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Members of the Gaza Tribunal, an independent initiative investigating war crimes in Gaza, including Gaza Tribunal President Prof. Dr. Richard Falk (C), Steering Committee members Prof. Dr. Hilal Elver (2nd L) and Prof. Dr. Penny Green (2nd R), Organization of Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum President Taha Ayhan (L), and lawyer Dr. Mehmet Karli (R) visit the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, on July 16, 2026.

U.S. rights groups sue Trump over ICC sanctions

New York, United States

Rights groups on Tuesday sued U.S. President Donald Trump over his sanctions targeting the International Criminal Court, saying the measures block victims of war crimes from pursuing justice.

The Trump administration, which rejects the ICC's authority, has imposed travel bans and asset freezes on several judges and prosecutors, primarily over their investigations into key U.S. ally Israel.

In a New York court filing, four groups including Human Rights Watch said the sanctions should be struck down as they violate laws including First Amendment free speech protections. "This is an unlawful abuse of power constituting a frontal attack on the rule of law, the independence of judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, basic precepts undergirding the international legal order, and the principle of equal access to justice," the lawsuit states. The 101-page complaint says the restrictions "cause grave damage to the ability to bring to justice the

perpetrators of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity."

The U.S. sanctions, issued under an executive order Trump signed in February 2025, have targeted eight judges, three prosecutors, a U.N. expert and three human rights organizations. The United Nations and the European Union previously urged Trump to reverse penalties against ICC officials.

Many of the measures were directly linked to an arrest warrant that The Hague-based court issued for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the war in Gaza. Washington has also criticized ICC probes into alleged abuses during the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan.

- 'Irreparable harm' -

Tuesday's complaint, filed by HRW, American Friends Service Committee, Center for Constitutional Rights and Open Society Institute, says the sanctions have caused "profound and irreparable harm."

It states that the four groups have been forced to stop fully engaging with the ICC

due to fears of civil or criminal penalties, and of being designated for sanctions themselves.

Alongside Trump, the lawsuit names Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Attorney General Todd Blanche, and Bradley Smith, director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control. Established in 2002, the ICC prosecutes individuals accused of the gravest atrocities and acts as a last resort when countries do not have adequate legal systems to ensure accountability.

US reservations about the court predate Trump. The U.S., like Israel, has not ratified the international treaty that established the ICC, which is backed by nearly all Western democracies. Russia is also not a member. Its President Vladimir Putin has been the subject of an ICC arrest warrant since March 2023.

Washington vowed last month to accelerate its campaign against the ICC beyond the existing sanctions accusing the court of posing "an intolerable threat to US sovereignty." □



Kennedy Center board votes to restore Trump name: reports

Washington, United States

U.S. President Donald Trump has sought to burnish his legacy by getting his name and image placed on everything, from limited edition passports to a Florida airport.

His efforts to put his stamp on the Kennedy Center arts complex in Washington blocked earlier this year by a federal judge moved ahead once again on Thursday. The venue's board of trustees, which is stacked with Trump allies, reportedly voted to approve a workaround by adding the inscription "Restored and Renovated by President Donald J. Trump" to the building.

The New York Times and The Washington Post, citing unnamed sources with knowledge of the proceedings, said the inscription would go directly below the main signage.

It was not immediately clear how the decision would comply with a federal judge's order in May that Trump's name be removed from the facade, as only Congress can change it.

In mid-June, the center's Executive Director Matt Flocu said it had "removed all physical signage on the Kennedy Center building and grounds" containing Trump's name.

But a tarp has remained over the facade since that time, sparking questions about the actual changes.

On Thursday, the board also voted to close the center's main building for two years for renovations. Work on the venue's heating and cooling, electrical and fire safety systems is to be completed by summer 2028.

A judge had also blocked that plan, but said it could be reconsidered after further review.

The Kennedy Center did not immediately reply to AFP's request for comment on the board's proceedings.

Since returning to the White House in January 2025, former reality TV star Trump has aggressively imprinted his personal brand on institutions, eschewing political tradition.

The Kennedy Center's board initially voted in December to rename the venue as "The Donald J. Trump and John F. Kennedy Memorial Center for the Performing Arts."

The Republican president's name was quickly added to the facade in large letters above that of Kennedy, spurring the cancellation of shows and plunging ticket sales for remaining events.

Elsewhere in Washington, the now-defunct U.S. Institute of Peace was also renamed after Trump, and his face has stared down from huge banners hung outside the Justice and Agriculture Departments.

His image is featured on a limited edition U.S. passport, and the airport in West Palm Beach, Florida is now named for him. □

U.S. sailors hit by strain of long aircraft carrier deployment

Washington, United States

Some sailors have reportedly tried throwing themselves into the sea, basic supplies can run short and sanitation is going awry: life on America's giant Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier is increasingly difficult as the Iran war drags on. The ship now in its ninth month of deployment is expected to be replaced in the Middle East by another carrier, the George Washington, in a move sure to be welcomed by the Lincoln's crew and their loved ones.

But concerns about conditions on the Lincoln have prompted lawmakers to demand answers from Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth, who insists the situation has been "misrepresented."

Jonathan Schroden, chief research officer at the Center for Naval Analyses, said the warship's sailors face significant challenges from their long time at sea.

"Even in peacetime conditions, the quarters are cramped, the workdays are long, the food is not great, and it's difficult to get fresh air, exercise and even a decent night's sleep," Schroden said.

"Add to that the stress that comes with being involved in combat operations -- in which your ship is constantly threatened and you can



This U.S. Navy handout photograph released on August 4, 2026, by U.S. Central Command Public Affairs shows an F/A-18E Super Hornet launching from the flight deck of Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln on July 31, 2026.

see how difficult life becomes for these sailors," he said.

The Lincoln departed California in November 2025 for duty in the South China Sea and was rerouted to the Middle East before U.S.-Israeli attacks on Iran that began in late February.

Schroden noted that carrier strike groups are generally designed for six-month deployments for reasons "including sailor welfare."

Going beyond that "creates all kinds of compounding problems that the Navy then has to deal with down

the line." This includes increased maintenance costs and decreased readiness windows while ships are prepared to deploy again, he said.

Of special concern are accounts of suicide attempts aboard the Lincoln, with the Navy Times reporting this week that two sailors tried to jump off the ship. Schroden said he had seen "reports of similar events occasionally over the past couple of decades" and that "it's rare but not unheard of, though tragic in every case."

The US Navy did not immediately provide answers to questions from AFP on conditions aboard the Lincoln and the impact on the vessel's readiness.

- 'Alarming conditions' -

In two recent meetings, family members clashed with Navy leadership over the difficult conditions including food shortages faced by the 5,000 sailors and Marines aboard the Lincoln and demanded to know when loved ones would return home, MS-NOW reported.

The Lincoln is not the only carrier to face issues due to a lengthy time at sea: the USS Gerald R. Ford also suffered various problems during a recent 326-day deployment.

The Ford took part in U.S. operations in the Caribbean, where Washington's forces have carried out strikes on alleged drug-smuggling boats and seized Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro, before being dispatched to the Middle East.

A fire broke out in a laundry room aboard the Ford in March, injuring two sailors and causing major damage to some 100 beds, according to the U.S. military, while US media reported significant problems with the ship's toilet system while at sea.

Reports of conditions on the Lincoln have sparked an outcry from some lawmakers.

Senator Ruben Gallego called for "an official oversight visit with the bipartisan Senate delegation... to investigate the reported alarming conditions."

And Richard Blumenthal, another Democratic senator, said there were "widespread reports of shortages of basic supplies, water contamination, plumbing issues, deteriorating mental health, deck safety concerns" on the ship. □

U.S. court dismisses Trump admin lawsuit over alleged Harvard anti-Semitism

New York, United States

A U.S. federal court on Thursday threw out a Trump administration lawsuit against Harvard University which accused the prestigious institution of permitting anti-Semitism during pro-Palestinian rallies on campus. District Judge Richard Stearns in Boston ruled that the government had not sufficiently proven that Harvard breached a Civil Rights Act provision that bars discrimination along race, nationality and other lines.

President Donald Trump has launched a campaign against major American universities, accusing them of giving free rein on their campuses to pro-Palestinian movements in the face of the Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip.

In its complaint filed in March, the Department of Justice said Harvard "faculty and

leadership turned a blind eye to anti-Semitism and discrimination against Jews and Israelis."

"Harvard let anti-Israeli demonstrators occupy its libraries. Harvard allowed an anti-Israeli encampment to persist for twenty days in violation of university policy," it said.

But Judge Stearns, who granted a Harvard request to dismiss the lawsuit, said the incidents raised by the Trump administration were "too isolated and episodic" to prove noncompliance with the Civil Rights Act. The decision marks a blow to Trump's attacks against the oldest university in the United States.

His administration has separately moved to freeze billions of dollars of funding for Harvard for allegedly tolerating anti-Semitism and harboring liberal bias. □



Views of Harvard University, an Ivy League University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States on Tuesday, April 22, 2025.

Matthew McConaughey on his sweet return to the big screen

Los Angeles, United States

Matthew McConaughey had plenty of reasons to select "The Rivals of Amziah King," a honey-themed thriller set in the American Southwest, for his return to the big screen after more than five years away.

"The joy, the soul, the humor, the music, the poetry, the mythology, original time, place, and space," the Oscar-winning actor told AFP when asked why he had chosen the indie film for his comeback.

Written and directed by Andrew Patterson, "The Rivals of Amziah King" follows McConaughey's charismatic local honey producer, who splits his time between tending his beehives and playing the banjo in a folk band of friends and neighbors.

"I knew these people. I liked the way they loved each other. I liked the way they fought with each other, I liked the way they cared. I liked the way they use music and humor to survive," the 56-year-old



Matthew McConaughey attends Matthew McConaughey Cinema's dedication ceremony and "The Rivals Of Amziah King" special screening at Matthew McConaughey Cinema on August 10, 2026 in Austin, Texas.

Texan said.

"Amziah is a guy who really, at the heart of himself, gives people belonging, helps people belong, and that's part of the thing.

"This wasn't the reason I did it, but in hindsight, I go: 'That's a nice thing to put out there into the world,

and share with people.'"

- 'Strong Indigenous woman' -

McConaughey stepped away from movies after Guy Ritchie's 2019 dark comedy "The Gentlemen," turning his focus to writing his memoir "Greenlights."

Although movie-goers saw him last year in "The Lost Bus," that was filmed after "The Rivals of Amziah King" wrapped.

The Southwestern U.S. tale, which draws on genres like crime, comedy, musical, and drama, sees King's life take on a new purpose

when he reconnects with Kateri played by Angelina LookingGlass a young Native American woman he had first taken in years earlier with his late wife.

With life lessons learned among the bees, communal dinners, and music, King not only helps her gradually integrate into the community, but also passes on his leadership role to her.

However, the young woman soon learns that the world of honey isn't as sweet as it seems.

For LookingGlass, the role was a perfect fit.

"I really loved playing her," the 22-year-old told AFP.

"A lot of people would underestimate her just by just looking at her. You know, they wouldn't expect the things that she does.

"Her being this really strong Indigenous woman, and this person that goes under the radar, but then like bites at the end."

That sting was very intentional on the part of Andrew Patterson, who developed the project after

Rob Reiner son denies grand jury murder charges

Los Angeles, United States

The son of legendary U.S. film director Rob Reiner denied new charges of killing both his parents when he appeared in court on Wednesday after grand jury indictments were unsealed.

Nick Reiner pleaded not guilty to two counts of murder, with the special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and murder by means of lying in wait. The charges super-

cede the previous ones that were filed over the December 2025 double slaying of his filmmaker father and his photographer mother Michele Singer.

The 32-year-old was arrested on December 14 after his parents' bloodied bodies were discovered at their home in the affluent Brentwood neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Rob Reiner, 79 -- who directed huge hits including "When Harry Met Sally"

and "A Few Good Men" and his wife, 70, were stabbed to death.

Nick Reiner, who has a history of addiction and remains in jail, was ordered to return to court on September 15.

"This was a profound betrayal by someone who was loved and trusted by the very people he is accused of killing," Los Angeles County District Attorney Nathan Hochman said.

"The indictment unsealed today also adds a special circumstance allegation that the defendant committed the murders by means of lying in wait.

"We hope that by having a grand jury return an indictment in this case it will bring us one step closer to a trial and achieving justice."

If convicted as charged, Nick Reiner could face life in prison without parole, or the death penalty, al-

though California does not routinely carry out capital punishment.

Nick Reiner, who lived in a guest house on his parents' property, had attended a party at the home of comedian Conan O'Brien on December 13 with his parents, where some attendees reportedly said he had behaved erratically.

Rob Reiner, the son of legendary comedian Carl Reiner, started his showbiz career in acting.

He won fame as the oafish son-in-law Michael "Meathead" Stivic on groundbreaking 1970s sitcom "All in the Family," before transitioning to directing.

As a director, his output included classic films like 1984's rock music mockumentary "This is Spinal Tap," fantasy gem "The Princess Bride" from 1987, and seminal coming-of-age movie "Stand By Me."□



Nick Reiner appears during his arraignment in Los Angeles County Superior Court in Los Angeles, California, on February 23, 2026.

his acclaimed debut film, "The Vast of Night" (2019).

Patterson wanted to center the film around a Native American woman who stops at nothing, he told AFP.

"She just uses her intellect and resourcefulness. And I was excited to put that kind of character into the world. That was that was quite literally the germ of an idea that made me want to go, and then eventually the Amziah character came after that," Patterson explained.

McConaughey wasn't initially in his plans, said the indie filmmaker, who also added Kurt Russell to his cast.

"I was just a guy in Oklahoma writing scripts, making little movies. It had nothing. There was no way that this had any chance to get in front of him.

"And over a number of years, and people getting behind my career, and you know, I think in spirit, Matthew and I were on a collision course for each other.□

Art or medicine? Japan's cosmetic tattoo artists in limbo



This picture taken on May 19, 2026 shows scalp tattoo artist Remy (R) performing scalp micropigmentation procedure on client Koki Hatanaka at his studio in Ginowan, Okinawa prefecture.

Ginowan, Japan

Tattoo artist Remy painstakingly injects tiny dots of pigment into Koki Hatanaka's bald scalp to mimic hair follicles, performing a grey-zone cosmetic procedure increasingly in the cross-hairs of Japanese health authorities. Japan bucks a global trend by viewing permanent make-up as the domain of medical professionals, and has ramped up threats of criminal prosecution against anyone else who practises it like the 44-year-old Okinawan.

Industry insiders insist that their craft, from make-believe hair to filled-in eyebrows and lip tints, is an artistic pursuit more befitting tattooists and hairstylists.

But in a country where body art has long symbolised yakuza gangsters, these cosmetic tattooists' safety and sanitary protocols are not enough to dispel scepticism.

"It's a complete mystery to me why they keep saying this constitutes a medical practice," Remy his professional name told AFP as he used a fine needle to ink 28-year-old Hatanaka.

The procedure known as scalp micropigmentation (SMP) is "hardly invasive" and "so painless that clients sometimes even fall asleep", while requiring sophisticated aesthetic talent, Remy argues.

And it is an important job: a sudden onslaught of alopecia the medical term

for hair loss once plunged Hatanaka into despair.

"I didn't even want to go outside," the marine sports instructor, whose style now passes for a buzz cut, told AFP.

"If I hadn't done this, I wouldn't have become brave enough to strike up conversations with strangers," he said.

"I'm more confident in myself now."

- Risky needles -

A landmark Supreme Court ruling in 2020 declared traditional decorative tattooing a non-medical act, welcome news for an industry long run by artists with no clinical training.

But the same did not apply to SMP, which has "an established history of doc-

tors' involvement", a health ministry official told AFP.

The use of needles makes it a "risky enough practice that it can hurt human bodies if done without medical expertise", she said.

The ministry has repeatedly warned, most recently in December, that criminal complaints can be filed against unlicensed practitioners, "essentially signalling arrest", healthcare law expert Akihiro Saitome told AFP.

That notice likely had a "significant chilling effect" on these businesses, he said.

In reality though, a slew of medically unlicensed cosmetic tattooists continue to operate openly, having even rallied together at a flamboyant convention hosted by Remy's SMP brand, Scalp Ink, in Okinawa last month.

Dozens of beauty specialists, including from South Korea, Vietnam and Sweden, deftly inked the scalps, eyebrows and lips of their models, surrounded by towering banners depicting each participant as oceanic royalty in coral crowns.

They argued that, if anything, permanent make-up is even less medical in nature than tattooing for artistic purposes, because it does not penetrate the skin as deeply.

Otherwise, they said, both follow the same hygiene safeguards, use needles to insert pigment into human skin and are practically in-

distinguishable.

"I'm doing nothing I should be ashamed of," Tatsuki Miyahira, an Okinawa tattooist who also performs SMP, told AFP. He has no medical licence.

If raided, he said, he would "give them a full tour" of his workplace and explain every safety precaution.

He added that if Japan officially declared SMP art, "I think I can hold my head even higher."

- Worried customers -

Experts say Japan and South Korea were long among the few countries that penalised permanent make-up by non-medical personnel -- until last year when Seoul passed a landmark law decriminalising it. "Why is it only Japan that still can't do this?" asked hairstylist Michiko Shinmasu, 50, who doubles as an eyebrow tattooist.

The lack of legal endorsement "makes my clients (for eyebrow work) feel as though they're doing something wrong. They're like, 'this is grey-zone, right?'" she said.

Some think Japan's complicated relationships with tattoos historically etched on criminals and then favoured by mobsters to assert their rebellion fuel official distrust of the practice. Even today tattoos are often banned in public places like hot springs, and Japanese are far less inked than their Western counterparts, although this is changing. □

Mexico says Colombia refusing earthquake rescue help

Mexico City, Mexico

Mexico's leftist President Claudia Sheinbaum on Thursday accused the right-wing Colombian government of refusing to allow in military rescue experts sent by her country to search for earthquake victims. According to Sheinbaum, the Mexican team was barred in the wake of Monday's devastating earthquake over a claim that they didn't have correct certification.

Far-right President Abelardo de la Espriella, who took office a week ago, is facing criticism that he has blocked rescue teams from countries with leftist leaderships.

The controversy comes as time runs out to unearth survivors from the 7.4-magnitude earthquake, which left over 260 dead in

western Colombia.

De la Espriella's administration, which denies the accusations, has only accepted support from the United States, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Israel all countries with right-wing governments.

"Colombia requested a certification. They are certified, but now they are asking for another certification," Sheinbaum told reporters, adding that the team was still "ready to leave at any moment."

Mexico has extensive experience in disaster response and sent teams to Venezuela following devastating June 24 earthquakes that left over 6,300 dead.

"The rescue workers from Mexico are incredible, they have worked across the world," Sheinbaum said. □



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo speaks during her morning news conference at the National Palace in Mexico City, Mexico, on August 10, 2026.

‘How many will die?’: the mysterious ailment killing Kenyan elephants

Kimana, Kenya

Lying on the ground and kicking up a cloud of dust, the elephant slowly exhausted himself in futile attempts to stand, the latest potential victim of a still-mysterious ailment in southern Kenya.

Distressed vets administered a glucose injection the only option, given that the cause of the ailment remains unknown to the 11-year-old male, known as Genghis Khan, who was struggling to breathe.

The mystery affliction has killed at least 19 pachyderms, mostly females or young males, since June in Kenya with all of the animals exhibiting identical symptoms, including partial paralysis.

Elephant herds have made Amboseli overlooked by Africa's highest peak, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania a lucrative tourist hotspot and the mysterious deaths in the region are a sensitive issue in a country where tourism is a huge source of revenue.

“You would find one struggling for a day, struggling for two or even three days. Until they completely die,” said Patrick Papatiti, head of operations for Ol-



Veterinary officers from the Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) attend to a male elephant lying on the ground after falling ill at Kitenden B Community Conservancy in Amboseli, Kajiado County, on August 12, 2026.

gulului communal lands, which includes the Kiten-den B reserve where Genghis Khan was found.

In late July, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) said toxicology reports found high concentrations of cyanide in the animals' carcasses, suggesting possible pesticide poisoning from nearby farms' crops.

- Carcasses -

While observers still ques-

tion the possible cause of death, several specialists interviewed by AFP dismiss poisoning.

“It's a disease,” said Papatiti, who was born and raised in the local Maasai community, insisting there was “no way” cyanide was involved.

He is one of the very few local voices publicly rejecting the KWS preliminary findings, pointing out that no other animals have

died.

Notably, neither scavengers nor flies that fed on the supposedly poisoned carcasses have perished creatures that typically succumb after consuming poisoned animals.

“If another animal feeds on that carcass and it is not dying, then definitely it is not a chemical,” Joel Nyika, the Amboseli ecosystem manager for the Kajiado County authorities, told AFP.

He dismisses the theory, also put forward by the KWS, that the cyanide might have come from a type of foliage, noting local livestock would have died as well.

“As wildlife managers, we believe it could be a disease that is only affecting these elephants.”

On August 7, the KWS said their “findings to date do not indicate an infectious or transmissible disease”, assuring tourists that they could continue to visit.

But in the Kimana reserve, AFP journalists saw six carcasses on Wednesday some fresh, others older with rangers also observing partial paralysis, preventing the animals from standing. Maasai farmers, like 52-year-old Noah Saatia, rejected the possibility of poison pointing out to AFP they eat the same things and expressed anger over the animals' deaths.

“When they die, it hurts us,” he told AFP, standing in his crop of maize, protected from animals by fences.

“We don't know the cause of the elephant deaths... But they are not dying because of food that's for sure.”

‘If you can, move!’ say Rome’s viral dancing seniors

Rome, Italy

Bopping to Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley in a Roman square, an elderly dancing duo has become a viral sensation in Italy something they hope will inspire other seniors to take up a more active lifestyle.

Retired dance teacher Pasquale Iannotta, 70, and his dancing partner Elisa Fava, 79, have won praise from Rome's mayor and twirled on national TV since one of their street performances was shared online by a social media savvy tour operator last week.

“No one ever thought we could go viral like this,” Fava told AFP on Wednesday, as the pair returned to Testaccio square, in the

namesake historic working-class district of the Italian capital, for another spin.

Their moves have struck a chord with many in Italy whose population is the oldest in the European Union. The original clip



Retired dance teacher Pasquale Iannotta (L), 70, and his dancing partner Elisa Fava, 79, dance at Piazza Testaccio in Rome on August 13, 2026.

posted by The Tour Guy gathered almost more than 370,000 likes and thousands of comments on Instagram, including from mayor Roberto Gualtieri who complimented the “excellent dancers”,

writing: “There's so much beauty in this simple video”.

Iannotta and Fava have since been invited to perform on the flagship morning TV show of national broadcaster Rai Uno and other television programs.

The two met at dancing class, where Fava was one of Iannotta's pupils, and started performing outdoors regularly in the summer since, as Iannotta puts it, they both “hate sitting around at home”.

Now they hope their sudden popularity will push others off the sofa and onto the dance floor, they said. “I have many friends who, unfortunately, when they retire, like many oth-

ers end up sitting on the sofa watching television. I'd like to see them get a bit more active,” Iannotta, who wore a floral short-sleeve shirt and sunglasses, said after the duo showed off their skills to the tune of Presley's “Jailhouse Rock”. With a median age of 49.1, Italy is the EU's oldest country, according to the bloc's data agency.

Births fell last year by nearly four percent, plunging the fertility rate to an 80-year low, national statistics show. As the country ages, putting pressure on care among other challenges, doctors say physical activity is vital for older people, helping with brain and heart health among other benefits.

Alto Vista chapel and its link to Aruba's origins

According to Etnia Nativa, in the 18th century most of the inhabitants of Aruba were indigenous who lived on the north coast, one of the largest communities lived in Alto Vista.

As they were very religious, they had a chief with the name of Antonio Silvester who guided them in the Christian life and it was he who decided to build a stone chapel with a roof of corn rods, which would serve as a place of prayer. In 1750 it was blessed by Father Algemesi who came from Coro-Venezuela and appointed Domingo Antonio Silvester as the island's first prosecutor in the name of the Spanish crown and Rome. In 1752 the prosecution passed into the hands of Antonio Silvester's son-in-law, Miguel Álvarez, who continued to guide the parishioners in their prayers.

According to the book, The History of Alto Vista by R.H. Nooyen, it is not known when Domingo Antonio Sil-



vester came to Aruba from Venezuela. The elders believe Antonio was a Spaniard. In 1780, father Joseph Antonio de la Vegal called Bernardino Silvester, one of Antonio's sons with his wife Anna Cathalina Tromp, "neighbors and naturals of the island Aruba" and thus they became natives.

At the end of the eighteen century many inhabitants the island died as a result of the black fever epidemic and since people believed that the Alto Vista area was the most infected, they be-

gan to build their homes further south within the Noord area, so the town of Noord began to grow into a community till getting its own Church. However religious festivals continued to be celebrated at this sacred native place, with the custom of arriving in procession to Alto Vista.

Two-hundred years after the beautiful time of Alto Vista, people can no longer see much of the town of Alto Vista from 1750. With a lot of work they found the old foundations of the

Church of the Queen of the Holiest Rosary to build a new chapel on the same place. The entire surrounding area was empty and desolated, making it hard to imagine that Alto Vista was a town at all. A hundred years later, people can see the remains of around twenty houses, some made of stone and others of clay. Nowadays, only around six of these houses remain.

South of the chapel in the yard two graves can be observed, there was the

cemetery which father Pablo de Algemesi blessed. It is not certain, but it is believed that the two graves belong to Antonio Silvester and Miguel Alvares, according to Nooyen. About 50 meters near the chapel there are still the markings of an old house, where Antonio and Bernardino Silvester would have lived. About 200 meters from the chapel there is a water tank which the locals call Tanki Cacique. In the past this tank was closed. But mostly water was brought out from the Poz di Noord, a well dug in the sand.

The chapel can be viewed from basically any point in the north side, even from Paradera and Sero Plat. All the historical remains around the chapel provide us with an idea on how the old people of Alto Vista used to live. Don't miss the opportunity to visit a place of historical significance with a window to Aruba's past. □

Know more about the Town Hall Eloy Arends building

The Monuments bureau shares some essential facts about the Town Hall known as the Eloy Arends building. The aim is to educate the community about the mansion's construction, history, and preservation.

The Doctor Eloy Arends building is located at the Wilhelminastraat 8 and was the home of the Arends family. It was the first building that the Monuments bureau, and the Government of Aruba, restored in 1997. Mr. Medardo 'Dada' Picus, was the architect of this Aruban-Caribbean building. The building sits on a 1,545 m² plot of land and is a typical Aruban mansion. It is an open home with false walls that allow the connection of the rooms with each other.

The entrance has large doors and columns supporting the floor of the upper balcony. In between the columns, there are decoration details made out of wood. The elaborately



detailed embellishment is known as gingerbread trim and the triangular decorative wall surface over the columns is called the tympanum.

The top of the doors and windows have stained glass.

The building is not built on

ground level but at approximately 1.5 meters above ground level. This mansion elevation created storage below the wooden floors and allowed proper ventilation.

The building has lots of windows which allow plenty of light inside, as well as good

ventilation.

It has dormer windows and crowns on the outside part of the roof and different decorations on the edges of the walls and facade.

This is a stunning building full of beautiful details that resemble its beauty and trans-

form into a history of love. Aruban tradition for "well-to-do" families dictates that before a man gets married, he has to present his future wife with a newly built and fully furnished house. It was certainly the case with this building.

Due to the engagement between Eloy Arends and Monica Lacle (daughter of Adriaan Lacle, who is mainly known for the boulevard that bears his name), the construction of the mansion began in 1922 and was completed in 1925 when the couple got married.

The Office of the Civil Registry is located in the adjacent building, whereas the mansion hall is used exclusively for civil wedding ceremonies.

The Monuments bureau will continue to contribute and educate the community about the history of our monuments with significant value for Aruba. □



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Website: www.arubaqualityapartments.com

Keeping up with the conniving spider... Nanzi fools Cha Tiger

Many years ago, Cha* Tiger did not live in the mondi*, but among civil society. Back then, he was feared by everyone. When he walked past in a halfway, everyone around would make room immediately, that's how ferocious he was.

One night a group of friends was hanging out and they were talking about Cha Tiger. "You know, that tiger sure is incredibly strong and I don't trust him one bit. He probably eats a lot too. Oh, I'm so scared of him!" one person said.

"Oh, don't be stupid! What can Cha Tiger do? He's all bark and no bite, that's it. I certainly am not afraid of him. I bet you guys that I could even sit on his back like I would any donkey." It was Nanzi who said this. The people around him laughed at his remarks, thinking how silly it was for him to say such things.

"You, Nanzi? You are such a liar! He'll stomp you into next Tuesday, stop saying such nonsense."

"I'm not lying!" Nanzi defended himself. "He'll take me all the way to Shon Arei*."

The next morning, Shon Arei already knew of what Nanzi had been saying about Cha Tiger. He was really curious to see if Nanzi was brave enough to put his money where his mouth is. Cha Tiger walked past.

"Hey, Cha Tiger!" someone called to him. He growled at the person. "Hey, Cha Tiger! Listen!"

"Nanzi made fun of you, said he wasn't afraid of you at all! Said he could sit on your back and that you weren't as strong as we think you are."

Cha Tiger stopped dead in his tracks, furious. "Well, I'll set him straight!" Cha Tiger ran toward Nanzi's house, prepared to teach Nanzi a painful lesson. The entire way there he was growling and yelling, making everyone around aware what was going to happen. They all ran inside and peaked through the blinds to see the fight that was going to unfold.

Nanzi also heard Cha Tiger's screams, slowly getting closer and closer. He was terrified. His face turned pale, and his teeth started chattering like someone with a high fever. Sweat was dripping down his forehead.

When Cha Tiger arrived at Nanzi's place, he stormed in and saw Nanzi's frail body lying face down in the corner. "Hey, how are you, Cha Tiger?" Nanzi asked, his voice trembling. "I Heard you were making fun of me in front of your little friends, so I came to hear from your own mouth what you have to say to me," Cha Tiger retorted, still fuming.

"Me? Talk bad about you?" Nanzi chuckled nervously. "People are such liars, I swear. Can't you see how sick I am here?" Nanzi took a pause, like someone who couldn't breathe properly. In his case of course, it was probably from extreme fear. "Shi Maria* wanted to take me to Shon Arei, where someone can heal me from my illness." Still wrapped up in his act, Nanzi turned back face down. "Me, a father of nine little children..."

Cha Tiger was shocked. Nanzi looked absolutely terrible, God knows he was dying.



"Cha Tiger, you're strong. Could you put me on your back and take me to Shon Arei, I can barely walk," Nanzi pleaded. Cha Tiger took pity on the spider and agreed to do this favor. Nanzi climbed on the tiger's back, letting his body fall down and grabbing on to Cha Tiger's neck. "Would you mind putting a rope in your mouth so I can hold on? That way I can sit up straight," Nanzi asked. Cha Tiger growled in reluctance but said OK. And so they made their way to Shon Arei.

Once they started traveling through the mondi, Nanzi turned to Cha Tiger and said: "These mosquitos are so annoying! Cha Tiger, do you mind if I cut a piece of branch so I can keep these mosquitos away?" Cha Tiger let him take his branch.

Eventually they made it out the mondi to where everyone else was. Nanzi immediately perked up and whacked Cha Tiger with his branch, making the tiger

jump. He ran all the way to Shon Arei's castle. Exhausted, he plumped down in front of His Majesty.

"See, Shon Arei? Cha Tiger ain't nothing but a big donkey!" Nanzi said proudly. Everyone around cheered: "Hurray, Nanzi!" Poor Cha Tiger was so embarrassed that he was fooled by the conniving spider, and so he ran into the mondi to hide. To this day, it's said that the tiger still hides away in the mondi.

Cha: Nickname placed in front of someone's name and can mean anything, like friend. However, it often has negative connotations first.

Mondi: dry wooded areas found on the ABC islands.

Shon Arei: The King

Shi Maria: Nanzi's wife.

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



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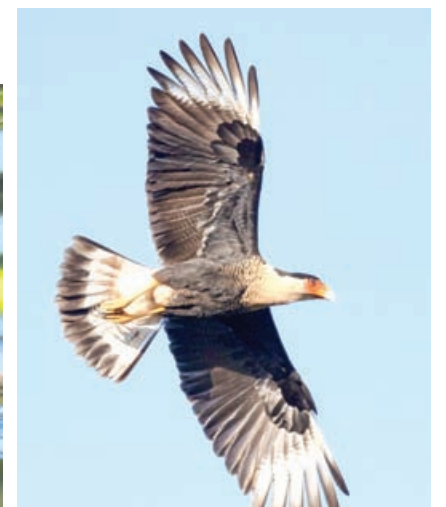
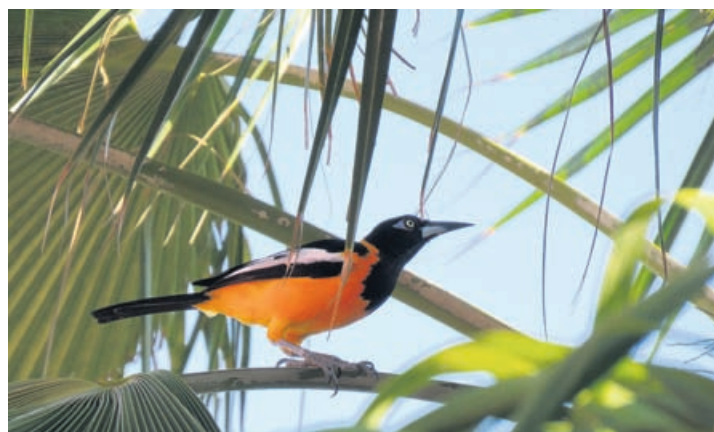
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Birds of Aruba: Soaring through the blue skies



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

Trupial

Icterus icterus, or known locally as the Venezuelan or Orange Troupial, is a striking songbird whose bright orange feathers can be spotted from a far distance. Known to be the first bird to sing at the first sign of sunrise, this beloved songbird likes to wake

up with a tune. But don't let their angelic songs fool you; the Trupial can be a bit aggressive towards any threat, protective over their nesting spots—nesting spots they most likely stole from other birds. Trupials can be seen regularly, often in trees or on top of a cactus.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Prikichi (parakeet)

The Brown-throated Prikichi (Aratinga pertinax) became the national bird of Aruba back in 2015, at the request of Aruba Birdlife Conservation. The bright green, adorable parakeet usually flies in flock of 30 or more,

but its population has been declining since the 2010s. Prikichis are a shier breed than the trupial, often flying away at the sign of any threat. They use termite nests for breeding spots and feed mostly on seeds from the Kwihi tree, Divi Divi tree and fruits.

Photo Credit: Daniel Ruben Gonzalez

Warawara

The Warawara or Caracara is one of the biggest birds found in the Aruban mondi. At a height of 41 to 60 cm, their wingspan can measure up to 125 cm. Known as the "garbage man", this bird of prey mostly feeds on dead animals. Its coat is

dark brown, with a cream-colored neck, orange face, thick beak and long legs. The Warawara prefers to build its nest in the middle of tall cacti and produces a rattling, screaming sound, throwing its head back onto its back while calling.

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

Photo Credit: Aruba Birdlife Conservation

Beautiful areas around Aruba

(Oranjestad)—In Aruba, there are tons of activities that to enjoy during your visit, but sometimes you just want to slow down and enjoy the view. Here are some beautiful areas on the island that will have you in awe.

The hidden Natural Bridge

Here in Aruba we have three natural bridges and many see this one on thinking that it's the world famous one but it's not. The why is easy, it's way too dangerous to go down the

cliff to reach this beauty and no tour companies will do that. Some people refuse to go down due fear of height. This bridge is located in San Nicolas, behind The Point Lighthouse along the east point coast.

Surfside Beach

This beach was very famous when we were kids and many locals love to swim at this beach. After some years the locals shifted to the more north-west beaches like Eagle, Boca Catalina and Arashi but

after the government renovated the whole area it got a new facelift and its back as a family beach and weekends are just amazing at this area.

Natural Bridge at Blackstone Beach

As mentioned, there are three natural bridges and this one is in the Arikok National Park. The other two Bridges you can visit by car but for this one you must have a 4x4 jeep or you will get stuck at the Andicuri Beach.



Cas Floria: The Decorated Houses of Aruba

(Oranjestad)—There may be as many as 200 to 300 houses in Aruba that have beautiful decorations, including curtains, stars, flowers, half-moons, etc., placed on the corners or the upper parts of the house.

These houses can be found everywhere, in nearly every district of Aruba. People always thought that these designs came from an Indigenous culture; possibly, the star design resembled the way it was shown, similar to the "God Sun" of the Indigenous people. However, the history of this decorative system does not go very far back in time.

In his book *Millefiori di Aruba*, Father Nooyen declares that the first house to receive this type of decoration was the home of Mr. Bernardo Eman Croes in Pos Chikito. Julien (Janchi) Christiaans and Gregorio (Goy) Semeleer built this house in 1920 and created the decorations on the upper corners of the house. Other people in Pos Chikito, who saw this beautiful work, also wanted their houses decorated in the



same way.

Tromp in Buguruy.

Leoncio (Joonchi) Henricus of Pos Chikito learned the work from Janchi Christiaans and, together with his son Bonifacio (Bonny) Henricus, continued decorating houses in Pos Chikito and Sabana Basora.

Janchi Christiaans, Goy Semeleer, and others from Noord, such as Hilario Christiaans, Victor Tromp, Gerardo Jacobs, and Cornelis Rosa, brought the same decoration to houses in Noord and Paradera. In 1927, Janchi Christiaans built a house for Julian

This was the first house in Noord to receive this type of decoration. Later, those in Paradera, Santa Cruz, and Savaneta copied the house decorations. They practiced these systems up until 1944.

Even today, the patterns are well preserved and protected, but they are no longer used.

Janchi Christiaans began cutting the patterns out of zinc plates and cardboard. He also had his own creations and systems, while Leoncio and Bonifacio Henricus produced their own fantasies. This is what made these decorations popular: many people could turn their imagination into expressive art.

However, the decoration

of houses was not originally Janchi Christiaans's idea. Janchi was a disciple of his father, Hose Christiaans, and of the Donati family, from Italian ancestors. They also made these decorations, though without using any patterns, simply designing and applying them with common plaster as the material.

Using Dr. Johan Hartog's Aruba, *Breve Historia* as reference, I noticed that he also writes that these designs are not indigenous symbols, but only decorative fantasies. One point of disagreement is that he wrote that in 1820 someone from Curaçao began this type of decoration in Aruba.

This means that, according to Father Nooyen, who declared that it began in 1920, it would have actually started 100 years earlier. As part of his research, Ito Tromp also interviewed Mr. Julio Maduro of the Department of Labor at that time, who told him that around 1880 Johannes (Janchi) Wolff began with house decorations. And as Janchi himself said, he learned this from his grandfather, who in earlier times had built the first lighthouse at California Point.

After comparing his information, Ito Tromp wrote that Hartog was right concerning the period when

decorated houses began in Aruba in 1820. However, it was not people from Curaçao who started it. Victor Tromp, who was 87 years old at the time of writing, was a member of Janchi Wolff's family.

Julio Maduro said that in 1920 they began again with this type of decoration. In general, there is no specific year (up to now) when Arubans first began with this decorative artistic expression. It is interesting to know that these decorations are a kind of symbol for several generations.

For example: Decorations that appear on the house of the Arends family could also be seen on the houses of the Bermudez or Croes families. This was because parents always gave a specific sign to their sons or daughters when they were getting married.

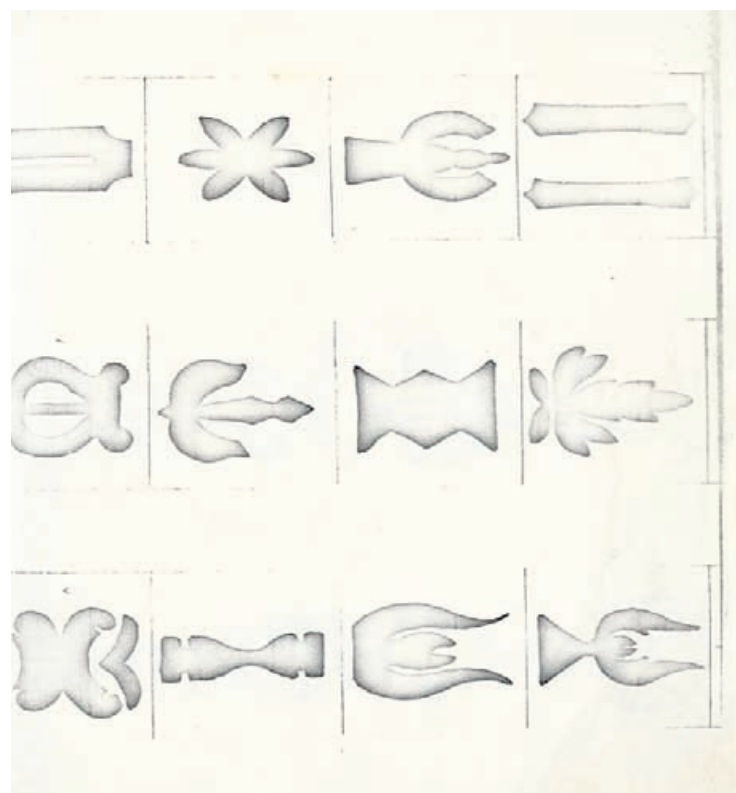
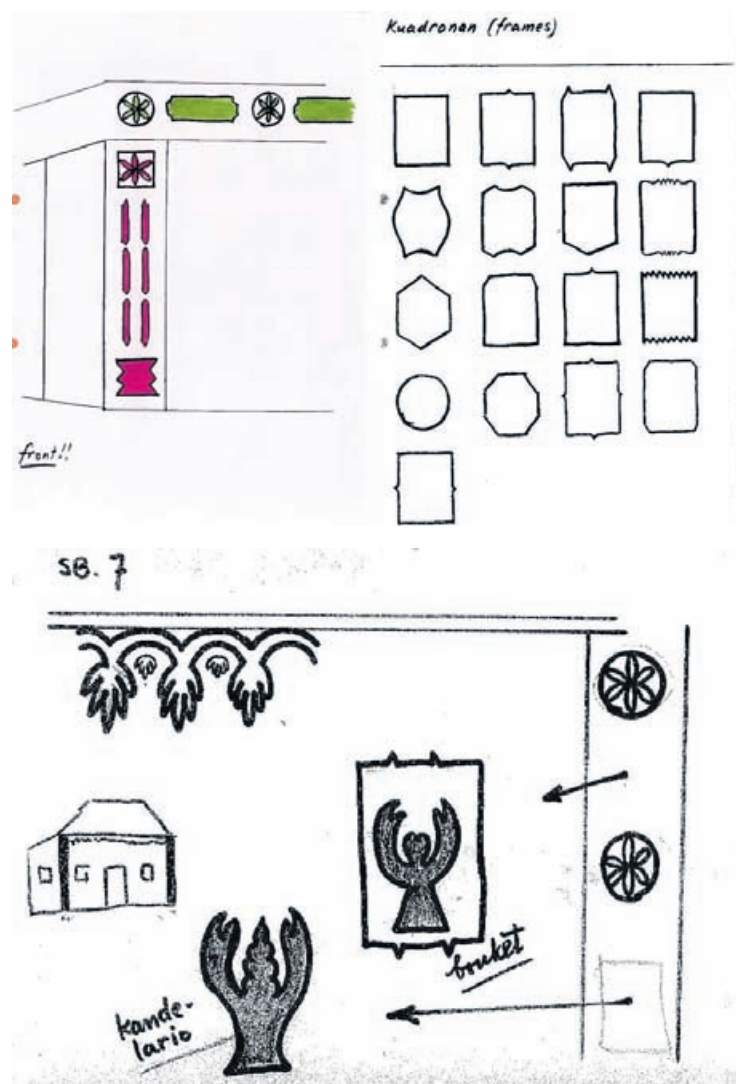
It was also said that these designs had a certain kind of voodoo purpose, to keep away the spirits of the Indigenous people who were buried in the neighborhoods where the houses now stand. However, this has almost completely disappeared.

As for the continuation of these designs from family to family, this is a cultural heritage that is no longer established. For this reason, in earlier times, every young man who married had to have his own house; otherwise, there would be no marriage.

The designs were created according to the individual's imagination. If he saw, for example, six pairs of birds on a tree, he would then paint six pairs of birds on a tree. If he wanted to express his love for his twin children, then he designed a twin.

Nowadays, if you want to use these designs for your house, don't worry—you can simply copy them and paint them.□

Source: *E casnan Decora na Aruba* (1976) by Ito Tromp.



Aruba's cultural and literary development: Then and now

(Oranjestad)—The Aruban culture has seen many substantial developments over the course of a century. With the introduction of the Lago Refinery at the turn of the 20th century, followed by the breakout of the Second World War and the general incentive for political independence during the mid-century, a cultural identity on the island began to take form and have since developed through international and local influences.

In the pre-industrial era of the 19th century, much could not be said about a cultural identity on the island. Still being a part of a Dutch colonial territory at the same, as well as not having political or economic autonomy (Curacao was the center of commerce, cultural life, and political management of the Netherland Antilles at the time), the small population of Aruba consisted mostly of farmers and fishermen, tending to their crops and their cattle, or going out to fish to provide for their family. As Quito Nicolaas states in his article *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* (Literary History of Aruba: Cultural Life), "during the pre-industrial period, there were no significant economic activity that could have created a cultural ambience, with only one way to generate profit at the time for the sub-existence of Aruban families."

It wasn't until the introduction of the Lago Refinery in San Nicolas in 1928,



that the island saw a small boom in cultural manifestations and entertainment, as farmers left the 'cunucu' (country) life to work in the refinery, which resulted in Aruba acquiring a different economic pillar. Before this, entertainment and cultural manifestations were mostly experiences by local parishes and the island's elite, who often partook in cultural and entertaining activities around the island, like going to the movie theater or coming together to share poetry on Sundays after church.

Literary life

Throughout the 19th century and up until the 1940s, there were also not much trace of a cultural climate for the cultural-literary sector on the island. Primary education was introduced on the island mid-19th century, followed by secondary and higher education around the late 30's and 40's. It wasn't until the 1950s, with the introduction of the E.R.N.A agreement in 1951 and the signing of the Statute in 1954, which allowed more space for and control over the economic and cultural development of Aruba, that the literary life on the island began to grow substantially compared to decades before. This was in response to local institutions established in the 1940s for cultural and literary growth on the island, but that did

not yet capture the attention of the general public. The 1950 brought with it a boom of literary production on the island, like those of V.S. Piterrella, as well as migrant authors José Ramón Vicioso y Rings William Rufus, who have also contributed to the literary development on the island. The literary movement was further promoted by local broadcasters Voz di Aruba and Radio Kelkboom, with their regular broadcast of literary works.

The 50s and 60s also saw the influence of international cultures, especially that of the United States. During this time, because of international influences as well as the continued prosperity of the oil refinery, cultural traditions in Aruba began to really take form and become widespread, as different worldly and local

concepts were introduced in the Aruban society. With the establishment of local television broadcast station Tele-Aruba in 1963, and with time and possibilities, local programs such as "Nos Tera" ("Our Land") started to pay more attention to the Aruban culture and worked to form a cultural consciousness in the community. The 1960s also saw the rise of local authors and artists, who were more comfortable in producing works in our native tongue, Papiamentu, but who also produced works in Spanish, English and Dutch. This new phenomenon was in response to the interaction between economic growth, individual prosperity, cultural life and literary expression.

The 21st century

Nowadays, international influence on our culture is still

prevalent, especially those from Latin America, the United States and The Netherlands. Nevertheless, there also exists a strong cultural identity and traditions that are exclusive to the Aruban culture, often manifesting during traditional celebrations, like Dia di San Juan/ Dera Gay (St. John's Day), Dia di Himno y Bandera (National Hymn and Flag Day), Camping during Easter and much more. With the surge of social media in the last decade, artistic voices, especially those of the younger generation, has become even more prevalent and easily accessible to the community of Aruba through online platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. □

Source: *Historia di Literatura Arubiano: E Bida Cultural* by J.R. "Quito" Nicolaas



CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS 38 Mysteri-

1 Con-

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7 Track

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11 Dense

12 Flaring

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13 Good

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14 Marina

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15 Provinces

16 News

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17 Endure

18 Take turns

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27 Genesis

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34 Fire

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35 Rara —

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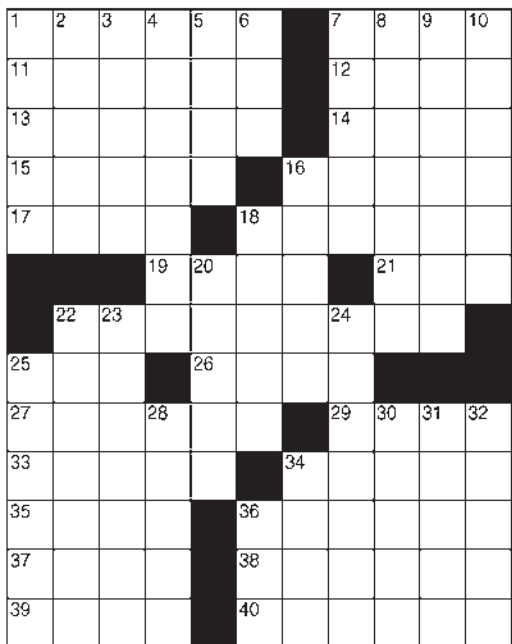
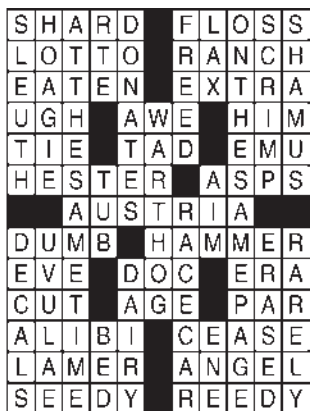
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32 Tatter

34 Foal's

36 Yoga

need



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.

4-22 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

XLPI Y LDPE XLDH Y'K MDYHN

UDCCDR PI YA VDFVCD

QPEYHN EDPCCU CFZRCU

PI KD. — CDACYD THFVD,

"VPETA PHR EDQEDPIYFH"

Cryptoquote: IF WE CHOOSE,
WE CAN LIVE IN A WORLD OF COMFORTING
ILLUSION. — NOAM CHOMSKY

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	
AUGUST SCHEDULE	
16 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
18 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
19 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
23 SUN	FREEWINDS DEPT. Arrival: Departure: 24:00 Berth: E
25 TUE	CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
26 WED	FREEWINDS Arrival: 6:00 Departure: Berth: E
30 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

8/14

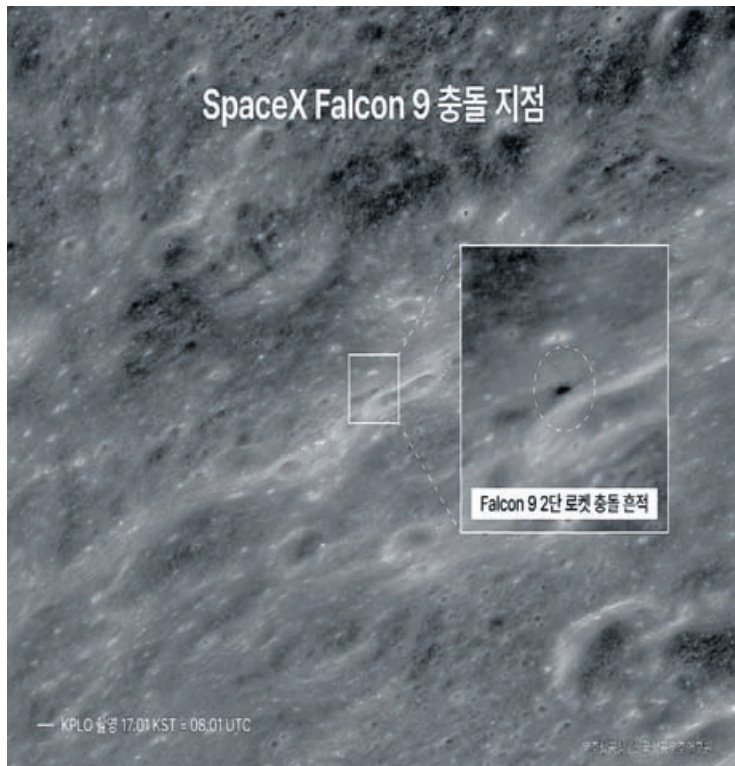
Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty: ★★★

8/13

SpaceX rocket stage believed to have slammed into Moon



A combo satellite images captured by the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLO), also named Danuri, on August 5, 2026 and released by the Korean AeroSpace Administration on August 6, 2026 shows the surface of the moon after the crash of the second stage of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.

New York, United States

A four-ton piece of a SpaceX rocket was believed to have unintentionally crashed into the Moon on Wednesday, a collision that posed no danger to Earth but is expected to leave behind a lunar crater.

While there is not yet official confirmation that the Falcon 9 upper stage struck the lunar surface, it had been expected to make impact at approximately 0635 GMT.

NASA and its Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter probe and South Korea's Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter were planning to take images of the site after impact, but it may take days to receive that information.

Scientists and amateur stargazers alike had been looking forward to observing the sunlit plume of rubble and debris created by the smash.

"It might be possible for folks with a telescope to observe the plume of ejecta created by the impact," said Benjamin Fernando of Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, the lead author on a recent paper on the anticipated impact.

"It is unclear how bright it will be, which is one of the reasons why we are look-

ing to study this event," the researcher told AFP before impact.

Assuming all of the propellant is spent, authors of the paper estimate the spacecraft weighs approximately 8,800 pounds (4,000 kilograms).

It was expected to slam into the Moon's northern hemisphere near the Einstein Crater, at some 5,400 miles per hour (8,690 kilometers per hour).

- 'Space junk' -

"There is no danger to Earth," said NASA spokesperson Jimi Russell in a statement.

"NASA will continue to track the booster for training purposes, as well as later observe the impact site for scientific purposes."

The Falcon 9 rocket made by Elon Musk's SpaceX firm took off in January 2025, carrying two lunar landers. The booster returned to Earth, but the upper stage stayed in space to push the landers onward.

Generally, for such "high-energy missions" SpaceX performs a maneuver to make sure the second stage "is safe per the appropriate rules and regulations," said Julianna Scheiman, director of NASA Science and Dragon Programs at SpaceX, at a Monday news conference. "We did that," she continued, but "what has happened is essentially a mixture of solar activity and gravity forces have put it on a path towards the Moon."

Like many scientists, Scheiman added she was "very excited" to see the impact. The paper authors encouraged both professional and amateur astronomers to attempt viewing or recording the collision.

"This event provides an opportunity to test a pipeline for localizing impacts on the lunar surface for future seismic experiments, investigating the dust and plume dynamics from impact events on the Moon, and considering hazards from artificial space debris

impacts," wrote the research team.

NASA hopes to soon establish a sustained human presence on the Moon, making it critical to better understand space debris in lunar orbit.

The Moon routinely weathers impact from space debris including meteoroids. Artificial collisions are less common.

In the 1970s, the U.S. space agency carried out deliberate crashes during its Apollo program to collect seismic data.

The rocket stage had been just one many pieces of "space junk" orbiting Earth. There are more than 46,000 pieces of space debris weighing a total of 17,000 tons currently in orbit, the European Space Agency said in late July.

Some experts have warned that amassing too much space junk around Earth could lead to a dangerous chain reaction of collisions known as the "Kessler syndrome". □



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Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.
Acc. #23951903
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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: Oduber
Tel. 582 1680

San Nicolas: Aloe
Tel. 584 4606

OTHER

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

EMERGENCY

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

TAXI SERVICES

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

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
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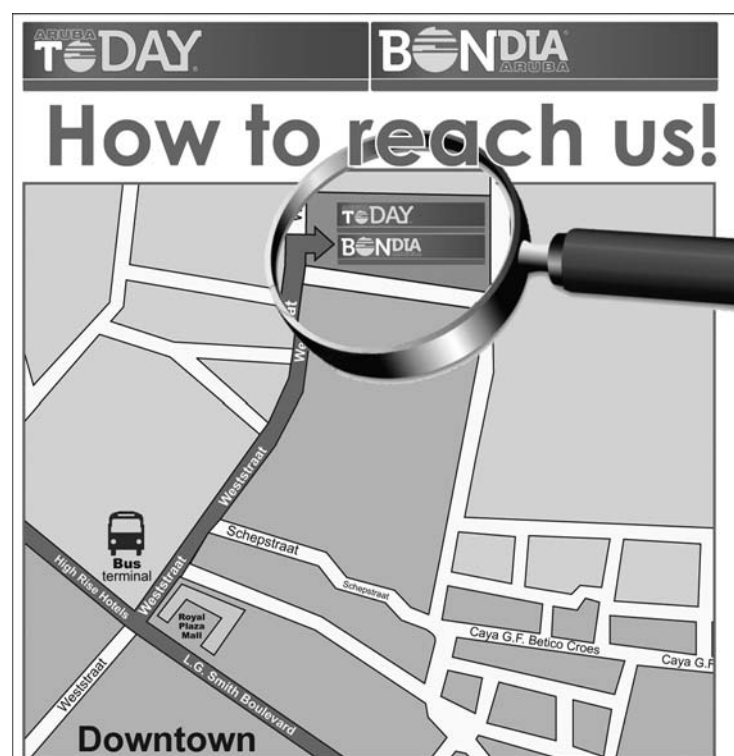
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ARUBA TODAY NEWS



World Bank warns developing countries to embrace AI or be left behind

Washington, United States

The World Bank on Tuesday called on developing countries to embrace artificial intelligence technology tools to deliver better governance outcomes, warning that they risked being left behind if they failed to do so.

"AI has thrown developing economies a lifeline, and they should seize it," Indermit Gill, chief economist of the World Bank Group, said as the organization launched its annual World Development Report.

"They do not need large models or big data centers to reap its benefits," he added, advocating for the adaptation of lower-cost AI tools to local conditions to deliver results in the health, education, justice and agricultural sectors.

Advanced AI models largely developed in the United States and China offer the ability to quickly analyze data and automate many tasks that otherwise take skilled humans longer to do. These AI models, however, require huge data centers and large amounts of complex computing power, using mas-



World Bank economist Indermit Gill speaks at a forum on economic geography in Manila on January 12, 2009.

sive amounts of electricity and water -- with implications for climate change.

"Developing economies today are in the midst of their weakest average growth performance in three decades," said a World Bank statement accompanying the report.

"AI could significantly boost that performance before the end of the 2020s while delivering tangible benefits

to people."

The report calls for countries to use AI to "help extend otherwise costly medical, legal, educational, and agricultural services to underserved billions -- doing in a decade what might otherwise take a century."

- Shock after shock -

Lower-income countries have struggled through the 2020s, hit by a series of suc-

cessive shocks that saw the World Bank earlier this year dub it a "lost decade" for their economic growth.

The Bank has lowered its 2026 global growth forecast to its lowest level since the pandemic, with the economic fallout of the Iran war battering countries around the world.

The shock has hit low-income and developing countries hardest, with Asia

the worst-affected region.

The Bank's new report advocates for developing countries to start working with localized AI tools and solutions now, and to invest in electricity generation and distribution; expand access to computing power; and improve the availability of local data.

"The window to get this right is narrow," said Gaurav Nayyar, director of the report.

"AI presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to solve problems that have resisted solutions for generations," he added.

For the 6.8 billion people 83 percent of humanity who live in low-income and developing countries, AI tools will need to be adapted to meet their needs.

The report shares examples of AI applications in governance, such as to increase diabetes screening volumes in Bangladesh, or in reducing costs for Indian farmers through advanced weather forecasts.

The solutions, the report stresses, will need to meet people where they are.

"For example, AI solutions will need to be delivered

through voice calls on basic mobile phones for those who cannot read or afford smartphones," it says.

"Simply importing an AI model does not mean it will work well locally."

- Stark warning -

The report calls for policymakers to also build public trust as they expand AI use. "Improved public services and better learning outcomes in schools will reinforce trust but if AI embeds bias in government decisions or erodes data privacy, that trust will be difficult to recover," said the statement.

The report delivers a stark warning, too: "AI could widen gaps between countries, increase inequality within them, concentrate market power, weaken trust in public institutions, and create new risks for safety, rights, and social cohesion." □

Twitch sparks gamers' wrath with Amazon AI sharing deal

Paris, France

Livestream gaming giant Twitch has raised hackles among its millions of users after declaring it will share their data with its parent company Amazon, to better train the online retailer's

AI models.

In a post on X, Twitch said people would have the option to opt out of the data-sharing, but otherwise the live audio, text, images and other content on its channels would be used

by Amazon for AI training across all its platforms.

Twitch's move opens the latest front in the fight to preserve online privacy as artificial intelligence firms increasingly seek data to improve their models.

Gamers were quick to slam the policy as an unethical incursion on their privacy.

"Opting people in by default is not consent," a user said in one of the tamer responses to Twitch's announcement on X.

"An honest answer is: if it was opt-in, nobody would opt-in," Twitch's chief product officer Mike Minton said Wednesday during a live chat on the hugely popular gaming platform after the announcement. "It's going to be on by default, and in almost every content service in the world, it is on by default," he added.

"I know it's very upsetting to the community, but this is where we are."

"Pay us for our services then with this AI training," added another user.

Amazon and Twitch are not the first to start absorbing user data to build AI models as competition in the sector heats up.

Last year Meta, parent company of Facebook and Instagram, said all public comment on its platforms, with the exception of WhatsApp, would be used to train its AI models unless users opted out. □



A picture taken at the Tokyo Game Show on September 21, 2018, shows the logo of the VOD and streaming video games

Italian teen Curtis breaks women's 50m backstroke world record for second time

Saint-Denis, France

Italian teenager Sara Curtis broke the women's 50m backstroke world record for the second time in as many days at the European swimming championships in Paris on Thursday.

The 19-year-old clocked 26.56sec on her way to gold in the final, a day after lowering the mark with 26.63 in the semi-final to better Australian Kaylee McKeown's mark from three years ago by 0.23sec.

France's Mary-Ambre Moluh took silver in 27.06 and Britain's Lauren Cox bronze, 0.59sec off the pace.

Curtis adds the world record to the short-course European record she set in the event in Poland last year. It was also her second medal of the championships after she took bronze in the women's 100m freestyle on Tuesday.

"I'm absolutely delighted. It's hard to come to terms with the emotions of yesterday's record," Curtis told Rai.



"I struggled to get to sleep last night. I really did try to pick up the pace over the last 15 metres. It's unbelievable. I'm so happy. A dream, a huge goal."

With both records coming either side of the total solar eclipse on Wednesday, Curtis joked to Sky Sports that she would get the natural phenomenon "tattooed on me" to honour

the moment.

"I've already given myself my 20th birthday present. I hope I can treat myself to more, but world records are the best present I could ever have given myself," added the Savigliano native, who will celebrate her birthday next week.

Earlier, Olympic champion Kristof Milak set a new European record in the men's

100m butterfly final.

Hungary's Milak clocked 49.48sec to snatch gold ahead of world champion Maxime Grousset of France. Grousset had been leading after the first length but was caught in the final 25 metres finishing in 49.70sec. Swiss Noe Ponti took bronze in 49.93.

Milak then showcased his class as he anchored Hun-

gary to gold in the 4x100m freestyle relay in a championship record time of 3min 10.03sec.

The 26-year-old's 46.29sec leg catapulted Hungary to the top of the podium ahead of neutral athletes from Russia in second and Croatia in third.

British 18-year-old Filip Nowacki pipped Netherlands' Caspar Corbeau to the 200m breaststroke title by 0.08sec.

The Commonwealth Games champion took gold in a time of 2min 7.70sec, with Corbeau in the silver-medal spot and Austrian Luka Mladenovic rounding off the podium.

Barbora Seemanova saw off Marrit Steenbergen to secure 200m free gold in a championship record 1min 54.38sec.

It was the Czech swimmer's career third European gold medal in the event.

Dutchwoman Steenbergen took silver at 0.27sec, while Britain's Freya Colbert claimed the bronze. □

Draper dumped as Norrie saves face for Britain in Cincinnati

Cincinnati, United States

Jack Draper sunk deeper into despair on Thursday as the Briton blew six set points and produced a dozen double faults fall to Martin Landaluce 6-3, 7-5 in the first round of the ATP-WTA Cincinnati Masters.

But Draper's disappointment was counter-balanced by inspired compatriot Cameron Norrie, who fought through difficult conditions against an unfamiliar opponent to survive into the second round. Norrie, who came to the Midwest from a Montreal fourth round showing, made a successful switch of venue with a 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 defeat of Croatia's Dino Prizmic.

Norrie booked a second-round meeting with top-seeded Alexander Zverev, who will be desperate to make amends after an opening match exit in Montreal.

Norrie, who said he was not feeling 100%, had to battle for his first match win in Cincinnati since he reached the 2022 quarter-finals.

"There were a lot of challenges," the winner said. "It was a quick turnaround from Montreal. I couldn't feel the ball and was a bit under the weather."

"He came out firing and I had to stay tough. I could see he was struggling with the conditions. There was one break in the third set, not much in there."

The number 37 said he will have to lift his game when he faces world number three Zverev, who has defeated him seven times without a loss at the Tour level. Germany's reigning Roland Garros champion was runner-up at Wimbledon to Jannik Sinner, who is missing this final U.S. Open tune-up along with the injured Carlos Alcaraz.

Novak Djokovic, seeded third, is the major headliner and will be bidding to win the tournament for a fourth time.

- Distraught Draper -

A week after Draper was brought to tears by his first-round exit in Montreal, the Briton's game again melted away in sweltering, humid conditions.

Draper, whose most recent injury has been bone bruising in his arm, has managed only 14 tour matches this season, missing Wimbledon with his array of physical problems.

Spain's 64th-ranked Landaluce won the opening set and saw off a major Draper offensive in the second. The Briton took a 5-2 lead but was unable to close out the set as he failed on six set points over two consecutive games, allowing his opponent to squeeze out victory in less

than two hours.

Landaluce said that he lives for the big moments on court as he withstood 27 winners from Draper who was burdened by nearly 50 unforced errors.

"The important thing was to believe in my game and my shots. I can have some big misses but I don't care. At the end I was making

good shots," the Spaniard said. "If I lose like that, I don't care. Today I got the win and I'm very happy."

All 32 seeds in both the WTA and ATP draws enjoy first-round byes, leading to a paucity of high-profile early matches at an event which originally ran for seven days but is now lasting a bloated 12. □



Cameron Norrie of Great Britain plays a forehand during their match against Dino Prizmic of Croatia during day three of the Cincinnati Open at the Lindner Family Tennis Center on August 13, 2026 in Mason, Ohio.



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LeBron's Sixers in spotlight as full 2026-27 NBA schedule revealed

New York, United States
U.S. basketball fans will have plenty of chances to check out LeBron James's first season in Philadelphia with the 76ers featured in 34 nationally televised games according to the full NBA season schedule released on Thursday. The NBA had already announced that James and the Sixers would be in action on the first day of the league's 81st season on October 20 -- trying to spoil the New York Knicks' celebration of last season's crown. That game is part of a three-game slate featuring James launching his record-extending 24th season with his new club at Madison Square Garden. Other opening-day games will see the Boston Celtics taking on Eastern Conference rivals Detroit and a Western Conference finals rematch between the Oklahoma City Thunder

and the San Antonio Spurs. Oklahoma City, powered by two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, beat the Spurs for the Western Conference regular-season

title last season but lost in seven games in the West playoff finals to Victor Wembanyama's Spurs.

The 76ers will be in the spotlight all season as they

seek their first championship since 1983, bolstered not only by the addition of NBA all-time leading scorer James but also by the arrival of 2024 NBA Finals Most Valuable Player Jaylen

Brown from Boston. The 76ers will play their first home game with James on the roster on October 22 when Cleveland, James's hometown team, visits. There are no games on November 3, election day in the United States, but all 30 teams will play on November 2. Other key dates include the NBA Cup final taking place at historic Hinckley Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on December 11 and the trade deadline on February 11. The All-Star Game will be held on February 21 at Mortgage Matchup Center in Phoenix, Arizona. And the regular season will conclude with all 30 teams in action on April 11. The previously announced five-game Christmas Day slate will see James returning with the Sixers to Los Angeles to face the Lakers, the team he departed as a free agent in June. □



LeBron James speaks onstage during The Shop Live panel at Fanatics Fest NYC 2026 at Jacob Javits Center on July 17, 2026 in New York City.