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Boeing reports loss on Air Force One but sees progress in turnaround



The Boeing Co. logo is displayed outside of company offices near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) in El Segundo, California on January 18, 2024.

New York, United States

Boeing pointed Tuesday to broad-based revenue growth as evidence its comeback remains on track even as a \$280 million hit from the U.S. presidential plane contract worsened a quarterly loss.

Shares rallied following Boeing's latest update on a multi-year effort to turn the company around after several troubled years marred by safety problems.

"We're halfway through the year, and I'm very pleased with our progress," said Boeing Chief Executive Officer Kelly Ortberg, who emphasized efforts to rebuild credibility with customers and Federal Aviation Administration officials.

"We worked hard to build this trust from the FAA and we take this responsibility very seriously," Ortberg told analysts.

In the second quarter, the U.S. aerospace giant scored an eight percent increase in revenues to \$24.6 billion on increased commercial plane deliveries and higher volume in defense, space and security.

Boeing reported a second-quarter loss of \$428 million, smaller than in the year-ago period, but bigger than projected by analysts.

The results included \$280 mil-

lion in losses on the VC-25B program for the presidential plane, Air Force One, which has been beset by delays and cost overruns.

The latest Air Force One expenses are for "additional production and certification resources," Boeing said in its earnings statement. The original 2018 contract was to modify and outfit two 747-8 aircraft for presidential use. The contract aimed for initial delivery of an Air Force One aircraft by December 2024. The current timeframe is for delivery in mid-2028 and mid-2029.

"The good news is that we're through the design phase of that program, and now we're modifying and testing the airplanes," Ortberg told CNBC. "It's very important to our customer that we deliver that airplane on time. We're going to put more resources on to ensure that we do that." Boeing described certification efforts for new 737 MAX and 777 planes as on track with US air regulators. In early July, Boeing unveiled new 737 MAX production at a "North Line" in Everett, Washington designed to enable the company to further ramp up plane output.

In the second quarter Boeing "began transitioning production to 47" 737 jets per month,

it said Tuesday.

- Supply chain challenges -

Ortberg told analysts he did not foresee problems with Boeing's supply chain in ramping monthly MAX production to 52 jets.

"I think it's going to get harder as we go from 52 to 57 and beyond that. We'll just have to see how well we're all collectively doing," Ortberg said. "But look, we're on our plan. Our plan's working."

Boeing is also targeting a rate increase on the 787 Dreamliner from the present eight per month to 10. While Boeing has made progress in obtaining FAA certifications of new seats for some aircraft, that process has delayed some deliveries, Ortberg said.

Boeing also lagged its target for receiving engines from General Electric Aerospace for the first half of 2026, resulting in slowed production for a stretch in April.

Ortberg said the company was working with GE to improve deliveries, describing the engine provider as "pretty confident" in a boost. "Looking at delivery numbers, Boeing is clearly on the right track," longtime aviation analyst Richard Aboulafia told AFP ahead of Tuesday's report.

On Monday, the FAA released a preliminary directive ordering inspections on more than 450 US 737 MAX jets over potential faulty installation of passenger seats. The safety regulator said incorrect installation can lead seats to disengage from seat tracks, which "could result in injury to passengers and crew during an emergency landing or could block the aisle, which could slow evacuation."

Shares of Boeing jumped 4.6 percent by midday. □

U.S. curbs virus research Trump blamed for Covid pandemic



National Institutes of Health director Jayanta Bhattacharya speaks during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies hearing on fiscal year 2027 budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, on May 21, 2026.

Washington, United States

The United States on Tuesday released a new policy curtailing funding for a form of biological research President Donald Trump's administration says caused the Covid-19 pandemic through a lab leak in China. Under the new policy, the United States will halt funding in certain countries for so-called "gain-of-function" experiments, which are aimed at enhancing the properties of pathogens with the intention of better predicting emerging infectious diseases and supporting the development of treatments, including vaccines. The policy jointly announced Tuesday by the U.S. State Department and Health and Human Services (HHS) fulfills Trump's May 2025 executive order regarding such research.

"The new policy prohibits federal support for dangerous gain-of-function research conducted in the United States and abroad, establishes rigorous independent review for certain high-risk life sci-

ences research, and restricts federal funding for research conducted in countries or institutions that lack appropriate biosafety, biosecurity, and oversight standards," detailed HHS in a statement.

The State Department called the new policy "an America First approach to scientific research."

"The new policy preserves the benefits of life-sciences research while defining the areas of greatest risk, including prevention of accidental or intentional lab leaks, and penalties for irresponsible practices," wrote Jay Bhattacharya, director of the National Institutes of Health, in a Wall Street Journal op-ed published Tuesday.

Trump has long championed the theory that SARS-CoV-2 leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology as a result of gain-of-function research -- an alternative to the theory that the virus spilled over naturally from wild animals to humans at a seafood market in the same city. □

Netanyahu visits White House for first Trump talks during Iran war

Washington, United States

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the White House Tuesday for his first in-person talks with President Donald Trump since the Iran war began, with the Israeli leader saying they discussed ensuring Tehran does not acquire nuclear arms.

The closed-door talks which the White House described as "positive and productive" lasted for about an hour and a half and came as Netanyahu and Trump sought to patch over public disagreements on the war.

Netanyahu said in a video message after the meeting that it was "one of the best conversations I've ever had with the president of the United States" and that it touched on "our common goal: ensuring that Iran does not obtain nuclear weapons."

The Iran war began in late February with U.S.-Israeli strikes but has seen a recent pause in the fighting, with Washington saying it wants to give negotiations a chance.

Israel has not taken part in the latest round of hostilities between the United States and Iran, which flared earlier this month as an April ceasefire collapsed.

The meeting was the eighth between the two leaders since Trump's return to office in early 2025 and came ahead of key electoral tests later this year for both Netanyahu and the U.S. president: national elections in Israel and midterm polls in the United States.

Netanyahu's office said he attended a private memorial dinner in Washington on Monday evening in honor of the late senator Lindsey Graham.

He also went to a memorial service for Graham after the meeting with Trump on Tuesday.

Relations between Trump and Netanyahu reached a low point in April during negotiations on the ceasefire with Iran, with Trump unleashing profanity-laced tirades against his Israeli ally.

Trump later described Netanyahu in an interview as a "very difficult guy."

Netanyahu downplayed the exchanges as "tactical disagreements," saying they were aligned on the goals of the war.

On Tuesday, the leaders were expected to discuss the implementation of a U.S.-sponsored framework deal signed by Israel and Lebanon last month, whose application on the ground has been challenging.

The talks were also expected to touch on Gaza, as diplomatic efforts to kick-start the devastated Palestinian territory's reconstruction are at a standstill.

Nearly three years after the war between Israel and Hamas broke out, the humanitarian situation in Gaza remains dire, and Israel continues to regularly target people the military says are militants.

- 'No break' in ties -

Danny Danon, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, said Tuesday that Netanyahu's visit came at a "critical time for the Middle East," with Iran continuing "to choose terrorism over negotiations" and blocking the key Strait of Hormuz waterway.

Yonatan Freeman, an international relations expert at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, said the primary aim of the visit was to dispel reports of a cooling in ties between the allies.

"I think that the main issue... is to show the world, to show Iran, and also even Lebanon and others... that there is no break or any kind of major disagreement between the United States and Israel," he told AFP.

"There's more in agreement between the two leaders than disagreement."

For Freeman, any differences between Trump and Netanyahu concern the means timeline, intensity, immediate objectives of operations rather than the ends of the war. □



This handout picture released by the Israeli Government Press Office (GPO) Shows Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (L) posing for a picture with U.S. President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington DC, ahead of their meeting on July 28, 2026.



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U.S. director Jon Bolerjack (*Stan Lee: The Final Chapter*) poses during Comic Con International in San Diego on July 23, 2026.

Documentary on Stan Lee's final years faced industry opposition, filmmaker says

San Diego, United States

Comic book enthusiast Jon Bolerjack began filming with Stan Lee around 2014, intending to document how the legendary creator behind some of the world's most beloved superheroes was spending his 90s.

But along with Lee's superstardom fans clamoring for photos and autographs the filmmaker documented worrying instances of alleged exploitation that he warns could happen to anyone.

"Stan Lee: The Final Years" hits streaming platforms on Tuesday, despite what Bolerjack described as opposition from some in the industry.

The documentary includes allegations from people close to Lee of exploitation by two former managers, one of whom was charged in 2019 a year after Lee's death at the age of 95 with fraud, theft, and the unlawful deprivation of liberty.

Bolerjack, who said he was with Lee in the days before his death, told AFP in an interview at Comic-Con in San Diego that he faced pressure not to release the film, including from one of Lee's former managers and several companies -- which he would not identify.

"There are companies that did things that feel guilty," he said.

"But then the other side of that is if you want Stan's face on a lunchbox, do you want people to think happy thoughts about Stan, or do you want them to know that it wasn't so happy?"

- Bad deal -

Born in 1922 in New York, Stanley Martin Lieber began working as a teenager at Marvel's predecessor, Timely Comics, where he adopted the pen name Stan Lee and co-created some of the most famous superheroes, including Spider-Man and Black Panther.

His characters were flawed men endowed with superpowers but also plagued by mundane problems which captivated audiences and created legions of fans.

Bolerjack's documentary portrays Lee as an affable artist but terrible dealmaker.

"Nobody has made more bad business decisions than I have," Lee admits in one scene.

He describes how Disney, as it sought to acquire Marvel, offered him a percentage of future profits. But on the advice of a lawyer, he instead accepted a one-time payment of \$6 million, half of which his lawyer reportedly took.

Marvel films, including the highly successful "Aveng-

ers" movies, went on to become some of the highest grossing blockbusters of all time.

Bolerjack said that Lee "knew that he made a bad deal, and he never tried to blame Disney for that."

He also "didn't have any animosity towards Marvel." "He loved being the mascot. He loved doing the cameos."

- Allies -

In his final days, Lee was actually visited by Marvel Studios chief Kevin Feige, according to Bolerjack.

"Kevin was very gracious and very nice and took the time. And Stan, I know appreciated it made him feel, you know, special that he came all the way out like that."

Bolerjack insisted that the documentary is not about a famous person who was swindled, but rather about a situation that can happen to anyone.

"The story is that anything can happen to you. Anything can happen to your parents. You should pay attention."

He said that right down the hall at Comic-Con where Lee was a frequent guest-of-honor someone could be making a bad deal, if they didn't have the right people in their corner. □



Ryan Linkof, Senior Curator and Head of Film Programs for the Lucas Museum of Narrative Art (R) and Co-Founders of Stoopid Buddy Stoodios' Seth Green (R) and Matthew Senreich pose during a photo call at Comic Con International in San Diego on July 23, 2026.

Lucas Museum to display unseen 'Star Wars' pieces, curator says

San Diego, United States

The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art -- founded by legendary "Star Wars" creator George Lucas and his wife -- will see previously undisplayed items from the hit sci-fi series after it opens later this year, its curator told AFP.

"We are the home of the Lucas Archives, the Lucas-film production materials," Ryan Linkof said. "So we'll have an exhibition on 'Star Wars' that includes some really special pieces that have never been exhibited before."

More than 1,300 objects will be displayed across 33 galleries covering over 9,200 square meters in the futuristically designed building that will open its doors on September 22.

The museum, spearheaded by the filmmaker and his wife, business executive Mellody Hobson, promises to house some of the objects, artifacts and works Lucas has collected over decades.

The collection includes illustrations by Norman Rockwell, Jessie Willcox Smith and N.C. Wyeth; works by Frida Kahlo, Jacob Lawrence, Charles White and Robert Colescott; and pieces by cartoonists including Winsor McCay, Jack Kirby and Frank Frazetta.

"This is a kind of art that doesn't often have an institutional home -- not a lot of art museums collect or exhibit it," Linkof said. "It will be a series of exhibitions organized around material that is really quite rare."

But the crown jewel, at least for some fans, will be production materials from Lucasfilm.

Linkof said the "incredibly ambitious project," which Lucas has worked on for decades, had faced a series of challenges, including those stemming from the pandemic. But for the curator, it represents something of a culmination of the acclaimed filmmaker's career.

"Mellody has said before that ... everyone gets two songs. He had his first song that was Star Wars, and the second song is the museum," Linkoff said. "And it really is an offering for the world that will really last."

Lucas, 82, remains actively involved in the project, the curator said. "As far as I can tell, he's very happy with it," he said. Last year, Lucas visited Comic-Con's famous Hall H the pop culture convention's most important venue for the first time, specifically to discuss his museum. □

In Rome, one man's crusade against graffiti

Rome, Italy

Inch by inch, the high-pressure jet erased the huge, gaudy tag the second time in two weeks that Valerio Tuveri has sandblasted clean the wall of a historic park in Rome.

Wearing a full white overall, headphones over his ears and a work mask protecting his face, Tuveri and his helper patiently blasted the tag that appeared a few days ago.

"ACAB" the acronym for an anti-police slogan was scrawled in large white letters on the wall of the newly-renovated Villa Sciarra public garden, near the leafy Trastevere neighborhood.

"Today we're here for the second time," Tuveri told AFP, as he worked on the wall around the park that includes the historic Villa Sciarra.

He attributed the tag to activists protesting the recent death during an arrest of a Moroccan man, Abderahim Fakir, which sparked outrage across the country.

The 28-year-old Tuveri known on Instagram and TikTok as "the guy who cleans Rome," with the handle "mr.tuvs" has been posting videos for two years showing off his graffiti-cleaning, which he carries



Valerio Tuveri puts on a protective suit before starting to erase a graffiti reading ACAB (referencing the political slogan "All Cops Are Bastards") on an external wall of Villa Sciarra in Rome on July 27, 2026.

out for free in agreement with city authorities.

When he started posting on social media in mid-2024, he was working for a private company specializing in cleaning and restoring monuments, statues and fountains.

He calculates that he cleaned about eight kilometers (five miles) of walls - "all the embankment walls along the banks of the Tiber" ahead of the Vatican's 2025 Jubilee, a holy year that drew millions to Rome.

That is when the idea came

to him to keep cleaning on his own time.

Since then, Tuveri who has more than 80,000 followers on Instagram has inspired imitators, notably in the northern city of Brescia, but also abroad, especially in Brazil and Spain.

- Changing attitudes -

Since Tuveri started posting videos, he has noticed attitudes changing about Rome's ubiquitous tags.

Before people considered them "normal," he said.

"But when they saw the beauty that lies behind a

wall that's been cleaned of graffiti" they began to consider tagging "despicable", he said.

A tour guide who lives near the park, 26-year-old Emilia Del Monte, told AFP that most of the tags she sees have "no artistic meaning whatsoever".

"Creating a mural is one thing," but damaging public property "is something else entirely," she said.

Tourists frequently ask her why there is so much graffiti in the city. "It's almost become a distinctive feature of the neighborhood," she

said.

For Tuveri, the paint sprayed on Rome monuments, apartment buildings, storefront shutters, garbage dumpsters and trains has worsened in recent years, notably due to a lack of dissuasive sanctions.

He believes there should be "steep fines and cameras, lots of cameras," on top of awareness campaigns.

According to Rome police, between January and early July, about 50 people were sanctioned for the misdemeanors of damage and destruction of buildings.

Asked for comment, Rome's city councilor for environmental policy and citizen relations, Stefano Marin, said that "volunteering cannot and must not permanently replace the responsibilities of institutions".

Marin said that Rome has only limited financial resources, however, "compared to the size of the territory and the frequency of acts of vandalism".

In addition to installing security cameras in the most affected areas, he proposes a national tax credit to offset expenses incurred by citizens, associations or businesses that help restore urban spaces. □



United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih looks on during a press conference on the launch of a Global Alliance for Human Rights, in Geneva, on June 9, 2026.

Geneva, Switzerland

The right to asylum is coming under increasing political strain across the world, the U.N.'s refugees chief said Tuesday as he marked the 75th anniversary of the Refugee Convention.

At the United Nation's Pal-

ais des Nations in Geneva where the convention was opened for signature on July 28, 1951 U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Barham Salih urged the world to move from managing sky-high displacement to seeking to resolve

U.N. sounds warning as refugee convention turns 75

it. "We gather at a time of increasingly politicised debates about refugees and asylum," said Iraqi ex-president Salih, himself a former refugee.

"Too often, people forced to flee become scapegoats for wider social, economic and political anxieties. Too often, refugees are portrayed as burdens or threats rather than as fellow human beings."

Some 117.8 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced from their homes at the end of 2025, according to UNHCR, the U.N. refugee agency, down slightly from 2024's record

123.2 million.

Last year's drop was the first in a decade, as conflicts in Iran and Lebanon spurred many refugees hosted there to return home, often under risky circumstances, including to Syria and Afghanistan.

In a message, U.N. chief Antonio Guterres said that in the aftermath of World War II, states made a solemn promise that no-one fleeing persecution would be returned to a place where their life or freedom would be threatened on account of their race, religion, nationality, social

group or political opinion.

The convention has since "saved millions of lives", he said. "Today, that promise is under strain. Conflicts are multiplying, persecution persists, and growing numbers are forced to flee. Meanwhile, the right to seek asylum is too often questioned, restricted, or denied."

The number of people forcibly displaced worldwide has almost doubled in the last decade, but funding for international aid has slumped, not least after the return of US President Donald Trump to the White House. □

Keiko Fujimori becomes Peru's ninth president in a decade

Lima, Peru

Peru's conservative President Keiko Fujimori took office on Tuesday, vowing to tackle the wave of crime sweeping the Andean nation.

Fujimori won June's presidential runoff by fewer than 50,000 votes, having tried and failed to win power three times previously.

"I swear ... that I will faithfully carry out the duties of president of the republic," Peru's ninth president in a decade stated before Congress.

A group of leftist lawmakers left the room in protest at her inauguration.

The ceremony was attended by Latin American leaders including Argentina's Javier Milei, Chile's Jose Antonio Kast, Bolivia's Rodrigo Paz, Ecuador's Daniel Noboa and Uruguay's Yamandu Orsi.

The 51-year-old ran a campaign shadowed by the divisive legacy of her father, who ruled Peru in the 1990s. Alberto Fujimori was jailed for corruption and crimes against humanity committed during what he considered a fight against terrorism.



Peru's President Keiko Fujimori waves as she leaves Congress following her inauguration ceremony in Lima on July 28, 2026.

His daughter's hardline messaging taps into Peru's worst security crisis in decades, fueled by the spread of both local and foreign criminal gangs that oversee contract killings and extortion.

She has proposed fighting crime by expelling undocumented people, setting up courts with anonymous judges and making prisoners work for their food.

"She is going to be a rep-

lica of her father," said 80-year-old retiree Cesar Fuentes, who fears that a crime crackdown will lead to abuses.

But housewife Nelly Vega believes Fujimori "is going to lead us to something better."

"We're in a country with a lot of terror," the 68-year-old said.

"It is a party with deep popular roots that has had a dynamic presence in Pe-

ruvian politics, even when it was losing elections, because of its uninterrupted presence in Congress," Jeffrey Radzinsky, director of the political consultancy GFP, said of Fujimori's Fuerza Popular party.

- 'Fighting for justice' -

The new president has also vowed to tackle the El Nino climate phenomenon, which meteorologists predict will be the most intense

and devastating since 1998.

Fuerza Popular is the largest caucus in Congress, but right-wing groups still fall short of the majority required to push through Fujimori's initiatives.

Fujimori will govern until 2031 following a decade of political chaos that has burned through eight Peruvian leaders, many of whom were removed from office or forced to resign by a Congress under Fujimori's influence.

"There are high expectations," independent worker Marci Angeles, 31, told AFP. "But given how she has behaved as an opposition leader" in recent years, Angeles said, "the outlook is not good."

Fujimori recently called for reconciliation between the country's political camps, but the appeal did not go down well with the families of victims of state violence. On Monday, over 100 people held a vigil for their loved ones in the capital, vowing to reject the incoming government and demanding justice for crimes committed under the last Fujimori administration. □

France needs more Canadair water bombers but building them is painfully slow

Calgary, Canada

As French firefighters struggle to contain the worst wildfires in living memory with just 12 aerial water bombers, production of the iconic aircraft creaks along half a world away in a Canadian factory.

Canadairs are a prime weapon in fighting blazes in rugged, often remote landscapes. But building the specialized aircraft is a time-consuming process, made harder by a nine-year production gap that left the complex supply chain in tatters.

Although manufacturer De Havilland restarted production in 2024, the first delivery of just two aircraft to France won't happen until at least 2028.

- Rivet-by-rivet -

At a plant in Calgary that AFP visited, the fuselages of the aircraft capable of scooping up almost 6,000 liters of water in 12 seconds by gliding along a lake were being drilled and riveted by hand.

The relative lack of automation compared to other manufacturers is part of the reason why the factory can only produce 10 planes per year.

"On the fuselage, everything is done manually, so

every hole, every rivet you see on the fuselage is being done manually," Operations Director Victor Ocaiz told AFP.

The shortage of aircraft and long wait for more have kicked off a political ruckus in France, with opposition parties accusing the government of hindering firefighting efforts through budget cuts.

But the problems lie at least partly back in Canada.

Previous builder Bombardier halted production in 2015. Production was only restarted after an initial order for 22 planes in 2024 by the European Union, France, Spain, Italy, Greece, Portugal and Croatia, De Havilland Head of Strategy Jean-Philippe Cote said.

Since then, the order book has grown to 40 aircraft, with France ordering two next-generation DHC-515s in 2024 as part of the European order, followed by two more in June.

"We have two aircraft to deliver to France in 2028-2029 ... and the two aircraft announced last month for 2032-2033," Cote said.

A De Havilland spokesperson wouldn't be drawn on the exact month of deliveries, saying only that they were "in line with forecasts."

French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said in June that the 2028 deliveries would happen in April and November of that year, while stressing that the timetable needed to be "respected." □



A Canadair CL-415 aircraft (known as Pelican 33) drops water during a demonstration during a visit of French Interior minister as part of the launch of the national wildfire prevention campaign in Nimes, southern France on June 4, 2026.



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The stories of “Compa Nanzi”

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

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

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

It wasn't until the end of the nineteenth century that the stories of Nanzi were written down in different languages. However, not all stories are completely alike in every country, as is the risk of oral story telling. However, one thing will always be dominant in Compa

Nanzi's stories: his sneaky ways to get what he wants!

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Shon Arei went strolling a while later. He thought to himself: “This time

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

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

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

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





Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations



(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your "off-road" trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding "mondi"*. This is also one of the few sites to contain prehistoric markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breathtaking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usual-

ly quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the

round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south.

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi!☐



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals



(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that you have to pay before leaving. This would surely not be a pleasant experience. Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let's all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours!☐

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Magnet Perfume Jewelry & Cosmetics | The Lazy Lizard
Shalom Hair & Nails Bar | Twist of Flavors | Dunkin Donuts
Treasure Cove | El Patio Tacos & Tequila | M8 Boutique
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The Lionfish and its threat to our marine wild life



(Oranjestad)—Despite its colorful and striking appearance, the lionfish has become a Caribbean-wide problem for Atlantic sea life. The Aruban marine wild life is also affected by this beautiful dilemma, as it is foreign to our waters and has become a danger to our local fish and reefs.

Originating from the Indo-Pacific Ocean, the lionfish is a relatively small fish. It has no teeth, but it does protect itself against predators using its sharp, colorful spikes. It is said that the sting of a lionfish can be up to 100 times more painful

than that of a bee's sting.

Its natural predators in the Indo-Pacific are sharks and barracudas, but in the Caribbean Sea, local fish do not recognize the lionfish as part of their diet. In other words, the lionfish has no predators in the Caribbean Sea. And this becomes a major problem for our local marine life; if there are no predators to stimulate population control of lionfish, these fish can continue to reproduce and expand to other parts of the Atlantic, become more invasive and dangerous for other types of fish.

For Aruba, the lionfish is a problem especially for our local coral reefs. According to Patrick van Brakel, lionfish expert and hunter from the Hunting Lionfish Aruba foundation, every reef has a "cleaning station"—tiny fish that eat algae and other types of waste on a reef, thus maintaining the reef's health and providing food to the fish population in the area. However, as the lionfish feeds off of these tiny fish, it becomes harder for the coral reef to maintain its health.

Patrick also shares the origins of lionfish in the Caribbean Sea. It is theorized that the introduction of these fish in the Atlantic happened in Florida, where people would buy lionfish from across the world to keep in their aquariums. However, lionfish grow, and as these buyers realized that the fish were too much upkeep, they were let out into the ocean to roam



free. From continental USA, the lionfish travelled to and invaded the entire Caribbean area, from Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao up to New York. In Aruba, lionfish were discovered in 2009.

Controlling the lionfish population is challenge, as each female fish can lay up to 40,000 eggs a day. Luckily, we have people like van Brakel who dedicate their lives hunting and capturing these invasive species, us-

ing them for consumption and jewelry making.

They are caught with a hand spear, an object resembling a garbage picker with 4 sharp prongs. These spears are used like a sling shot to catch lionfish from a distance. These fish are then put into a collecting tube and taken out of the water. This way, he does his part in protecting the local wild life. □

Fun facts about cacti hedges "Trankera"

(Oranjestad) – When off-roading in inland Aruba, you may notice some cacti hedges around various properties or lined up by certain pathways. These man-made hedges are called "trankera" and play an important role in maintaining our flora and fauna.

The trankera dates to colonialism, where settlers established several 'cunucu' (farm) on the island. People either used stone walls

or trankera as a fence to ward off strangers and wild animals that can feed on the cunucu vegetation or cattle.

Nowadays, trankeras are less common, and those that still stand are often not maintained. On the surface this seems like a bad development, however this proved to be beneficial for our flora and fauna. Naturally developed flora around the hedges offers

more shelter for fauna. Another aspect is the propagation process. When pruning hedges, flowers and seeds were removed, which limits propagation to a minimum.

So, though trankeras don't play that big of a role in Aruba's agriculture anymore, our environment still reaps the benefits of these long-standing natural structures. □





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Episode CCCLXIII - 363

Oranjestad: The Naming of Aruba's Capital - A Legacy of Jacob Thielen

Each week in this cultural space, Etnia Nativa, one of Aruba's foremost advocates for the preservation of the island's heritage, invites readers to rediscover the history, identity, and living traditions that have shaped Aruba for generations.

In this new episode, Etnia Nativa brings the story of Oranjestad to life—a journey that connects visitors with Aruba's mystical past, cultural heritage, and colonial history. At the heart of this story is Jacob Thielen I, a key figure from Aruba's colonial era who proposed the name "Oranjestad" for the island's capital. His legacy carries an even deeper connection: he was the maternal great-great-grandfather of the owner and curator of Etnia Nativa Aruba.

The transformation of Playa, now known as Oranjestad, began after the completion of Fort Zoutman in 1797. Until then, European settlers, including White Protestant families who had lived in Ponton, gradually moved toward the bay area to establish stone houses closer to the harbor. Although Ponton offered space and a strategic view of Aruba's southern and western coasts, its distance from the ships entering the bay made Playa a more practical location for growth.

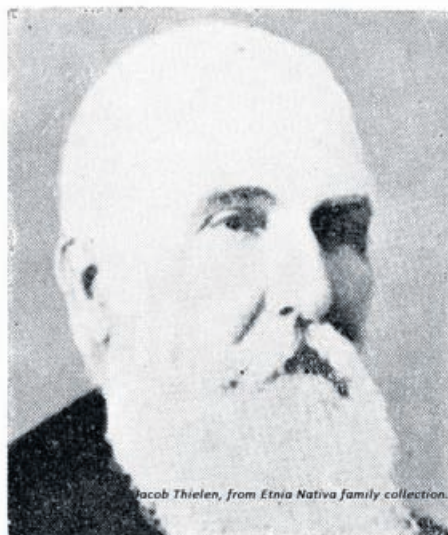
Historical records indicate that in 1797 there was not yet a single stone house standing in Playa or Paardebaai. Just eight years later, in 1805, the settlement had grown to 32 stone houses, marking the beginning of what would become Aruba's capital city.

During this period, Vice Commander Jan van der Biest of Fort Zoutman governed Aruba. In 1821, Jacob Thielen I succeeded him as commander. Coming from a prominent family with roots in Curaçao dating back to 1715, Thielen had served as a lawyer, secretary, and member of the Court of Justice of Curaçao. Recognized for his leadership and knowledge, he was appointed vice commander on January 1, 1822, an occasion celebrated with a salute of eleven cannons.

Jacob Thielen played an important role in Aruba's development. His commitment to economic progress and administrative reform led to significant changes, including the government regulations introduced in 1823. According to family historical records, on August 3, 1824, Thielen proposed the name "Oranjestad" (Orange City) for the town located along Paardebaai. The name was warmly welcomed, and the people celebrated with cheers of: "Long live Oranjestad! May it grow and prosper."



Jacob Thielen and wife Anna E. van der Biest, from Etnia Nativa family collection.



Jacob Thielen, from Etnia Nativa family collection.

Before 1790, Savaneta served as Aruba's capital, but Oranjestad's location offered a greater advantage due to its accessibility for ships and trade. Over time, it became the center of Aruba's political and economic life.

Today, only a few historic structures remain as reminders of this important chapter in Aruba's history. Among them is Fort Zoutman, dating back to 1796, whose outer walls represent the oldest existing building on the island.

The tower in front of the fort, now a recognizable landmark, was constructed in 1868 as a public clock tower and was later converted into a lighthouse, with a clock added in 1929. It continued serving as a lighthouse until 1963, when the western entrance of the harbor was completed.

Visitors can still see the inscription "W III" on the tower, honoring King William III of the Netherlands, who was the reigning monarch at the time of its construction. Through Etnia Nativa Aruba, the story of Oranjestad and the island's rich heritage is not only preserved—it continues to live. It creates a meaningful connection between present generations and the people, traditions, and events that have shaped our island's identity.

For travelers seeking authenticity beyond the usual tourist attractions, Etnia Nativa offers a unique opportunity: a genuine encounter with the spirit of Aruba. As Aruba's hidden native cultural gem, it offers an authentic experience away from mass tourism, guided by a native artist, professional museologist, and independent researcher in archaeology and anthropology. The place invites visitors to go beyond a simple visit and connect deeply with the island's stories, traditions, and living heritage. Leave with more than memories and photographs; take home a deeper understanding and appreciation of our island, its people, and the heritage that continues to inspire generations. □



Reserve your authentic cultural experience at Etnia Nativa Aruba.

WhatsApp: +297 592 2702
Email: etnianativa03@gmail.com

Food culture in Aruba

(Oranjestad) – Like many other cultures, an important aspect of the Aruban cultural identity is our connection to food and food traditions. The local food traditions consist of a melting pot of different cultural and religious eating habits and dishes.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner

The routine of breakfast, lunch and dinner on the island is one that does not completely follow a European or American routine, despite the major influences from these parts of the world on our culture and way of living. When it comes to the three important meals of the day, most of the Aruban population follows a Latin-American influenced routine.

Breakfast

Breakfast in Aruba is quite simple: a cup of coffee or tea, some bread, and sometimes an egg. Sometimes, due to the need of a quick “to-go” breakfast, you may also find many snack trucks and cafes that sell sandwiches, pastechis (meat pie), arepas and empanadas early in the morning.

Main Meal

The main meal is typically

eaten in most households around noon or in the afternoon. This can consist of meat, fish, and chicken—stewed or fried—with funchi (polenta) or rice with stewed vegetables. Often, fried or boiled plantain or pan bati (Aruban pancake) is included. Stews are a staple in Aruban cuisine and can be largely influenced by Latin-American and Latin/Afro-Caribbean Stews. Some of the more unique stews and soups from the ABC Islands* include sopi bonch'i rabo (red kidney bean soup with pig tail), sopi mondongo (tripe soup), carni stoba (beef stew), comcomber stoba (West Indian gherkin stew) and much more.

Dinner Time

Dinner time can vary significantly from household to household. Unlike the U.S. or in Europe, dinner time typically does not consist of a whole (warm) meal. Instead, the evening “meal” can typically consist of something lighter, like a sandwich, though it is not uncommon to see leftovers from the main meal reheated and eaten again. Tea and coffee are often also served with the evening snack.



(Religious) Holidays

Christmas is probably the biggest global holiday, and every culture has its own spin on what their Christmas cuisine entails. In Aruba, our Christmas cuisine is again largely based on Latin-American influences, most notably from Venezuela. Ayacas and the famous pan di ham* are two crucial holiday dishes, along with stuffed turkey, roasted glazed ham topped with pineapples, arroz con pollo (rice and chicken) and potato salad, among other items. Traditional drinks include ponche crema (Aruban eggnog), chuculati pinda (hot chocolate with peanut butter), and homemade fruit punch.

Desserts include bolo di pistachio (pistachio cake), bolo di cashupete (cashew cake), quesillo (flan), bolo preto (fruit cake), drigidek (gingerbread), pan boyo (bread cake) and more.

Snacks and tasty delights

Besides meals and dishes that are eaten on the dinner table, Aruba also has a food tradition that includes snacks and other tasty delights that you may easily find around the island. These include, Saco*, baskets, pastechi, kroket, deditos, Johnny cake and more. These snacks are usually sold at local snack trucks and cafes, often located on the side of the road. In the area of Tanki Leendert

and Tanki flip, for example, there are many of these trucks parked on the side of the road and often open until late at night—offering tasty and filling snacks post night-life fun. □

*ABC Islands: Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao

*Pan di ham: Derived from the Venezuelan Pan de Jamon (rolled up bread with ham, raisins and olives)

*Saco: Saco literally means “bag”. Saco contains fried potatoes, plantains, chicken (and ribs) and a Johnny cake, served in a paper bag.

Source: Voeding, voedingsgewoonten en gerechten op Aruba (Nutrition, Food Traditions and Dishes on Aruba) by Biblioteca Nacional Aruba

Origin of Papiamentu- Aruba's native language

ORANJESTAD — Papiamentu, Creole language of ABC (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao) is from the Cape Verdean Creole family (Cape Verdean language) and was taken to the Caribbean in the 9th century by the Cape Verdeans of that time (linings and slaves), experts in cane culture and sugar production, and who were hired by Jewish entrepreneurs who went to invest in this business in the Caribbean. Cape Verdeans taught this pre-industrial revolution technology (planting cane and producing sugar, which they had learned from Madeirans) to slaves from other African regions, and did so in their language, Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language), hence the language implanted in Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao.

Unlike many interesting stories, wanting to link Papiamentu directly to Portuguese, Galician or Castilian (see Papiamentu, on Wikipedia



– Portuguese version and Spanish version, where the Portuguese and Spanish, each claim the direct origin of Papiamentu), in fact, this is not true. Papiamentu is not direct from Portuguese, Galician or Castilian, it is from the Cape Verde Creole family (Cape Verdean language). You can see this best when it's saying obscene words and offending someone, precisely as they say today in both ABC and Cape Verde islands. The obscene words kept the original, had no lexical influence either from Castilian or Dutch. Also the Papi Cristang of Malacca, the Patuá of Macau, and several creoles from the east

(from Daman, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Philippines, Indonesia) and Africa (Casamança, Guinea Bissau, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, these last two releases to the English), all originated in the Creole of Cabo Verde (Cape Verdean language), which was the French language spoken in Portuguese feitories on the coast of Africa (from Senegal to Sierra Leone), and which was taken east by the thousands of cable – Verdeans (linings and slaves, already Christianized and speaking Creole) who served as sailors and “slaves of arms” in Portuguese caravels, demanding the east. I don't know why the official history of Portugal usually omits this fact, which is in the chronicles of the quinrentist chroniclers, but which we never saw in the history of Portugal that we study from primary education to higher education. However, it has always been tried to deceive us, in colonial time, that we were descendants of Viriato

(Iberian hero in the fight against the Romans) and the pastors of the Hermini Mountains, but not much speaking of our black-African ancestry.

We Cape Verdeans understand each other very well with these Antillans and Easterns, whose language is from the same Creole family of Cape Verde (Cape Verdean language), speaking their Creole and we ours. Therefore, Papiamentu, Papi Cristang, Patuá Macaense and the creoles, said of Portuguese origin, Daman, India, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, some locations in the Philippines and some places in Indonesia, are creoles of the language family Cape Verde Creole (Cape Verdean language) and indirectly the Galaico-Duriense or Galaico-Portuguese, a language that the people spoke in Portugal in the 6th and 7th century. □

Source: Dushi Aruba

CROSSWORD

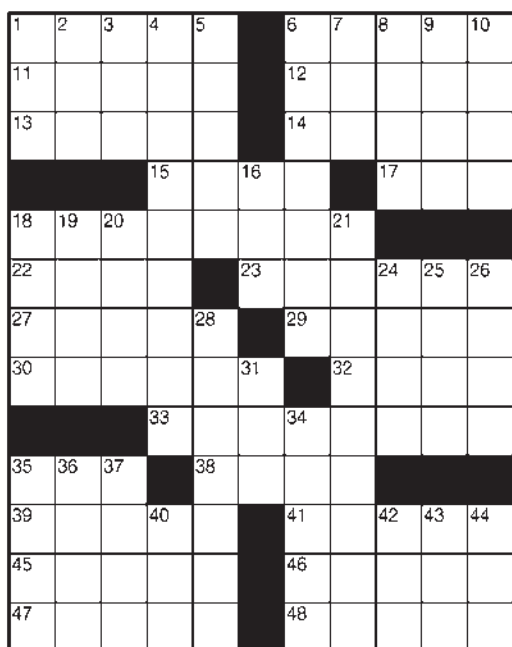
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Hawaiian greeting
- 6 Uttered
- 11 Seasonal song
- 12 Not dozing
- 13 School paper
- 14 Old photo tint
- 15 Historic periods
- 17 Finish
- 18 Nonsense
- 22 Corridor
- 23 Forces in the water
- 27 Hitter's turn
- 29 Razor sharpener
- 30 Tidy up
- 32 Moreno of movies
- 33 Typographical face
- 35 Vault part
- 38 Spur on
- 39 Perfect
- 41 Brother's daughter
- 45 Distress signal
- 46 Mosque faith
- 47 Scout shelters
- 48 Poker stacks

DOWN

- 1 Play division
- 2 —
- 3 Smelter supply
- 4 Diamond feature
- 5 Watchful
- 6 Feudal toilers
- 7 Need to pay
- 8 Matador's need
- 9 Related
- 10 Main role
- 16 Pound sound
- 18 Action star Jackie
- 19 Tardy
- 20 Jessica of "Sin City"
- 21 Culture setting
- 24 Rocker Clapton
- 25 Dorothy's dog
- 26 Reach across
- 28 Places of worship
- 31 Neither follower



4-3

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.

4-3 CRYPTOQUOTE

LGO VRE MPO ZKMMZO CRTTKM
PORCV MPO TLE MOZZ PKB GRGGE
MPRM PO QRB CORZ. PO QRB
LUOCNLXO TE ZLUO KG PKB PORCM.

— "MPO UOZUOMOOG CRTTKM"
Cryptoquote: IN EVERY CURVING
BEACH, IN EVERY GRAIN OF SAND THERE IS THE
STORY OF THE EARTH. — RACHEL CARSON

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.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
02 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
04 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
05 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
09 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
11 TUE	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 13:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I
12 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: I FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
16 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

7/29

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★

7/28

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First image taken of Betelgeuse's elusive companion star

Paris, France

Astronomers unveiled Tuesday the first image ever captured of an elusive companion star orbiting Betelgeuse, one of the brightest and most famous stars in the night sky. Throughout history, people have gazed up in awe at Betelgeuse, a red supergiant known to many as the hunter's shoulder in the Orion constellation.

Records suggest that thousands of years ago, ancient Egyptians and Indigenous Australians noticed that the star's brightness changed in regular cycles. The reason for this flickering remained a mystery until astronomers in 2024 predicted it was caused by the crossing of a much-smaller companion star.

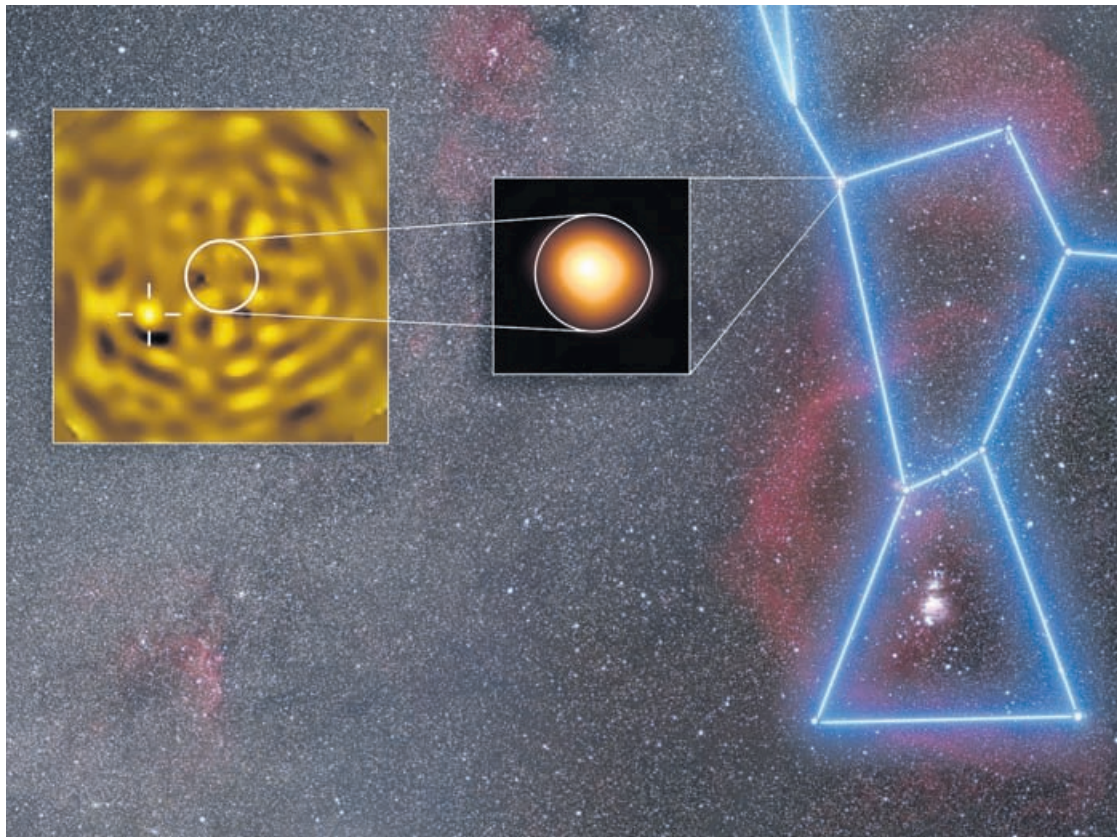
The best evidence of the existence of the companion star was published in a study on Tuesday, based on observations by the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile.

"This is the conclusion of a century-long quest," lead study author Miguel Montarges of the Paris Observatory said in a statement. "We have shown that Betelgeuse is not single, it is accompanied by a faint stellar companion," he added.

Astronomers had feared that the telescope would not be able to spot the companion because it would be blinded by the light from Betelgeuse, which is 1,000 times bigger than the Sun.

The companion dubbed Betelgeuse B had been thought to only have 1.5 times the Sun's mass.

"I jumped from my chair when I saw the processed images," Montarges said. It turned out that the com-



This handout image released by The European Southern Observatory (ESO) on July 28, 2026, shows a composite of images taken by ESO's Very Large Telescope (VLT), the image in the middle inset was taken in January 2019 with the SPHERE instrument at ESO's VLT, and shows Betelgeuse itself.

panion was significantly heavier than had been believed weighing two to three times more than the Sun which allowed to astronomers to spot it.

The observations were taken in December 2024, when the companion star was farthest away from Betelgeuse.

However it took a long time to process and analyse the data, the results of which were published in the journal *Astronomy & Astrophysics*.

While more observations

are needed to definitively prove the companion's existence, "there is very little space left for doubt," Montarges emphasised.

Betelgeuse previously surprised astronomers by dramatically dimming for five months between 2019 and 2020.

Scientists first thought the change meant the star would soon die in an epic supernova explosion.

However further observations revealed the dimming was caused by a massive amount of materi-

al ejected from the surface that created a dust cloud which blocked the star's light. □

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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: Dakota
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Centro Medico
Tel. 584 5794

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

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FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051

Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
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Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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ARUBA TODAY NEWS

Why are tech stocks tanking?

Tokyo, Japan

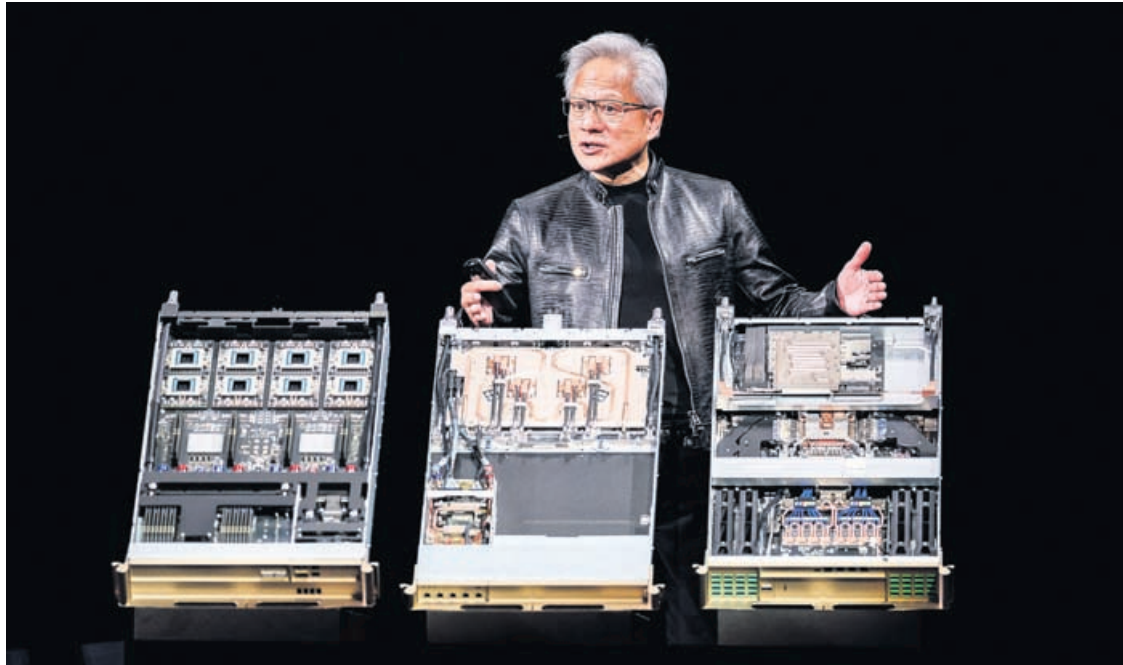
Investor jitters over how long the artificial intelligence spending boom will last and concern over Chinese competition in chip-making sent technology shares plunging Tuesday. South Korea's Samsung Electronics fell more than 12 percent and Japanese memory chipmaker Kioxia was down 18 percent, while Taiwanese giant TSMC slid 3.0 percent.

The declines followed losses by major US semiconductor stocks, after a report said a company was making specialised ultraviolet etching machines to boost China's chip industry.

Here are the main factors behind the most recent tech rout:

- Chinese chip tech -

Wall Street chip shares sank Monday after tech news outlet The Information reported that a Chinese state-backed company was making immersion deep ultraviolet (DUV) lithography machines.



A man walks past an electronic screen showing South Korea's benchmark stock index (KOSPI) in a foreign exchange dealing room at the Hana Bank headquarters in Seoul on July 28, 2026.

These systems can etch miniscule circuits onto silicon to create microchips that power AI as well as all sorts of everyday electronics.

DUV is less advanced than so-called extreme ultraviolet (EUV) lithography, a technology mastered only by the Dutch firm ASML.

The sale of ASML's EUV ma-

chines to China is banned by US trade restrictions designed to keep American tech in the lead, but China is also reportedly in the early stages of producing its own EUV.

"China's domestic lithography advances bypass Western supply chains entirely, hitting equipment

makers hardest," Angela Harmantas at Proactive Investors wrote.

Etching chips with DUV "is slower, lower-yield and more expensive than EUV production, but it is proving sufficient for near-frontier chips, unsettling policy-makers and investors who had assumed China faced tighter constraints".

- Overheating concerns -

Harmantas said the declines "also reflect broader valuation concerns" in the technology sector.

AI-related shares have skyrocketed recently, with SK hynix gaining more than 500 percent over the past 12 months, for example.

But that has fuelled concerns over overheating, and questions over when the eye-watering amounts ploughed into developing AI and building new data centres will reap returns.

"High expectations tied to AI infrastructure spending have left sector rallies vulnerable to profit-taking amid shifting macroeconomic conditions," Harmantas said.

Experts have warned that if the AI bubble pops, the fallout could be bigger than anything Wall Street has ever seen.

Analysts also warn of circular financing -- where big tech companies invest in AI startups, which then use that money to buy big tech's own products and

Taiwan detains Nvidia worker in chip smuggling probe: source familiar with case

Taipei, Taiwan

Prosecutors in Taiwan have detained an Nvidia employee as part of an investigation into the smuggling of the US tech giant's AI chips to China, a source familiar with the case told AFP on Tuesday.

The man was detained after investigators raided his home and workplace on July 24, the Keelung District

Prosecutors Office said in a statement without mentioning Nvidia.

He is suspected of offences including "the falsification of business documents under the Criminal Code", prosecutors said in a statement.

The United States restricts exports to China of the most cutting-edge silicon chips used to power arti-

ficial intelligence systems, designed by industry leader Nvidia.

Officials said in May they were investigating the shipment of "high-end" AI servers made by Nasdaq-listed Super Micro Computer and containing advanced Nvidia chips to China, Macau and Hong Kong, in violation of U.S. export controls.

help us ensure that all sales comply with U.S. export control rules," the spokesperson said, using the acronym for original equipment manufacturers.

"Even relatively small exporters and shipments are subject to thorough review and scrutiny on both sides of the globe, and any diverted products would have no service, support, or updates."

- Seven held -

Prosecutors said the detained person is "strongly suspected of having committed the offences, and that there is a risk of flight, destruction of evidence, and collusion with accomplices or witnesses".

Seven people are now being held as part of the probe, including the Nvidia employee, two from Super Micron and one from Taiwan-listed Albatron Technology.□

services.

- Debt risks -

Around half a year ago, big tech companies were buying back their own shares -- a move that signals excess cash and drives up their stock price.

Now they're taking on debt to fund their AI build-out, in a significant reversal that could prove painful if interest rates are hiked.

"The first leg of the artificial-intelligence boom was financed with cash, confidence and some of the strongest balance sheets in corporate America," wrote Stephen Innes at SPI Asset Management.

But "the AI buildout is climbing onto a steeper section of track just as the gap between capital spending and internal cash generation narrows", he warned. Innes cited a Goldman Sachs research report predicting that big tech debt issuance would rise from roughly \$250 billion in 2026 to around \$400 billion next year.□



Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang delivers his keynote speech at Computex 2026 in Taipei on June 1, 2026.

"This Nvidia employee was identified as a person involved in the case after investigators analysed the relevant evidence following the previous round of searches targeting Super Micro," the source told AFP.

In response to AFP's request for comment, an Nvidia spokesperson said "smuggling is a nonstarter".

"We primarily sell our products to well-known partners, including OEMs, who



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New Zealand's Ryan Fox speaks as he holds a press conference beside the Claret Jug, the trophy for the Champion golfer of the year after his victory in the 154th Open Golf championship at Royal Birkdale Golf Club near Southport in north-west England on July 19, 2026.

Open champion Fox welcomed home by thousands after 'whirlwind few days'

Auckland, New Zealand

Ryan Fox received a hero's welcome in Auckland on Tuesday as thousands flocked to see the new British Open champion and the famous Claret Jug after "a whirlwind few days" since the New Zealander won his maiden major.

Fox triumphed at the 154th Open at Royal Birkdale in England just over a week ago, holding his nerve over a knee-knocking 12-foot putt on the final green to finish 10-under par and win by one stroke.

The only other New Zealander to lift the Claret Jug was Bob Charles in 1963, at Lytham and St Annes just along the English north-west coast from Birkdale. Only two other New Zealanders have ever won golf majors.

Michael Campbell triumphed at the 2005 U.S. Open at Pinehurst and Lydia Ko won three women's majors, including the 2024

British Women's Open at St Andrews.

"It's been a whirlwind few days since winning the Open," Fox told the crowds who turned out to see him and the famous Claret Jug winner's trophy, which dates back to 1872.

"To be fair, my head is still spinning as I take in what I've achieved and what's to come.

"One of the first things I wanted to do was come home and share this incredibly special time with my family, friends and all the Kiwis who have supported me throughout my career."

People spilled onto a nearby street as they tried to catch a glimpse of the 39-year-old, who received boisterous cheers when he hoisted the trophy for his fans.

Fox, renowned for taking little time over his shots, raised another ovation when he spoke of becoming

the "face of the pace of play movement" in golf.

- Australian major? -

Fox started his professional career on courses such as Royal Auckland, before playing on circuits in Australia, Europe and the PGA Tour in the United States.

Fox was asked by reporters if the Australian Open should become a fifth major, hosted by the famous links-like sandbelt courses in Melbourne.

Fox said it would be "hard to break the tradition" but added it would match the women's circuit which already has five majors.

"International golf is huge. I think golf in Australia is huge. The Australian Open at Royal Melbourne last year was incredible," Fox told a media conference. "They have the quality of golf course to be able to do it.

"But that's for people a whole lot smarter than me to figure out." □



Jalen Carter #98 of the Philadelphia Eagles looks on before the NFC Wild Card Playoff game against the San Francisco 49ers at Lincoln Financial Field on January 11, 2026 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Jalen Carter signs record \$152M extension with Eagles

Los Angeles, United States

Jalen Carter has signed a four-year extension with the Philadelphia Eagles, the club said Tuesday, in a deal that reportedly makes him the highest-paid defensive tackle in NFL history.

Though the 2025 Super Bowl winners did not disclose financial terms, U.S. media said the extension was worth \$152 million (133.5 million euros), or \$38 million per year, with \$106 million guaranteed.

Carter, 25, is one of the NFL's most highly-rated young defenders, having been selected to each of the last two Pro Bowls.

He was drafted ninth in the first round in 2023, and became a cornerstone of the Eagles' vaunted defense. Carter has 13.5 quarterback sacks and 108 tackles across his first three seasons with Philadelphia.

His initial four-year deal had already been extended by one year, but the new contract locks down his long-term future.

"He disrupts the game, he's smart, and he plays hard," Eagles defensive coordinator Vic Fangio said in a statement.

"There aren't many like him out there and I'm glad he's on our side."

The talented star has also drawn controversy.

Carter was ejected from last year's NFL season-opener before playing a snap for spitting on Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott.

Just weeks before his 2023 draft, Carter was charged with reckless driving and racing, after a University of Georgia teammate and staff member in a different vehicle were killed in a late-night street race.

Carter, who was not under the influence of alcohol or drugs, pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor charges and did not receive jail time. □

FIFA says it hopes to sell \$4.2B stake in its tournaments



Gianni Infantino, Fifa's president, during FIFA World Cup 2026, Spain vs Argentina, Final, match 104 at the New York/New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford on July 19, 2026.

Paris, France

FIFA said Tuesday it plans to sell a stake in the business operations of the World Cup and its other competitions through the creation of a semi-private subsidiary.

World football's governing body said it would retain a majority share in FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) but hoped to raise \$4.2 billion later this year by "carefully selecting long-term investors who will purchase minority, non-controlling interests".

FIFA's statement was a rapid response to a story in British newspapers The Times and The Financial Times based on leaks of the plan from two sources.

The Times reported that FIFA president Gianni Infantino, 56, stood to profit from the scheme by becoming commissioner of the FFE after his expected next term expires in 2031. FIFA denied that this had been discussed.

The article also said discussion had started with financial advisors and potential investors.

Those include Thrive capital, an investment company founded and led by Joshua Kushner, brother of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared, as well as an arm of JP Morgan Chase, the US bank that attempted to finance the failed breakaway European Super League.

European football's governing body UEFA, which has been critical of Infantino, was also quick to respond to the article.

"This crosses a line that football's governing institutions should never cross. UEFA takes it extremely seriously," said UEFA's statement.

"The soul and governance of football are not assets to trade especially with zero transparency as to who gains financially. None of us are the owners of football. It is not FIFA's to sell."

The plan would still have to be approved by the 38-member FIFA council and the majority of the MAs. FIFA said it intends to present the plans to the council soon.

FIFA said in its statement that it "would retain sole control of FFE and exclusive authority over football governance, competitions, match calendar, and all regulatory and sporting decisions".

It said it believed FFE would achieve an "initial equity valuation of \$20bn".

FIFA said each of its 211 member associations (MAs) would be given the chance to take a one-off stake of 20mn dollars in FFE.

That represents only 0.1 percent of the total, but would be a significant sum for the leaderships of FIFA's poorer or smaller members.

"Together with other existing FIFA programmes, these investments could bring FIFA's total planned development funding to more than \$10 billion over the next four years," FIFA said.

British Prime Minister Andy Burnham, an Everton fan, decried the plan saying football was not a product in a post on X.

"Football does not belong to investors. It belongs to the people who fill the stands and who stand on the touchline week in, week out, rain or shine. The World Cup is not a product. It is the greatest competition in world sport, and it was never anyone's to sell. Dress the deal up however you like. Once you have sold a piece of it, you have sold out. Football belongs to the fans. It always has, and it always will," he wrote.

- 'Expanding to 64 teams' -

In June, ahead of the World Cup, FIFA, which folds competition income into revenue for the whole year, anticipated record revenues exceeding seven billion euros (\$8bn) for 2026.

It was the first World Cup with 48 teams. At the start, Infantino said "we have had discussions about expanding to 64 teams" for 2030. □

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