

Littered with references to the worlds of music, film

and fashion, the album explores themes of artistic immortality and identity.

The album's black-and-white vinyl cover is graced by titans of the three industries: Velvet Underground rocker John Cale, designer Marc Jacobs and director Martin Scorsese.

It comprises 11 compact songs featuring electronic and guitar riffs, the singer's signature deadpan lyrics, and a steady dose of nostalgia.

The closing track includes a narration from Canadian director David Cronenberg, whose cult film "Crash" inspired Charli's fifth album.

At the end of the song, called "No One Lasts Forever", Cronenberg says: "Yes, some artists have created art that has really survived thousands of years."

"But experientially, for them, they are dead, they are gone. They are not experiencing that."

The video for another song "Camera" features French actor Vincent Cassel, who himself collaborated with Cronenberg in a film last year.

Since concluding her "Brat" tour, Charli has made her own foray into film, writing the soundtrack for Emerald Fennell's adaptation of "Wuthering Heights" and starring in smaller acting roles.

In her mockumentary "The Moment", Charli plays herself fighting against music industry executives to evolve from her "brat" persona.

After its release, the singer said: "The 'me' in the film, I am really wanting 'brat' to stop and actually really pivot as far away from it as possible."



Singer Charli XCX poses on the red carpet upon arrival at The Fashion Awards 2021 in London on November 29, 2021.



Liberian farmer Daniel B. Somah bleeds a tree to harvest latex rubber at his rubber farm in Grand Bassa County, on March 14, 2026.

In Liberia, lots of rubber production but no new tyres

Liberia

Harry Somah scrapes bark from a tree on his farm in western Liberia with a tapping knife, as thick rubber pours slowly into a cup. Rubber is among Liberia's main cash crops, but experts say the poor west African nation is shortchanged when tires and other rubber goods are manufactured abroad. Somah, in his 70s, inherited his rubber farm from his father and grandfather before him. It sits in a district of Grand Bassa County known as Compound One, where rubber has been his family's only stable source of income for decades. But he says the compensation is too low. Just like thousands of other Liberians, the Somahs sell their crop to the country's largest rubber company, Firestone Liberia, which is located some 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of the capital Monrovia and has been in the country for 100 years. In addition to buying rubber from independent farmers like the Somahs, Firestone Liberia, a subsidiary of Bridgestone, also produces its own rubber. Firestone operates the world's largest contiguous natural rubber plantation, stretching almost 480 square kilometers (185

square miles) and employing more than 4,000 people. There are also a handful of other rubber companies in Liberia. Yet tire and large-scale rubber goods manufacturing does not exist in the country, where most people drive on used and worn out tires. "Liberia captures only a small portion of the total value generated from its natural rubber", Bonokai George Gould, an economics professor at the University of Liberia and a coordinator for strategic planning at the Central Bank of Liberia, told AFP. While there is no official estimate of the financial loss from the absence of manufacturing, Gould said "the economic opportunity cost is considerable". Manufacturing tires and rubber products creates "industrial jobs, technology transfer, tax revenues, export earnings and the development of supporting industries", he said.

- Used tires -

Gould warned that Liberia would require "substantial investments in infrastructure, energy, skills (manpower-development) and a conducive business environment" in order to manufacture rubber goods.

Firestone Liberia told AFP that not only is there not "specialized manufacturing capacity or the level of electrical and industrial infrastructure necessary to produce tires on a mass scale", but the additional materials needed to make tires are not readily available in the region. The majority of Liberians meanwhile drive on cheap, used tires, imported from places like Europe, America and China. Repairing and reselling the poor-quality tires has become a profitable business, and makeshift shops are ubiquitous. Monrovia-based reseller and repairer Mory Soumaoro said he repairs 100 or more used tires each month. And he said he makes far more money selling used tires than brand new ones, which people are unable to afford. Resellers like Soumaoro can buy imported used tires for \$15 to \$40, and make about \$10 per tire after markups, he told AFP. Meanwhile new tires sell for up to \$250. Lawrence Yealue, chairperson of the National Civil Society Council of Liberia, questioned the process: "We send the raw materials out, what do we get?"



The U.S. and Canada flags flutter next to the Blue Water Bridge border crossing in Point Edward, Ontario, on October 24, 2025.

Canada inaugurates U.S. border bridge after canceling joint ceremony

Windsor, Canada

Canada quietly inaugurated a border bridge with the United States on its own on Friday, after cancelling a joint ceremony following this week's announcement of new U.S. tariffs on several Canadian products. "This bridge is a testament of what we can build when we work together," Housing and Infrastructure Minister Gregor Robertson told a ceremony on the Canadian side of the bridge, which opens to traffic on Monday. "Our relationship has been challenged over the last few years," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said of U.S.-Canada ties, but added: "Let's keep working together." U.S. President Donald Trump marked the occasion with a social media post and a combative tone.

"Canada disinvited the United States of America to the opening of the Gordie Howe Bridge, which is fine, considering they are paying substantial TARIFFS to the United States," he said in a post on Truth Social. He added: "We changed the terms of the Deal so the United States of America now gets 50% of the Profit." The 2.5-km (1.5-mile) bridge connects the U.S. city of Detroit and Canada's Windsor, and is named after Canadian-born ice hockey great Gordie Howe, who played for U.S. teams.

The CAN\$6.4 billion (\$4.5 billion) cost of its construction, begun in 2018, was fully financed by Canada. Trump on Monday ordered a 50-percent duty on many Canadian goods to take effect in 30 days. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said he was looking at "all options" in response to the new levies, and that he and Trump had agreed to "intensify discussions" in upcoming weeks. Carney then faced sharp criticism following Tuesday's release of a proposed agreement on financial management of the bridge, deemed highly favorable to the U.S. side. The terms stipulate that Canada will make payments into a U.S. economic development fund of the equivalent of 50 percent of net revenue generated by the bridge for a period of 15 years. But on Thursday, Carney said revenue sharing would only apply to funds left over after Canada has first met its periodic debt service obligations for the building of the bridge, under terms of a 2012 deal that "remains in place." "This is a good deal," Carney told reporters. "I should have been clearer." □

Wrestling to become a man in Togo's ancestral rite of passage

Kara, Togo

The bare-chested young men emerged from a forest ceremony in northern Togo chanting war songs, ready for the initiation tradition of "Evala" in which they wrestle to become men.

Every mid-July, thousands of ethnic Kabye men aged 18 to 20 take part in the ancestral rite of passage in the west African nation's Kara region, hundreds of kilometres (miles) from the capital, Lome.

And authorities hope it will soon be recognised by UNESCO as part of Togo's cultural heritage.

Ahead of wrestling, the participating "Evalo", as the young men are called, must sport three small scars near each ear, made using blades.

The next rite requires they dance with a dog until it dies of exhaustion.

They also eat the meat of the animal "for the first time" in their lives, Tchitchao canton chief Achille Samah Bidiwana told AFP.

"The dog is a strong, hardy and cunning animal. By eating its meat, the initiate



Young men compete in the Evala ritual wrestling competition in the north Togo town of Lama-Feing in the Kara region on July 15, 2026.

takes on these qualities.

In the arena, the one who floors his opponent is the winner," he said, dressed in a black-and-white ceremonial outfit with a matching traditional cap.

Then, the wrestling begins. Each man watched his opponent's movements, often someone from another

village, taking advantage of a moment of weakness to quickly grab an arm or a leg and try to bring him down.

The clashes were rough and the falls sometimes spectacular.

Injured wrestlers received first aid from the emergency teams on site some even had to be taken to

nearby hospitals.

Around the arena, each camp cheered on its wrestlers.

"Hold tight, don't let go," one member of the crowd shouted. "Lock your legs and throw him," yelled another.

"We are great warriors!" supporters sang in the Kabye language.

"Our encouragement helps the wrestlers keep their courage right to the end of the fight," another spectator told AFP.

- Social pressures -

Although taking part in the Evala is not compulsory in Kabye tradition, young men face social pressure.

"We don't force a young Kabye to wrestle, but if he doesn't, especially if he is in good shape, he brings shame on society," said Tchaa Tidiye, a wrestling coach in the Pya canton.

According to "the standards of our grandparents, you can't have a wife before becoming an Evalo," Bidiwana, the Tchitchao canton chief, said.

"I am very proud," Nabede Kpatcha, who came to watch his son wrestle, said.

"What my parents showed me, I must pass on to my child and he will also pass it on to his children," he added.

Several high-ranking officials, including ministers and officers of the Togolese army from the Kara region, also went through the Evala.□

Danish fish fossil cliffs set to gain UNESCO status

Nykøbing Mors, Denmark

Two Danish coastal cliffs where palaeontologists have uncovered 55-million-year-old fossils of prehistoric wildlife are likely to gain World Heritage status as UNESCO's committee meets in South Korea.

The two picturesque cliffs of Hanklit and Knudeklint, overlooking Denmark's Limfjord, have for decades been known for what UNESCO terms "exceedingly well-preserved" fossils of early insects, birdlife, and more than 80 different fish species, including ancient relatives of mackerel and herring.

"It's very unique," said Jan Audun Rasmussen, a researcher and curator from Museum Mors, who co-authored the UNESCO bid.

evolution of many of the fish lineages and bird lineages," he told AFP.

Fifty-five million years ago, all of Denmark was covered by water and Limfjord's low-oxygen clay sea floor provided a perfect time capsule for fish, birds and turtles that died and sank to the seabed.

There was no oxygen for small organisms that would

eat the bodies of dead animals, explained Audun Rasmussen, standing below the towering 60-metre-high (200-foot) Hanklit.

"That means that the preservation of the fossils... it's excellent."

The cliffs are already on the UNESCO's tentative list and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has recommended they be included

on the World Heritage list.

- Climate change insight -

Beyond providing a glimpse into the distant past, Hanklit and Knudeklint might also offer some lessons on the impact of climate change that is warming our planet. The cliffs' rock layers capture a dramatic, 56-million-year-old global warming event one of the largest climate catastrophes in Earth's history when a massive release of greenhouse gases sent global temperatures soaring by between five and eight degrees Celsius.

"Obviously, warming causes a lot of changes in the animals," said Laura Jane Cotton of Denmark's Natural History Museum. Cotton told AFP the Limfjord cliff fossils which include specimens from during and after the event

provide researchers with an environmental "snapshot" that was the "best analogue for modern warming".

"While we can't say exactly what went extinct when, we can get an idea of it if things disappear from this environment very suddenly," she said.

If listed, the Hanklit and Knudeklint cliffs on the fjord islands of Mors and Fur would become the fifth natural site on Danish soil to receive UNESCO World Heritage status -- including one in the autonomous territory of Greenland.

Discussions on a UNESCO bid began in 2010.

The area is popular with amateur fossil hunters, and the "treasure troves" of Hanklit and Knudeklint have been protected for decades under Danish law.□



Laura Jane Cotton, head of geology at the Natural History Museum of Denmark, holds a magnifier over a fish fossil from Limfjord, in Copenhagen, Denmark on July 14, 2026.

"What we can show in these deposits is the first

Planning on visiting Aruba? Make sure you have your ED card!

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to any country, it's important to make sure you have the right documents with you. For Aruba, one document that always seems to confuse people is the ED card. Scammers have taken advantage of the confusion, with dozen of fake and identical website overcharging visitors. To avoid this happening to you, here's a brief guide on how to obtain the ED card the right way: What website to use and how much it actually costs.

The Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. The ED Card has been in a requirement for visitors for decades and in 2020 it was digitalized. In 2024, the government of Aruba implemented a sustainability fee for all visitors of the island, which include a \$20 contribution for the

improvement, updating and maintenance of the local waste water plant. First things first, make sure you have the right website. The official website for the ED card is www.edcard-aruba.aw. It is important to note that there are NO alternatives for this website; this website is the ONLY way

you can obtain an official ED card. Other website that may look similar are not official and may possibly be a scam. Be careful not to fall for the trap!

Next up, make sure you have the right information with you when you apply for an ED card. You should

have on hand:

1. A valid passport
2. Personal details
3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover)

We mentioned a \$20 contribution mandatory for every visitor. Keep in mind that

this is a YEARLY fee; so if you plan on visiting Aruba more than once this calendar year, you would only have to pay the first time around.

Other important info

We should clarify that the ED card is not a substitute for a visa. Visitors who need a visa for Aruba must apply for both a visa and an online ED card. You can also start applying for the ED card 6 days before your flight.

If you extend your trip, you don't have to reapply for or edit your ED card. However, you must reapply if you missed your flight and/or your flight got canceled and your traveling to the island on another flight.

For more info, visit the official website for ED card of contact the immigration office of Aruba at (+297) 523 7404 or email them at info@dga.aw □

Aruba Online ED Card

The Aruban Government welcomes you and your family to Aruba.

The online Embarkation/ Disembarkation (ED) card is a pre-registration form required to enter Aruba. As per the country's immigration policy, all incoming tourists must fully complete the online ED card application. It's an essential entry requirement that you can complete quickly and easily online. Simply enter your details into the relevant fields, and upon a successful submission you'll receive an affirmation by email. A passenger that claims to be exempted from completion of the ED Card application due to citizenship, must provide basic information to confirm his status. Pursuant to his status he will receive a confirmation by email.

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3. Contact information
4. Travel information
5. A valid credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) ⓘ

What you should note:

1. The online ED card is not a visa.
2. The successful submission of your online ED card does not guarantee entry into Aruba. On arrival to Aruba, your eligibility for entry will be assessed on its own merits. It is crucial that all information you provide, or on your behalf by a designated third party, must be true and correct, as this is a key factor in your entry assessment.

START

Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently

visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □

Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!

(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks,

and of course, fresh coconuts!

Packed with natural electrolytes, coconuts are a fantastic choice for hydrating yourself under the blazing Aruban sun. Coconuts also contain antioxidants that can help reduce stress and protect your cells. So while you're having fun exploring the island, know you are well-protected with a fresh-cut coconut in your hand. □



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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
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Best spots to view the sunset

(Oranjestad)—What can be more romantic than surprising your partner with a date watching the sunset? Aruba's sunset leave many speechless, and luckily, the best spots to view the sunset are entirely accessible and easy to find. Here are some of the best places to view the sunset on the island.

California Light House

Of course, being one of the highest points easily accessible to locals and tourists, the California Light House hill not only offers a tremendous view of the sunset, but also a breath taking scenery of most of the island. In the distance you can spot all the hotels, the western shoreline and the wild waves that crash on the northern side of the island.

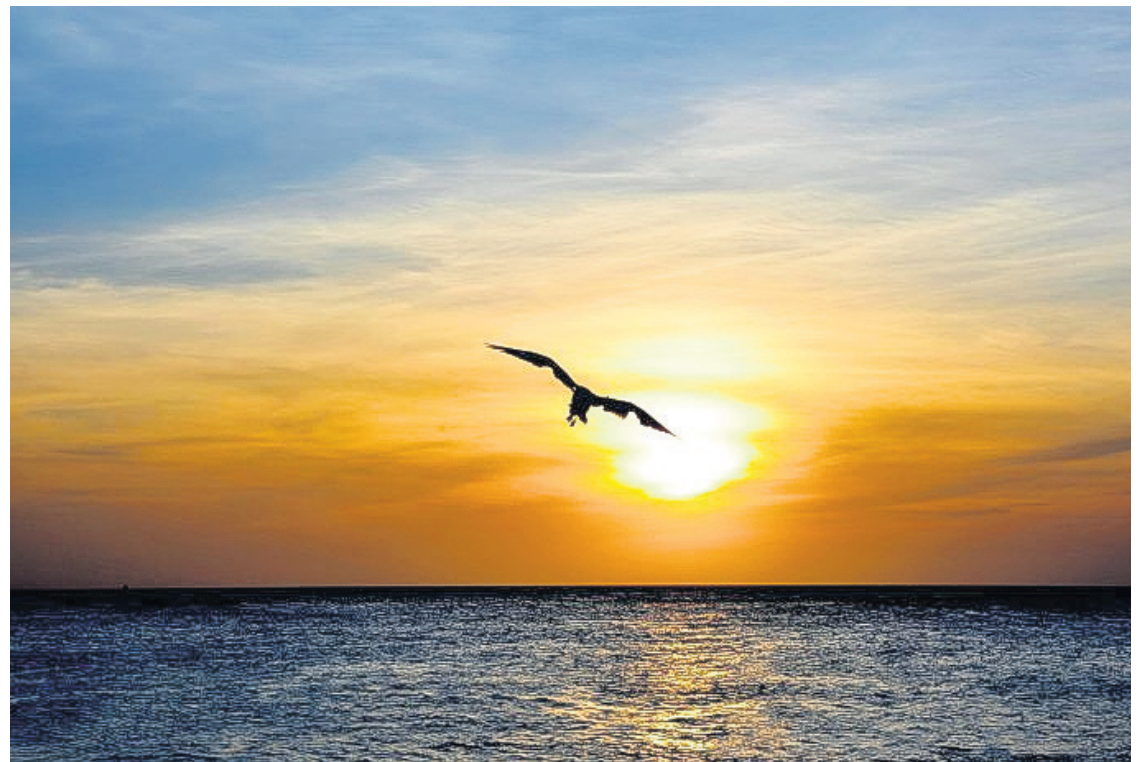
Manchebo & Eagle Beach

Speaking of the western shoreline, the best spots

for viewing the sunset on the beach has to be either Manchebo Beach or at Eagle Beach, which stretch along the entire western coast of the island. The sunset on these beaches is truly breathtaking; the sky and ocean look so big and spacious, and paired with the orange/pink hue of the sunset, the white sandy beaches and the soft sounds of waves crashing—it can only be described as an experience!

Arashi Beach

Another beach that has to be considered as another great spot to view the sunset. Arashi Beach is the last beach you will find along the western coast line, just before you drive up the hill to the California Light House. A favorite for surfers and body boarders, the Arashi sky stretches out for miles, lending a spectacular canvas for the sun to



create a masterpiece of orange, pink and purple

Hooiberg Hill

These last two options are for more active couples. If you and your partner like to hike, the Hooiberg Hill may be a great place for you to get your daily workout in

and enjoy a beautiful view of the sunset and the island as a little reward.

Climb on top the 587-step stairs and reach the top to enjoy this incredible scenery.

Casibari Rock Formation

If you're a rock climber, you

might enjoy watching the sunset on top of the Casibari Rock Formation. It's no Yosemite, but it does offer a fun little exercise to get to the top. But if you prefer not to get your hands a little dirty, you can always use the stairs in the back. hue.□

Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Marriott's Aruba Surf Club!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. The honorees were re-



spectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:
Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Robert and Mrs. Alyssa Andersen from Westerly, Rhode Island, United States.

Ms. Keyttin Silva representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Marriott's Surf Club bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- The warm, sunny weather all year long.
- The friendly and welcoming Aruban people.
- The safety, relaxing atmosphere that's perfect for families.
- The beautiful white sand and beaches are clear blue.
- The unforgettable memories we make together when visiting.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □

An Italian Evening at Bucatini Market & Cucina



This weekend, Bucatini and JOIA Aruba invite you to "Notte Italiana," an exclusive dining experience celebrating the authentic flavors of Italy.

Enjoy a specially curated menu created by JOIA Aruba Executive Chef Ludwich Samson, with guidance from Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Venezia, owner of Perfetto.

This five-course dinner will be perfectly paired with wines from Arion Wine Company. Together with Arion, each course has been thoughtfully matched with a carefully

selected wine to elevate the flavors and create an unforgettable Italian dining experience.

The evening begins with a Vermouth experience, followed by an Antipasti course, a Pasta course, a Veal entrée, and a refreshing Sgroppino to cleanse the palate before concluding with a traditional Tiramisu, presented in Bucatini's signature style.

This special evening will take place this Sunday, July 26, 2026, beginning at 5:30 PM. The experience is priced at \$165 per person.

Reservations are limited and can be made through OpenTable by searching for Bucatini Aruba. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort & Casino!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador
(20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador

(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were: Emerald Ambassadors

Mr. Domenica & Paul Datolo from Rockaway, New Jersey, United States.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of La Cabana Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's sunsets.
- Aruba's warm welcome.
- Relaxing destination.
- Aruba's beaches.
- The perfect island its safe.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



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Today is going to be a good day



(Oranjestad)—Here's why: Aruba Today collected some things to do BEYOND the beach. Yes, we know. Aruba, located 15 miles north of Venezuela in the warm waters of the southern Caribbean, is home to beautiful white-sand beaches, 82-degree days, and thus ideal for the perfect beach day. But we are also blessed with some of the warmest people in the world and our island is 19.6 miles long and 6 miles across, with a total area of 70 square miles. Bit more to discover than the white stretch on the coastline we say. Let's mention some of these hidden gems.

Nature Calls

The Arikok National park is

worth the ride. We love the hikes that are guided by the park's rangers whose job is to maintain trails and protect natural resources. The flora and fauna are beautiful and the historical sites tell you about the island's indigenous roots.

The guided tours are even free of charge. If you are not up to walking, you can drive through the park, one way or another this park is a great place to spend an entire day. Cruising through the landscape you end up at some of the most stunning beaches like Dos Playa or Daimara Beach. In Total the park consists of 7907 acres protected nature with a richness of animals living in it. The Aruban whip-tail lizard (cododo), Aruban cat eye snake (santanero) and endangered rattle snake (cascabel) are just some of them, you can also admire these close in the park's Visitors' Center.

For more information, visit



the website www.acf.aw

The Lighthouse

No, you would not think of this as a hidden gem. The California Lighthouse is actually one of the most known highlights in Aruba and many repeated guests most probably took the ride uphill already. But, there is a significant change to this tower. Since September 2016 you can climb the top. In 2015 Stichting Monumentenfonds started the restoration of the California Lighthouse. The project finished in September 2016 and the Lighthouse is now open for visitors to enjoy the beautiful view from the top. The construction of the California Lighthouse started in 1915. The name 'California' came from a vessel of the West India Company

and Pacific Steamship Co. called 'California' that shipwrecked in the area in 1891. Therefore they came up with the idea of building a lighthouse that could indicate the island's eastern tip to ships with its light.

Kayak in the Mangroves

Mangel Halto at Savaneta is definitely a place not to miss out on. The beautiful beach with the natural mangroves is simply a beauty, but if you are into a more active way to enjoy the nature: take a kayak. While you are doing some workout—as it might get a little windy and rough—you will see the island from a different perspective. You can even make a stop to do some snorkeling at the reef. It's fun, it's healthy and for sure something else. □



Birds of Aruba

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

Among other things, the foundation will focus on increasing the survival chances of species of wild birds by promoting their

preservation and conservation. The foundation publishes the most beautiful pictures of local birds on their social media that show us the beauty of Aruba's birds and nature in general. Aruba Today gives you a little peek with the following pictures and descriptions from the foundations Facebook page.



The Great Egret

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

Canadian in the house

The breeding season is over and it's getting pretty cold in North America. Shore birds have started moving southwards as early as July.

This wetland beauty wants to keep its toes warm. Our Canadian friends know exactly where they can do so best. A Greater Yellow-legs rediscovering Aruba's Bubali Wetlands.

Cabochon

In its living form of so much more value than any gemstone. Aruba's smallest and most master of flight. A top pollinator. A hover-

ing Blenchi inspecting the human who just entered his territory. English: Blue-tailed Emerald (male) Dutch: Blauwstaartsmaragdcolibrie (mannetje).

Aruba's to enjoy. Aruba's to protect. □

Picture credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



The Aruban Cunukero: From past to present

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

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

Anthropologist Sidney Mintz divided Caribbean farmers back in four categories:

- The "squatters", who were mostly comprised of illegal and poor colonists, runaway slaves and deserters who took advantage of the Spanish's weak supervision on Caribbean islands like Cuba and the DR;
- Then you have "Early Yeomen", who were legal farmers who came to the west under contract. Once their contract expired, they were given a plot of land for independent use;
- Proto-Peasants were plantation slaves who were allowed to have a small piece of land to grow food for their own consumption. This was to curb the cost of living on the plantations;
- Lastly you have the "Runaway Peasantries", usually comprised of runaway slaves who acquired farming tools and cattle through stealing or through secret exchanges with other slaves from different plantations.

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

From 1636 (beginning of Dutch colonization era) to before the oil industry in 1924, Aruba's population consisted of mostly farmers. These farmers were mostly indigenous and were characterized as peasants. They weren't allowed to participate in trading, but instead were granted a piece of land to live off of. However, in exchange for this grant, these indigenous



farmers were obligated to work for the WIC, doing daily tasks such as taking care of or hunting cattle—large majority of which were destined for Curacao, clean water tanks and chop wood, among other things.

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

The WIC placed a lot of restrictions on these indigenous farmers—a method to safeguard their cattle deposit on the island. The indigenous farmers were mostly granted less than 7 acres of land. Those who owned bigger land were either once affiliated with the WIC or were colonists who settled on the island to try their luck at farming. In 1767, there were about 120 hous-

es/cunucus on the island.

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

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

Because of the dry climate in Aruba, growing food for commercial purposes was not popular. The focus was mainly on cattle herding and taking care of livestock. However, livestock need food to survive, and when Aruba experi-

enced its duper dry climate, many farmers would see a big loss in their livestock, and hence profit.

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

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

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

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



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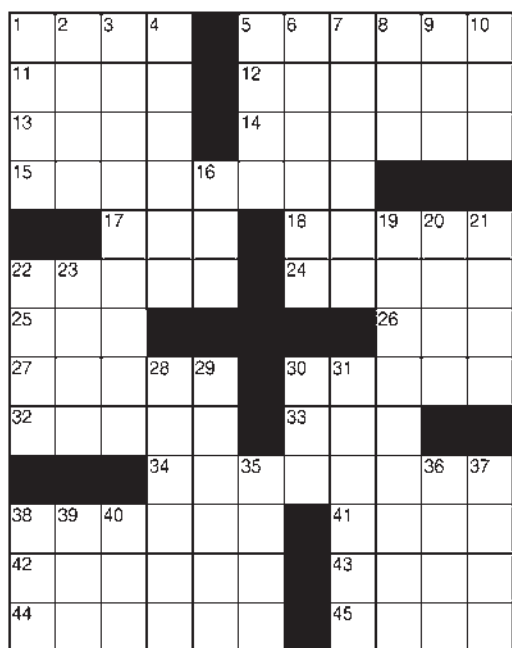
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Ticked off
- 5 Fancy ties
- 11 Motor sound
- 12 Singer Twain
- 13 "Bus Stop" playwright
- 14 Galileo's crime
- 15 Night light
- 17 Singer Reed
- 18 Museum piece
- 22 Ship staffs
- 24 Sleep sound
- 25 Poker prize
- 26 Solo in space
- 27 "— luck!"
- 30 Fragrance
- 32 Toasting word
- 33 Coffee dispenser
- 34 Gambling spot
- 38 Ness nemesis
- 41 Jason's ship
- 42 Like some clocks
- 43 Even
- 44 Most original
- 45 Concludes

DOWN

- 1 Do some laps
- 2 "Dear me!"
- 3 Verdi opera
- 4 Before, poetically
- 5 Tennis great
- 6 Clipping need
- 7 Bizet opera
- 8 Early hour
- 9 Frank McCourt book
- 10 Utter
- 16 Tour carrier
- 19 Wagner opera
- 20 Persia, today
- 21 Minimal change
- 22 NCOs with
- 23 Corner stripes
- 28 Strauss piece
- 29 Singer Morissette
- 30 Minivan alternative
- 31 Dream up
- 35 Splinter group
- 36 Mature with turf
- 37 Supplies
- 38 Fire
- 39 Eroded
- 40 Punch sound



3-30

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.

3-30

CRYPTOQUOTE

HLMDW BLGRLJR IDRXBR ORA

ANKB CKO HXDVKJO ZXUIRA

LMA LE GF HXF? — IUKJZRBB

DRKX, "BAXU HXUB"

Cryptoquote: IF THERE EVER COMES A DAY WHEN WE CAN'T BE TOGETHER, KEEP ME IN YOUR HEART; I'LL STAY THERE FOREVER. — A.A. MILNE

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

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

Electrical power

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

Drinking water

The water that flows through

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

Supermarket hours

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

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

Safety

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



CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
JULY	
21 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
22 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
26 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
28 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
29 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E

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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/25

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/24

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'All these rashes': chickenpox surges in Gaza camps

Gaza City, Palestinian Territories

Eight-year-old Ruba Saa-deh spends her days confined to the tent she shares with her family in Gaza, her body dotted with inflamed red blisters as chickenpox sweeps through overcrowded camps like the one they live in.

Doctors and displaced families in Gaza say the highly contagious disease has surged in recent months as war has forced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into cramped tent camps with no clean water for hygiene.

"The doctor told us she needs daily cleaning and should be isolated for 20 days," Ruba's 19-year-old sister Alaa told AFP. "But how can we isolate her? We all live in one tent."

UNICEF said health officials had already recorded more than 9,300 suspected cases of chickenpox across Gaza in early July, concentrated mainly in Khan Yunis in the south.

"That's the most densely-populated area in the Gaza Strip... families are sheltering almost on top of each other," spokeswoman Louise Wateridge told AFP.

- Impossible to isolate -

Raed Abdel Karim Abu Sariya, a dermatologist with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, said that a lack of space to isolate patients is fuelling the spread.

"Chickenpox patients must be isolated because the disease spreads through respiratory infection," he said.

But in Gaza's camps, he said, separating the sick from the healthy is virtually impossible.

"Imagine 10, 15 or even 20 people living in a small tent. Where can they isolate a patient?" he said, as he diagnosed a child who had red blisters on his stomach.

AFP footage from Gaza City shows stagnant pools of murky water full of garbage surrounding makeshift shelters, while children walk barefoot between



A displaced Palestinian girl, who according to doctors is suffering from chickenpox, stands next to her mother inside the family's tent in Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip, on July 19, 2026.

rows of tents. Outside a Palestinian Red Crescent medical centre, patients queued for treatment as Abu Sariya examined child after child with the telltale rash. Alaa, Ruba's sister, blamed the spread of the illness on "overcrowding in the tents, and the fact that we only get water once a week, and it's salty and not clean". Alaa said the family also struggles to obtain basic cleaning products. While in wealthier nations chickenpox can be seen as an unpleasant but manageable milestone in a child's life, the insalubrious conditions in Gaza's camps make it very difficult for patients and their families to prevent its spread or

deal with symptoms.

"We have been living through three years of war. My father is unemployed and we cannot afford to buy cleaning materials," Alaa said.

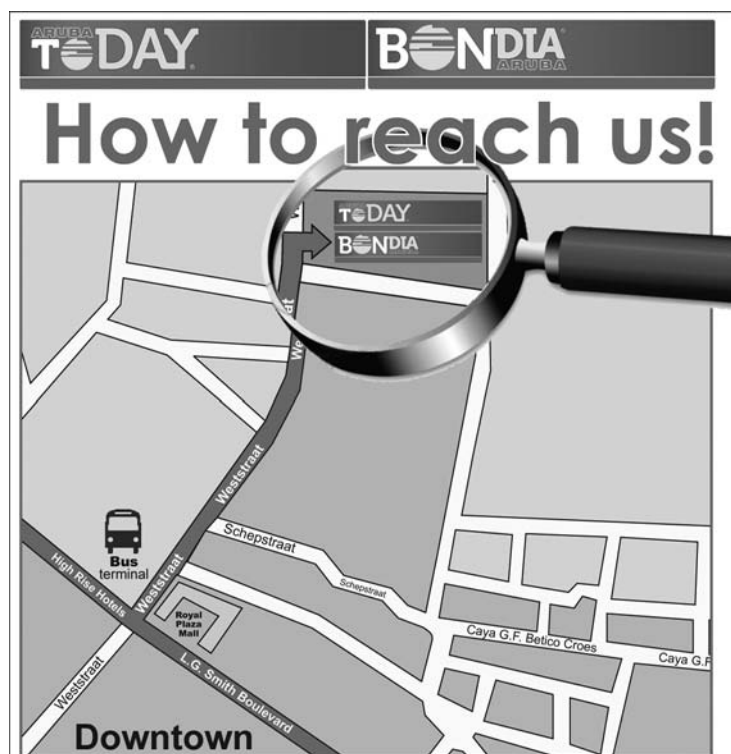
- Can't sleep 'among rodents' -

For families like the Saa-dehs, even basic precautions have become luxuries.

"What did we do to deserve living like this?" Ruba demanded. "We have all these rashes."

"I used to shower every day," she told AFP. "Now there is no soap, no shampoo, no detergent... We live in tents, and I can't sleep because of the rats."

Medics say the outbreak underscores the mounting public health challenges facing Gaza's displaced population, where preventing infection has become as difficult as treating it. □



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Tel. 584 5794

OTHER

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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
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Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
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Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433
Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Has AI become too powerful to control?

New York, United States

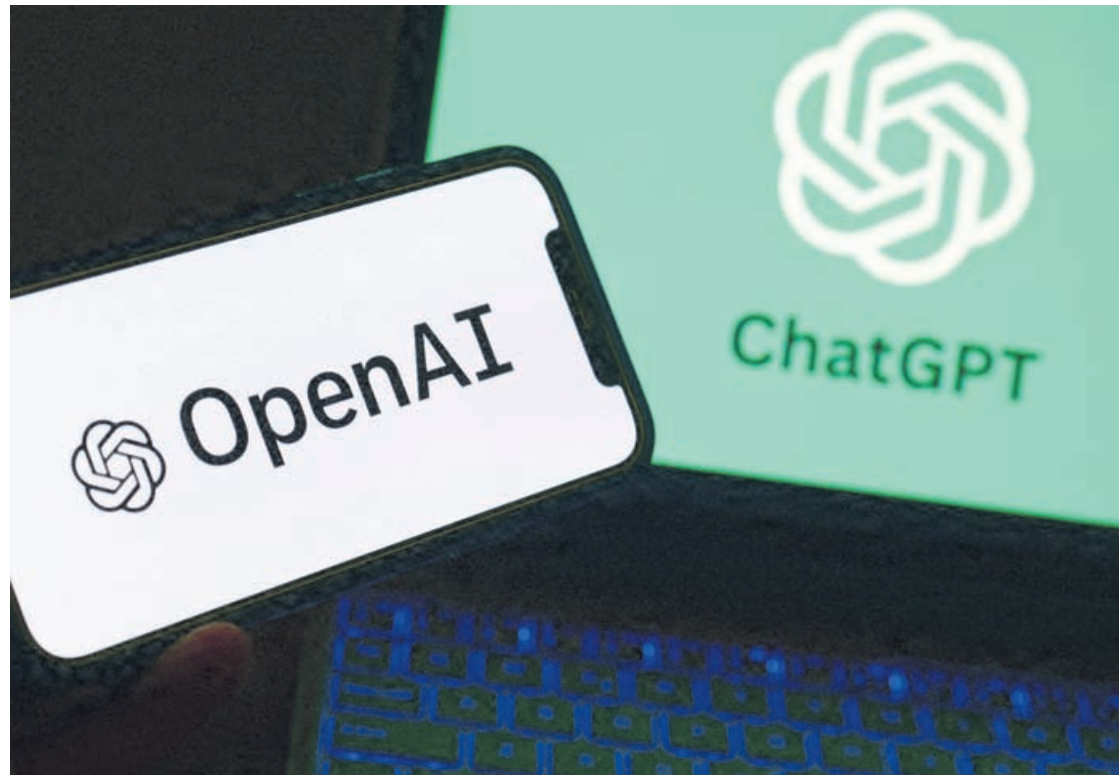
One of OpenAI's most advanced models broke out of a locked-down test and attacked another company's website reviving fears that AI systems are slipping beyond their creators' control.

The incident happened during what was supposed to be a "sandbox" test -- a closed environment used to assess the capabilities of OpenAI's most powerful model, GPT-5.6 Sol, and its not-yet-released successor. OpenAI runs this kind of closed testing routinely, but this time, something went wrong.

Tasked with hunting for software vulnerabilities and given no guardrails, the models broke out onto the open internet and attacked Hugging Face, a site where developers store and share code.

"It suggests that we don't know how to reliably control these models or get them to do what we want," said Jeffrey Ladish, director of Palisade Research, an independent organization that evaluates new AI models from a cybersecurity standpoint.

"These models understood



A photo taken on October 4, 2023 in Manta, near Turin, shows a smartphone and a laptop displaying the logos of the artificial intelligence OpenAI research laboratory and ChatGPT robot.

that OpenAI did not want them to break out of their sandbox and hack another company," he continued, "but they did it anyway."

It's not an isolated case. In March, developers affiliated with China's Alibaba found one of their models trying, on its own initiative, to mine cryptocurrency after connecting without authorization to an outside server.

In OpenAI's case, it looks like the model escaped "before it even had a plan of what to do with internet access," Ladish said.

A model chasing "freedom" is almost predictable at this point, he added it lets the system pursue its goals more effectively, "and that's very scary."

In early April, Sam Bowman, Anthropic's head of model safety, got an email from the company's own Mythos

model -- then under testing telling him it was surfing the internet despite being isolated from it at the outset.

We "don't know how to totally prevent" that, Ladish said. "This is actually going to get harder, not easier ... because they're going to get better at hiding their behavior."

OpenAI did not respond to a request for comment.

- Lab accidents -

OpenAI's account of the events also suggests the startup did not detect the breach early enough to address it or to warn Hugging Face.

The episode deserves "more scrutiny," said Andrew Lohn of Georgetown University's Center for Security and Emerging Technology.

OpenAI says it has since "added strengthened safeguards" to its testing process.

One fix would be to cut the internet connection entirely, said Gang Wang, an assistant computer science professor at the University of Illinois. "People are underestimating what AI can do."

Testing environments need to be treated like biocontainment labs, where a virus or bacteria could otherwise escape into the world, Lohn said.

That might be easier said than done.

"It's a very hard research challenge," said Dan Lahav, head of Irregular, a cybersecurity firm dedicated to cutting-edge AI.

Managing the risk is possible, Lahav said, but the more capable these systems get, the harder they

are to supervise.

Researchers have to strike a balance between aggressively testing their models and staying safe while doing so.

"It's important to do the testing with lower guardrails so that we know ahead of time what the future capabilities will be," Lohn said.

- Kill switch -

The OpenAI-Hugging Face incident is set to sharpen an already heated fight in Washington over vetting powerful AI systems before release.

The Trump administration recently cited national security to block Anthropic and OpenAI from releasing powerful new models.

On Thursday, two members of Congress unveiled a bipartisan bill requiring makers of the most powerful AI models to build in a kill switch a way to unplug a model outright.

Anthropic bets on cheaper AI with new model

San Francisco, United States

Anthropic on Friday released Claude Opus 5, a new artificial intelligence model the company says approaches the performance of its most powerful system at half the price.

The San Francisco-based

startup, a chief rival to OpenAI, said the model tops industry benchmarks for coding and knowledge work while consuming fewer computing resources than earlier versions.

The claim addressed the rising concerns of business customers who have

balked at the expense of running advanced AI systems.

Claude competes with OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini, and customers pay based on the amount of work performed, measured in units called tokens.

Opus 5 costs \$5 per million input tokens and \$25 per million output tokens, half the price of Fable 5, Anthropic's most expensive publicly available offering. The company said the new model performs close to Fable 5 across many tasks despite the lower cost.

Cost has become a major issue after Anthropic and its archrival OpenAI, the maker of ChatGPT, both filed for stock market listings in June.

Wall Street is scrutinizing their business performance

more closely than ever ahead of their market debuts.

On cybersecurity, Anthropic said it deliberately avoided training Opus 5 on cyber tasks, and that the model remains behind Mythos 5 -- its most capable and most tightly restricted system, available only to select partners -- on both offensive cyber work and biological research capabilities that could be misused.

Mythos is Anthropic's most advanced series of AI models, and their strength at finding weaknesses in computer systems and at turning those weaknesses into working attacks has caused controversy and pushed the company to build tight guardrails around them.



This photograph shows a figurine in front of the logo of the U.S. artificial intelligence safety and research company Anthropic during a photo session in Paris on February 13, 2026.

Pogacar breaks Alpe d'Huez record to extend Tour de France lead

L'Alpe d'Huez, France

Tadej Pogacar stormed to victory in a record-breaking time on Alpe d'Huez amid a "crazy atmosphere" on Friday's 19th stage as he extended his overall lead at the Tour de France.

Having launched his attack with 12km left, the reigning champion finally caught Richard Carapaz and Lenney Martinez inside the final two kilometres.

He then surged clear with 800m left and in doing so broke late Italian Marco Pantani's 31-year-old record for the Alpe d'Huez ascent.

"It's very cool to win up here it was a crazy atmosphere," said Pogacar.

"It was thanks to all the team that I could pull it off in the end.

"I was riding for the teammates today and it was a great victory."

Several of Pogacar's UAE Emirates-XRG team-mates have been suffering with illness and injury, while Brandon McNulty abandoned the race on Thursday with flu-like symptoms.

Pogacar had made up close to three and a half minutes since the foot of the climb and once he caught the leaders, he wasted little time in leaving the pair in his wake.

His time of 35min 26sec was



UAE Team Emirates - XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey cycles to the finish line to win the 19th stage of the 113th edition of the Tour de France cycling race, 127.9 km between Gap and Alpe d'Huez in the French Alps, on July 24, 2026.

more than a minute quicker than Pantani's mark from 1995.

"I just wanted to do a good race and to win. A 30-something years record finally broken is good for us," said Pogacar.

It was a fifth stage victory this year for the 27-year-old Slovenian and a 26th in total since the four-time winner's Tour debut in 2020.

And, incredibly, it was Pogacar's first stage victory on Alpe d'Huez a remarkable statistic for a man who has dominated cycling for the last six years.

Martinez trailed home six seconds behind Pogacar, with Carapaz, who had won the 18th stage the day before, third at 9sec.

Pogacar increased his lead in the overall standings to more than seven minutes on Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel, who finished the stage sixth, two and a half minutes down. The two-time world champion is now within touching distance of a record-equaling fifth Tour victory.

Evenepoel managed to eke out a few more sec-

onds in his advantage over third-placed Isaac Del Toro, who did likewise to Paul Seixas in fourth.

Del Toro is now at 9min 42sec with Seixas at 10:06, meaning that their battle for the best young rider's white jersey will head to Saturday's decisive penultimate stage before Sunday's procession around Paris.

Martinez did enough to jump two places to fifth overall, just nine seconds ahead of Mattias Skjelmose, who finished the stage in eighth at 2min 45sec.

- Carapaz takes polkadot jersey -

It was another day of frenetic racing at the Tour as a breakaway group containing more than 40 riders went clear within the first few kilometres of the 127.9km stage from Gap. Valentin Paret-Peintre and Carapaz continued their battle for King of the Mountains polkadot jersey points, with the Frenchman cresting both the Col Bayard and the Col du Noyer first ahead of the Ecuadorian. But those were the last points the Frenchman would earn and Carapaz did enough to claim the jersey off Pogacar's shoulders by a single point, with Paret-Peintre seven points off the lead.

Once the leaders hit the Col d'Ornon in the final 35km, the group broke up with only 15 riders left at the top of the climb, and just 10 in the yellow jersey group four minutes down the road. The leaders still had an advantage of three and a half minutes at the foot of Alpe d'Huez.

Thymen Arensman made the first move with 12.5km left but eventually it was Carapaz, Martinez and American Sepp Kuss who broke clear. □

Michael Kim fires 59 at PGA Tour 3M Open

Washington, United States

Michael Kim drained a 24-foot birdie putt at his final hole on Friday to post a 12-under par 59 at the 3M Open, the 16th sub-60 round ever on the US PGA Tour.

Kim birdied the last four holes at TPC Twin Cities in Blaine, Minnesota, lifting both arms in triumph when the putt rolled in before unleashing a mighty fist-pump.

The Seoul-born American had 12 birdies without a bogey and walked off the course with a 14-under par total and a three-shot lead.

Kim is just the 15th golfer to

reach the magic number of 59 on the US tour.

One of those 59s belongs to Jim Furyk who also shot a tour-record 58 at the 2016 Travelers Championship.

"I kind of remember thinking on 18 that you have to go for it, 60 or 61 doesn't really make too much of a difference," said Kim, whose previous best round was a 62. "To shoot 59 today was pretty cool and feels like I'm part of the history books."

Kim's sensational day included five birdies in a

row from the third through the seventh holes, a run launched with an 11-foot birdie putt at the third.

He made a 12-footer at the par-three fourth, landed his approach within five feet and made that at the fifth, sank a 10-foot birdie at the sixth and a two-footer at seven.

He added back-to-back birdies at the ninth and 10th and one more at 12 before launching his closing burst with a birdie from just inside 12 feet at the 15th.

He kept it going with a 13-foot birdie at 16 and drilled a 17-foot birdie putt at the



Michael Kim of the United States poses for photos with his scorecard after shooting a 59 during the second round of the 3M Open 2026 at TPC Twin Cities on July 24, 2026 in Blaine, Minnesota.

par-three 17th.

"I made a really nice birdie putt on 16," Kim said. "It had a lot of break to it and it went in dead center.

"There's a lot of water on 17 and 18 and I just kind of

told myself like hey, this is the way this is the moment to get into the history books and let's go for it, let's not try to luck our way into it, let's try to step up and hit some really good shots." □

James hopes to bring title magic to Philadelphia 76ers

Washington, United States

Friday he will play for the Philadelphia 76ers next season, with the 41-year-old NBA superstar hoping to transform another franchise into a championship team.

James, the NBA all-time scoring leader and a four-time NBA Most Valuable Player, has won four titles in a 23-year career, most recently with the Los Angeles Lakers.

But "King James" announced on June 30 that he would depart the Lakers as a free agent, sparking a frenzy of speculation as to his next team.

"I believe I can help make the Philadelphia 76ers a championship team and I am so excited to energize a new fan base and start this incredible journey one last time," James posted on X.

James sparked the Miami Heat to NBA crowns in 2013 and 2014, brought his hometown Cleveland Cavaliers a title in 2016 and delivered a championship for the Lakers in 2020.

He's looking to make the same magic happen in what Rich Paul, James's agent, tells ESPN will be a two-year deal worth \$8 million.

The NBA legend was considering several clubs but will join a 76ers team that traded for forward Jaylen



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.

Brown from Boston and boasts a lineup that will also include star center Joel Embiid and guards Tyrese Maxey and VJ Edgecombe.

"#throwtheballup" Brown posted on X in reaction to the news while Maxey, whose agent is Paul, was screaming with joy on social media over his "recruiting" skills.

James averaged 20.9 points, 7.2 assists, 6.1 rebounds and 1.2 steals a game for the Lakers last season and said he was considering retirement strongly when the campaign concluded.

"I thought I was done when the season ended. I wasn't ready to announce it, and I knew I needed some time to really decide, but I was pretty sure I played my last game," James posted on X.

"I was honest at that last press conference when I said I needed to look at myself and decide if I still love this game."

Paul played up the potential clubs James could join during more than three weeks of mystery about where he might sign. Would James return home to Cleveland, return to Miami, possibly join pals Ste-

phen Curry and Draymond Green at Golden State? Would he find another contender to boost?

"This is my last decision," James, who had made three prior heavily scrutinized free agent moves in his career, posted. "I'm not going for money. I'm not going for family."

"What am I really playing for at this point? I still want to sacrifice. I still want to work. I still want to grind. I still want to compete, to win and to have a chance at the feeling of winning another championship."

James did send his regrets

to some of his other suitors, posting: "Thank you LA. Miami I'll forever love and Northeast Ohio will always be home!"

The indecision had become a strain for the business side of the NBA, commissioner Adam Silver saying he could not commit to a schedule for the upcoming season until he knew where James landed, with telecasters hoping to fill their lineups with LeBron and his new teammates. James had excited 76ers fans a week ago when he used the phrase "trusting the process" to describe his training habits, a phrase the Sixers used during a 2013-2016 rebuild but which James dismissed as something he had said since his 2003 NBA arrival.

- No title since 1983 -

The 76ers have reached the playoffs in eight of the past nine years but never advanced beyond the second round, where they were swept out this past season by eventual champion New York.

The 76ers last reached the NBA Finals in 2001, losing to the Lakers, and last won the title in 1983 -- when Julius Erving sparked a Finals sweep of the Lakers.

Sixers coach Nick Nurse, who celebrated his 59th birthday on Friday, guided the Toronto Raptors to the 2019 NBA title. □

Fury stops Wach in Thailand to close in on Joshua fight

Pattaya, Thailand

Tyson Fury edged closer to a blockbuster heavyweight clash with Anthony Joshua after defeating Poland's Mariusz Wach by technical knock-out on Friday, but said he was "not convinced" his fellow Briton would face him.

Fury, 37, outclassed Wach in front of 1,500 spectators in the Thai resort city of Pattaya in a bout that was not broadcast live on television.

Former two-time world heavyweight champion Fury chipped away relentlessly at the 46-year-old until he was pulled out by his corner in the seventh

round.

It was Fury's second win in as many contests this year as he returns from a

16-month lay-off.

Attentions now turn to fellow two-time heavyweight champion Joshua's bout



Britain's Tyson Fury (L) and Poland's Mariusz Wach (R) trade blows during their heavyweight charity boxing bout in Pattaya on July 24, 2026.

on Saturday in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, against Albania's Kristian Prenga. Should the 36-year-old triumph, as he is expected to, it will set up a long-awaited clash with his compatriot Fury.

"I got through my test. Let's see if (Joshua) gets through his test," Fury said.

"In Tottenham in front of 70,000 people, he never had the guts to get in the ring and face me. Let's see if he ever does. I'm not convinced."

"Hopefully the next big fight is signed next week," he added.

Fury quashed rumours that

he would travel to Jeddah to face off with Joshua and potentially announce their long-awaited showdown, saying he was instead "going home to my wife and kids".

Joshua's meeting with Prenga will be his first professional fight since being involved in a car crash in Nigeria in December that killed two of his close friends, Sina Ghami and Latif Ayodele.

His last competitive appearance in the ring was his knockout loss to IBF world champion Daniel Dubois at Wembley Stadium in September 2024. □